THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY—PRINCIPLE AND ACTION.

This is an age of *isms*. In religion, morals, and politics, says the Reading *Gazette and Democrat*, the private judgment of the individual has assumed a species of dictatorship, which says to every other one, "I am right, and thou art wrong!" Ancient and well defined landmarks, are neglected and forgotten; seasons which of old governed men in their actions are scouted and sneered at, and in this day of general enlightenment, the devout follower of God, and the stern moralist are compelled to acknowledge that there is a reign of skepticism and infidelity.

Wide-spread and deep-rooted, the fascination of the infallibility of private judgment, allures, corrupts, and destroys. It undermines the groundwork of the "edifice not made by hands," and saps the vital principles of that code of morals, which bears the impress of no human origin.

Thus it is in religion and morals, and the world is reaping the bitter fruits of a harvest sown in error. Spiritualism, Millerism, Communism, Mormonism and Radicalism, each and all have their deluded devotees and misguided followers, constituting a very Babel, bound together as of old by but one common and impious design—that of attempting to evade the decrees and purposes of God. But as their prototypes were scattered, driven forth and confounded by the decree of Heaven, so we believe that, ere long these things shall cease, and that the minds of men, purified and ennobled by the very darkness and error through which they have groped, shall return to that pure and simple faith which is a "saving health to all people."

As in religion and morals, so in politics. In the earlier days of the Republic, when they who led the public mind, were men who had been tried in the fire of the Revolution, and had been purified by the persecution and oppression of kingly tyranny, the political faith of the people was pure and simple. The political equality of men—the right, absolute and inherent, of the majority to govern—*strict obedience to the* will of that majority, when fairly expressed—the greatest good to the greatest number, and the right to serve God according to the dictates of conscience, were the leading elements of the political faith of those to whom we are indebted for the liberties we now enjoy. Upon these foundation stones they reared our political edifice, and the work ended, they were gathered to their fathers. As years pass by the principles and precepts of those venerated men have been neglected and often forgotten. The desire of personal advancement and aggrandizement have usurped the place of patriotism, and the arts of the demagogue are the refuge and hope of many who now occupy proud positions of trust and honor. The designing schemes of the tricksters, circumvent the intentions and purposes of the true patriot, and the gambling politician gloats and fattens upon the prejudices of a misguided people.

Hence arises the issue in politics. Prone to be deceived, thousands are led into the embrace of Abolitionism, Republicanism, (falsely so termed) Nativeism and Disunionism. Under those guises, for long years, the determined efforts of bad and designing men have tended to stir up and keep alive the worst elements of the human heart; and although the leaders of these *various isms* well know that the success of either of them would raze to the ground the Mecca of human freedom, would entail endless misery and bondage upon their fellow men, yet to secure their personal ends they stop at nothing and rush blindly and madly to inevitable ruin. Hitherto their efforts were disjointed and spasmodic; they were like the spots upon the sun, which only serve to heighten the surrounding brightness. But at the last, darkness and terrible storm, which burst in wild fury upon the land; and above it all, in frenzied shrieks, were heard the tones of arch traitors and demagogues, Seward, Hale, Wilson, Burlingame, Wilmot, and others, encouraging the discordant hosts to a victory which must have brought ruin to the land.

The contest was long and doubtful, but there was a party—the Democratic party—which still adhered to the landmarks of the early faith, which still believed in the precepts and maxims of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe—a party which mustered its hosts, *not in the North alone*, but also on the broad savannahs of the South and the fertile prairies of the West, amid the gold-bearing hills of the Pacific coast, and everywhere that the sun shone in this wide land on that day of battles and to this party in its *unity of principle and action*, was entrusted the fate of the last experiment of human freedom.

Actuated by a common faith, bound together by universal principles, recognizing no issue, and under the leadership of one who learned his earliest lessons of political action from the very mouths of the fathers of the Republic, it achieved a moral victory of principle over error, such as the world never before witnessed, and which we fervently pray it may never have cause to witness again.

It was to the unity and integrity of its principles that the Democratic party owe their victory. Its mission should be to rebuke, denounce, and exterminate political heresy, fanaticism, and sectionalism, wherever found; and then, in after times, when the authors and names of these isms shall have been consigned to merited oblivion, it will survive and flourish in all its glory, the true preserver of the rights of men, and the only true exponent of Constitutional freedom.

