

BEDFORD INQUIRER.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, April 23, 1858.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. O'VER—Editor and Proprietor.

POLITICAL MEETING.

There will be a mass meeting of all those opposed to the present National Administration, and the iniquitous attempt to force upon Kansas the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitution...

Delegates will be chosen to represent our Representative and Senatorial Districts in the approaching State Convention, and several able speakers will be present to address the meeting.

The Gazette, last week, introduces a letter, with a long editorial preface, from Senator Hammond, the leader of the Locomo party in the South, in which he attempts to explain the terms, "mud-sills," "white slaves," &c. which he recently applied to the free white laborers of the North.

WE WANT MONEY!—During the past winter we sent out a great many accounts, but as yet have scarcely received enough in that time to live on, and consequently were not able to pay some two or three hundred dollars which we should, on the 1st of April.

A DIRTY DOUGH FACE.—Beef Bigler, last week stated in the Senate, that he desired to see Kansas come into the Union as a Slave State.—Bedford Inquirer.

A dirty lie, which no one but a dirty black-guard would have been guilty of giving utterance to.—Hollidaysburg Standard.

In his speech, Bigler, who is one of the most contemptible dough-faces and lick-spittles of the South, in Congress, and who so shamefully misrepresents the sentiment of the people of Pennsylvania, made use of these exact words, that he "had hoped to see the fraternal sight of two States (Minnesota and Kansas) one a SLAVE STATE and the other a free State, come into the Union together."

Now, "dirty" "hog-trough," who tells the "dirty lie!"

NEW FIRM.

Messrs. Oster, Manspaker, & Carn, have opened out in the room formerly occupied by Kupp & Oster, and lately by Maj. Rupp, a large and extensive assortment of New Goods, consisting of all kinds of wear for ladies, gents, and children.

PETERSON'S COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR.—We have received this Detector for the 15th of April inst. This number contains the list of thirty-seven new counterfeit bank notes since the last issue. We have no hesitation in saying that this is the best work of the kind now published, and we advise all our business men to take it. The semi-monthly is \$2 and the monthly \$1 per annum.

MORE NEW GOODS!

Maj. Rupp has just received an extensive assortment of every kind of goods, generally kept in a country store. He respectfully asks the public to give him a call and examine for themselves. He has removed his store to Anderson's new building, nearly opposite the Bedford Hotel, where he has the finest room in town.

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE.

The House of Representatives at Washington, by the casting vote of the Speaker agreed upon a Committee of Conference on Wednesday last week. The Committee has several times met the Senate Committee, and it is said cannot agree. It is thought no plan will be agreed upon which will not allow the people of Kansas a right to vote upon the Constitution.

REMOVAL!

MORE NEW GOODS, LADIES!—Mrs. Peugh, has removed her store to Anderson's new building, East corner, where she has just received and opened out one of the largest and most superior assortments of Ladies' Fancy Goods, ever seen in this place. Call and see her stock.

NEW GOODS!—Messrs. J. & J. M. Shoemaker, advertise in to-day's paper, their new Spring and Summer Goods. They have an assortment that cannot fail to please the community. Call and see their stock, at the old Colonnade Store and Post office.

The Legislature adjourned yesterday. The bill for the sale of the State Canals, the liquor bill, and appropriation bill have all passed.—The fate of the bill to legislate Judge Wilmut out of office, it is thought will pass the Senate, its result in the House is uncertain, but we presume it will pass. This is an act of the greatest injustice ever attempted in the State.

The weather has been wet and disagreeable for several weeks past, and at the time of writing, without any prospect of soon clearing off. Farmers, in consequence are are considerably behind in their spring work.

