

**Tariff correspondence. The answer of Messrs. Wilkins, Lynch, Patterson and Craft, to the following letter addressed to them by a number of the Mechanics and Manufacturers of this City and County, having been received and considered ... [Pittsburgh, 1829.].**

Tariff Correspondence.

The answer of *Messrs. Wilkins, Lynch, Patterson, and Craft*, to the following letter addressed to them by a number of the Mechanics and Manufacturers of this City and County, having been received and considered, it was

Resolved , That we highly approve of their views and sentiments on the subjects submitted to their consideration, and of the decided tone in which these sentiments have been expressed.

Resolved , That the several editors within this district, be requested to publish, both the Address and Reply in their respective papers.

Resolved , That the Chairman be requested to procure the publication of 1000 copies of the same, in handbills or circulars, for the use and distribution of the several signers who addressed the candidates.

MAHLON ROGERS, *Chairman*.

GEORGE DARSIE, *Sec'y*.

**Pittsburgh, July 6, 1829.**

To Ross Wilkins, David Lynch, James Patterson, and James S. Craft.

Gentlemen —

A Convention of Delegates, representing the several townships of Allegheny County, having nominated you as candidates to be supported at the ensuing election, for the Assembly; the undersigned, your fellow citizens, feeling, in common with many others, a deep interest in the course and policy which our public councils may adopt, in relation to the American System and the Manufacturing and Agricultural interests of the State, deem it their duty to address you publicly on the subject, and respectfully request from you an exposition of your sentiments—that the people may know your principles, and, knowing them, may vote understandingly.

Your qualifications are admitted, and we take pleasure in bearing testimony to your ability to represent us in the State Legislature. But we are unwilling to give our support to any man, however talented, whose sentiments of National Policy are adverse to the Protective System, and to a constitutional support and encouragement of the Domestic Manufactures of the Country.

You are undoubtedly aware of the activity and zeal of the opponents of the Tariff in the South. Their designs and efforts must be counteracted. They have rallied round Mr. Calhoun. His views and principles are known;—his prejudices against the Tariff, and his feelings and predilections in reference to Southern principles and interests, have been too often and too clearly manifested, to be mistaken. By a casting vote, he defeated a bill which was designed to benefit the Manufacturer; and by another casting vote, he prevented the passage of a bill making appropriations for Internal Improvements; an important object of which was, to encourage and reward the industry of the Country. These votes, taken in connexion with the late declarations and more recent organization of the Anti-tariff politicians of the South, furnish conclusive proof of hostility to the American Policy, and unequivocal evidence that there is to be a united, zealous, and powerful effort, to promote the views of Southern capitalists, and to prostrate the energies of the Northern and middle States! Late indications in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and in some of the lower Counties in Virginia, and suspicious circumstances and events of a concurrent character, in some sections in the middle States, clearly manifest that the Home Interests of our State, and the Domestic Policy of our Country, are to be assailed, and, if possible, subverted. Mr. Calhoun is designated and pointed out as the great champion and leader of the party, who have arrayed themselves against us, who have concerted the destruction of the Tariff, and who would build up Southern measures and Southern men, upon our ruins.—It is believed, that these facts and anticipations are well founded; they have, at least, awakened public apprehension. The interest of the Manufacturer, Mechanic, and Farmer, are believed to be at stake and in jeopardy. Public feeling is roused, and people are becoming enlisted. Our object is to enquire whether you, Gentlemen, sympathize with them? and whether you will make an effort, and exert your influence, to prevent the abolition of a System of Protection, that the people of Pennsylvania were the *first* to recommend, and which consistency, policy, and interest, require that they shall support and defend to the last?

'Measures and not Men,' was the adopted and proclaimed maxim of one of our purest and most experienced Statesmen, under the auspices of whose administration, the Domestic industry of the Country, received the first patriotic testimonial of National favor, encouragement, and protection! Do you, gentlemen, approve the maxim, the principle, and the policy? On this subject, your friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens, wish to be satisfied; and knowing as we do, your candor and frankness, we have no doubt that your reply will be prompt, explicit, and sincere.

We do not ask for a pledge, we seek merely for an exposition of your views of policy, in reference to the great interests of Manufactures, Agriculture, and Internal Improvements—This we have a right to ask, preparatory to constituting you our Representatives; and this, we apprehend, it is the duty of every candidate for office, in a free country, freely to give.

Very respectfully, Your fellow citizens.

A. & J. MURPHY— *Satinett & Woollen Cloth Manufact'rs.*

*of the firm of Bakewell, Page & Bakewell, Flint Glass Manufacturers.*

T. BAKEWELL

BENJ. PAGE

ISAAC LIGHTNER— *of Kingsland, Lightner & Co. Jackson Foundry.*

HAMILTON STEWART— *Linen Diaper & Cotton Cloth Manufacturer.*

MARK STACKHOUSE— *Steam Engine Maker.*

ASA WATERS— *Scythe, Shovel. &c. Manufacturer.*

BLACKSTOCK, BELL & CO.— *Cotton Manufacturers.*

FREEMAN & MILLER— *Iron Founders.*

JOHN GALLAGHER— *Bell & Brass Founder.*

HENRY JONES & CO.— *Cotton Cloth Manufacturers.*

ABNER UPDEGRAFF— *Cutler & Whitesmith.*

JAMES SHAW, *Cotton Cloth Manufacturer.*

JOSEPH M'FADDEN, *Miller.*

JAMES THOMSON, *Steam Engine Maker.*

M. S. MASON & CO.— *Pennsylvania Rolling Mill.*

GEO. COCHRAN of Rd.— *Agent Pittsburgh Manufacturing Association.*

HILARY BRUNOT— *White and Red Lead Manufacturer.*

B. M'ALENIN, *Ditto.*

J. TILFORD & SON— *Cotton Cloth Manufacturers.*

JACOB HAYS, *Farmer & Distiller.*

MAHLON ROGERS— *Steam Engine Maker.*

M'GILL & DARSIE— *Cabinet Manufacturers.*

JOHN ARTHURS— *Steam Engine Maker.*

ROBT. T. STEWART— *late of the Sligo Iron Works, now, Salt Manufacturer.*

**Pittsburgh, July 8, 1829.**

Messrs. A. & J. Murphy and others.