The Grand Jury of New York City have found true bills against Mrs. Cunningham and Mr. Eckel, charged with the murder of Dr. Burdell.

A vampe was lately found in the streets of Philadelphia in a state of mania potu, who was at one time the wife of one of the most distinguished citizens of New York.

The Watchman.

EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL

BELLEFONTE, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1857.

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY

FOR GOVERNOR,

WILLIAM F. PACKER,

OF LYCOMING COUNTY.

CANAL COMMISSIONER,

NIMROD STRICKLAND,

OF CHESTER COUNTY.

SUPREME JUDGE.

ELLIS LEWIS,

OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

By Telegraph to the Watchman.

STATE NOMINATIONS.

Harrisburgh March 3d 1857.

William F. Packer was nominated on the twenty-fifth ballot for Governor.

Nimrod Strickland of Chester is nominated for Canal Commissioner, and Hon. Ellis Lewis, of Lancaster for Supreme Judge.

THE DEATH of one, and the protracted illness of other members of our family, must be our excuse to our subscribers, for the non-appearance of the *Watchman*, last week.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The historian of some future generation, removed far beyond the influence of the passions and prejudices of the present day, who shall undertake to write the history of this nation for the last sixty years, will of necessity, in so doing, write to a great degree the history of the Democratic party.

So intimately identified with all the striking acts in our national history has this party been, so conspicuous its agency in the unparalelled career of prosperity and greatness which we have *run*, that no impartial record of our country's glory can be made, which does not blazon on each page the power, the justice, the wisdom, and the patriotism of this great national party. To this party has the country always turned in the hour of danger. Whether the danger which menaced us proceeded from a foreign foe, or arose from internal discord, the strong arm and wise counsels of this party have arrested the evil and restored peace and quiet to the country.

In the fierce struggle which has been recently passed, we believe that the Democratic party has rendered a service to the country which men of the present day, whether friend or foe cannot estimate. Its value can only be properly appreciated by generations that succeed us, when under one flag, one Constitution and one Government, they shall count fifty or sixty sovereign States, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, nourishing and sustaining in ease and comfort one hundred millions of freemen. Never before, as we solemnly and fearfully did believe and still do believe, were the perils which threatened the Union so grave and imminent! Never did danger threaten it so closely from within (the only source whence it could be formidable.) Never before have the passions of men been so deeply aroused, and never have sovereign States of this Union glared upon each other with such angry aspect as in the crisis just passed. Men of cool and calm judgments, who have seen the stormiest passages of our political history, and felt no fears for the Union, were startled and alarmed at the gloomy prospects which were foreboded to the country by a large and apparently formidable sectional party. Men—Statesmen, acknowledged that issues of life and death to the Union, were to be decided, in all probability in the recent Presidential election. It has been the issue of the Democratic party, rallying under its banners the conservative sentiment of the nation, to save the Union from its last and most fearful danger—a wild, an exasperated, and unappeasable sectional hatred, and excited bigotry. The good and true men of the Nation, from one end to the other, who look at our country as it is, the "fairest and freest" on earth, came flocking to the standard and by united effort obliterated all geographical lines, and won the battle. The patriots of Centre county may justly feel proud that in the ominous crisis her sons stood within the ample folds of Truth, and added the battalion of their strength to the great army of victors.

For our own part we feel prouder of our party to-day, in view of the great results of this triumph, than we have ever done in former days. We feel that a great battle is fought, and a victory pregnant with vital results permanently gained. Many persons, we are aware, think that the next four years will be but a breathing spell, and that the agitation through which we have just passed will be renewed. We do not think so. We rather believe that this Black-Republican party will fall into decay and disrepute. We do not think that they can ever again enter the field even with such respectable adherents or imposing numbers. Fanaticism has been stimulated to its utmost, and like every creed and every party which is based upon one narrow prejudice, this Black-Republican party must melt away when the frenzied madness of the hour is over. "*Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin,*" is legibly written upon their walls. The people, the great and mighty people, have awakened to a partial conception of its disastrous tendencies, and like a corpse moved by the Galvanic battery, it relapses into inanimation and death, when the artificial vitality is removed. Questions of foreign policy may arise, or dangers of some kind, now unseen and unthought of, may serve to keep us united and harmonious, to teach us the value of the *Union*, above and beyond all other political bulwarks.

