The Watchman:

EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL

BELLEFONTE, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1857.

FOR GOVERNOR,

WILLIAM F. PACKER,

OF LYCOMING COUNTY.

(Subject to the decision of the State Convention.)

WHITHER ARE WE TENDING.

As a people who are in the enjoyment of that liberty most consistent with human happiness, and conducive to the improvement of our race, it devolves upon us to watch with care and jealousy every evil influence that might destroy the glorious franchises for which our fathers fought and shed their blood. Who that ponders on the fate of the mighty republics that have heretofore existed in the history of the world, rose, flourished and decayed, and contemplates the desolation and ruin that succeeded their downfall does not shudder at the thought, that our proud nation may some day exist alone upon the pages of the Chronicles, and that people inhabiting the same soil, and inhaling the same air that we do, may be destitute of every thing that ennobles man and makes him happy, and ranked by the philosopher among the savage or half civilized nations of the Globe? It is indeed a solemn thought, that the land of Washington and his illustrious fellow patriots should ever acknowledge the sceptre of a potentate, or that her fields should be drenched with the blood of an unholy, fratricidal intestine war. There are but few men in the community so lost to every principle of philanthropy as to lend themselves willfully and premeditatedly to such a result, but the greatest evils that afflict our race are induced more by a reckless indulgence in self gratification, than by the direct efforts of depraved spirits. Men pander to their appetites, passions and lustful desires, under the false boast of civil liberty, and by gradual encroachments beyond the line of rectitude, which constitutes that, which, when restrained to its proper and legitimate sphere of enjoyment is appropriately denominated human freedom, nothing more nor less than loose sensuality, undermine the foundations of their own prosperity, and are only aware of their danger when the palace in which they dwell is tumbling in ruins around them. We are too apt to consider "all men mortal but ourselves"—all governments perishable but our own, and believing that we dwell in a vista of security, forget to guard the bulwarks that alone make us strong and powerful. A people can only be free, while their majority are virtuous and enlightened, and the moment corruption is sanctioned and rejoiced over by the people our locks of strength are shorn, our power is gone, the respect of foreign nations is lost, and our influence among the Kingdoms of the world destroyed.

The record of our country during the time of its unexampled rise and growth, exhibits as its moving spirits the names of men from whose conduct Christians copy, whose example parents train their children to follow—men whose moral courage was adequate to every emergency, and proof against every temptation. Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Clay and Jackson, are spoken of, not alone as great men, but as good ones. Indeed men are truly great only in proportion to their virtue. A pure, dignified, moral, humane man lives as far above the corrupt, selfish and profane, as the mountains of Choumalaire, rise higher than their base, and we contemplate the character of a firm, reliable man, with feelings approaching the study of the Deity itself.

These solemn and practical reflections have been called forth by the signs of the times as gathered from the occurrences of the past year, and are deemed to be in place for every true patriot, whether in low or humble life, to consider. Committees on Bribery and Corruption have became so frequent of late in our State and National Legislature Halls, that we should not be surprised if it should be added to the list of "Standing Committees." Not content to perform the work of the people for the good of the people, in consideration of a liberal salary, many who are placed in high positions, pervert the work of the people for their own private emolument, and cast their votes in whatever way will contribute most to their sordid natures. Harrisburg, our State capital has become so great a rendezvous for the Buzzards and Hyenas of creation, in the shape of mercenary politicians, that honest men are reluctant to go there for the transaction of important business. An honest man in the Legislature, who is unwilling to assist at "log rolling," is generally in the minority, and treated by the so called "leaders" of the age as one unworthy to occupy a position that might be made so conducive to private wealth.

