

# WARD.

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may also have been better adapted to the crop.

above crops were all produced in 1840. The present year has been quite a favorable one for the corn crop, and I was very desirous to know the product per acre of a very good crop, which I saw growing about the middle of October, on the farm of Isaac Cunningham of Clark county. I wrote to him soon after receiving your letter, and requested that he would have an acre of his corn gathered and carefully measured, and report to me the quantity together with his mode of cultivation. I regret that a severe indisposition, from which I fear he will not recover, has prevented the request from being complied with.

Cunningham's corn was planted on a hill, which had lain ten years in bluegrass, and was the second year after it had been mowed. The sod, when I saw the corn growing, had been completely decomposed, and the soil was very mellow and light. The corn had been carefully cultivated by ploughing and weeding, and was perfectly free from weeds. It had been planted 3 1/2 feet apart and thinned to four stalks in a hill. It was yellow corn of a medium size. From a personal examination, I estimated that each hill would average about four ears, one hundred of which would make a bushel of shelled corn. As an acre, 31-2 feet each way, will contain 3,554 hills, nearly, the number of ears would be 14,180, and consequently the product would be about 14 bushels per acre. I give you this as my estimate, which cannot be far from the truth. I regret that I could not give you the result of my actual admeasurement. Yours truly,  
A. BEATTY.

## Political.

in the Democratic Review, for February.

SILAS WRIGHT, Jr.

OF NEW YORK.

Friend or foe—Democrat or Whig—none is ever to be heard a voice of dissent from the unanimous tribute accorded by the public judgment of the country to that noble and efficient intellectual power, matchless skill and clearness of logic, unswerving consistency and integrity, that imperturbable good-temper and emanation, which constitute the outline of the mental portraiture of the distinguished statesman of whose features and countenance we are happy to present the accompanying excellent resemblance. Mr. Wright's name was introduced in a much larger number of this series, but without the

in which he moves. Between 1800, and 1810, he was repeatedly elected a member of the Legislature, and has ever been an ardent and firm Republican. He and his oldest son were in the battle of Plattsburg, under Macomb, in September, 1814, when the British fleet was captured on Lake Champlain by McDonough, and Sir George Prevost with his forces defeated and driven back into Canada.

The Husbands of two sisters of Mr. Wright were also in that battle as volunteers from the "Green Mountains," although the Federal Governor of Vermont, following the treacherous and cowardly example of Governors Strong of Massachusetts, Jones of Rhode Island, and Griswold of Connecticut, had positively refused to call out a single man to defend the invaded territory and habitations of an adjoining State;—on the unworthy position that the militia could not be required to pass beyond the boundary lines of those States of which they were citizens.

During the four years passed by Mr. Wright in college, the number of the class to which he belonged averaged about thirty. Then, as now, every student was a politician, and called himself either a Federalist or Democrat. Of the latter there were in this class only four, of whom it will readily be conceived that young Wright was one of the most ardent. His politics were never better known than at this period of his life. In October, 1815, he commenced the study of the law with Mr. Martindale, who resided at Sandy Hill, Washington county New York, where he remained about eighteen months; when he removed to the office of Roger Skinner, Esq., which presented superior opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of the details of business, as he was at that time the attorney of the United States for the northern district of the State.

In January 1819, Mr. Wright completed his preparatory legal studies, and was licensed to practise as an attorney of the Supreme Court of New York. His health being impaired by intense application to his books and at his desk, he spent the ensuing summer in travelling on horseback for its restoration, and with the view of selecting a place where he might settle himself permanently.

In October, he removed to Canton, in the county of St. Lawrence, and opened an office. The village was new and the business in the courts both limited and unprofitable, so that the young lawyer made but little by

who were comparatively few, aided in this movement. As matters then stood, it was certain that Mr. Crawford would receive the undivided vote of the State. The conductors of the Federal presses joined in with this cry and everywhere proclaimed that those members of the Assembly who should refuse to repeal the law which had been so long in force, without complaint from any quarter, were enemies to liberty, to the Constitution, and to the rights of the sovereign people!

It was insisted by the Republicans, that there was much danger that the election of the President might be referred to the House of Representatives; that there bargain, intrigue, and management might be practised; that so great a State as New York should neither divide her vote in the electoral college, and thereby impair her strength, nor aid in any way in taking the election to a body where her political weight could not be an atom greater than that of Rhode Island or Delaware.

But the timid in the more popular branch of the Legislature became alarmed, and gave way, so that the Federalists gained the ascendancy there. A bill was passed in the lower House, giving the choice of Presidential electors to the people, which was thrown upon the Senate for its action. This body contains thirty-two members, of which seventeen were a bare majority. Every member, except one, was a Democrat on paper, and had been returned as such; and yet, when this bill was called up for discussion, only seventeen had the courage to oppose it, and denounce the views and schemes of those who had concocted and passed it. They stood to their posts unterrified, and rejected the bill. Immediately, everywhere throughout the State, they were assailed by the Federal opposition, and branded as "usurpers and tyrants—as the 'infamous seventeen'—as the 'immortally infamous seventeen:' and so great was the height to which the popular fury was excited by the assiduous arts of the agitators, that they were burned and hanged in effigy in many parts of the country.

At the general election of November, 1824, the Democracy was utterly defeated. Upon the causes that combined to produce this effect, it is unnecessary here to pause. The candidate of the Opposition for the Executive chair received a majority of seventeen thousand votes. General James Tallmadge, who had belonged to, and been a leader in, the Republican ranks, went over to the enemy. He was elected Lieutenant-Governor by a majority of thirty-four thousand.

A large number of the *seventeen* remained in the Senate during the session of 1825. The "victors" quarrelled, and fell into disreputation. In this condition of affairs, these seventeen exercised a controlling power over the acts of the Legislature. A vacancy was about to occur in the Senate of the