Besides, the same pretext for a sectional party is not likely soon again to occur. Governments have been provided for the existing territories, and been approved by the people. This principle so proper and just in itself, is eminently Democratic, and we feel confident it will be satisfactory in practice. Already *peace*, "*healing*" *balm*, is relieved from the disturbing elements which were introduced by Free Sellers, is making rapid advances in population. Peace and order so happily and successfully established, will invite into her borders substantial and permanent emigration. Soon she will apply for admission into the Union, and will be made a *free State* by her own people. So, too, with the other territories. One after one they will add their star to the galaxy of bright and noble States that constitute the American Union. Governed by their own people, they will peacefully, quietly and happily, unite hands North, South, East and West for mutual protection and defence. Looking to the fact that the recent intense excitement grew out of the Kansas Nebraska Bill, and regarding the election of Buchanan as the solemn, intelligent judgment of the Nation, endorsing and approving its principles, we think we are right in saying that the last pretext for sectional, anti-slavery agitation has passed away, and that the party that seeks to take the power out of the hands of the people and centralize it in Congress, *with the vain hope of ameliorating* the condition of the negro, will rapidly dwindle to an inconsiderable band of impracticable and visionary fanatics.

But whatever may be the developments of the next four years, the duty of the Democratic party is plain. It will adhere with unshaken fidelity to its State rights interpretation of the Constitution. Whatever storms may arise, it will not seek to allay them by temporizing expedients; but boldly proclaiming the doctrine of the equality of the States, and the limited powers of the Federal Government, it will rally to its standard the patriotic masses of the country, and will meet and overthrow in the future, as it has in the past, all creeds and parties antagonistic to these doctrines. The Democratic party is pre-eminently the Constitution, and it can only maintain its power by an unwavering adhesion to its doctrines. It arose with the Constitution, it has outlived all parties, and if true to itself, will never die until the Constitution ceases to exist. Let this country be developed under Democratic auspices, as it has thus far been, and we can from our very souls exclaim! Liberty how great is thy name! Freedom how broad and luxuriant thine honored home!

THE TARIFF ON RAILROAD IRON.

An immense influence is being exerted at Washington for the purpose of securing the passage of a Bill to exempt all duty on Railroad iron imported into the United States. The Democratic party has always held that our domestic manufactories of every kind deserve and require protection in their infancy, and that at all times it is better for the Government to provide sufficient revenue by tariff, thus affording incidental protection, than by direct taxation. We have as persistently contended, however, and still do contend, that inasmuch as the consumer is eventually the one who pays the tariff, the interests of the community demand that articles of common and universal consumption should be admitted into our market free of duty, and that as the various kinds of manufactories grow into power, and acquire strength sufficient to enable them to enter the field of competition against the world on fair footing, all duty should be removed, except what is necessary for revenue and that no protection that benefits one class to the prejudice of another, is consistent with the free and equal Constitution of these United States.

The manufacture of Railroad iron in the United States is yet carried on to but a small extent—is in its infancy—and we retain fully our Democratic standing point when we say that the enterprise should be protected by the Government.

The consumers of Railroad iron are wealthy and aristocratic Companies, who already possess privileges far beyond the common people and are amply able to pay an adequate price for their materials. It is vastly different from implements and articles of universal use, sugar, coffee, cotton, &c., which the poor man must have as well as the rich.—Abolish the duty on Railroad iron and its effect will be felt on every iron manufactory in the country, for although it does not reach them directly in its consequences, it diminishes the quantity of iron that is manufactured into rails in the United States, and yet the people at large will not be benefited one iota. Our motto has always been "The greatest good for the greatest number," and so long as the manufacturers and consumers of Railroad iron occupy the position that they do, and continue to be unconnected in their business relations with the common people, our voice shall be heard in opposition to the abolishment of the duty upon it.

Remove the duty on this article, and to provide for the expenses of the Government you must increase it on something else—where its effects would be more severly felt by the masses—we have seen it contended that cheap Railroad iron, would diminish the freight and fare; but for ourselves we believe no such doctrine. Railroad Companies will charge as much as they can, and the less their expenses the more profit will be realized. Protect home manufactures when it does not react upon the poor consumer who earns his bread by daily toil.