An Act to Incorporate the Bedford Railroad Company.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same: That Job Mann, E. L. Anderson, Nicholas Lyons, W. T. Daugherty, John Cessna, O. E. Shannon, S. L. Russell, Daniel Washbaugh, Samuel Davis, V. Stockman, John Harter, Josiah D. Shuck, F. C. Reamer, Wm. Harley, W. H. Watson, John Alsip, Isaac Mergle, Alexander King, F. Jordan, John Mower, Samuel H. Tate, Joseph W. Tate, W. P. Schell, B. F. Meyers, J. H. Rush, David Over, David Patterson, Joseph Sellers, George Smith, Wm. Olenowith, Samuel Doflaugh, Charles Smith, Asa Silver, John Watson, Charles Coffelt, David Mortimore, Henry Hoke, John G. Harley, George Smouse, Wm. States, M. M. Peebles, Jacob Barnsdollar, James M. Barnsdollar, Thomas H. Murray, Daniel Saus, John Nyoma, David A. T. Black, George McGraw, J. C. Everhart, Thomas King, James Piper, George Wislart, John Lutz, Charles Suckey, George W. Gump, Wm. Todd, John Sill, Samuel S. Stuckey, Joseph Mortimore, John M'Vicker, Isaac Clark, Josiah Miller, Cornelius Devore, J. M. Buchanan, John Miller, George Elder, A. B. Bunn, A. J. Sively, John S. Schell, Emanuel Statler, John S. Statler, James Burns, John Clark, Charles Colvin, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to open books, receive subscriptions of stock and organize a company by the name, style and title of the Bedford Railroad Company, with all the powers and subject to all the duties, restrictions and regulations prescribed by an act of assembly of this Commonwealth, entitled "An Act regulating railroad companies," approved the nineteenth day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and the several supplements thereto, so far as the same are not altered and supplied by the provisions of this act, provided, That it shall be lawful for any of these Commissioners named in this section, immediately after the passage of this act, to open books for receiving subscriptions to the capital stock of said Company, and said subscriptions shall be made payable to the Treasurer of said Company, in twelve monthly installments, the first thereof to be paid within thirty days after the passage of this act, and the balance of the same to be paid as follows:—

And provided further, that it shall be lawful for any railroad company whose road is located, or which may hereafter be located in the counties of Bedford, Somerset or Huntingdon, to subscribe to the capital stock of said Company, to any amount not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. That the capital stock of said company shall consist of five thousand shares of fifty dollars each, provided, That the said company may from time to time by a vote of the stockholders at a meeting called for that purpose, increase the capital stock, if it shall be deemed necessary, to an amount sufficient to carry out the true intent and meaning of this act, of which meeting two weeks' notice shall first be given in a paper published in Bedford, stating the object of such meeting, and for the purpose of completing and equipping the said railroad, the said company shall have the power of issuing from time to time, bonds in the corporate name and under the common seal of said company, with coupons attached to the same, payable at such time, on such terms and at such rate of interest, not exceeding seven per centum per annum, as they may deem expedient, said bonds shall not exceed in the whole the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, and it shall be lawful for the said company to secure the payment of said bonds and coupons to execute a mortgage on all, or any part of, the real property of said company, and if the mortgage shall so stipulate, the president and directors of said company and their agents may continue in possession and management of the said property so mortgaged, without prejudice to the security of said mortgage, and the said bonds may with the consent of the holders thereof and the directors of said railroad company, be converted into the capital stock of said company at par, provided, That no such bond shall be issued for a less denomination than one hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. That the Governor shall issue letters patent to said company whenever three thousand shares shall have been subscribed to the capital stock thereof, and all subscriptions made to the capital stock of said company, shall be valid, notwithstanding the party making the same, shall not at the time thereof, pay five dollars on each and every share subscribed.

Sec. 4. That the said company shall have the right to build and construct a railroad from some point, at or near, the borough of Bedford, in the county of Bedford, with single or double track, to connect with any other railroad, or railroads, now constructed, or which may be hereafter constructed, in said county, or adjoining counties, leading to Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.

Sec. 5. That whenever any section, or sections, of five miles, or more, of said railroad shall be completed, the said company may use, occupy and enjoy the same as fully and in the same manner as if the whole of said road were completed.

Sec. 6. That the said company are hereby authorized to take, receive and hold such real estate in fee simple, in payment of subscriptions to the stock of said company, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by the said company, and the individual offering the same, and the said company may transfer by deed or otherwise, the title, or titles, to such real estate or any part thereof, as may be agreed upon between the company and the contractors for the purpose of defraying the cost of constructing and equipping said road, and if not so disposed of, the said company shall sell the said real

estate for the use of said company within ten years from the commencement of said road.

