

# The Democratic Watchman.

"BOTH LIBERTY AND PROPERTY ARE PRECARIOUS, UNLESS THE PEOPLE HAVE SENSE AND SPIRIT ENOUGH TO DEFEND THEM."

BELLEFONT, PA., THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 1857.

**TERMS OF PUBLICATION.**  
This paper is published weekly on Wednesdays, for \$1.00 in advance, or \$3.00 for three months, and \$5.00 for six months, and \$10.00 for a year. All payments should be made in advance. Advertising notices inserted at the rate of \$1.00 per week. For the Democratic Watchman.

**A Sketch of Western Travels.**  
By J. S. BARNHART.  
(No. 4.)

**Hoosier Ridge—Towa City—State Capital—**  
Iowa admitted into the Union—Towa River—  
Tour up the Mississippi—Night on the River—Galena—Dunith—St. Paul—  
Chicago and Galena—Chicago and Galena—  
Chicago and Galena—Chicago and Galena—

West. Its locality is thirteen miles east of the Mississippi, in a most prolific lead region. We took the Railroad for Dunith, and from thence the Steamboat Granite State of the St. Paul Mail line for McGregor. The Chicago and Galena Union Railroad terminates at Freepoint, and the travel westward is consequently carried on by the Illinois Central which forms a continuous connection at this point. Excepting an occasional village no outdoor scenery interested the way, but the sterile facilities of the bluff on shore, which on ascending the river apparently increase in size. Three or four hundred passengers were on board destined mostly for Iowa and Minnesota Territory. The interior of this boat presented quite a gaudy show. The chandeliers were hung in costly ornaments, and light transmitted from above through various colored glass, produced effects most singularly pleasing.

Within the first class cabin a motley mass held social intercourse. Some discussed the prominent National questions of the times, while others engaged in playing cards, a customary pastime on our western rivers. Ladies arrayed in satin and extending hoops, graced the splendor of their special quarters with a winning smile. Anxious mothers watched the footsteps of some of the young gentlemen, lest perchance, surrounding danger might blind him from his sight forever. Gentleman in white cravats were moralizing on increasing vice and immorality, and man's inhumanity to man. Thus they have a brief routine of the doings on board among the multitude.

Eighteen months previously we had visited McGregor and found it to contain but one old hotel and a few old dilapidated shanties. At that time we were compelled to lodge in one of the latter class, owing to the principle hotel being full beyond the possibility of our accommodation. Here several men were drunk, and swearing most profanely. A red nosed landlord gave unmistakable evidence of a long intimacy with Capt. Whisky. He claimed to be an early settler and we doubted not the truth of his assertion. "Father's House," must really have been christened at a very early period, for to the inquiring stranger the idea of its origin is very strongly associated with De Sota's exploitations of the Mississippi.

By the way we might here add an incidental occurrence that our amiable friend, Geo. H. Weaver, Esq., who was then our traveling companion, had not a very favorable impression of our quarters, and deeming some of the "hangars on" to be rather suspicious characters, doubted the security of his person and property if he risked himself in bed. As an act of self protection therefore, he locked himself up in a chest, put the key into his pocket and requested us to inform him when the earliest signs of the morning's sun beamed over the village?

McGregor now contains over one thousand inhabitants with numerous stores, hotels and warehouse. The place is evidently destined to be one of great importance. The Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad has been recently completed and the cars are running to Prairie Du Chien on the Wisconsin side. A continuous route is being pushed forward rapidly, westward, from McGregor by the people of Northern Iowa. Prairie Du Chien is springing up with Rail Road speed and forms a striking contrast with historical incidents of the red trail. One hundred years ago Prairie Du Chien was known as an Indian trading post. The various savage tribes could meet there upon a general trade to sport and trade in perfect safety, although at home they might be waging an exterminating war against each other.

**PENNA FARMERS' HIGH SCHOOL.**  
**Annual Election of Trustees.**  
The routine of labor at the High School Farm was interrupted last week by the election of Trustees, which, by the act of May 20, 1857, is appointed to be held on the first Wednesday in September.