ENTERPRISE.—A company has purchased the Grate and other coal lands in Snowshoe, and are making arrangements to construct a Railroad from this borough to their lands, during the coming summer. They have already made a contract for a large quantity of Railroad iron, and have bought the Hays property in this borough for depot grounds. The enterprise has been commenced in the proper spirit and no doubt will be speedily carried through to completion.

ARRESTED.—On Saturday night last, Charles Malone, the colored man who stabbed George Rider of Milesburgh some time ago, was committed to jail in this place. Supposing the difficulty was all past he returned home, only to become—a caged black-bird.

THE PARTY OF CORRUPTION.

The odds and ends, factions and *isms*, which go to make up the so-called Republican party, seem to be united by one common bond, the cohesive power of public plunder." Arrogantly and impudently claiming all the purity, decency religion and honesty in the land, that party now occupies a position in which it would be difficult to find a single redeeming feature to save it from universal execration and contempt. It now stands out in bold relief, in all its odious deformity, as a compound of treason, fanaticism and corruption.

We happen to be blessed with a retentive memory. We well recollect the sanctimonious cant and holy horror manifested by these puritanical pretenders, at what they were pleased to term the iniquity and corruption of the old political parties, and that the nation could only be saved from impending destruction through the instrumentality of a new political organization. Professed ministers of the gospel forsook the service of their Divine Master, and made their pulpits political rostrums from which to belch forth their slanderous denunciations of Democracy. One of the most notorious, as well as the most reckless and unscrupulous of these clerical impostors, Henry Ward Beecher, impiously declared that the hand of God was visible in the formation of the Republican party. If so, it was that they might fill up the measure of their abomination and sink into everlasting contempt.

Our readers, who are familiar with the proceedings of Congress, need not to be informed that incontestable evidence of corruption has been adduced, which must brand some of the Black Republican leaders with irredeemable infamy. The party, which boasts of its having three thousand and odd ministers of the Gospel as pulpit shrickers in its behalf, is convicted at last of being the most unprincipled that ever disgraced our common country. Four of its Representatives in Congress will be expelled from the Hall they have so foully dishonored, if justice is done in the case. Matteson, Gilbert, Welch and Edwards, will be branded in all coming time with the scorn they so richly deserve. The have undoubtedly been guilty of the most unblushing frauds, and every one of them belong to the nigger-Republican party.

But these men stand not alone in their irredeemable guilt. We see that evidence is coming to light, that the out-going Black Republican party of Indiana, have been guilty of the most astounding defalcations and frauds. There have been issued certificates for patents in favor of some of their leaders, for 15 or 20,000 acres of lands, for which not a dollar has been paid, and never intended to be; the accounts of the Black Republican State Treasurer, show a deficit of some $60,000 not paid by him; and in addition to all this, there has been a large amount of bank paper issued, without taking the security which is required by law. The developments are of the most startling character, and show conclusively how utterly unprincipled and corrupt, the heterogeneous combination of fanatics and traitors really are.

Of a similar character with the shameless frauds already developed, are those recently brought to light before the New York Legislature. The Black Republican Harbor Master of the city of New York, have been engaged in a series of the most nefarious illegal exactions and extortions, that can well be imagined. A grosser and more deplorable picture of political depravity, has never met the public eye. Every one of those engaged in these monstrous acts of fraud and injustice, are Abolition fanatics, Kansas shrickers of the first water. Their hypocrisy equals their insolence and corruption.

Plunder of the public funds is the end and aim of Black Republicanism—Kansas and free negroes the means to secure it. An intelligent and outraged people will rebuke these minions of dishonesty and misrule in tones that cannot be misunderstood.

The above we copy from the Philadelphia *Evening Argus*, to which we add the conviction for high crimes, of three of the political preachers, that were crying against corruption, and you fill up a category that is truly alarming to every true patriot. Indeed every lover of his own freedom is called upon by everything he holds dear, to cast off the fetters of party, and think and act for himself, influenced by no other power than his own judgment, actuated by no other motive than the good of our common country. The Democracy have passed through the ordeal of fanaticism more than once, and when the fog and smoke of battle had cleared away the verdict of the country pronounced them right in every point of doctrine they maintained, and so will it ever be, as certain as truth survives.