Sec. 7. That if said company shall not commence the construction of said road within five years from the passage of this act, and complete the same within fifteen years from the organization of the company, this act shall be null and void.

A. BROWER LONGAKER, Speaker of the House of Reps. Wm. H. WELSH, Speaker of the Senate. Approved, March 19th, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight. Wm. P. PACKER.

Mr. Reilly's Defence of the Lecompton Constitution examined.

We have received and read the full report of Mr. Reilly's speech on the Admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution. It was revised by himself, and is doubtless the defence upon which he relies for justification in supporting the bill alluded to. The speech is nothing but a technical argument in favor of the legality of the proceedings attending the formation of the Constitution. He looks at the subject through a lawyer's spectacles—not through a statesman's. He wastes words about precedents and presumptions and authority. He rises not above this low level. He takes no expanded view of all the facts and circumstances. On the contrary he excludes from all reference every thing not harmonizing with his hard, lifeless, professional and contracted conception of the case.

Mr. Reilly opens by declaring that he had hoped some honorable compromise would have been agreed upon to satisfy all parties; and that therefore he has hitherto refrained from a public expression of his views on this question. His hope of a compromise involves a confession that there was something wrong about the Lecompton Constitution. For if it were all right, why compromise? Yet he now pretends that he considers every thing about it regular and legal and fair. Further deliberation we suppose, has cleared away the obscurities which intercepted his vision!

He had repeatedly denounced the Lecompton Constitution on the streets in Chambersburg, and said that "as an honest man, he could not support it." He now gives it his hearty support, both by vote and speech?

He proceeds, after studious preliminary observations confessing his difficulties and apologizing for his slowness in determining to support this Great Inquiry, to inquire first whether the Legislature which called the Constitutional Convention was a legally elected body; second, whether the Convention was a legally-elected body, third whether the Convention was bound, by law, precedent or otherwise, to submit the Constitution to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection; and fourth, whether if Kansas be admitted under the Constitution, the people can better amend or abolish the instrument in any other manner, or at any other time, than that prescribed in the Constitution?

He believes that the Legislature were legally elected, notwithstanding the election fraud, the violation of Missouri laws on election-day, and all the other irregularities proved to have been practised—the proof having been furnished to a Committee of Investigation appointed by the last Congress. No account is taken of these facts, as though fraud did not taint the whole transaction. Mr. Reilly would not argue in this way if he had been defeated by Congress by like practices. Then he would have held that the election was illegal, and that his opponent should be ousted from office. When frauds count for Mr. Reilly's side, they are very innocent to play—when against, they become very indignant.

He maintains that the Convention was a legally-elected body, although summoned into existence by a fraudulently-chosen legislature, who had no power to call the convention and to whom the last Congress expressly refused to delegate such a power, and although the people of many Counties had no opportunity, owing to the peculiarities of the law made to suit the case, to be represented in the body.

He holds that the Convention was not bound to submit the Constitution to a vote of the people. He says he would have preferred they should have done so. But he had no control over it; the Convention had absolute control, and he is obliged to be content with their action. He says that the people of Kansas, it is fair to argue, were opposed to the submission because the Legislature made no such provision in the law calling the Convention, and representatives are presumed to carry out the views of their constituents. This is a specimen of the pettifoggery of the entire speech. By means of fraudulent votes in the border counties, in a new Territory where elections are not surrounded with the safeguards erected in the older States a minority party gain ascendancy in the Legislature.—They knew their numerical weakness. They sought to neutralize it by shrewd legal provisions intended to protect themselves and keep power from the majority. One of these provisions is, prevent a direct vote of the people being taken on their constitution. Mr. Reilly infers from these facts that the people did not wish to vote on the Constitution and he therefore sustains the minority party in their conduct!—Was ever such insubility uttered in a Legislative body? Did ever such transparently dishonest special pleading proceed from a sound lawyer feed to make the worse appear the better reason?