Delegations from Bucks, Delaware, Erie, Perry, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Lancaster, arrived early on Tuesday, under the impression that Tuesday was the day of the election. These gentlemen had ample time to inspect the farm, the buildings, and the operations thoroughly, and to see much of the scenery.

Ready on Wednesday a crowd of delegates, trustees and visitors arrived on the ground, and the lands of the Farmers' High School bore the weight of a body of men combining intellect, skill and active philanthropy such as few other causes could collect together from the far corners of our State.

Of the Board of Trustees there were present: Frederick Watts, A. O. Hiestor, John A. Allister, J. M. Snodgrass and Jas. Miles. Absent, James Pollock (ex-officio), A. S. Elwyn, A. S. Roberts, Wm. Jessup and David Taggart (ex-officio).

President Watts addressed to the Board that this day was that day of the Act of the Legislature for the election of Trustees in the place of those whose terms expire. Whereupon the Board appointed J. McK. Snodgrass and H. N. McAllister as Judges to receive and count the votes. The Board then adjourned until noon, when, after re-assembling, the Judges made the following report:—

We, J. McK. Snodgrass and H. N. McAllister, appointed Judges to hold the election in pursuance of the Act of Assembly, incorporated the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that the following is the result of the election of Trustees for the year 1857:

**COUNTY REPRESENTED.**  
Allegheny—James Reid, Moses Chesebrough—Geo. M. Keim, Solomons Kirby, S. C. Annone  
Bucks—A. M. Allister, J. A. Cunningham  
Bucks—W. L. Rogers, John Blackman  
Cambria—R. L. Johnston, Wm. H. Gardner  
Chester—J. K. Kahleman, Pierce Hoopes, Isaac Hays  
Clinton—G. W. Halinabeck, J. S. Furst, S. R. Peal  
Cumberland—Geo. W. Shaffer  
Delaware—John Baily, Jos. Shark, Sam'l Gilliland  
Delaware—Abraham P. Morgan, Jos. H. P. Eyer, Jr.  
Erie—Robert Evans, John Burton  
Huntingdon—Jonathan McWilliams, Geo. Spear  
Juniata—Jos. Pomeroy, Wilson Jameson, Hugh Hamilton  
Lancaster—J. H. Healey, J. B. Garber, L. S. Reist  
Mifflin—A. Harshberger, Rob't Campbell  
Northumberland—Jas. Cameron, John M. Curmick  
Perry—Jacob Bellow, Jos. Baily  
Schuylkill—J. S. Ketter  
Westmoreland—Fed'k J. Cope, David W. Shryock, M. M. Dick  
Union—the credentials of W. Wilson, O. N. Warden, and G. R. Bliss were received, with power of substitution, but no gentleman appeared for their appointment.

Upon counting the ballot it appeared that Fred'k Watts, of Cumberland, Jas. Miles, of Erie, and Joshua P. Eyer, of Delaware, had each 44 votes.

his devoted himself to the education of the young in the East. In the case of the present convention, and of this community, to the Hon. Mr. Frederick Watts, and trust to bear a response.

**SPEECH BY JUDGE WATTS.**  
Judge Watts replied as follows:—  
"I feel profoundly sensible of the honor conferred on me by such a gathering as this, before such an audience. I thank the Board of Trustees for the honor of permitting me to preside over these deliberations, and am sensible how large a share of credit is due to my associates therein, for what has been accomplished."

I overheard this morning a remark by a friend whose remarks always make an impression upon me, that the amount of a man's influence depends upon his education. By the amount and quality of education men are classified, and not by their rank in the Eastern States, merchants and manufacturers lead in influence, for they take, as a class, the most cultivated intelligence. In Pennsylvania, I may say, without disparagement to those in cities and some other portions who form exceptions—the learned professions lead in influence. In the South, it may be said with equal truth, that the planter has the controlling influence, and in all cases the amount and influence is in equal ratio with the amount and quality of education.

