

**AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.**

**JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.**  
 CARLISLE, PA., DEC. 29, 1859.

**Delegate Election.**

Pursuant to notice, the Democratic Standing Committee met at the public house of J. Hoiser, on the 24th December, 1859, when, on motion, it was

**Resolved,** That the Democratic voters of Cumberland county, be requested to meet at their usual place of holding township, ward or borough elections, on Saturday the 7th day of January next, and elect two delegates from each township, ward and borough, to meet in County Convention, at the Court House, in Carlisle, on Monday, the 9th day of January, at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of selecting delegates to represent Cumberland county in the next Democratic State Convention.

**Resolved,** That said election for delegates be held in the several townships between the hours of 1 and 4 o'clock, and in the boroughs between the hours of 3 and 6 o'clock P. M.

**Resolved,** That these proceedings be published in the Democratic papers of the county.

**E. CORNMAN, Chairman.**  
**JNO. SANDERSON, Sec'y.**

The editor of the *Volunteer* tenders to its friends and renders the compliments of the season, with his best wishes for their health and happiness.

Our friend, Thos. M. BIDDLE, Esq., of Philadelphia, will accept our thanks for the four bottles of superior mineral water sent us by express. We opened one of them on Christmas morning, and found it to be No. 1. Of course our toast (drank standing) was "health and prosperity to our friend."

The annual meeting of the Cumberland County Agricultural Society, for the election of Officers for the ensuing year, will be held at the Court House, Carlisle, on Tuesday, January 3d, 1860. See advertisement.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**—A few hours before going to press, we received from President BUCHANAN, a copy of his Annual Message. Of course we have had no time to read it, but intend to do so at first opportunity. It is quite lengthy, and will occupy a page and a half of our paper. We will publish it in our next.

**NOTHING DONE YET.**—The House of Representatives have not yet been able to agree upon a Speaker. The 24th ballot, taken on Saturday, stood Sherman 103, Millson 27, Gilmer 19, Bockoc 10, Scattergood 53.

In the Senate, Gen. BOWMAN, of the Constitution, has received the caucus nomination for Printer to that body. It is supposed that, in consequence of the thinness of the Senate, the President will not send in his Annual Message before the 2d of January.

**LECTURES ON CHEMISTRY AND ELECTRICITY.**—As will be seen by his card in another column, Prof. WILSON of Dickinson College, proposes to deliver a course of lectures on the above subjects, in the lecture-room of the Grammar School building, West High street—the first lecture to be on the 3d of January.

Prof. W. is well booked up on the subjects he proposes to discuss, and is a happy and fluent speaker. We hope to see his lectures well attended.

**SWISS BELL-RINGERS.**—Those of our citizens who love good music, should embrace the present opportunity of attending the Concerts to be given by this charming band of musicians, who draw, we are told, such enchanting melodies from the bells. Wherever they have appeared they have drawn crowds of admiring listeners, who have uniformly been loud in their expressions of delight. Our exchanges speak of their concert as being wonderful, so fine is their execution and cheering in their effect. The Concerts will be given in Education Hall, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of this week; and the entertainment will be varied by solos on Violin, Cornet, and Harp. It is unfortunate that Rhoem's Hall is engaged during this week, but the location of Education Hall need be no drawback on the entertainment. We bespeak for them full and fashionable audiences.

**FIRE.**—About a quarter past twelve o'clock on Wednesday morning last, the large barn belonging to Mr. Geo. CART, and occupied by Mr. Y. R. CARL, on Pitt street, was discovered to be on fire, and before any effective aid could be rendered, the whole building was enveloped in flames. By the well directed efforts of our firemen and citizens, the fire was confined to the stable, which with its contents, was soon reduced to ashes. Four horses perished in the flames, and a quantity of wheat, corn, straw, &c., was also consumed. Mr. CART, we are glad to learn, had his horses insured, and will be paid for this part of his loss. This fire was the work of an incendiary.

**DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**—We invite attention to the proceedings of the Democratic State Central Committee in another column. The resolutions adopted are bold and vigorous in tone, treating the exciting issues of the day with plainness, and throwing the responsibility for the existing state of things where it so manifestly belongs.

**LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.**—Local newspapers should be a complete reflex of the business and prosperity of their place of publication, and every one ought to be impressed with the importance of this fact which has charge of such journals. It should be the imperative duty of all business men to patronize, sustain and encourage their journals, not only for their own individual interest, but for the welfare of the community in which they are published. Local news of local papers is so regarded by intelligent business men in every place. It is through this source that one is qualified to judge of the business and activity of towns and villages; therefore the necessity of liberally patronizing local papers, not only by the way of advertising, but to furnish the material to make them entertaining and profitable to all. It cannot be expected that the editor is cognizant of all that is transpiring throughout the town and country, and for this reason every man should feel it a privilege to assist in making public, through the local paper, events of daily occurrence in the community in which he resides. By this course editors can furnish through their respective papers a complete record of all that transpires of interest in towns and country.

**THE PAST AND NEW YEAR.**

Before we gain issue the *Volunteer*, the year 1859 will have passed away—forever!—A few days more and its last knell will be heard amid the hills and gloom of winter.—The departure of the old and the ushering in of the new year, bring to our recollection a long train of thoughts—some pleasing, but many sad. We instinctively name over many dear and beloved friends who have been called from time to eternity during the year about to end; we examine our own household, and many of us find the centre of attraction gone, our cherished hopes in a measure blighted, and the solemn truth forcing itself upon us, that our own existence is but a vapor. Yes, the advent of the new year will cause many to think over the bright hopes they have been called upon to bury in the tomb during the past year—how many friends have proved false or ungrateful—how many have gone down in the gloom of solitude, or amidst scenes of sickness and poverty, or of sighing and sorrow. Such ever has been, such will continue to be the reflections of man on the departure of the year.

But, if our course has been wearisome through fields of sterility, or if, in the providence of God, we have been made melancholy, we should all remember that Wisdom and Goodness preside over our destinies, whether we are breasting the storm, or calmly beholding the rainbow of promise. The year that is bidding us adieu, was pleasant in its course, and its decline, like that of the long afflicted patient, gradual and beautiful. To use the language of an eminent man, writing on this subject, "The new year to which we are just to be introduced, is, in one sense, a perfect stranger, though we have long been intimate with the family to which it belongs, and of course have some general acquaintance with the certain features of its character, leading us to anticipate its promises, and its failure to perform them in many instances—its smiles and its tears—its flatteries and its frowns—its gaieties and hopes—its gradual decline, decay and dissolution; but we have abundant reason too, for indulging the belief that we may enjoy thousands of blessings, if we are disposed to cherish proper feelings—to be kind and courteous and obliging, and ever on our guard to avoid unnecessarily wounding the feelings of others; ever ready to acknowledge the favors we receive, and render a suitable return."

How easily all this may be done! How often it is grossly neglected! He who consults his own ease and comfort cannot in any manner attain the desired result so readily and certainly, as by habitually consulting the ease and comfort of others, with whom he is in the habit of associating; and this is true politeness also. A man who is dissatisfied with himself and those around him, and laboring under the darkening influence of disturbed or morose feelings, "may travel from Dan to Beersheba, and say it is all barren;" to him it will appear so; and the effect would be the same if his journey lay amidst the most delightful scenes of rural beauty.

The seasons of the year all give their annual lessons for instruction: it is our wisdom to regard them carefully. Spring summons us to all cheerful activity, with assurances that our labor will not be in vain;—Summer performs what Spring has promised, and shows us the advantage of listening to early instruction, and wisely improving it. Ten thousand songsters are filling the branches with their animating strains of music and gratitude, and teaching us to enjoy, as they do, the countless blessings and bounties of nature; their music is never falling—nor do we see it ending in discords. Let us learn to measure our time with care, to cultivate our voices, that they may lose all harshness; let each attend to his own part, and strive to excel in that. Let us consider our feelings, passions, and dispositions, as the strings of the harp, and the ordinary events of life as the breezes which give vibration to the strings; if these strings—our feelings, passions and dispositions—are in proper tune, under due regulation, and preserving a just relation, due to all the others, we have then all the elements of moral music, domestic and social, and in a few weeks, by due regard to all the principles and arrangements above mentioned, we shall soon be good scholars, giving and receiving all that pleasure which harmonious can afford; and as the sober Autumn advances, our tastes for such kind of music will be more and more ripened towards perfection; and when the cold December evenings shall arrive, we can listen to the angry music of the elements abroad, full of discordant strains, sweeping by our peaceful homes, while within them all may be the music of the heart, in its gentlest movements.