In the election of Simon Cameron to the United States Senate, this spirit of disregard for the confidence of their constituents has been grossly manifested not only by the three Democrats who openly betrayed their trust, by voting for him, but by our opponents themselves. Men elected as Democrats, on a ticket, the success of which involved principles essential and material to the prosperity of our country itself, were bound by every sentiment of honor to adhere to the candidate of the Democratic party, and to act with that party on all questions of a partisan nature. The members of the opposition party, knowing, as they must have known, the inability, both mentally and morally, of Cameron, to fill with credit to himself or the State any political position, owed it to their own State pride and public enterprise, to put forward some honest and brilliant man for that high position. No one doubts that corrupt influences elected Cameron, and by his election that corruption is extended to our National Congress, and a Representative sent from Pennsylvania, who will be enabled to sell his own vote as he was bought his votes of others. The Congress of the United States is now engaged in the investigation of bribery in their own Halls—and it is indeed alarming to every true patriot to observe the "Wheel that works within a wheel" by which such investigations are eventually defeated. It is true that in a government truly republican, the power must originate with the people, but unless the people are vigilant in guarding their own interests and maintaining that power that gives them control of those interests, aristocracy will rise above them and steal the privileges they hold dear, and, in the language of Speaker Getz, "Power is continually stealing from the many to the few." The people must correct the evils that are discernible in the political Heavens, or instead of diminishing they will certainly increase, until a cloud as black Egyptian midnight surrounds our happy country, and amid the wreck of popular sovereignty, the knell of human freedom and happiness will be tolled. Our nation now looms up as a proud monument of man's capacity to govern himself, on which the eyes of nations rest, and Democratic principles and Democratic men have nurtured it from its infancy. A firm adherence to the principles of those men whose wisdom has been fully established by our experience as a people—prompt and severe condemnation of political dishonesty and Legislative or Judicial corruption, will preserve the Constitution to which we owe so much, and propagate the true spirit of patriotism. The ballot-box is accessible to every man and it is the instrument by which our National and State administrations are to be kept pure—*vox populi vox dei.*

TERRIBLE CALAMITY IN WASHINGTON.—A LADY BURNED TO DEATH.—Washington, Jan. 4.—The wife of Judge Daniels, of the U. S. Supreme Court, was burned to death last night by an accident, at the residence of her husband, in Franklin row. The Judge and his wife had been out, and on returning home he went into the library and she repaired to her sleeping apartment, and commenced disrobing, preparatory to retiring for the night. Being very near sighted, she did not perceive a candle burning on the hearth, nor the flames that communicated to her clothing, until they completely enveloped her. She then ran from the room shrieking for assistance.

The rapid motion only added strength to the flames, and before any effectual assistance could be rendered, she was terribly burned from head to foot, and her recovery was rendered hopeless from having inhaled the fire. She died this morning, after lingering eight hours, in dreadful agony. She was a most estimable lady, about 35 years of age, and leaves two children, the youngest being only six or eight months old. She was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Harris, of Philadelphia, formerly Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, attached to the Navy Department. This terrible calamity has caused much regret to a large circle of friends, and the community at large, who deeply sympathize with the Judge on his bereavement. He was himself burned, but not seriously, while endeavoring to extinguish the flames. Accounts vary with regard to the origin of the accident. One statement is that Mrs. Daniels was in bed reading by a candle, the flames of which communicated to the sleeve of her night dress.

THE SWEARER REBUKED.—On a certain occasion, Gen. Washington invited a number of fellow officers to dine with him. While at table, one of them uttered an oath. The General dropped his knife and fork in a moment and in his deep tone, and characteristic dignity and deliberation, said:

"*I thought we all supposed ourselves gentlemen.*"

He then resumed his knife and fork, and went on as before. The remark struck the officer like an electric shock, and as was intended, did execution, as his remarks in such cases were apt to do. No persons swore at the table after that; and after dinner the officer referred to, remarked to his companion; that if the General had struck him over the head with his sword he could have borne it; but the home thrust which he gave him was too much. It was too much for a gentleman; and it is hoped that it will be too much for any one who pretends to be a gentleman.

"IT IS ADMITTED on all hands, that affairs in Kansas never looked brighter, since the organization of the Territory, than at present. In fact, there has never, at any time, been wanting anything but fair play to insure the success of freedom and prosperity there."