He says further that many Constitutions have been framed without submission, therefore this is valid without. In ordinary cases there is no contest about the fashions of Constitutions, for all are moulded after one fashion.—Where the people are unanimous in favor, and this is known, a submission of the Constitution may be dispensed with. But where there is a doubt on this point, and particularly where, as in Kansas, a large portion of the people were known to be opposed to the Slave and other features of the Lecompton Constitution, there was the greatest reason for submitting the instrument to the people that they might pass upon it. Suppose our State Constitution was to be attested so as to incorporate a party into it. Suppose it were changed by a Convention so as to restrict from the right of suffrage all Roman Catholics and all Foreigners, or to confer the right to vote upon all Foreigners immediately upon landing in our limits, or to establish a modified or absolute condition of Slavery; and suppose a party pledged to either of these changes, had obtained a majority in the Convention, had adopted these features or either of them, and had then refused to submit the instrument to a vote of the people, who

could defend this conduct? Would it avail to point to the act calling the Convention and say that body could do as they pleased? Would it avail to say that the practice of the States had ruled on this point, and that it was competent for the Convention to submit or not, as they saw proper? Would any of these pleas suffice to justify the attempt to take a snap-judgment upon the people? No; every man's common sense would see through the sophistry—would brush away the cobwebs, and every man's honesty would denounce the unfairness of the trick. For just such an outrage Mr. Reilly makes just such apologies, and the whole Buchanan party respond "Amen" to his miserable twaddle.

Mr. Reilly proceeds to argue that if Kansas be admitted under Lecompton, the people can alter their Constitution, as and when they please. This opinion is in conflict with the well known rule of judicial interpretation, that where the law points out one mode of action, it excludes all others. The Lecompton Constitution provides no mode of amendment before 1864; and in the very debate in which Mr. Reilly's speech was made, Slave holders maintained that the Constitution could not be amended except as provided by itself. Mr. Reilly says that several States have amended their Constitutions at a different time and in a different manner from that pointed out, and therefore the people of Kansas can. In the cases referred to, the changes have not been resisted by a large body of the people. Hence they have been acquiesced in. But suppose the point had been controverted, or the question had been taken before the State Court, and they had decided the whole movement irregular and unconstitutional, what then? In the case of Rhode Island, years ago, this occurred, and the consequence was, there was a resort to arms, and the intervention of the U. S. Government to preserve the peace and sustain the regular authorities. Does Mr. Reilly wish this scene repeated, and all the consequences such a difficulty would involve? He pretends to be a peace man, yet is pursuing the course most likely to precipitate the direst of calamities. If an attempt were made to change the Lecompton Constitution, there is no doubt that the friends of the instrument as it is, would resist it. There is little doubt that the Judges, all of whom belong to the same party, would decide that the Constitution could be amended only as pointed out within itself.—The consequence would be that the majority of the people—who it is admitted are opposed to the Constitution—would be compelled to accomplish this purpose, if at all by revolution, and probable bloodshed. Mr. Reilly sees nothing to apprehend in such a contest. He would so bind the majority that they can only frame their institutions, to suit themselves after a severe, protracted and probably bloody contest. Yet Mr. Reilly professes to be an honest man, a lover of his country, an opposer of outrage, and a respecter of the will of the people!

Mr. Reilly probably has satisfied himself of the correctness of his cause. We hope he is not doing direct violence to the better impulses of his nature. Yet we have reason to doubt whether he is not, in some measure, deceived. He has often and publicly denounced the Lecompton Constitution as a fraud, and that in the earlier stages of the contest he was confidently received among those who would refuse to sanction the fraud by their support. We presume he has yielded to the blandishments of Washington Society and Washington Politics. We regret for his own and the District's sake, that he did not preserve his integrity.—Gellsburg Star.

"THE TUNE CHANGED." Such is the caption of an article in the Spirit of the 7th inst., in which FORNEY is assailed in the usual course of style of our classified Mr. Reilly as among the honest opponents of the Lecompton fraud. Mr. FORNEY, as well as everybody else, had every reason to point to our Representative as one who would vote against the admission of Kansas under that swindle, because he himself had so often conversed on the subject. Mr. Reilly did not only, in conversation, speak against the Lecompton Constitution—Mr. Buchanan's and the Southern Fire-water's pet measure—as a swindle and a fraud, and that he would not support, and could not, conscientiously, but he also stated, over and over again, that he had a speech written out, which he purposed delivering in the House on the first favorable occasion that he could obtain the floor for the purpose, in which his views, strengthened and confirmed by the clearest evidence, would be reiterated against this infamous contrivance.