It is a melancholy truth, that we ourselves manufacture seven-eighths of what we are disposed to term our misfortunes in this world. Want of precaution mars our arrangements—want of prudence exposes us to dangers which we might easily have avoided—want of patience often hurries us into difficulties, and disqualifies us to bear them with calmness or decency. Indulgences in follies and fashions often plan the seeds of wasting disease. Intemperance in our passions always is followed by unwelcome sensations, and sometimes with a sense of shame. Stimulants are succeeded by debility, and when they are used to excess, we know and daily witness the dreadful results—death is not one of them—either the death of the offender, or of some other, destroyed by his hand in the tempest of infuriated passions; we are too often compelled to mourn over the desolation they occasion—presenting, in one view,

"Hate, grief, despair, the family of pain."

The days are now at their shortest period, and begin to lengthen. It is generally conceded by almanac makers that winter commences with the shortest day. The old couplet runs in this way:—

As the days begin to lengthen  
 The cold begins to strengthen.

Although we have had a few touches from the old frost King, yet it seems as though he had been holding his breath to redouble his strength and give us a hard freezing blast from his Arctic temple before long.

**DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE.**—Marks D. Whitman, one of the members of the Legislature from Dauphin county, died at his residence in Lykens, on Saturday last, from the effects of a severe cold contracted last fall.

**UNFAIR.**

We are sorry to see that some of the Maryland papers are endeavoring to create the impression that our court, in discharging Emanuel MYERS, indicted for kidnapping, was not sincere; and that they really hold him liable for thefts, on his own recognizance; and intend some day to arrest and imprison him for them. This, in plain English, is charging the Court, and the counsel for the Commonwealth, with an intention to commit a fraud, with bad faith, and with every thing that is dishonorable. Party or sectional feeling should not be carried quite so far; and the citizens of Maryland should feel that we are as sincere in our friendship to them as they are to us.

The plain state of the case is this—Three objects were to be accomplished in the arrangement. The State of Maryland wished to try in the Supreme Court of the United States, as represented by her counsel, Mr. MYERS, certain questions of law arising under the Constitution of the United States. The counsel for MYERS wished to save him from the Penitentiary, and the prosecutors wished to save the negroes from being sold into perpetual slavery. It was therefore proposed by some friends of both parties, that if the negroes could be saved from slavery and returned to Pennsylvania, MYERS should be released, discharged and sent home. The Court, through feelings of humanity, gave their assent to this proposition, and signified their willingness to co-operate, if the counsel for the Commonwealth were satisfied. The counsel for the Commonwealth gave their hearty assent, and hoped that the negroes would be returned, and that in consideration of this act of humanity, MYERS should be released and discharged. Mr. MILLER, the counsel for MYERS, then agreed to go to Frederick city, and see whether he could procure a return of the negroes. He went on, and with the assistance of Col. W. P. MARLBURY, one of the noblest and best of men, he succeeded, and brought the negroes back with him.

On Monday morning after the return of the negroes, Mr. MILLER appeared in Court and stated that the negroes were returned to their former home in Dickinson township, and that, in accordance with the understanding, he would now move the discharge of MYERS.—But, as the State of Maryland wished to take the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, it would have to be done in such form as to enable her counsel to do so. Setting aside the verdict and entering a *nolle prosequi* would not answer the purpose, and a pardon from the Governor would not answer the purpose. He therefore withdrew his motion for a new trial, and asked that only a formal judgment should be entered on the verdict, and that MYERS should be discharged on his own recognizance.

Judge WARR, on part of the Commonwealth, fully assented to the request, and agreed that MYERS should be discharged in any form that his counsel requested—that he did not think a writ of error would lie to the Supreme Court of the United States, and that he did not see what was to be gained by taking the case there when the prisoner was fully discharged. "But," he remarked, "that is a question for the gentlemen on the other side to consider, not for me. If they wish to take the naked legal questions up, and can get the writ of error, I am satisfied." He further remarked, that "he was the better satisfied with the arrangement, for three reasons. 1st. Because the majesty of our laws was vindicated in MYERS' conviction, and people were taught that outrages of this character could not be committed within the borders of our State, even in the darkness of night. 2d. A great act of humanity was accomplished in saving the negroes from being sold into perpetual slavery. 3d. MYERS would be released, and he was satisfied that he should be released and discharged, as he did not look upon him as being more than a guilty party. That he regarded WARFIELD and STRAUSSBERGER as the greatest criminals; and who should be made to suffer the heaviest punishment. That he thought MYERS had been led into error by them, and that he was their dupe. He therefore fully assented to his discharge in any form that his counsel desired."