Would the reader believe it? we have copied the foregoing, word for word, letter for letter, comma for comma, from a leading editorial of that rabidest of all rabid free soil papers in New England, the old Worcester *Spy*! Five times over we have read it, and at every reading have pinched our nose to be sure we were not asleep and dreaming. It is an open, plain, unequivocal—we had almost added *manly*—confession that all the clamor that has been raised against the Kansas-Nebraska bill, on account of its repeal of the Missouri Compromise, was a mere sham and a miserable humbug.—*Providence Post.*

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—On Sunday afternoon, 20th ult., as Mr. and Mrs. Walton, with their son, of Pleasant Valley, Iowa, were returning home from church, in a severe snow-storm, they lost their way, had wandered for several hours through the snow drifts on the prairie, until at last Mrs. Walton and her son perished, and Mr. W., with much difficulty, reached a house badly frozen.

"THE LADYS' HOME MAGAZINE of Literature, Art, and Fashion." Edited by T. S. Arthur and Miss Virginia F. Townsend.

We have received the February number of this excellent magazine, and would advise our friends who desire something useful, entertaining and cheap, with which to enliven their firesides during the long winter evenings, to subscribe for it immediately.

TRAITORS.

G. A. WAGGONSELAR, WM. B. LEBO, } Schuylkill County.
SAMUEL MENAER, } York County.

UNITED STATES SENATOR!

"Shall we now
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes?
And sell the mighty space of our honors,
For so much trash as may be grasped thus?
I'd rather be a dog, and bay the moon—
Than such a Roman."

On Tuesday, the 13th inst., our State Legislature met in convention and elected a person to fill the office of United States Senator in the place of Mr. Brodhead, whose term of office expires on the 4th of March next. Our confidence in the integrity of the Democratic representatives, and our assurance that every one of them realized the truth that it is "Principles not men" for which we struggle, were so firm, that we had expected with considerable certainty to be able to announce to our readers this week the election of a Statesman that would have reflected honor upon our noble old State, and given her that position in our National Halls to which her wealth and her history eminently entitle her. We had hoped that an honest, talented, industrious, intelligent Senator, who is acquainted with the varied and growing interests of our mountains and valleys, of our farms, our mines, our Railroads, our Iron works, our towns, our cities, our rivers and our people, would have been selected. Then our wants would have been fully met, and the measure of the Democratic doctrine satisfied. It is therefore with regret and undisguised mortification we are compelled to announce the election of that corrupt political tactician, Simon Cameron, to disgrace the State and make himself ridiculous in the Senate of the nation. His election was accomplished by the treachery of three men who were elected as Democrats, WILLIAM B LEBO and G. A. WAGGONSELLER, of Schuylkill county, and SAMUEL MENEAR of York. These men were all in the Democratic caucus, and Lebo voted for the nomination of Col. John W. Forney. No honest motive could possibly have operated to induce any Democrat to desert this gallant standard bearer. In the time of political battle, no man has been more vigilant upon the watch tower than Col. Forney, and we may safely say that no one has done more real and effective labor for the success of our party, not only in our own State, but elsewhere. If services rendered in a good cause, by the exertion of a brilliant intellect and vigorous body, constitute a claim for preferment, this distinguished gentleman deserves the highest office in the gift of the Democracy of Pennsylvania. His firm adherence, through the most severe trials, to the principles we advocate, deserves reward, then indeed is Col. Forney worthy. On the contrary what has Simon Cameron ever done that reflects honor upon his State or upon any political party with which he has ever acted? Indeed what has he not done, that would bring disgrace and shame upon his constituents? No upright, candid man doubts the influences that operated upon those *Judas's*, who, when the *storms of* fanaticism were threatening the peace and prosperity of our country, betrayed the only party that occupies national ground, and holds aloft the banner of universal brotherhood. Words cannot express the contempt that every moral man, of whatever political party, must inevitably feel for Lebo, Waggonseller and Manear—more properly Limbo, Soulseller and *Menaer*. We have been pleased to learn that all of them have been dismissed from the houses at which they were boarding, and that Menear applied unsuccessfully to another house.