Now we find this same Mr. REILLY pushing himself forward as a champion and defender of this Lecompton Constitution, the same instrument that but a day or two before had met with his hearty condemnation! For this shameful desertion of the right, he has received and will continue to receive, as he justly merits, the emphatic condemnation not only of Mr. FORNEY, but of the well-informed and intelligent portion of his immediate constituents.

We think it is rather a left-handed compliment that the Spirit pays to "our talented Representative" when it says "the tune is changed." We of course presume he means Reilly's "tune." All can agree with the Spirit, without argument, that he has "changed his tune" from a defender of the right and of justice, to that of sustaining fraud and villainy, and no one knows this better than Mr. REILLY himself, his Lecompton speech and the Spirit to the contrary notwithstanding. His own conscience is his accuser.

In this unlooked-for, unexpected and marvelous political sunset, Mr. REILLY, of course, has astounded friends and foes and even the most perfect amateurs in political gyrations, and, as a matter of course, has called forth animadversions from the people and from the press. FORNEY'S Press contained some very severe strictures upon his change of position—they were severe because just and true—to which our neighbor replies by saying, (and we presume he knows) that "Mr. REILLY is likely to gain in pocket as well as reputation by the displeasure of the Press." It may be, as the Spirit says that, so far as his "pocket" is concerned, he will be a considerable gainer; but as to "reputation," that is a debatable question, and the way to decide it is to place him before the thought, unbridled people of the 17th Congressional District next fall as a candidate for re-election. They are the only proper arbiters to decide this question, and they will do it effectually.

The chief reason why Mr. Reilly supports the Lecompton Constitution, he says, is because it will take the question out of Congress, and because the people of Kansas can alter the constitution at any time after admission. This now is denied by Southern supporters of the bill. They are in favor of the Constitution because it ties the hands of the people until 1864, and then requires so many conditions prior to effecting a change as to make a change almost impossible. One of these conditions is that if one-third of the voters of the State either vote against proposed amendments or do not vote at all, no amendment can be made.

But, as we have said, Southern supporters of the Lecompton Constitution deny that any change can be legally made in that instrument before 1864. And Mr. Green, of Missouri, in his report to the Senate from the majority of the Committee on Territories expressly denies this right, for he uses this language:—"However frivolous its provisions may prove to be, they (the people) cannot change it, without resorting to revolution, until 1864."

There is no doubt, that the State Court would so decide, and the people would be compelled to live under a Constitution unacceptable to them, or to make a change by revolutionary means, such as were attempted years ago in Rhode Island. Democrats (!) say it is right thus to bribe the people, and keep them from governing themselves. Knaves only can hold such atrocious sentiments.—Gellsburg Star.

Municipal Elections. HAGERSTOWN, April 12.—The municipal election held here to-day resulted in the election of the whole American ticket.

D. G. Mumma, American, for Mayor, received 80 majority, and the American council ticket received an average majority of 121. The majority for Governor: Hicks in Hagerstown was 81 over Col. G.ome.

ALBANY April 14.—Mr. Ferry, Anti Lecompton candidate, was elected Mayor of this city yesterday by 140 majority. The City Council is almost equally divided.

ELIZABETHTOWN, April 13.—At a charter election held here to-day, the whole anti-Lecompton ticket was elected by 200 majority.

The two Pittsburgh Democratic papers, formerly Lecompton, are in favor of Montgomery's amendment.

if not according to Mr. REILLY'S liking we anticipate at least a triumphant vindication of truth and justice.—Repository and Transcript.

PURCHASE OF MOUNT VERNON.

