

Democratic Co. Convention.

The Democratic Electors of the several wards, boroughs and townships of this county are requested to meet at their several places of holding elections, on Saturday, Feb. 1st, at 2 o'clock, and elect delegates to a county convention to be held at the Court House in Erie on Monday, the 3d day of February, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of selecting delegates to the National and Judicial Conventions, at Reading and Harrisburg. J. S. BARNES, P. R. JUDSON, R. S. BRAWLEY, WM. WEED, BENJAMIN GRANT, A. P. DURLIN, JAMES DUNLAP, Central Committee.

Plank Road Meeting. A meeting of those friendly to the continuation of the Erie and Waterburg road to Warren, was held in Wayne a short time since, at which it was resolved that the road ought to be built, and measures taken to carry the resolution into effect. This is the right spirit, and we are confident we shall soon see the work under way.

Benton's Prospects. A meeting of those friendly to the continuation of the Erie and Waterburg road to Warren, was held in Wayne a short time since, at which it was resolved that the road ought to be built, and measures taken to carry the resolution into effect. This is the right spirit, and we are confident we shall soon see the work under way.

Public Opinion is Quiescent. How often do we hear this assertion, yet how few steps is taken to make "public opinion" manifest. It controls the fate of a nation, and makes Presidents. It is a power that moves the world.

Fashionable Gambling. Somebody has lately said that "laws are made to be evaded." The laws, in most of the States, against Lotteries are stringent, yet Yankee ingenuity has found a way of evading them, at the same time rendered it fashionable to do so. The various Art Unions, now so fashionable, are nothing more nor less than Lotteries, and a subscriber to one is, in fact, the buyer of a Lottery ticket.

Crises Come Home to Root. So says the play, and every day's experience proves the dramatic truth. A case in point has recently taken place in Boston. The daughter of a respectable abolitionist, named Brown, disappeared suddenly. It appears the father had expressed himself indifferently as to whether his daughter married a white man or a negro.

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San Sam Houston—the Presidency.

The Washington correspondent of one of our exchanges says that "the plenary of international movements bearing reference to the next Presidency" of that great political institution, the national capital; and adds that Gen. Sam Houston is among those "who are closely watching the rise and fall of the political barometer."

There is a decided demonstration in various parts of the Union favorable to the nomination of Sam Houston, for the Presidency. The more the people become acquainted with him the better they like him. He is a man of commanding mind, of correct judgment of character, of a kind heart, of enlarged views. He is a statesman—a man of a noble and generous soul.

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LEGISLATIVE JOTTINGS.

Under this head we intend, from week to week, to condense from our Harrisburg papers and the correspondence of our exchanges the most important proceedings of the Legislature, as well as "hot-downs" some of the most interesting items of news and gossip floating in and about our State Capitol.

Banking appears to be the "grand idea" of the session. Petitions for the incorporation of these institutions, in every conceivable neck and corner of the State, are as thick as leaves in autumn. Emboldened by this evident "haunting after the flesh pots of Egypt" by Legislators and their constituents, the friends of Free Banking have taken an early start, and show evidence of a determination to make a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether" for the accomplishment of their object.

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COMMUNICATION.

For the Erie Observer. Mr. Editor:—As you are an improvement man, I ask the privilege of putting some questions, hoping they will elicit answers from yourself and others competent.

The Erie and Waterburg Plank Road Company is authorized to construct a plank road from Erie to Waterburg. Both of these companies have the choice of routes between the points mentioned. Suppose the managers of these companies should think it a good speculation to occupy the great public road read—the one from Erie west, and the other from Erie east, to the state lines, and thence locate their roads accordingly; would you think such a location authorized by their charters and legal, or unauthorized and illegal?

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FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, Jan. 17th, 1851. The Nigger question, in two phases, contributed to some interesting, some funny, and some (as Mrs. Partington would say) backward speeches in the Senate. Mr. Clay opened the ball by the presentation of a memorial in favor of the African line of steamships, prefacing the presentation by a brief but very comprehensive speech, which did credit to the occasion and the great object he had in view, the suppression of the slave trade by the colonization of Africa, whence the descendants of Ham are dragged away to the shambles of the Brazils. The great Kentucky made a statement in regard to the great traffic, which must have convinced every one with hearing of his voice, that the present system of suppressing the trade on the coast of Africa, and sending the slaves to the Brazils, is a failure. In his remarks Mr. Clay made a stirring appeal to the people of the north, that they would allow the South to attend to its own matters in its own way; that they would refrain from exciting discussions upon less important points, and unite with the South in the great project of relieving Africa, by the colonization of the continent, and thus do away with the inhuman traffic carried on in flesh and blood. He spoke of the stringent laws passed by some of the states, prohibiting free negroes to live within their borders, and asked where these poor creatures were to go. "They could never, in this country, attain the high social position of the whites, while colonized upon the head of their forefathers, they would enjoy the largest liberty. Such a change would be beneficial to the people of the North as well as the South, and even more beneficial to the poor degraded free negroes themselves. I give but a glance at his remarks. The memorial, Mr. Clay remarked, was signed by many distinguished gentlemen, Governors, ex-Governors, ex-Members of Congress, &c.; and was referred, at his suggestion, to the committee on Commerce.