There is simplicity in this idea. It shows us how essentially important it is, in a State which has such a vast amount of territory, that agriculturalists should have an education suited for themselves, and equal in power to their own want, and the nation's.

For they have an amount of solid virtues—we can all acknowledge—which is stronger than is possessed by other classes, and which if rendered active and influential by the power of an adequate education will ever prove the safety and bulwark of all our institutions, of our order and their posterity.

This is a meeting of all classes. The practical farmer, the sagacious and intellectual lawyer, the thoughtful and careful physician, the generous patriot, the philanthropic divine, all desire to combine their best characteristics for the benefit of the farmer, and the farmer's son, and the multitude who aspire to become cultivators, hoping thus to work out great ultimate good to all.

It is impossible that any selfish motive can actuate any one who seeks this object, and we are that this may be looked at and believed. No other motive has animated those who have labored for the establishment of this means of education than a desire that this institution shall have a firm and wide foundation. Let it begin in prosperity and full efficiency, and its beneficial results will rapidly spread throughout all our counties.

The institution is yours; we ask your helping hands for its promotion. I have more confidence in the moral and practical progress resulting from the general establishment, within a few years, of agricultural societies. The United States Agricultural Society exhibits in one view the growth, the production, the stock, the men, with all their industrial achievements, for all an immense and valuable territory. At its head is a man of the highest judgment, industry, skill, science, education, and lofty virtue, devoting the most valuable time freely to the great good of a nation. The influence of that society is felt everywhere throughout the United States; and it is the duty of every farmer, and of every citizen, to support and sustain it. Let us, therefore, all unite in the promotion of every important and machine most perfectly adapted to the wants of the farmer, either on the grassy plains of the distant west, or the heavy soils and fertile lands of the east, and for all objects of culture and care.

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To come to our own State Agricultural Society, which especially for our own State does like great service beyond what the National Society can reach to do. Let no jealousy, no offense, either imaginary or real, no objection against the institution, for the term of any-one man's influence is but temporary—but us from looking kindly upon it, or estrange us for one moment from a sense of its great capacities for good. Let us join in its promotion with all our united influence, for our common good as an agricultural people.

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The President is well acquainted with persons who will take interest in this, and lay hold of it energetically.

Mr. Cameron—I like this proposition, and believe it will be agreeable to many who will desire an opportunity of contributing towards the balance of our State. Our country will be liberal, but I cannot unadvised, make a specific proposition of any amount.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and the President announced that the committee would be reported in proper time.

Mr. McAllister—Let this arrangement not supersede our previous one. I have no doubt but that gentlemen can raise \$1000 in any county in the State, with moderately energetic efforts, excepting only the very poorest and most thinly settled. Every one is interested in point of fact. Every man, woman and child in the Commonwealth, feel all unite in action, instant action. Now is the time we have.

S. R. Peal, Esq.—Clinton county has been referred to as good for \$1000. It may be possible to raise that amount, or even more. The delegates will make every effort, but would rather not be considered as pledging any particular sum.

Judge Hays—There are abundant means for such a purpose in our great commonwealth. We have only to exert our intelligence, and fairly undertake to raise the funds. Clinton county has raised \$10,000, and one of our counties has raised \$1000, and one of our counties has raised \$1000, and one of our counties has raised \$1000.

Dr. J. R. Eshleman—I have consulted with my colleagues, and we pledge Chester county for \$500.