The Court expressed their satisfaction with the arrangement, and as it met so fully the sanction of the counsel for the Commonwealth, and as the interests of humanity were so clearly promoted by it, they would cordially carry it out.

Under these circumstances, we hope our friends in Maryland will believe us sincere, and that MYERS is as safe in coming into Pennsylvania as he ever was.

**A PRESENTMENT.**—The *Valley Spirit*, of Chambersburg, in alluding to the accidental death of the fireman Henry Minnich, of the Cumberland Valley railroad, opposite Harrisburg, noticed in the *Volunteer* last week, says that the deceased, on leaving home in the morning to go to his work, remarked to his wife that he had an apprehension that some calamity would befall him that day. So firmly was this impressed on his mind, that he turned back after starting, and expressed his unwillingness to go to his employment. After reflecting over the matter for some time, he seemed to dash the thought from his mind, and suddenly started from home in a gloomy mood. His wife says such a circumstance never took place with him before. He always left home for his work pleasantly and willingly. The remains of the deceased were interred in Cedar Grove Cemetery, at Chambersburg, last Sunday. The funeral was attended by all the employes of the road, walking in a body together, with a large concourse of citizens generally. The engineers and firemen employed on the railroad held a meeting at Chambersburg on Monday, and passed resolutions of respect for the deceased.

**THE DEAD BABY.**—The following exquisite lines, which we find floating around on the sea of newspaperdom uncredited, are worthy of preservation:

"A sinner than in the nurse or mother's arms,  
 Free from all present and future harms,  
 Muffled in sacred rest an infant sleeps,  
 And God himself the guardian saintly keeps.  
 repose celestial! sleep supremely blest!  
 Who can look on and envy not such rest!"

By the death of Hon. Linn Boyd, Hon. Thomas B. Porter, President of the Senate and Senator for the Thirty-second district, composed of the counties of Woodford, Jessamine, and Franklin, becomes the Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky.

**A Nation of Orators.**

The large number of public speakers in the United States has always attracted the attention of European writers, and our country has often been styled a "nation of orators." The educational system of our country, (remarks a cotemporary,) our political organization, and the increased influence of a man that can speak in public, combine to produce more good, off hand, unembarrassed orators here than in any other country in the world. The fluency, boldness and self-possession of American speakers is in marked contrast with the opposite qualities so generally noticed in most English orators. John Bull must have a grand dinner when any great object is to be achieved, but brother Jonathan must have a succession of distinguished speakers, or speakers who wish to be distinguished. It cannot be denied that many of the speeches in our deliberative assemblies are diffuse, and that the business of the State and nation is retarded by the desire of our public men to "air their vocabulary." In politics it is found that a popular orator will often make a better campaign for his party than a man of more experience and far greater executive ability. The most superficial survey will show what a power and force eloquence is in this country. In every department of society the orator is received with attention, and honors are showered upon him. These facts should engage the attention of young men, they should cultivate the art of oratory, with a view to becoming fluent, graceful and eloquent speakers. Some of our most gifted public orators have reached their present distinction by long and careful training. Their example should stimulate others to strive for the same degree of excellence.

**DEATH OF HON. LINN BOYD.**—The Hon. Linn Boyd died at his residence in Kentucky on Sunday, the 19th inst., after an acute and lingering illness. Mr. Boyd had been for thirty years in public life, mostly as a Representative in Congress from Kentucky, and had but recently been elected Lieutenant-Governor of that State. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, November 22, 1800, and was consequently 59, at the time of his death. He served for a number of years as a Representative in the Legislature of Tennessee; and afterwards emigrated to Kentucky. He was elected to Congress in 1835, and served for two years. He was again elected in 1839, and served continuously until 1855, in all of which time he maintained an unsullied record as a man of broad and enlightened views and true patriotism. He was a zealous and faithful representative, and won during his Congressional career a very marked degree of public confidence. He served in the 31st Congress as Chairman of the Committee on Territories, and during his last term, occupied the chair of Speaker of the House, discharging the duties of that responsible position with remarkable efficiency, and with a firmness, courtesy and impartiality that justly endeared him to his colleagues and associates. He was ardently attached to the principles of the Democratic party, and labored for their promulgation with the full confidence of the people, and great respect for the power and greatness of the country, and that through their operation only could the Union of the American States be strengthened and preserved. In the death of such a man Kentucky has lost a noble and unselfish citizen, and the country a pure and enlightened patriot.