It may be that Cameron will still not be allowed to creep into the body for which he aspires, and for which he not only corrupts himself, but bribes his fellow-citizens to support him. A protest has been filed in both Houses, which, if substantiated, we consider sufficient to invalidate his right to a seat. If the demands of justice and moral rectitude are appeased, he will certainly be spurned from the society of honorable men, and the finger of scorn be pointed at him and the bought rebels who voted for him. How men who lay claim to morality and religion can exult over the success of one known to be destitute of every attribute that adorns human nature, morally and mentally, is a query that we confess our inability to solve. The election of a man by honest means, by a party that believes in the truth of its principles, is a just cause for rejoicing. But a victory purchased for self gratification is humiliating to all decent men.

AN HONEST EDITOR.

When men assume the control of a political paper it is too often the case that, they abstract all the morality and christian honesty they ever possessed from their Editorial duties. Now, in as much as the Press is one of the most powerful engines of good or evil, to the destiny of nations and the fate of communities, it is vastly important that those who cater for the mental wants of the people should study, Truth and with a hearty disregard for every influence that tends to smother the promptings of a pure mind, utter only that which is calculated to promote happiness and elevate the human character. We are too apt, when men are brought forward for political positions, to eulogise those of our own party, and vilify those of our opponents, regardless of their merits. Principles may be true, while the men who stand forth as their exponents are corrupt to the very core. While we labor zealously for the triumph of what we firmly believe to be the true party of our country, because its principles are those of our Fathers, recognizing all men as equal, and opposing aristocracy and exclusiveness, there may nevertheless, be men acting side by side with ourselves who are perfect moral lepers, and unworthy to be trusted in any responsible position. We believe it to be the duty of the Press to speak the truth of such men fearlessly and boldly, indifferent as to their partisan alliances, thereby our principles will not only escape corruption and avoid degradation, but will be elevated and purified by contact with their truth, and the people will have opportunity to know the villains who would impose upon their credulity, and take advantage of their ignorance. These remarks have been suggested, by the tone of our opposition journals relative to Speaker Taggart's inaugural. All that we have noticed with but one exception commending it in high terms as a literary and dignified production. The Blair County *Whig*, although a Republican sheet, uses the following language:

"Mr. Taggart's speech on taking the chair contained neither wit, (which he attempted) dignity, or anything else that would entitle it to respect from a high body, like the Senate of Pennsylvania, consequently we will not publish it."

Now there is not a sensible man that has read the speech alluded to, that will not admit the truth of the above quotation—all know that the speech lacked dignity, character and every thing else that would entitle it to respect, yet editorial panegyrics upon it are contained in many of our exchanges.

This article is not penned for the purpose of making unnecessary allusions to the gentleman above referred to and his speech, but that being among the passing events of the day, was fresh in our memory and answered as an illustration of our theme. In the name of Republican freedom, why cannot men be true in all their spheres of life? Why must animosity and hatred and perversion of motives exist between the leading men of political parties? are we not all working for the general good, for the elevation of our race, the perpetuity of freedom, the enlightment of man wherever found, the preservation of our franchises and their inherent rights, and the welfare of a common country? Why then will we not all be honest? Why will we not encourage Christian feeling and good fellowship among our neighbors, and while we differ in opinion with regard to the means of attaining our common object, hold up to public condemnation every manner of error and falsehood, bribery and treachery whether of our own party or another?

THE FREEDOM TO STARVE

Carlyle could see little gain to humanity in giving people the "freedom to starve." He did not defend slavery as an institution of men, but considered that the only and jolly negro on one of the South ern plantations was in an enviable condition compared with an evicted Irish who perished by the roadside, or the wretched paupers of England, swarming wherever a temporary shelter could be obtained, or a morsel of the coarsest food was furnished to appease the pinching of the wolf. There are some persons in this country who will not hesitate to say that they agree with the Scotch philosopher. Freedom may be necessary to live well, or that state of society in which man finds his highest development. But to live even in a well fed servitude must be better than not to live at all. Our sympathy mongers, whose eyes are ever searching for a colored object—who are reading and weeping over "Dred" before a glowing grate—who are drilling to break down a noble fabric of government to "free" Pomp and Dinah, who are snug in the cabin, luxuriating on possum fat and hommy—should don their furs, go out in this keen winter wind, and take a look around home. If they are too tender-skinned to perform that extraordinary feat, we commend the following paragraphs to their attention, with the simple remark that there are sections of Philadelphia in which there are human beings in no better condition.

