

PENNSYLVANIA

State Temperance Convention.

A Mass Convention of the friends of Prohibition will be held in Harrisburg, on the 26th and 27 of January next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. We hope every city and town and temperance organization will be represented fully. Never have we met under such circumstances as the present. Voters of Pennsylvania, come up to the Metropolis and get the good men you have elected to enact a law suppressing the drinking houses and tipping shops. Distinguished men from other States will be with us to assist in our deliberations. Editors will please insert the call; and clergymen are requested to read it in their congregations.

By order of the State Gen. Com.
T. WATSON, Ch. n.
B. W. JACKSON, Cor. Secretary.
Phil. November 18, 1853.

The year 1854 begins and ends on Sunday; there are five months in the year that contain five Sundays, and there are fifty-three Sundays in the year. Such a coincidence will not occur again for twenty-eight years.

Millport Lodge of Good Templars is still flourishing beyond all accounts. At their last meeting they had the pleasure of initiating Mr. D. B. Pierson, a leading lumber merchant of Chippinatti, whose presence in the Lodge room created great enthusiasm, and gave unusual pleasure. This Lodge now numbers 140 members.

There will be a Temperance meeting in Homer, at the School-House near Jacob Peet's, on Wednesday evening next, Jan. 17. Let there be a turnout.

Our thanks are due to Hon. HORACE GREELEY, for a neatly printed copy of his "Address before the Indiana State Agricultural Society."

This address is published by those enterprising book sellers, Messrs. Fowlers and Wells, and is retailed at 12 cents per copy. It is one of the best things Greeley ever got off, and if our farmers would generally read it, it would be worth more to each man of them, than the best cow on their place. Where is the Agricultural Society of Potter County?

We welcome to our table *The Free American*, an Independent family newspaper, by Moore and Compton, at one dollar and fifty cents per annum in advance. The *American* is of medium size, well printed, and started on the right principle. We trust the independent voters of Erie County will not suffer it to expire for want of support, as they did the *Crescent*. Such a paper as the *American* is much needed in Erie; and the men who voted for Hale and Julian in 1852 are abundantly able to sustain it. Give this paper a generous support, and the cause of progress will be greatly benefited.

The Slave Power on the Bench.

The Free States with a population of nearly fourteen millions, have four Judges on the Circuit of the United States Courts. The Slave States with a population of little more than six millions have five Judges. Every one of those in the free States with the exception of McKean, were selected with special reference to their opinion on Slavery.—*Manchester Democrat*.

Thus you see, the Free States with more than double the population of the Slave States, have less than half the Supreme Bench. And the same rule is applicable wherever Slavery is interested; so that the whole power and influence of this great Nation is brought to bear in support of Slavery, and pretended Democrats at the north bend their necks to this hateful despotism.—Thanks to the agitation of this question, the number who thus bend the knee to the dark "spirit of Slavery," grow less, and less every year. A race of free-men are coming on to the stage of action, on whom the raw material of a true man, has not been wasted.

The *Templar and Watchman*, ORLANDO LUND, Editor, and published at Ithaca N. Y., at \$1.00 per annum, has reached its 15th number; and is already one of the best and most popular papers of its kind. It is edited with tact and ability, and ought to be on file in every Lodge-room in the Nation. See notice of the organization of the Grand Lodge, of Pennsylvania, which we take from its columns.

The *Independent Press*, of Williamsport, comes out strongly in favor of Single Districts. We hope to see every Independent paper in the State urging this question on the attention of the next Legislature.

In another column we make an extract from the letter of S. P. Chase to A. Pedgerton, a member of Congress from the 5th Congressional District of Ohio. This letter has been published in pamphlet form, and is one of the best documents for distribution that has lately appeared. We advise our friends who favor missionary movements, to procure a copy of this admirable letter, and see if it is not just the thing to scatter light in the dark places around them. If it is, send a dollar to Mr. Chase, and we will warrant a return that will more than pay.

We publish on the first page, an excellent hit at the babyish complaints frequently made against school teachers. The article is taken from the *Ladies' Health*, a paper got up, and admirably conducted by the students of the Coudersport Academy. Our citizens would do well to attend and hear it read, for it shows up our short comings in a truthful, but unexceptionable style.

A Lodge of Good Templars has been instituted at Waterford, Erie Co. Pa.; and another in Townsville, Warren Co.

We ask the people of the County to note the fact, that the county commissioners, in one week, settled with the Treasurer and Sheriff, made up their annual statements for publication, drew the Jury for the year, made their annual appointments and transacted much other business, which has heretofore taken two and three weeks, but has never been done in one week before. This the result of electing men to office who are thoroughly qualified to discharge the duties of the position. Will the voters of the County bear this in mind at the next election?