**WE** are honestly and conscientiously of the opinion that the sectional Ministers of New England, since the Presidential campaign of 1856, have done more injury to the cause of Christianity than they will be able to repair in the next quarter of a century. They have turned their pulpits into more political stages, and instead of leading their flocks to seek salvation through the true principles of the Gospel, they teach them that the first great duty of man is to hate negro slavery.—Instead of inculcating love of country, and laboring to spread the Gospel in its purity, they lead their listeners from the true path, and build up congregations of infidel sand traitors. Your out-and-out abolition preacher is the worst being on the face of God's earth.

**STATE OF NEBRASKA.**—The good people of Nebraska seem to be entering upon the work of forming a State constitution in an orderly manner. A bill has been introduced into the House by Mr. Brodhead, which provides for an election on the 29th instant, at which delegates are to be chosen to a convention for the purpose of framing such a constitution. It further provides that the constitution so framed shall be submitted to the popular vote on the 22d day of February. On the first Monday in May, if the people vote for it, State officers are to be elected under it.

There is news from Oregon to the 25th ult. A Democratic convention has been held in Oregon City. Sixteen delegates from eight counties withdrew, leaving eleven counties represented. Those who remained elected General Lane and Judge Deady as delegates to the Charleston convention, instructing them to vote for General Joe Lane for President. The seceders resolved to support the nomination of the Charleston Convention, but elected no delegates.

**THE FOREST DIVORCE CASE.**—In the case of Catharine N. Forrest against Edwin Forrest, the Referee decides that Mrs. Forrest should be allowed \$4000 a year from the 19th day of November, 1859; and that Mr. Forrest should place the mortgage on the Fonthill property in the hands of the United States Trust Company, as security for the payment of the allowance.

**THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.**—The Republican National Committee met at the Astor House, New York, on the 21st, to fix the time and place for holding the Republican National Convention, to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. A large number of delegates were present. The Governor of the State and a large number of the members of the State Legislature were present. It was agreed upon that the Republican National Convention shall be held at Chicago, on June 13th, 1860.

The great praise-worthy character of John Brown, in the estimation of many, is that he was sincere. We do not question the fact. Benedict Arnold was sincere in his treason; so were the Puritans of New England, when they burnt witches and persecuted the Quakers. Sincerity is commendable only when properly exercised.

**The "Aggressive" Policy of the "Republican" Party.**

The *New York Times*, a paper which in 1856 was strongly "Republican," and advocated the election of Fremont to the Presidency, don't seem to relish the evident tendency of its party to Abolitionism; and in a well-written and judicious article on the present tendencies of the "Republican" party, it puts forth in a strong light the fact that while the express purpose for which that party has been organized has been accomplished, while it has no unity of opinions or harmony of action on any other article of political faith, its leaders are now abolishing its platform, and urging its adherents to a position in violation of the Constitution. Thousands of calm and sober-minded "Republicans" declare that they have no share in this "progressive" movement; thousands are seeking now for some other channel of action—some association of men for political purposes which shall fully express a true, sober and Constitution-loving sentiment, and at the same time shall be possessed of more than the one idea of anti-slavery. The *Times* alleges that the party is becoming rapidly Abolitionized; that "instead of limiting its aims to prevent the extension of slavery, it is preparing to wage open war on slavery itself in the Southern States; that it is thus gradually throwing aside its national character, and becoming openly a sectional, anti-slavery, abolition party. Its leading organs deny the charge in words,—but the very terms of the denial involve a substantial admission of its truth."

If we are not grossly mistaken in our interpretation of the popular mind, the elements of disruption are already planted in the Republican party, and when it becomes evident, as soon it must, that its drift is towards abolitionism and active aggression upon the South, the large moderate element within it will desert the organization and seek some other alliance.