The Albany (N. Y.) *Evening Journal* of the 8th inst., says:

"The report of the Senate Committee, presented to day, makes some startling revelations. The shocking condition of some of the county poor houses, as described therein, is almost incredible.

"They are badly built, worse arranged, not half warmed, and not at all ventilated.

"The unfortunate tenants of these places, when they are not starved, and fed upon tainted meat, spoiled fish and decaying vegetables, are lodged either in open sheds where they freeze, or in close hovels where they suffocate. They sleep piled in tiers. They sicken without attention, die without medicine, and are tossed into the grave like brutes. In one Institution not less than one-fourth of its 137 inmates died (say rather were killed) in less than a single year!—They are literally the abode of pestilence and famine!

"While the sane fare thus badly, the insane fare worse. Blows and chains are the only prescription for mental disease. The lunatic is beaten because of his wandering mind, and the idiot pounded for his lack of sense. Some wretched ones lie upon straw, amid the accumulating filth of months with no covering but such of this foul bed as adheres to their bodies. The blind, the deaf, the crippled, huddled together, are treated with equal inhumanity—as if they were doomed to suffer by the neglect of man as well as by the visitation of God."

We are not aware of the number of paupers in the State of New York. But let us suppose it is about equal to the slave population of half a dozen counties in Georgia. Who would give those slaves such "freedom" as the paupers above described enjoy? There is but little chance of compelling the paupers to work, and therefore they must be wretched, starve, and die a loathsome death. The slave may be compelled to labor, for when he ceases to resemble the pauper in being a tax on the community in which he lives; but he has a home, winter and summer—in the season of toil or the season of rest—with fire, food, clothing, and medical care. We can readily fancy one of these free paupers—or their counterparts in the hovels of Baker and Bedford streets—hagard, cut to the very heart with the wind that pierces every cranny—nursing the last spark among the ashes on the hearth, or gnawing a bone picked up in the street, envying the stout and vigorous Cuffee, playing the banjo, or "treein' de coon," on a moonlight night; or Aunt Chloe, plump and saucy, "bakin' de hoe-cake for de old man," by a roosing fire. Oh! put down "Dred"—at least till the warm air of May breathes upon us again—and if you have money or sympathy to spare, go into the highways and by-ways, and save the free wretches who are perishing for lack of a crust or a coal of fire.—*Evening Argus.*

DISGRACEFUL EXULTATION.

Had our opponents been victorious in the recent political campaign, when all the nation was agitated, and the promulgation of the adverse principles of parties heard in every school house, we as the vanquished host; would have expected them to rejoice, and indeed they would have cause for so doing. A victory over the Democracy when its principles are at issue and the people the judicial tribunal would be a miracle of such seldom occurrence as to create wild tumultuous joy among those who could delight in the downfall of a party to which they owe the very creation and existence of that freedom that guarantees to them a right to rejoice. But when arguments have failed to continue, principles have been defeated by the popular voice, and a triumph is obtained by the money of one who hesitates not to purchase an office to which the people failed his entrance, men must be far gone in the depts of moral degredation to exult over his success. We were indeed no little surprised on Tuesday night after Simon's election was known here, to see an occasional smile of exultation on the countenances of the Know-Nothings and Republicans, as they passed us, but imagine our astonishment when, in the midst of the night, after peaceful and quiet citizens had retired to rest, we discovered the flames of a huge bonfire, and heard the tones of the bell that calls the members of the M. E. Church to worship, sounding in unison with the howling of drunken men the victory of Cameron, whose frauds have disgraced the state, and whose corrupt influences have been exerted to damn his fellow men. We had just been told by one of our Borough papers that we lived in a moral and Christian community and that the members of the Legislature would be improved by coming amongst us, and were reflecting over the probability of our neighborhood being more moral than others, when we were aroused by the noise of men rejoicing over the most corrupt, base, treacherous act the Legislature of Pennsylvania has ever been guilty of.

How much consistency is there in our Black Republican friends who "cry aloud and spare not" against the slave holder, because he *buys* the bodies of the black people, and at the same time applaud the conduct of these base traitors who sold themselves soul and body, for a less price no doubt than a good negroe's body would command, to an unprincipled speculator and political gambler?