New Advertisements.

Our readers will find on the third page a number of new advertisements among which we would ask their attention to a Statement of the funds, and the receipts and expenditures of Potter County for 1853; and a notice of a sale of unseated lands belonging to the County. Also an advertisement of new books at the Journal Book Store; and another by F. B. Tyler of the Drug & Book Store, notifying the public that County Orders will be taken at the face; and that of Lewis Mann's referred to in our last. We call particular attention to a couple of advertisements of Lancy & Co., of Wellsville, N. Y.

THAT OBVIOUS RESOLUTION, AGAIN.

Those of our readers who attended the anti-fugitive-slave-bill meeting held in the Court House March 10, 1851, will well remember the epithets bestowed on the following resolution, by the then champions of Hunkerism in this County. We reprint the resolution because it contains a great truth, which cannot be repeated too often while Slavery has an existence under our flag. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the enormous capital of fifteen hundred millions of dollars, invested in slaves as claimed by the Slaveholders, and acting as a unit, is a power dangerous to our liberties, especially when we see that power constantly disposed to make encroachments upon the rights of the non-slaveholders of this Nation.

Is this resolution true? If it be, then the freemen of this State ought to face the dangers to which it alludes, and overthrow the power which is encroaching on their rights.

The truthfulness of the resolution is abundantly sustained by the history of the last twenty years; nay, by the history of the last three years. A portion of this history is tersely stated by the Hon. S. P. Chase, in a letter to A. P. Edgarton, representative in Congress from the 5th Congressional District of Ohio. The letter is dated Nov. 14, 1853; and like every thing coming from the pen of Mr. Chase, is thorough, and unanswerable. Read the following extract, and then say what you think of the resolution:

"You may say that some, who concurred in the declarations I have quoted, have avowed other opinions since. That may be. I am not ignorant, nor are you, of that great Slave Interest, wielding a capital invested in human beings, of not less than fifteen hundred millions of dollars, and controlling, directly, the political action of nearly half of the States; and exerting a potential influence over that of all the rest—the great concentrated money and political power, in obedience to which politicians 'turn around and turn around' with as much facility as Jim Crow ever performed his fantastic evolutions at the command of his master. I am not ignorant, nor are you, how many, elected to represent the interest of farmers, mechanics, laborers, and traders of the Free States, when they reach Washington devote their

most assiduous efforts to secure their own elevation through the favor of the Slave Power, in utter disregard of the real sentiments and interest of their constituents, relying upon party drill and the favor of an administration, itself indebted to this power for its existence, to keep the voters in the traces at home. Is it not strange that, under such circumstances, some who once declared strongly in favor of Freedom, have since professed themselves in favor of Slavery. But the convictions of the people do not so easily change. They may for a time deviate from the line which those convictions require them to pursue under the influence of party, but it will only be for a time."

The Troubles at Erie, Pa.

There has been much denunciation cast out against the people of Erie, for the disturbance of travel; but we advise our New York and Cleveland neighbors, to keep cool. Hard words don't convince any body. The following, from Gov. Bigler's Message is a clear and candid statement of the difficulty; and, until it can be answered with something better than denunciation, we shall continue to sympathize with our Erie neighbors: although we have no excuse to offer for their destruction of property, which we think not only a crime, but a blunder.—Says Governor Bigler:

Recent occurrence at the City of Erie evince an intensity of feeling among the people, seldom equaled on a question of this kind, indicating not only the propriety, but necessity, for prompt legislative action as to the rights of this company.

It must be clear to the impartial observer, that the Legislature never intended, by any previous act, to authorize the construction of a railroad between the City of Erie and the Ohio line. Indeed the highest tribunal in the State has expressed the opinion that no such authority can be found in the charter of the Franklin Canal Company; and, in my opinion, the grant should hereafter be made on such conditions only, as will protect and advance the interest of the people of Pennsylvania, so far as they may be involved in the subject. It so happens that Pennsylvania holds the key to this important link of connection between the East and the West, and I most unhesitatingly say, that where no principle of amity or commerce is to be violated, it is the right and duty of the State to turn her natural advantages to the promotion of the views and welfare of her own people.

It may be said that a restriction that would require a break of railroad gauge at the harbor of Erie, would be the use of an illiberal principle. The answer is, that the necessity for a break of gauge between the Ohio line and the seaboard exists, as a consequence of a difference of width of the New York and Ohio Roads. The only question to settle, therefore, relates to the point at which it should occur. I have been able to discover no reasons, founded in public policy, why the break should be fixed at Buffalo, that do not apply with equal force in favor of Erie. Turnage and passenger-car can be as well transhipped at the latter, as at the former city.