The next phase of the African subject was the presentation of a memorial by Mr. Hale, the great advocate of free-niggerism from New Hampshire. This petition asked the repeal of the law of last session in relation to the reclaiming of fugitive slaves, and was signed by some three hundred citizens of Montgomery county, Pa. Mr. Hale said he could not say that there were any ex-Governors, ex-Congressmen, or eminent gentlemen on the list, but called the Senator from Pennsylvania, (Copper) had assured him that the signers were among the most respectable men in that district, and that one of them was a brother to a man who was candidate for Governor. (Lew's.) He then proceeded (as Mr. Copper had done on a previous occasion) to give his opinion on the subject, which was that the law was a parody on the rights of man, and a terrible insult to the colored man. He called Mr. Hale to order, as did other Senators, during his efforts to speak, and finally, after some sharp skirmishing, in which nobody was badly injured, a motion to lay the memorial on the table prevailed, as the telegraphic reports have already informed you by a vote of 32 to 15. When the name of Mr. Yule's bill to amend the bill in vote, Mr. Foote called upon the President of the senate to enforce the rule.

Here upon a curious conversational discussion arose, that was interrupted with some feeling and more fun. Mr. Yule attempted to explain his reasons for not voting, but Mr. Hale shut him off by asking a point of order. Mr. Yule then asked to be called Mr. Yule to vote, and Mr. Foote was obliged to be called Mr. Foote to vote. The Legislature of Florida were about passing instructing resolves, directing the Senators from that State not to vote at all on the subject before the Senate, and although he had not received any instructions he had determined to carry out the intention of the Legislature, which were in accordance with his own views. Mr. Foote then proposed to amend the bill, and proper to allow a Senator to decline voting, and Mr. Hale and Mr. Foote gave the Senator from New York and the Senator from Florida a broad smile each on the higher law principle. When Mr. Foote proposed to take the yeas and nays upon the motion to excuse Mr. Yule, Mr. Hale asked to be excused from voting; and after a great deal of give and take, the yeas and nays were ordered, and many declared by the yeas, Mr. Yule attempted to address the Senate. He said "the world will vote"—but the qualification was cut off by a call to order from Mr. Hale, and he took his seat. The Clerk was directed to call Mr. Yule's name, and did so, but he refused to answer, and the speaker intimated that he would call the Senate to order, and a riot should be passed. Mr. Foote said, as he had started the business, he would leave the rest to other Senators;—but here he was called to order by Mr. Hale. Mr. Butler of S. C. said he had refused to vote and should do so, thus placing himself in the same connection as Mr. Yule. The name of Mr. Foote was again called, and he refused to answer, thus the matter stood when I took my hat and went out to see what was going on in the popular bazaar.

Tragedy in Memphis.—Lynchings.—We copy the following from the Memphis Eagle:— One the 1st inst., our community was convulsed by one of those violent excitements, before which reason bows, and a horrible murder was followed by a summary and terrible punishment. The details of the tragedy, as accurately as we can ascertain, are these:— About 3 o'clock, P. M., of Wednesday, a negro, accompanied by a white man, called at the mayor's office. The object of the negro was to have a paper purporting to be a certificate of his freedom from the county clerk of Lincoln county, counterfeited by the mayor and recorder of the city. Mr. Foote wrested the pistol from him, and finding that he could not discharge again, chastised the negro severely. An excited crowd at once rushed in. Shortly Mr. Chester's son a lad of seventeen, came in, crazed with his terrible misfortune, was furnished with a pistol, and fired three shots into the negroes back. They fled in confusion to the calaboose. A crowd, followed to frenzy by the spectacle of the dead Chester, followed, compelled the surrender of the calaboose keys, dragged out the negro, and in the view of an immense crowd, swung him up to the next tree. He confessed that he was a runaway being.

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Good Time Comes.—An item from a religious paper tells us that the Presbyterians of a certain town not a thousand miles from Exeter, N. H., have voted that Unitarians are Christians. Good—there's one more black spot on the millstone. It appears, however, that a most accurate Unitarian had been preaching to the congregation in disguise for some time.

MARRIED. On the 14th inst., in this city, by Rev. H. S. Himes, Mr. William C. Hawkins, and Miss Elizabeth Waldron, both late of Providence, R. I. On the 31st inst., at Batesville, Arkansas, Mr. R. R. Kelly, formerly of this city, and Miss Sarah L. Bates, of the former place. On the 16th inst., by Rev. Mr. Bionaberger, Mr. Gabriel Wright, and Miss Rebecca Brander, both of Milwaukee.

DIED. On the 25th inst., Mr. David Church, an old and much respected citizen of Erie, aged 62 years. On the 19th inst., Mr. Thomas Shipley, of Warren township, in the 81st year of his age.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Rooms to Let. C. B. WRIGHT having a number of rooms, in his block, offers the same for rent on a very liberal plan. The rooms are large and comfortable, and are fitted up in a manner that surpasses any other in town. Apply Room No. 3, in said block for further particulars.

Administration Notice. NOTICE is hereby given that letters of Administration have been granted to the undersigned on the estate of DAVID CHURCH, late of Erie, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate, are required to present them to the undersigned, on or before the 15th day of February, 1851. HENRY HART, Adm'r.

The Place to Buy Goods Cheap. No. 8, Higher Block, State Street, Erie. WHERE you may find a beautiful assortment of Broadcloth, Cassimeres and other Goods, Ladies' Dress Trimmings, and all the latest fashions, at a price that will compare favorably with any other establishment in the city. A large assortment of Calicoes, under shirts, and all the latest fashions, at a price that will compare favorably with any other establishment in the city. A large assortment of Calicoes, under shirts, and all the latest fashions, at a price that will compare favorably with any other establishment in the city.

Importers and Jobbers. Importers and Jobbers of all kinds of Goods, at Wholesale and Retail. No. 8, Higher Block, State Street, Erie. A large assortment of Goods, at a price that will compare favorably with any other establishment in the city. A large assortment of Goods, at a price that will compare favorably with any other establishment in the city.

Advertisement for a building or lot. Advertisement for a building or lot, situated in a desirable location, and suitable for business or residence. Apply to the undersigned for further particulars.

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