We respectfully suggest to the managers of the M. E. Church, that they establish some signal by which it may be known when their bell rings to call people to the House of God and when it is the summons for rowdies to assemble in our public square, so that our citizens can exercise their discretion with regard to whether they obey its call or not.

It was an outrage for the Court House bell to ring, but *under the circumstances*, and having learned the manner in which it was done, we would not have cared, learned of that, but we must say in all candor that we were mortified that so many of our fellow citizens could be found to participate in a jubilee, on the success of avaricious treachery and baseness—Had it been a triumph of principles, we say again a rejoicing would have been altogether proper, but in the name of common sense, what principles has Simon Cameron? Did he ever lead a party with anything else than money? Does he not change with as much facility as the chameleon alters its color? Are not opposites alternately right and wrong with him and can he not make extremes meet means in politics, finance or morals, when his selfish ends are to be subserved? Shame on the American citizen who is so ignorant as not to discern the distinction between a victory of principles and a victory bought with gold, or so lost to every sense of noble generous manhood, as to experience pleasure at the defeat of an enemy although accomplshid at the sacrifice of everything true and pure.—Shame on the members of a christain church who can hear the solemn tones of their holy bell, one long, another low and loud, tolling the requiem of departed virtue and not have every impulse of their hearts moved with indignation. We may well ponder on our future fate if in a community where religion and morality are our boast such occurrences are to be tolerated.

LEGISLATION.

In the State Legislature not much of interest has yet transpired except the entering of a protest on the journal of each branch, against the election of Simon Cameron to the United States Senate. The protest consists of two objections.

1st. He did not receive a concurrent majority of both Houses.

2d. The election laws require that a teller shall be appointed, and candidates nominated at least one day before going into convention. This was not done.

A large number of Bank applications with their accompanying petitions have been presented, and other private Bills.

The House has had under consideration a Bill giving the consent of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the purchase by the United States Government, of the Pennsylvania Bank property (in Philadelphia) for the location of a Post-office. The Bill passed finally.

A Bill has been presented limiting imprisonment for contempts of Court to thirty days. Should this become a law, obstinate persons cannot be compelled to obey the order of our Courts, and among others Gen. Small will be released without proper purgation.

Mr. Gregg, read in his place and presented to the Chair a Bill for the incorporation of "The Farmers' and Manufacturers' Bank of Centre County," also a Bill to authorize the appointment of an Auctioneer in Centre county. Our friend, Martin Stone, must be about.

From present indications considerable legislation will be done this winter, and much, no doubt, that we would be as well without.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND CLASS LEGISLATION.

There was a time in the history of this government, when it was incumbent upon the press to speak out against a growing and grievous public wrong, that time is now. It is too apparent to the eye of the most superficial observer of current events, (as we see them enacted at Washington city) not to see, that our national councils have become the theatre of the most wanton and barefaced attempts on part of persons both in and out of Congress, to rob, aye rob the people of a portion of their heritage bequeathed to them by their forefathers. The public domain is the common property of all; yet from the course pursued by a certain set of men, "clothed with a little brief authority," it will soon become the property of a few, to the prejudice of the rights of the many.

Years ago, Congress, in an evil hour, departed from the line of policy pointed out by the Constitution, and established by those wise heads, and patriotic hearts, who formed that sacred instrument, by granting donations of public lands for public, and in some cases, charitable purposes. At the time we are speaking of, such donations carried with them at least a semblance of justification, and it was thought by some, that although the strict letter of the constitution might be impinged, that the objects for which the lands were donated were praiseworthy, and therefore justifiable. But there were others in the country, who saw the dangerous, not to say pernicious consequences, that would flow from this slight departure from the letter of the Constitution, and who warned the men of that day, that it was only throwing open the door to the introduction of an evil, that sooner or later, would be accompanied by the most alarming consequences. Those strict constructionists of the Constitution knew full well the tendencies of the human heart: they knew that the first step in contravention of that sacred instrument, was the fatal step, and that from this departure would be deduced arguments by those who would succeed them, to open still wider the breach already made, and that once admitted would inevitably result in disaster to the country.