We regret to notice that the "*Aarguesburgh Berichter*," opposes the bill that has been presented in the Legislature for a Poor House in this county, and take this opportunity to inform our neighbor that the bill is one that can effect no township beyond the will of a majority of its citizens. Under the proposed law, a vote will be taken—each elector voting for a Poor House or against a Poor House, and those townships only that desire it, will have to bear the expenses attendant upon this laudable enterprise. We have no desire to impose upon our fellow citizens any thing that does not meet with their wishes, and we trust the editor of the *Berichter* will withdraw his objections, and explain to his readers the provisions of the bill. This we think would be nothing more than fair and honorable on his part. We who have poor are entirely willing to provide for their wants.

EARTHQUAKE IN PHILADELPHIA.—A slight shock of an earthquake was felt in Philadelphia and environs on the 10th inst. It lasted about one-fourth of a minute. There was a rumbling noise, as of a heavy dray passing, and the houses trembled so that the doors and windows rattled. It occurred near midnight.—*Saturday Eve. Post.*

A bashful printer refuses a situation in a printing office where females were employed saying he never set up with a girl in his life.

WHAT KNOW-NOTHINGISM HAS INAUGURATED.

Know-Nothingism, in its spasmodic efforts to perpetuate its little power so hastily gained, cares not by what means, cares not how much it has inaugurated an era of ruffian rule. In New Orleans and Baltimore, for instance, it has developed itself in the worst species of ruffianism, *taking for its model, it would seem* a secret clan that prayed upon the people of British India for a considerable time previous to the year 1810. Of this clan, a writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* says:

"It was then that the startling fact flashed upon the Government, that there was a regular class of its subjects to whom murder was not only a profession, but also a religion; and that a great brotherhood of crime having taken an oath with all possible solemnity, went about the country murdering in cold and bloodless style, by strangling, in remote places, unwary travellers, whom they could seduce into their toils.—All this was done with the most consummate art and profound secrecy; the members assumed disguises, and played parts with the greatest address; they had also a secret dialect of their own, and secret signs, by which they communicated with each other. These gangs had no permanent form, the members assembled for a murdering expedition and dispersed, vanished as soon as it was over. They outwardly followed some peaceful calling. The Zemander or head Thug was paid a tribute, and *the police officials* were likewise bribed into silence.

"But in the East India Company the Thugs encountered a redoubtable foe. Captured Thugs were got to turn approvers.—The whole secrets of the craft were divulged the laws were relaxed to meet the difficulties of the case; the gangs were hunted down in all directions; our jails were filled with Thugs; and a great and horrid institution was broken up in a few years. An occasional traveller may still at intervals be strangled by the wayside; but the system is destroyed—the profession ruined—the guild scattered, never again to be associated into a great corporate body."

The New Orleans *Courier*, in republishing the foregoing extract, says:

"At this very moment, in this very city, one or more bodies of men exist precisely similar in action to these East Indian artists. They do not strangle with a rope—but they knock down with brass knuckles and slungshots, cut with knives, and sometimes shoot with pistols. They are organized in some form or other, and bound together by some secret oath. The commission of a murder raises the Thug who commits it to a certain rank in the Order, and entitles him to certain rights and privileges beyond his fellows.

This set of men—if men they can be called—now control our City Government, and distribute the offices in the gifts of the city to its principal assassins. The policy of this body of men is the policy of our city authorities. All crimes of any magnitude are covered up if possible, or slowly and unwillingly punished in the lightest possible manner, if concealment be out of the question. All persons who attempt to bring criminals to justice, are threatened until they are terrified from their purpose, or are themselves murdered or disabled. Whenever one of the gang is put on his trial for one of the dastardly crimes some of them daily commit the court is thronged with the vile faces of his fellow Thugs, who threaten court, jury and witnesses, with being themselves "thugged" at some future time, if they dare to do their duty to their country and convict the criminal. We fear that at the present moment some of our judges are actually afraid to pass sentence in the most flagrant and notorious cases. The head of the City Government was originally elected to office contrary to the will of a majority of the votes of the city by means of the terror excised by the Thugs of New Orleans in driving them from the polls. Those Thugs now hold him in the hollow of their hand make him do whatever they please. He is merely their clerk for the purpose of recording their decrees. They openly parade the streets and threaten the lives of those who dare to raise their voice against the present reign of terror."