Gentlemen —

We have received and considered your favor of the 6th inst.—It is in no ordinary times and for no common object, that you have called upon us for our opinions, as to the policy of the country. You represent almost every class of the active business-population, who are prosecuting the varied pursuits and occupations of the 'Western Workshop.' You are not men who are usually found mingling in election contests, and in calling upon us for our views upon the great questions of independent support and national subsistence, we believe, that you have been impelled to look beyond the success of mere political candidates. We have not the vanity to apply the interest that you have testified in our opinions, to any solicitude for our personal success. Your aim appears to be higher than the advancement of private interests, or the accomplishment of political objects. We believe that it is the cause of our Homes and our Firesides, deeply implicated in the policy of the nation, that has excited your spirit of enquiry, and we will readily confess, that if circumstances have bound any other men more strongly than ourselves to that cause, we have more interest in their success than in our own.

A most serious pressure for money has already embarrassed our manufacturing operations—and there is a fearful apprehension of general calamity and misfortune. Many attribute this unexpected and unforeseen reverse, among other causes, to a general alarm which has overspread the northern and middle states, that the Tariff—the shield and protection of our industry, is to be removed; and to the belief that the member of the national administration you have mentioned, is lending the aid of his name and friends to this most unkind and unnatural effort. Insidious and disguised attacks are making upon this system, which can have no other object than to prepare for an open war upon its very existence. From many sources, much evidence is forced upon us, to convince us, that a desperate attempt is to be made to uproot that domestic policy, under which alone we can prosper and flourish.

We are opposed to any pledges from candidates, that, in the event of their election, may possibly bring them into a conflict, where their promise and personal faith may stand arrayed against their duty and their oath. This may be the case, where further examination and information may alter opinions previously entertained. *But upon these questions, we cannot change our opinions. To this nation, we firmly believe, the Domestic Policy is the breath of its life—the aliment of its existence.* We will not agree, as far as our consent can have any influence, to yield or abandon our present Tariff—unless its opponents will furnish a better. Under all circumstances, we will cherish and cultivate this system. We hold, that the ingenuity and industry of this people, fostered in their first efforts, can manufacture, *at home*, whatever can be manufactured *abroad*—and that it is the duty of Government to protect that industry, by such duties as will secure its free and full exertion, until it reaches that maturity of production, and cheapness of price, which experience in every protected article demonstrates, can be attained. In this, the Farmer is as deeply interested as the Mechanic. The prostration, or even *suspension* of this policy, will be followed by the desertion and destruction of our markets, the low price of produce, the dilapidation of our factories, and the dismissal of the thousands dependent on them into a state of distress and destitution. The Farmer will *again* sow his crop, uncertain whether, when ripe, it will pay the price of gathering. The labors of the Mechanic will *again* be at the mercy of every wind that blows from British shores. On this subject, we not only ‘sympathize’ with you, gentlemen, but must *suffer* with you. We will not remit our exertions to avert the evils you have too much reason to anticipate.

From a most suspicious, and we regret to add, an influential source, the Tariff has been denounced as ‘a Scorpion, which we were hugging to our breasts.’ The extreme distress of the manufacturing establishments, has been made an argument for their *utter ruin*—and to insult as well as injure us, the Tariff, our only safeguard, has been pronounced to be the cause of our misfortunes. The time has now arrived, when Pennsylvania, holding the balance of political power, should resist every effort to tamper with, or destroy the means by which she lives She holds this system as too sacred to

be connected with personal ambition, and too precious, to be sacrificed to the cause of any man, in power or out of power. It will PREVAIL, let who will RISE or FALL. While this state will not consent that it shall be used as the stepping-stone to office, she will as sternly proclaim, that he who would rise on the ruins of our manufactures, shall expect no helping hand, in his promotion, from this united commonwealth.

On this subject, we never have doubted, and never can doubt. We believe, that nothing but the magnitude of interests depending on this question, and the serious hazard, at this time, of committing the representation of this city and county, to those who by any possibility could fail to assert your wishes in their full force, could have awakened your anxiety. Rest assured, that the interests of the ' Farmer —the Mechanic and the Manufacturer ' are ours, and when we desert them, we desert ourselves.

We believe, that if ever there was a settled public opinion among us, which time and events may strengthen, but cannot remove, it is for these 'measures,' independent of 'men.' And though the advocacy of these principles, where there is so much unanimity of opinion, may not promote the popularity of any candidate—yet it is certain, that no man can ever deserve, or obtain, the suffrage of Pennsylvania, whose firm and unequivocal support of them she has any reason to doubt or distrust.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

ROSS WILKINS.

DAVID LYNCH.

JAMES PATTERSON.

JAMES S. CRAFT.