But were the counsels of those philosophic statesmen heeded, or were they disregarded? Let the facts in the case answer this pertinent inquiry. Year after year, each Congress has, without a solitary exception, we believe, been practising upon the examples set them by previous Congresses, and donation after donation, of the public domain has been made, until the number of millions of acres squandered is appalling to the most reckless man in the community. The system of procuring grants of lands from Congress, in these latter days, has become a most stupendous, as well as a most profitable business to those engaged in it. We will not take time to do more than glance at a few cases to show the alarming extent to which this business has been carried.

A few years ago Congress granted to the Illinois Central Railroad Company a donation of public land not only sufficient to complete and equip their entire road a distance of 400 miles, but to leave that company the richest in America; indeed, it is said, the richest company in the world. We have not the tables before us to show the extent of this donation to this single corporation, but we refer the incredulous to the tables and they will see that half the truth has not been even guessed at.

Each State and Territory west of Ohio, for the last twenty-five years has received its quota of the public lands; until men have become so bold in their demands upon the subject, as to defy the best efforts of the patriotic and vigilant representative who raises his voice against this alarming and dangerous state of things. The halls and lobbies of our national legislature are filled to overflowing with harpies, and political gamesters, who cajole members, *and actually get honorable members of Congress deep in their interests*; so deep, that the member when he comes to vote on the question of a large donation of public lands for the benefit of some real or supposed railroad corporation, is actually voting for his own especial benefit. Whether such be the fact or not, we leave the reader to form his own conclusion. This much we are bound to say, that it is a marvel to us, and always has been, and we presume ever will be, (for we are not vain enough to think of being honorable M. C.s ourselves,) how those corporation can succeed so well, unless there are more potent influences brought to bear upon members, than the mere visionary arguments the agents of those corporation can possibly offer to induce them to vote away the public property of the nation so lavishly. But let us turn for a moment from the contemplation of this vile and dangerous system of things in the light in which we have been viewing it, to the consequences of the system upon the future wellbeing and morals of the country.

Class legislation is more to be feared in this country, than either war, pestilence or famine. By class legislation we mean that species of legislation which gives to the few what is denied to the many; because the effect of such legislation is, to build up in our midst a privileged class of individuals and clothe them with attributes of power that are at war with the spirit of our republican institutions. The most dangerous of all these powers, is wealth, which is in Autocrat in the hands of all men, and the god of far too many. It has this last and most alarming tendency; and for that reason should meet reprobation of every lover of his country. Let a monied aristocracy be built up in this country, and ere long we will find ourselves in a far worse condition than the down trodden children of toil in monarch ridden Europe. Heaven knows that we have enough of it, even now, to give us an earnest of what the future must be, if we are not careful, watchful bold, and resolute to put down this hydra-headed monster, whilst the power is in the hands of the people.

It has ever been the pride and boast of the patriotic and true men of the Democratic party, to interpose to prevent such a state of things as we have depicted, and to save the people from the demoralizing and vicious tendencies of centralization, which means nothing more nor less, than circumscribing the constitutional power of the people to the despotic power of capital. To the men of the Democratic party the people must now look, and through them hope for the effort to stay this dangerous tendency of things.—We fondly hope that there is virtue and patriotism enough left in the Democratic force in the present Congress to prevent the consummation of the projects now on foot, by the reckless in Congress, to despoil the government of one of the sources of her legitimate revenue, and the people of their lawful heritage.

Against class legislation, it is our fixed determination, as Democratic journalists, to "wage war to the knife, the knife to the hilt, and the hilt to the elbow."—*Keystone.*

SPEECH OF COL. BENTON,

Before the New England Society of New York—Delivered on the 22d instant, on the occasion of the 236th Anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims.

In laying the report of this speech, which we find in the New York *Tribune*, before our readers, we make no apology for the space it occupies; as the sentiment of that speech, uttered by as patriotic, as noble and as true a man as the United States contains, cannot but find a response in every honest heart—whether that heart beats in the North or in the South.