Here is one of the practical results of Know-Nothingism—the inauguration of ruffian rule. The Know-Nothings triumphed in New Orleans, by some means, and to day under the rule of that faction, that city groans under the worst state of affairs that ever cursed a community in this republic.—In Baltimore it is even worse than at New Orleans. Scarcely a day passes that we do not hear of some murderous outrage committed with impunity in the streets of Baltimore by the Know-Nothing Thugs who infest all parts of that city, and who are screened by those in authority. The Nashville *Union* may well say: "These things did not exist before the accession of Know-Nothingism came, and with its continuation in power, their existence is perpetuated.

The history of the rule of Know-Nothingism, wherever it has acquired power, shows that its legitimate results are evil. Good men have been lured into its deceptive folds, but they have not been sufficient to change its inherent nature. The instincts of its inception have marked its course from its organization to the present time, and show beyond the possibility of a doubt, that it is unsuited to the genius of our institutions.

HYPOCRITE.—The editor of the *Scalpel*, in the February number, in an article on the "Education of American School Girls," has discovered that a frightful practice prevails among young ladies of eating chalk and slate pencil, and drinking vinegar, to avoid gaining flesh. "Very few persons," he adds "imagine the extent to which this suicidal perversion of the natural instincts will go, in young women who are under the influence of their imaginary superiors, in what they consider graceful thinness; much has been said about tight lacing, and because the corset has partially gone into disuse, people imagine that compression of the lungs had ceased; it is far otherwise, hooks and eyes and whalebone have taken their place, and the insane devotee willingly starves herself by the gear!"

WHOM WILL THEY GIVE US?—As far as the prospects of victory are concerned it matters little to us, who may be placed in nomination for Governor by the opposition. Going before the people as we do with the long tried and well established principles of Democracy as our issue, we feel certain of a successful result, but the contest would be more fair, and the people less subject to deception if the candidates were both men whose political antecedents and present positions are well known and clearly avowed. Abolition leaders have for some time controlled the opposition party in the State, and we hope they will trot out one of their old nags, so that the people will know exactly what they are passing upon. We therefore say, give us David Wilmot of Bradford county. The people know him and will vote understandingly.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRUPTION.

The recent report of the Committee on Congressional Corruption is well calculated to alarm the country. It is doubtless true that the tribe of Washington letter writers have made in advance a number of allegations, condemning in sweeping terms a large number of members, which they were totally unable or unwilling, when put to the test to substantiate. Their loud thunders of denunciation resulted in most lame and impotent conclusions of confessions of ignorance or falsehood, when they were summoned to the witness stand. But notwithstanding this fact the inquiries of the Committee have resulted in a number of alarming disclosures. Four members of Congress, William A. Gilbert, Francis S. Edwards, and Orasmus B. Matteson of New York, and William W. Welch, of Connecticut, are implicated, by direct testimony, in acts of a corrupt character, designed to effect Congressional legislation. "Not to put too fine a point upon it," there is little room for doubt that some of these gentlemen were ready to bribe their fellow-members and others to receive bribes, as considerations for their votes.

Independent of the direct testimony affecting the above cases, upon which the Committee have very properly recommended the expulsion of the guilty parties, a good deal of incidental information has been obtained as to the manner in which the sanction of Congress is obtained to the numerous schemes of plunder annually concocted. The fact of the tender or receipt of a bribe by a member of a legislative body is one of the most difficult things imaginable to prove. It is the interest of both parties to preserve the utmost secrecy. If the man who gives a bribe exposes the fact, his business as a lobbyist will be forever destroyed. If the member who receives it acknowledges his guilt, his reputation is blasted, and as no other parties but those thus directly interested are cognizant of the fact, the chances of exposure are very limited. It is impossible to read the evidence before the Committee without coming to the conclusion that witnesses have used language rather to conceal than to express their thoughts, and that they have sought to hide rather than to reveal whatever information they possessed of Congressional corruption. The American people have just grounds for belief that they have at Washington a number of base, dishonest, and unworthy representatives, who trade and barter in the public treasure of the nation, and vote it away under the pressure of corrupt influences, and against the dictates of their better judgment.