**How the Opposition Govern.**

Ever since the advent of President Buchanan's Administration, the Opposition curs of every hue and color, mongrel, puppy, whelp and hound, Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart, have kept up a continuous yelping and whining about the mal-administration of the affairs of the nation. To hear their direful ululations, one would imagine that Mr. Buchanan was worse than Laftie, and his Cabinet a set of pirates that out-Kidd Kidd himself. It was, therefore, not strange that the piteous complaints of the holy saints of the Opposition, should have so wrought upon the weak-minded and the susceptible as to give them a majority in Congress. The blessed fools that thought to benefit their country by sending Opposition demagogues to Congress, were numerically sufficient to place the Democrats in a minority in that body. And what is the result? Why weeks on weeks are frittered away in the attempt to organize this Opposition Congress. The Opposition have a clear majority of forty votes in that body and yet they cannot agree upon a candidate for Speaker. The time of the session is consumed in fruitless attempts to elect a presiding officer, whilst the interests of the people are suffering from wanton and premeditated neglect. What say the people to this great wrong inflicted by their beloved Opposition Congressmen? What say the mail contractors who are longing for the passage of the Postal Appropriation bill? If the Democrats had the majority in Congress, the house would have been organized long ago, and the business of the country would have been under process of transaction. Such facts need no comment. So says the *Bedford Gazette*.

**ANOTHER APPLICANT FOR ADMISSION INTO THE UNION.**—Governor Black of Nebraska, in his message to the Territorial Legislature, dated December 6th, warmly urges the admission of that Territory into the Union. He confesses that she does not possess at the present time, a sufficient population to entitle her to a representative under the existing ratio of 93,423, but he enters into an elaborate argument to prove that this is no legal barrier to her admission, and cites the examples of Florida and Arkansas.

**HON. JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE.**—The current seems to be setting in rather strong just now in favor of this gentleman's nomination for President of the United States. Quite a number of papers in Pennsylvania have expressed a preference for him, within the past week or two. Mr. Breckinridge has, undoubtedly, a strong hold upon the affections of the people of Pennsylvania, and would make a gallant leader in the coming contest. His chance for the nomination at Charleston is very fair.

**SINGULAR.**—The 23d of April, the day fixed upon by the National Democratic Standing Committee for the Charleston Convention, is the birth day of both President Buchanan and Stephen A. Douglas. This was not the thought of the Committee, while that early day was deemed the best for the Northern members, who do not wish to incur any risk from the Charleston climate.

**FANATICISM REDUCED.**—Captain Harrington, Democrat, who was re-elected Mayor of Manchester, N. H., last week, over the Republican candidate, is the gentleman who, when the fanatics of that city attempted the tolling the bell of the city hall on the day of John Brown's execution, defeated the base attempt by dropping their emissaries through a scuttle. Capt. H. was sustained not only by Democrats, but by the citizens who hold no fellowship with the Republican party.

**A GROCERY DEMOLISHED BY FEMALES.**—A whisky-shop in the village of Jefferson, Michigan, was completely cleared out by a party of females recently. A young man named Dalmar was in the habit of lounging around the "grocery," against the wishes of his parents, and one day last week the liquor dealer sent the young man home with the delirium tremens, whereupon the mother immediately raised a number of her friends and neighbors, and proceeded to demolish the establishment.

The Southern Medical Students attending lectures in Philadelphia, held a meeting and passed resolutions that they would not remain in Philadelphia, and that they would finish their education in the South. They left on Wednesday—about two hundred of them. The most serious loss will fall on the boarding-house-keepers, many of which will be broken up. They may reconsider the matter after the holidays.

**Practical Evidence of Conservatism.**

We copy the following letter, says the *Pennsylvanian*, from a gentleman favorably known in the community—addressed to the People's Party Convention in this city—as a worthy and practical evidence of true conservatism. It may be regarded as one of the results of the late Union demonstration in this city; and the bold candor with which Mr. Lewis recognizes the nationality of the Democratic party, appeals to thousands of others who have heretofore acted with him, and like him venerate the immortal Clay, and appreciate now what that great statesman felt when, in his memorable speech at Frankfurt—November 16, 1850, he said: "I have had great hopes and confidence in the principles of the Whig party, as being most likely to conduce to the honor, the prosperity and the glory of my country, but if it is to be merged into a contemptible Abolition party, and if Abolitionism is to be grafted on the Whig creed, that moment I renounce the party and cease to be a Whig." Mr. Lewis says:

PHILA., Dec. 16, 1859.  
 To the President and Members of the People's Convention:—Gentlemen:—Having been elected a delegate to your convention, I feel it my duty to decline taking my seat in the same.