The President of the Society said: I have the pleasure now to introduce to you a statesman known not only to this State, to New England, to the United States, but to the world, and one that will favor us with a response to the sentiment you have just now heard. I have the pleasure to propose to you the health of the Hon. Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, who will respond to the toast. [Applause and cheers. The toast was drank standing.]

Mr Benton said: Mr. President of the New England Society, and gentlemen of the New England dents and gentlemen of this evening, I salute you all, and my countrywomen (turning round to the ladies, who were behind the principle table, and sinking his voice till it became inaudible) you occupy a place of honor—the wives and mothers are not forgotten—the lords of creation, as they are called, will pardon me if I turn my back upon them, to address for a moment, those whom they delight to honor and to love and protect. [Applause.] And expanding the idea which was so felicitously given to us from the other end of the table, I can say we can go back to the highest possible authority to support and to sustain our regard for the women. We learn in Scripture that three daughters were given to Job who were spoken of as the fairest in the land. [Applause.] They are commemorated. Their names are given; their qualities are described, and I do not consider that the description is limited in its application, but as applying to intellectual and moral as well as to the human face and human form. Then the Scripture tells us, too, that Job had seven sons given to him—twice the number of daughters and one over—and how little of them there was to be said, may be inferred from the fact that not one of their names are given, and not a single one of their qualities is mentioned. [Applause.] The fair daughters are those who are mentioned, and why? He who has favored us with this sentiment has gone on to indulge in a filial sentiment in which all will join him who have had mothers, (and that embraces the whole of us) in which he attributed what has fallen to him of usefulness and respectability to the cares of a pious mother. I come now to the remarks of another speaker, who has given us a notice very properly of two things which were carried from the new world to the old. I join him heartily with a limitation in one of them, that is a pretty fair compromise, although I am not a man of compromises. [Laughter.] One of those things was a weed which no animal of the brute creation will touch dried or green—which not even the browsing goat or the rooting hog, or the mule that feeds upon thistles and briars, will touch; yet man will take it and put it into his nose, and fill his mouth with it, and even light a fire under his nose to heat it with it. My mother asked me never to use its weed, and I have never touched it from that time to the present day. And now for something more serious. She asked me not to game, and I have never gamed: and I cannot tell this day who is winning and who is losing in any game that can be played. She admonished me, too, against hard drink; with whatever capacity for endurance I may have at present, and whatever usefulness I may attain in life, I attribute it to having complied with her pious and earnest wishes. When seven years of age, she asked me not to drink, and I made then a resolution of total abstinence long before societies for that purpose were formed. I was an abstent society at a time when I was the sole consistent member of my own body: and that I have adhered to through all time, I owe to my mother. They are only women, who are mothers of men. I do not make much account of the lords of creation in raising up men. I look to the mothers, and among them mothers, although we find that everywhere human nature is nearly the same, yet those of New England, whose virtue it is peculiarly appropriate for us to celebrate on this occasion, gives eminent example of the care taken to add to the gracefulness of form and person which distinguishes her daughters' education and moral and intellectual culture. [Applause.]

For the Democratic Watchman.

THE LOCK HAVEN AND TYRONE RAILROAD IN PARTICULAR, AND RAILROADS IN GENERAL:

But few enterprises have met with more underground railroad opposition than this Lock Haven and Tyrone Railroad. Half the ingenuity exercised in its favor, that has been used to defeat it, would have financiered it through. Every imaginable scheme (I think there is nothing new to come) has been resorted to in order to divide the friends of this enterprise, and create dissension and diverse feelings among them. Some were not consulted first, and as they did not originate the idea nor embrace the project in its incipient stage, they will "go their death against it." Others were not made prominent operators "*against their consent*," and "hence, they cannot vouchsafe to recognize its existence." Others cannot have it located "just where it should be located," and since their interest is not consulted they "guess the road can do without their influence." Others know that if the road is built, it will enhance the value of their property thousands of dollars, and they seem to think that others must build it, their only plan is to manifest perfect indifference about it, talk about projects that they are satisfied can never be consummated, and thus very innocently sustain their selfishness by occupying a sort of neutral opposition to the project; some other road that every one knows is entirely out of the question, "will suit them better!"