So far as concerns the benefits to either city, incident to a transshipment, the idea is unworthy of notice. But the effects of a break of gauge, and consequent transshipment east of Erie, upon the business of that harbor, must be paralyzing, if not fatal. It would virtually require the shipments to be made either at Cleveland or Buffalo. Scarcely less embarrassing would this arrangement be upon the interests of the Sunbury and Erie Road, or any other avenue that may hereafter connect the lakes with the City of Philadelphia.

It may be that neighboring States, possessing similar natural advantages, would give them away for our benefit, but I have not been able to discover any fact in their former policy, to justify such a conclusion. I shall await your action with anxiety.

Groceries and Crime.

We have asserted that rum selling, always produces misery, pauperism and crime. We think we have abundantly proved this assertion; but as those houses, in this County, which continue to sell the deadly poison in defiance of law, public opinion, and common honesty, are still patronized by respectable men, we shall continue to pile up the proof.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Grand Jury of Schuylkill County, made Dec. 9, 1853:

The alarming prevalence of Intemperance in the County imperatively demands the special attention of the Jury. Tracing effects to causes, the Jury cannot fail to recognize this as the great fountainhead of crime among our people. Besides the corruption of public morals, and the development of vicious and criminal propensities; its obvious and direct results, to the common injury to the whole community, are impaired health, additional pauperism, the establishment and encouragement of indolent habits, interruption of business and largely increased taxes. The connection of Intemperance with crime and pauperism is so intimate, that it is a noticeable fact that the number of criminal cases brought before the Court and the inmates of the Alms House, from dif-

ferent sections of the County, are in direct proportion to the number of grogeries they respectively contain.

Of Fifty-two cases brought before the Jury, Twenty were directly traceable to Intemperance, and a careful examination of the Records shows that an average of two-thirds of the criminal business of this Court is induced by the same cause. An evil of such comprehensive magnitude, reaching to all classes and conditions of society, deserves the most serious consideration of every good citizen, to the end that an effectual remedy be speedily provided.

The Plank Road.

The Genesee River Plank Road Co. are receiving enormous revenues from tolls collected on the Road. Last week the gatage amounted to over one hundred dollars. It must be paying finely, and were it continued to Coudersport, with a branch running to the Honeyoye, it would have no equal within our knowledge. Will our friends at the capitol of Potter set about it, and see if it can't be done? Such a work would make Wellsville smile, and Coudersport flourish. We're coming up there in a few days, friends, to talk the matter over seriously.—*Wellsville Free Press*.

Come on, we will bid you God speed in any work of progress that you may undertake. There was a time, when we thought a plank road could be built by our people to the State line. But we have come to the conclusion that it is no use for us to say any more on that subject, at least for the present.

Trying to Resuscitate a Humbug.

The Free Soilers and Abolitionists, throughout the country, are making a desperate effort to renew the agitation of the Slavery question, and again foment sectional animosity throughout the country. The division of the Democracy of New York is seized upon as an event affording a pretext for this movement. Gerritt Smith leads off the dance in Congress, and Greeley, of the *New York Tribune*, assumes a kind of fatherly protectorate over the whole affair throughout the length and breadth of the country. This is but the expiring effort of abolitionism, however, and will fail to accomplish any thing intended by its promoters. The abolitionists have completed their record in the political history of the country. Even the hot bloods of the South laugh at the renomless fanaticism, and let pass in silence the oft-repeated and worn out schedule of frothy abolition speeches.—*Lycoming Gazette*.

"The expiring effort of abolitionism" has been witnessed so many times that it has ceased to give consolation to any body. The most stupid hunker that ever cringed at the foot of his master, knows, that abolitionism will never expire while a single slave clanks the chain that tyrants have forced him to wear. As poor intelligent slaveholders, they were never deceived by any such twaddle. Just compare the above language of a Northern doughface, with the following from the pen of a frank spoken slaveholder, and say which is nearest the truth.

"There is no intelligent man of any party or section in the United States, who does not know and feel that the question of Slavery is the vital question of this republic—more important in its bearings, than moral, political, and religious questions combined. Politicians may cry peace—peace; but there is no peace for the slaveholder. Partisan intrigues may counsel silence and submissiveness, in the face of incessant machinations against the institution, at home and abroad; but eternal vigilance is the only word of safety for the friends of the Union and the people of the South. Upon the final settlement of this question in our own national councils and organizations, depend the commercial prosperity of the United States—the permanency of the Union—and all the hopes and destinies of mankind that are staked upon the success of free government."