So far, it seems that all the parties implicated in the recent exposure, are Black Republicans. The Committee was appointed by a Speaker of that party, and, of course, the Democrats upon it were in a minority. But all the members directly implicated are Black Republicans, and nearly all the parties concerned at all in the corrupt transactions belong to that same body. The *penchant* for plunder among them seems to be so extensive that the freedom to plunder seems to be a part of their creed. The history of a majority of the present House is full of warning to the nation. Elected as claimants to a superior degree of morality, virtue, and patriotism, they have won for themselves a reputation for venality and corruption unprecedented in the annals of the country. And even now, the effort to shield the members clearly implicated from deserved disgrace, by the very men who clamored fiercely for the same punishment of expulsion on charges of another character, which did not affect their integrity as members of Congress, against other parties, would seem to indicate that leading Black Republicans are disposed to engraft the endorsement of Congressional corruption as a regular plank in their platform, and to fight zealously for the freedom of their Representatives to buy and sell votes on public questions. Are the American people willing to sustain them in such a position?—*Pennsylvanian.*

THE VIRGINIA VOLCANO.—It is said that the statement in reference to a volcano having made its appearance in Pendleton county Va., on the great back bone mountain is true. The Cumberland *Telegraph* says:

It is at a point on the mountain directly between the heads of the dry fork of Cheat and the South branch of the Potomac rivers, at a place known by the name of the "Sinks," so called from the depressed condition of the mountain at that point. These Sinks are funnel shaped, and each one embraces as much as an acre of ground. On the 1st day of January the reports caused by the bursting forth of the subterranean fire were heard for a distance of twenty or thirty miles. Vast columns of flame and smoke issued from the orifices; and red hot stones were thrown up in the air several hundred feet above the mouth of the crater. Our informant adds that the people in the vicinity are becoming alarmed at the pertinacity with which the flames are kept up and the red hot masses of rocks thrown out. A heavy, rumbling noise, like distant thunder, is continually reverberating through the deep caverns of the mountain, which at times seems to tremble from summit to base.

COMMON SCHOOLS.—Our thanks are due to Col. A. G. Curtin, Superintendent of Common Schools for having kindly furnished us with a copy of his able and instructive Report for the year 1856, which shows the aggregate number of public schools in the State, outside of Philadelphia, to be 10,697, being an increase over the preceding year of 228, and an increase over the year 1855, (just prior to the passage of the law creating the office of County Superintendent) of 1,190.

It is gratifying to every true lover of our country and its free institutions to know, that our Common School system is so rapidly improving, and growing into favor with all classes of our citizens.

BOY, with ragged trowsers and rimless chip hat, runs into drug store with a dipper in his hand. "Doctor, mother sent me down to the shotcary pop, quicker'n blazes, cos Bub's sick with the picken chox, and she wants a thimbleful of polly gollic in this tin dipper, cos we hadn't bot a gottle, and the kint pup's got the bine witters in't—got any?"

A WEDDING ON THE CARS.—A wedding recently took place in the cars, on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh road. We are a fast nation; nowadays, births, marriages, and deaths transpire in the cars with equal facility.

A foppish fellow advised a friend not to marry a poor girl, as he would find matrimony with poverty "up-hill-work." Good, said his friend, "I would rather go up-hill than down hill any time."

ANOTHER UNION CONVENTION.

Extremes are to meet means again. The conglomeration of opposing principles is to go on. A combination of delegates elected by all parties, sects and isms, opposed to the principles of the Cincinnati Platform, has been called, to meet in Harrisburg, on the 25th day of March next, to nominate candidates for Governor and Canal Commissioner. The call is signed by members of the Senate and House of Representatives, of every political caste opposed to the Democracy. Americans clasping in their open arms the adherents of Black Republicanism, and endeavoring to heal up old sores by telling them that the avowal of national principles, and Union loving feeling, contained in the Fillmore Platform was all a sham—and that they will disclaim every word of it if they are only permitted to taste the loaves and fishes; while the astute leaders of the nigger worshippers, smooth their Know-Nothing allies with well studied complacency, and say, "come now, friends, don't be obstinate, you know our attempt to secure foreign votes in the last campaign, was only for victory; and when we get the offices, we will cry as loudly as you can against "Foreign Influence." Concerning this attempted imposition upon the honest masses, the Harrisburg *Patriot and Union* contains the following well timed article, which, as it exposes the movement so completely, we copy entire. What honest man will permit himself thus to be bamboozled and hoodwinked by corrupt political tricksters, and cunning wire pullers?