Hon. John Strohm—The county of Lancaster, which I have the honor to represent, has not yet been heard of as an applicant for the aid of the State. There is a prejudice against college and high school education, because it has been found to be unprofitable for sons of farmers, intended to follow their father's calling. But there is no such prejudice in our minds. We have plenty of men, who, if they were here to see this location, and look over all that has been done, and were acquainted with what it is proposed to do, would pay largely and with pleasure—certainly without feeling it to be a burden. This matter has been favorably shown of late to common school education, and in a portion of the county, funds are being raised for the establishment of a Normal School under the late act, for the second Normal School district of York, Lancaster and Lebanon. This makes \$500 for 20 or \$25,000, but chiefly in our locality. We have plenty of men, who, if they were here to see this location, and look over all that has been done, and were acquainted with what it is proposed to do, would pay largely and with pleasure—certainly without feeling it to be a burden. This matter has been favorably shown of late to common school education, and in a portion of the county, funds are being raised for the establishment of a Normal School under the late act, for the second Normal School district of York, Lancaster and Lebanon. This makes \$500 for 20 or \$25,000, but chiefly in our locality. We have plenty of men, who, if they were here to see this location, and look over all that has been done, and were acquainted with what it is proposed to do, would pay largely and with pleasure—certainly without feeling it to be a burden. This matter has been favorably shown of late to common school education, and in a portion of the county, funds are being raised for the establishment of a Normal School under the late act, for the second Normal School district of York, Lancaster and Lebanon. This makes \$500 for 20 or \$25,000, but chiefly in our locality.

from Schuylkill, and other counties, as a matter for her, but I promise every county the whole-hearted men and property in a noble cause.

Mr. Backus—My colleague, Gen. Rogers, has been obliged to leave for the U. S. Fair at Louisville, Kentucky. I can say for myself that I have been greatly pleased with my visit to this place, and with the course pursued, and will exert myself to acquaint the people of Bucks county with the great objects of this enterprise.

The proceedings were here interrupted by a call of "Stage for Berks County," and after a hasty adjournment, and a general discharge of kind wishes and farewell expressions, one of the most intelligent, philanthropic, liberal and important gentlemen by which Pennsylvania was ever represented from Erie to Berks, was dismissed.

Everything promises well for the speedy institution of every department of the Farmers' High School. The work on the ground goes on unintercepted under the wise directions of the acting committee of the Board of Trustees, and there does not appear to be the smallest cloud of ill feeling on its whole horizon. Every loyal citizen who sees an assured welfare, safety and happiness to prosperity by placing the balance of influence in the hands of the most numerous and the most virtuous of our citizens—every one who is dependent upon the success and prosperity of the cultivators of the earth (as we all are) for the means of life, will join in hearty congratulations on these auspicious prospects, and strenuous effort to place in the hands of the liberal, enlightened and self-denying Trustees, the funds necessary for the fullest development of their plans.

**Centre County Agricultural Society.**  
Stated Meeting at the Court House, Bellefonte, August 24th 1857. The President Geo. Boal, in the chair.  
Minutes of former meeting read and approved. The report of the Committee to audit and settle the Treasurer's account, and the report of the Committee upon Agricultural Productions were severally called for and approved.

The subject of holding the 6th Annual exhibition of the Society came in order.  
Mr. S. Gilliland stated that he intended to exhibit a variety of goods, and that he was willing to contribute towards the expenses. Mr. Jas. Alexander, also, thought the Fair should be postponed till year.

Mr. Shirik addressed the meeting advocating an Exhibition. After some discussion, Resolved, on motion of Mr. Shirik, that the next Exhibition of the Society, to be held either at Bellefonte or Centre Hall, commencing on Tuesday October the 30th, next, to continue four days.

On motion of Mr. Jno. Bistiel, Resolved, that a committee of five from Centre Hall, and a committee of three from Bellefonte, be appointed to solicit subscriptions and receive proposals from those districts, and report to the Secretary within ten days. The district offering the largest amount to have the Fair. Whereupon, Jos. Bistiel, Geo. Shirik, Hugh Lyster, Henry Witter and Jos. Yeager were selected for Centre Hall, and G. Durham, J. M. Allister, and Jos. Arner, for Bellefonte. It having been announced that three delegates were to be chosen to attend a Convention at the Farm School, on September 1st, to elect Trustees for this institution, the names of Sam'l. Gilliland, of Harris tp., Jno. Bailey, Ferguson tp., and Jos. Shirik, of Potter tp., were presented to the Meeting, and were unanimously chosen as the delegates.