The whole number of places where alcoholic liquors are sold in this City, is 7,103. Unlicensed, 1,222; reported disorderly, 1,058; with grocery-shops 3,789; larger beer-shops 1,088; exclusively wholesale 183. Of the taverns for travellers there are only 336. First Ward, 452 drinking shops; Second 169; Third, 309; Fourth, 510; Fifth, 285; Sixth, 737; Seventh, 320; Eighth, 325; Ninth, 268; Tenth, 238; Eleventh, 594; Twelfth, 116; Thirteenth, 197; Fourteenth, 380; Fifteenth, 175; Sixteenth, 335; Seventeenth, 450; Eighteenth, 597; Nineteenth, 425; Twentieth, 380. Of the whole number, 5,694 sell three cent drinks; 1,002 six cent drinks; 24 one-shilling drinks; 1,211 are closed on Sundays; 930 have gambling; 1,043 are kept by Americans or persons calling themselves such; 3,370 by Germans; 2,357 by Irish; 234 by other foreigners; 233 by women, and 22 by colored people. Open on Sundays, 5,393. Drinking places where boxing matches are allowed, 11; resorts of thieves, 128; resorts of prostitutes, full 500; billiards, 216; dance-houses of prostitutes, etc., 162; dog-fights allowed in 6; rat-killing allowed in 4; cock-fighting allowed in 7.—*N. F. Tribune*.

RECEIPT.—To become popular.—Join the strongest church and all secret societies.

Single Districts.

The People's Journal, in a recent number, advocates the formation of Single Representative Districts, for the sufficient reason that such a measure is necessary to give a fair expression to the popular will, in our smaller counties. Other journals have already spoken out upon the subject, and we deem it proper to aid in directing the public mind to the proposed reform. It has hitherto suited the designs of intriguing politicians, to have districts so arranged that a secret understanding with knowing ones of like political faith, would secure the control of adjoining counties, by joining their political destiny to their own, and thus perhaps set at defiance the popular sovereignty, or drown the voice of the people, in the smaller counties, by the overwhelming din of popular clamor, among their overgrown neighbors.

Now, we have no hesitation in avowing our admiration of, and devotion to, democratic principles; but, inasmuch as in a country so large, populous and unwieldy as ours, a pure democracy is practically impossible, we are prepared to adopt and advocate its nearest possible approximation. As the people cannot themselves meet in yearly council, it is proper that they should do it by their own representatives, and not by men whom some domineering neighbors may have chosen for the purpose.

When one county has not a sufficient population to entitle it to a single member, it is perfectly proper that a neighboring county should be added to make up the deficiency, but we can conceive of no necessity for joining three, or four or a half dozen counties together in the election of two or more members, and can discern no other utility in such gerrymandering malformations, than securing an undue ascendancy to the dominant political party. We are pleased to learn that in the plan for the consolidation of the city and districts, there is an arrangement to secure single districts, in the election of representatives, and if this be practicable where the greatest difficulties will be encountered, there can be no valid objection urged against its general adoption. To bring the matter home to our own district, the measure seems well adapted to the well being of both political parties. Lycoming county is known to be largely and uncontestedly, and for aught we know, unchangeably democratic, and hence is very properly represented by a democratic member. But Lycoming is joined with Clinton and Potter, in the election of two members, and such is the local and side issues, that the choice of our own county is liable to be defeated at any or every election by the overruling voice of our neighbors.

Again, it not unfrequently occurs that Clinton and Potter may have momentous interests at stake, and may present unexceptionable men to represent their interests, but the zeal of the party, or the aspirations of some self-elected leaders in our own county, thwart their nobler intention, and thrusts the most obnoxious upon them, as exponents of their principles and representatives of their interests. These remarks will apply to other counties and districts, for the argument that will secure the needed reform in one case, will apply with equal force to all, and therefore we most heartily "second the motion" of the *Journal*, and hope for its early adoption.—*Williamsport Independent Press*.

Our Sentiments Exactly.

Some twelve millions a year is squandered of the Nation's treasure, to maintain a Navy which is only a hot-bed of upstart aristocracy, and dog-treated seamen. The Secretary of the Navy, Donix, calls on Congress to vote more millions of the People's money to enlarge the list of public pensioners. Greeley plants a kick in the bread basket of the scheme that meets our heartiest approbation. Read it:—

When Napoleon was on the point of making a new conscription of 80,000 men annually, some 100,000 or 200,000 of the regular quota being destroyed and laid in the new graves from Madrid to Moscow, he always pleaded necessity. The integrity of France was the cry; the enemy was coming; the national name, fame and existence were at stake. Nothing short of new oceans of blood could, on these occasions, save France. Well, conscription on conscription came until in some parts of France—we speak from the testimony of an American then in that country—for six months together not a man could be seen working in the fields, all having been dragged in or out of chains to glut the blood-appetites of the Moloch, and women only being left behind to do all the coarse, rude work which properly belongs to the masculine sex. But notwithstanding all the magnificent paraphernalia of destruction, of old guards and young guards, of numberless heroes and eternal glories involved in the war, France went to ruin and the fierce stranger walked through the proud streets of her capital, and was, perhaps prevented by English influence from razing every stone of it to the dust.