"It requires no particular powers of acumen to perceive that there is no love existing between the leaders of Black-Republicanism and Know-Nothingism. The bone of contention, over which they show their teeth, is the spoils, and for a long time they have been trying to trick each other on this subject. First the Americans had it all their own way, but their glory was ephemeral, and a sly stab under the fifth rib by "Sambo" brought "Sam" down in the dust. Then Republicanism assumed the leadership; the Americans joined them, and Democracy overthrew them both. Now, they are each trying to scramble to the top, and while many of them are professing to be perfect Damons and Pythiasses in friendship, they are only seeking to throttle each other.

"This call is not put forth in a spirit of union and harmony. If the Republicans who signed it thought that the convention they have called would nominate an American for Governor they would repudiate it now, and *vice versa*. But the Republicans imagine that they are the stronger party and have the shrewdest leaders and consequently they laugh in their sleeves at the prospect they have of again inducing the Americans to join with them in a political contest, and aid in building up the great Abolition party of the North. In fact so certain are they of this that in Tioga, and some other counties, they have already openly resolved not to support any man for the Gubernatorial office who is not with them body and soul. Some Americans see this, and are, therefore, rather slow in coming into the net that has been cast for them.

"The time for this Convention to assemble was fixed by Republicans; the call for it was drawn up by a Republican, and then it was presented to the American members to be signed. And the poor, innocent, simple Americans did sign it, without any more idea of advancing the interests of their party by it than a dog has about a holiday. It cannot be doubted that the American party, while it is strong numerically, and far more respectable than its black cousin, is without a head, and it is led round and round by such men as Cameron and Wilmot like a blind horse in a bark mill. Sometimes a believer in "Sam" flares up a little, but generally he is patted down, and becomes an excellent tool for these leaders.

"The fact is, that corrupt as the American party may be, it is a mere novice beside Republicanism. The leaders of the dark party are perfect in duplicity and falsehood, and they can use their more innocent allies by mere force of mendacity and treachery. They can make them believe that black is white, and that the most flagrant selfishness is the grandest philanthropy. It was so last fall; it was so in getting this call out for the "Union Convention," and it will be so in making the nominations.

"But still we do not think that this attempt at "union" will amount to much. The mass of these two parties cannot be brought together, and we should not be at all astonished if two separate tickets were placed in nomination. Such a course has been suggested by both sides, and while we are indifferent as to the course they pursue, we would like to see the strength of both fairly tested. It would be a pretty bear-and-dog fight, *and the patriotic citizens of Pennsylvania would enjoy it highly.*"

MEMOIR OF A REV. KNOW-NOTHING

We have already noticed the *Rev.* W. S. H. Keys, the Know-Nothing thunderer, since which we find the following memoir in the Hollidaysburg *Standard*:

"The career and sudden extinction of this luminous light of Know-Nothingism, should be a warning to the political preachers who have conceived the mistaken idea that a part of their mission is to save the country, as well as the souls of men; and especially to such as "steal the livery of the court of heaven to serve the devil in." Keys we understand, was born in Sinking Valley, in this county; and, although we have heard of his early history, we never learned by what means he became an expounder of the gospel. At different periods he belonged to different congregations, all of whom got rid of him the best way they could. In 1855 he made his appearance at Tyrone as a preacher in the United Brethren Church. Shortly after his arrival there, a Know-Nothing paper was established, of which he became the editor. Being a man of tolerable natural abilities and fair attainments, he used, for a time, both press and pulpit, pen and tongue, to

"Prove his arguments orthodox,
By apostolic blows and knocks."

He was particularly severe on the Catholics. No charge was to vile to lay at the door of that church, and no epithet too gross to apply to its members—aye, and that, too, in the face of the fact that not many years before a sturdy old Catholic farmer of Sinking Valley kept himself and parents one winter from becoming a township charge. The vortex of politics, into which he had been drawn, obliterated all such trivial feelings as gratitude, and, in the streets of Lancaster and Altoona, as well as through the columns of his paper, he charged Catholic clergymen with licentiousness, and the religious institutions of the church as being sinks of prostitution and harems for the benefit of the priests! It is thus peculiary unfortunate that the very man who set himself up as a *paragon of Christian virtue*, should so soon be called to answer before a court of justice for a species of lechery even more heinous than that which he charged upon others. Of course we are not so uncharitable as to hold the American party responsible for the moral obliquity of Keys—but let it be borne in mind that he was an acknowledged leader of that party, both as an editor and speaker, and is only a sample of hundreds of others who enlisted in a crusade that now is only numbered among the things that were.