From my boyhood I was taught to love the "Whig party," and I was a firm and ardent supporter of its principles, because they were National. On the dissolution of that great party, I became an enthusiastic adherent of what I considered the next best political organization, the "American." This also has ceased to exist, and its members generally, have joined a party called "Republican," now rallying under the name of "People's party."

View of the fact recently shown by its leaders and journals, that this "People's party" is rapidly becoming "Abolitionized," and therefore sectional, I conceive it to be my duty, as a national man, to enroll myself in the ranks of the only party left—the Democratic.

Intending to attach myself to such, under these circumstances I cannot conscientiously take my seat with you, but feel it equally my duty to give frankly my reasons.

I am, very respectfully,  
 Wm. D. LEWIS, JR.

**DEPARTURE OF SOUTHERN MEDICAL STUDENTS.**—On Wednesday evening, about 250 medical students left for the South, by way of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad. They were all ticketed through to Richmond, Va., and were accompanied by Drs. F. E. Luckett and Maguire, of Philadelphia. About 200 of their comrades attended them to the depot, and cheered them enthusiastically as the train moved off. Several incidents occurred during the parting. A creditor of one of the students seized him, and protested against his leaving until he had settled the amount of his bill. A lady appeared, also, in great distress at the departure of a young gentleman, who had won her affections. The train was very large—consisting of eight passenger cars, and was detained 20 minutes beyond the usual time—leaving at half-past 11 o'clock.

**REICHMUND, VA., Dec. 22.**—The succeeding medical students from Philadelphia arrived here to-day, and were received by the Faculty and students of the Medical College, the Governor's Guard, and an immense throng of citizens. The procession marched to the Governor's mansion, where the students were addressed by Gov. Wise, and afterwards by Professor Gibson, at the College. A dinner was then partaken of at the Columbia Hotel. The students were received with great enthusiasm by our citizens, and as the procession passed through the streets the shouts of the men were deafening, while the ladies manifested their delight by the waving of their handkerchiefs.

The oldest inhabitant of Berks county, is Mrs. Catharine Levengood, who resides in Colebrookdale township, and who has attained the patriarchal age of one hundred and two years. This venerable lady, we are informed, is remarkably sprightly and active for her years, is in possession of all her faculties, and is still able to superintend personally her own garden-work. Her husband, who died some eighty-five or ninety years ago, was a tanner at the Battle of Brandywine. Mrs. Levengood is a great-great-grandmother, and the number of her descendants, down to the fourth generation, is quite large.

**WHAT'S TO BECOME OF THEM?**—In all seriousness we ask, what is to become of the Republican party? Brown, Cook, Coplee, Green and Stephens all hinged, Gerrit Smith in the Insane Asylum, Fred Douglas and Dr. Howe in Canada, Sewall suspected of complicity with traitors, Gervel denounced on the floor of Congress, as "occupying a false position," sixty-eight of their members of Congress killed outright by Helper's book, what is it to become of them? All their leaders wiped out but Abol Lincoln and Tom Corwin—what will they do?

During the last three weeks several incendiary Abolition demonstrations were made in Philadelphia, all designed to glorify the treason of John Brown. The Know-Nothing Mayor of that city was called upon beforehand in the public journals, to prevent, by his office, these treasonable gatherings of "black spirits and white," but instead of listening to the calls of patriotism, he ordered large bodies of his police to protect these Abolitionists in their attacks upon the Union and the Constitution. Now what follows?—Already have three hundred southern students withdrawn from the medical colleges in that city, (Jefferson college 200 and the University 100,) and several hundred more will soon leave. Is it not high time that the North cease its onslaught upon the South? Surely the North has more than a full share to lose by its overbearing course.

**SENATOR CRITTENDEN.**—By the election of Mr. Breckinridge of Kentucky, John J. Crittenden, the oldest member of the Senate, retires from public service. Mr. Crittenden is now in the 74th year of age. He entered the Senate as early as 1817—forty-two years ago—although he then served but two years. Mr. Crittenden has never been a member of the House of Representatives. Besides his different terms in the Senate, Mr. Crittenden served the public as Governor of Kentucky, and Attorney-General under President Harrison, and also under Mr. Fillmore.