A correspondence is published in the Richmond papers, between "A Southern Matron" and John A. Washington, Esq., the proprietor of Mount Vernon, the former announcing that the bill before the Legislature to aid the ladies in the purchase of this property had failed to pass, and asking him to dispose of it to the Mount Vernon Association. Mr. W. consents to this arrangement, as will appear from the following reply.

MOUNT VERNON, March 10, 1858. To "A Southern Matron." MADAM:—Your letter of March 12th has been received, in which you inform me that the bill providing for the purchase of Mount Vernon by Virginia, has been defeated in the House of Delegates, and in the name and on behalf of the Mount Vernon Association, you renew your offer to purchase this place.

Heretofore, I have only been willing to dispose of Mount Vernon to the United States or to Virginia, as I believe that in the hands of one or the other it would be better protected and preserved than in the possession of any individual or association. The events of the past seven years, however, seem to indicate that neither Virginia, nor the United States wish to acquire the place. Under the circumstances, and believing that after the two highest powers in our country, the women of the land will be the safest—as they will certainly be the purest—guardians of a national shrine, I am willing so far to comply with your request as to await for a reasonably limited period of time the proposition you wish to make to me on behalf of the association over which you preside. And I assure you, that unless these proposals are inconsistent with what I believe to be my duties upon the occasion, I shall be inclined to give them the most favorable consideration.

With assurances of the highest respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant, JOHN A. WASHINGTON.

PURCHASE OF MOUNT VERNON.—The Richmond Whig says:

"We are happy to announce that on the 6th inst., in the presence of the two parties, and the counsel of the Association and the proprietor of Mount Vernon, a contract was formally entered into before a notary, between John A. Washington, Esq., and the Regent of the Association, for the purchase of the home and grave of Washington by the Association."

Mr. REILLY'S SPEECH.—The Spirit of the 7th inst., gives a synopsis of Mr. REILLY'S Lecompton Speech, and of course comments it as an unsavory production. The readers of the Spirit could arrive at a better judgment in the matter if it will go to the trouble to publish that other Speech—Reilly vs. Reilly—the anti-Lecompton Speech which this gentleman had already written out, but for want of an opportunity, did not deliver. If the Spirit has not the room for it, and Mr. Reilly will furnish us with a copy—we presume he has the manuscript yet—we will publish it. Doubtless it is the most unsavory argument of the two.

Reilly is a perfect self-sharpened—a good deal like the Ohio Temperance Lecturer, who could lecture in favor of that question or against it, as occasion required, and was first-rate on either side. Reilly vs. Reilly, or Reilly the Self-sharper.

Now, if "our talented Representative" was in the habit of getting a little "how-comes-you-so," we might suppose that some wag, urged thereto by the Attorney General, who is fond of a joke, slipped his anti-Lecompton Speech out of his pocket and replaced it by Lecompton, and the gentleman, next morning, supposing all was right, drew the document forth, laid it upon his desk, and commenced spouting. Well, when once commenced, of course it had to go through, and thus against his own convictions and in direct opposition to his own inclination, he was made to advocate the swindle. We say this may have been the case, but do not vouch for its being so.—Repository and Transcript.

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THE MARKETS. Wheat in Baltimore, 102 to 106 cts. for red 105 to 110 for ordinary fair white, and 120 to 125 for good to prime do. Corn, white, 66 a 68 cts. yellow, 65 a 68 cts. Rye, 70 a 75 cts. Oats, 40 a 43 cts. Philadelphia markets, about the same prices.

MARRIED. On Thursday, the 16th inst., by the Rev. G. C. Probst, at the residence of the bride's father, near Bloomsburg, Pa., Mr. Michael F. Hartman, of Woodbury, to Miss Amelia J. Boardman, of Woodbury, to Miss Hannah Workinger, both of Woodbury Bedford Co. Pa.

On the 14th inst., by the Rev. F. Benedict, Mr. Daniel Imler to Miss Sarah Stumbaugh, both of Bedford tp.

On the 15th inst., by the Rev. H. Heckerman Mr. Henry Earnest of Bedford tp., to Miss Hannah Diel of Charlottesville.

On the 15th inst., by the Rev. J. A. Kneblman, Mr. William Logan to Miss Mary Snowberger all of Napier tp.

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