We are reminded of these facts by the main tenor and specific recommendations of the Report of the Secretary of the Navy. If anything has been a constant effort on our part in consonance with the spirit of our national institutions, it is to prevent that infernal interpretation of democracy which increases the army and navy, and to the same extent impoverishes and brutifies the people. We shall not at this time condescend to argue the miserable Virginia Blue Book doctrines of the Secretary,

on the necessity of increasing our navy, because we have a Pacific coast and an extended commerce. This motto should be written on the hearts of the Americans: "Commerce protects itself and needs no Navy."

In proportion as we increase men-of-war, do we squander the capital which should go to build merchant vessels, or increase home economies.

Slavery and armies and navies, and diplomatic functions—all go together. Are the industrious workmen—mechanics, farmers and tradesmen of this country—prepared, under the huge fraud of so called democracy, to multiply the heroes of the quarter-deck—the candidates for aggressive war—the chances of exhausting conflicts?

No sooner does some village lawyer get squatted into one of the useless Secretaryships at Washington—which all ought to be abolished—than he swells into a little Napoleon, and cries for men and money—money and men! The manifesto of the Secretary in question precisely exemplifies this assertion:—Away with such rubbish and farago as the Secretary's arguments! Let the people be truly democratic, and govern themselves, and no longer surrender themselves to the control of centralized authorities. Then when they have any need to fight, they will defend their homes and rights to some purpose. The first navy the nation ever had was the best one, and that was made up altogether of merchantmen.

American Slavery.

Our forefathers declared that all men were born free and equal, and believing that any child of God was equally entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, they determined to be no longer the subjects of British oppression and tyranny, but to stand boldly forth, maintain their rights, and thereby gain liberty which they so dearly loved, but of which they were then deprived. Theirs was a just cause, and the God of Battles was with them. They obtained the glorious prize for which they fought, and that priceless boon of liberty has descended to us. The star-spangled banner is now seen waving in every part of this vast Republic, and shouts of freedom and boasts of republicanism are heard on every side. In the land of oppression across the seas a Kossuth dares to lift his feeble voice and use his strength in behalf of liberty for his fatherland, is exiled, and with shouts of joy is welcomed to our shores. Here, too, a Kosztia, a Mitchell, and their daring compatriots, find refuge and protection, where all are said to be in the enjoyment of life and liberty. Is this true? And is it in foreign lands alone that men flee from bondage and oppression? No! for here beneath the tree of liberty, and under the wings of the "Eagle of Freedom," three millions of men—yes, I say men—groan in bondage more complete, more cruel, than in any other part of our earth. Mind, body, and soul, are alike enslaved. And if one of these sons of Africa fortunately escapes from his master, he flies with trembling steps from this free country, where it is acknowledged that "all men are born free and equal," and stops not until he reaches the dominions of the British Queen, unless we, in obedience to the law of the land, but in opposition to the law of God, stop him and carry him back to his master. If it was right for our forefathers to fight for liberty when the iron hand of oppression was laid upon them, would it not be right for the slaves to rise, and, in the name of God and the goddess of liberty, fight for the deliverance of their souls and bodies from oppression? Will not the same God who fought our battles for us, take up the cause of the poor, down-trodden slave? Is not the slave a man? Has he not a mind capable of cultivation, and a soul to be saved from ignorance, sin, and error, the same as this white man? If not, why is the slaveholder so fearful lest his slave shall be taught to read and write? And why that law on their statute books forbidding it? They know that "knowledge is power" with the black as well as the white man, and to keep them in bondage they must keep them in ignorance.

Let those noble souls who have so long been laboring to unbind the chains of the oppressed, and let the slave stand forth and assert his rights as a man and a citizen of this Republic; and those who have labored in the cause of temperance and other reforms of the day, take new courage at the commencement of a new year, trusting that a year will ere long dawn upon our earth finding their hopes consummated, their labors rewarded.

CONFUSION OF AUTOCRATIC NATIONS.—Nicholas expressed a pious hope that he might not ever be confounded. By the thrashing which he has had from the Turks, we should think he must have been disappointed.—*Punch*.