**QUOTING SCRIPTURE.**—Gov. Chase of Ohio says that the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side, leaving the man who lay among thistles, were "Democratic non-interventionists."

The thieves were black republicans.

They held to the doctrine that "war was not competent to take care of his own affairs. So they intervened between him and his property."—*Chicago Times*.

**Reply of the Governor of Pennsylvania to the Governor of Virginia.**

We have great satisfaction in publishing the following telegraphic response of Governor Wise, of Virginia, to the letter of Governor Wise, of Pennsylvania, (which has already appeared in the *Constitution*), addressed to the Governors of Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania:

PENNSYLVANIA, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 1, 1859.  
 Your letter of the 25th, having been sent to Harrisburg, Va., was not received until this morning. On my arrival so far as I can learn, you are a citizen of Pennsylvania; and your remarks, which you say, was "not constructed by guess or otherwise," in this State, but in Maryland or Virginia, in relation to them, Pennsylvania has done her duty. Virginia has no right to anticipate that duty. You have received in regard to a conspiracy to rescue John Brown, will, undoubtedly, be found in the sequel utterly unfounded, and entirely without foundation, so far as Pennsylvania is concerned. Nor will we permit any portion of our territory, along our borders or elsewhere, to be made a depot, a rendezvous, or refuge for "lawless desperadoes" from other States, who may seek to make war upon our Southern neighbors. When that contingency shall happen, the constitutional and confederate character of Pennsylvania shall be performed, and under all circumstances, she will take care to see that her honor is fully vindicated.

Wm. F. PACKER,  
 To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.—The Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania met at the Merchants' Hotel, Philadelphia, on the 20th inst., and fixed upon Reading as the place, and Wednesday, the 29th of February, 1860, as the time for the meeting of the next Democratic State Convention.

**BOARD OF REVENUE COMMISSIONERS.**—This board was established by act approved April 20, 1844. The first meeting was held in 1845. It has regularly met every third year since, viz: in 1848, 1851, 1854, 1857. The State Treasurer has notified the several Presidents of the Commonwealth, that the board will meet in Harrisburg, on Tuesday, February 2d, 1860. He has also forwarded to each board of County Commissioners blank forms to be filled up and returned by them, as required by the thirty-seventh section of the act creating said board of revenue commissioners.

**A HARDENED VILLAIN.**—Nearly a month ago a man named William Ingham, of Kingston, Ulster county, N. Y., left that village, under the pretence of visiting his relatives in Red Bank, New Jersey, taking his wife along with him. In a few days after he returned, and stated that his wife had been taken suddenly ill and had died. He collected all the money due him in Kingston and left for parts unknown. Not long after his departure a letter was received by the authorities of Kingston, from the Police Justice of Red Bank, which stated that the man had attempted to murder his wife, in order to save the expense of her support. Mrs. Ingham arrived in Kingston on Tuesday, and complained that her husband attempted to murder her as they were crossing over a bridge on the way to Red Bank. He pushed her from the edge of the bridge, when she fell a distance of forty feet into the water, and supposing, of course, that she would be drowned, he made off. The poor creature, however, managed to crawl to the shore, and arriving at the Bank, stated the above account, when she was sent to Kingston.

**EVERGREENS FOR WINTER.**—A lady who has successfully tried the plan herein given, hands it to an exchange for publication. It may be interesting to the lovers of flowers, though the season is rather late for carrying out the suggestion made: "A most beautiful and easily attained show of evergreens may be had by a very simple plan, which has been found to answer remarkably well on a small scale. If geranium branches, taken from luxuriant and healthy trees, just before the winter sets in, be cut as for slips, and immersed in soap water, they will, after drooping for a few days, stretch their leaves, put forth fresh ones and continue in the finest vigor all winter. By placing a number of bottles, thus filled, in a flower basket, with moss to conceal the bottles, a show of evergreens is easily insured for the whole winter. All the different varieties of the plant being used, the various shapes and colors of the leaves blend into a very beautiful effect. They require no fresh water."

**SOUTH CAROLINA.**—The South Carolina Legislature has declared in favor of secession, and invites other States of the South to do the same.

**GUBERNATORIAL.**—A large number of the citizens of Washington county have addressed a communication to Col. William Hopkins, of Washington, requesting the use of his name for the Governorship before the State Democratic Convention. He has consented.