

teaching wayward and offending youth, the House of Refuge stands preëminent; and is everywhere gaining public confidence. Its general influence upon this class of erring creatures, is far more effectual and humanizing than that of the ordinary modes of punishment. It takes charge of those whose offences are often the result of circumstances rather than criminal intent; who fall by the influence of bad example, of wicked association, of idle habits or animal necessities; or who sin because of the utter want of moral and mental perception; who do wrong rather than right, because they have not the power to distinguish between them. For such unfortunate beings the House of Refuge possesses the advantages of restraint and correction—with moral and intellectual training, as well as of instruction in the usual pursuits of life, without the disgrace and chilling influence of prison confinement. The results, therefore, often are that its inmates go back to society cured of all moral defect, and competent to fill the place of correct and useful members of community.

During the past summer, the magnificent structure erected under the supervision of certain benevolent gentlemen of Philadelphia, as a new House of Refuge, was completed and thrown open for public inspection. The capacity, order, and arrangements, in every particular, of this admirable building, are fully equal to the design of its founders. It is an honor to them and an ornament to the beautiful city in which it is situated; and its good effects in future, under the same systematic and wise discipline which so eminently distinguished its past management, will not readily be overrated.

The Western House of Refuge, situated on the Ohio river a short distance below Pittsburg, I am gratified to say, is also completed and ready for inmates. Though less imposing as to size and capacity, than its stately competitor of the east, it possesses all the order, economy of space, and perfect adaptation to the purposes designed, that characterize the more costly structure at Philadelphia; and it is also believed to be quite adequate as to size, to present wants, while it is built with express reference to future additions, should they become necessary.

Neither of these buildings have, I presume, been erected without involving their projectors in pecuniary liability, and perhaps loss. The entire State has a deep interest in such truly meritorious institutions; and whatever relief can be given to them by the Legislature, consistently with the condition of the Treasury, or our public engagements, should be cheerfully extended.

The interests of Agriculture are ardently commended to your care. Extensive and energetic efforts have recently been made to disseminate correct information concerning this great pursuit, and in this way to confer upon the farmer the advantages of a scientific as well as a greatly refined, practical understanding of the noble pursuit in which he is engaged.

The utility of a College devoted to the science of Agriculture, with a model farm attached—wherein the principles of a scientific cultivation of the soil, and manual labor in that pursuit, would be joined to the usual academic studies—has been strongly pressed upon my attention. It is believed that such an institution can be successfully organized under the auspices of the State and County Agricultural societies.

The practice adopted and maintained by the last General Assembly, in reference to omnibus bills and special legislation, is an improvement of such value as to commend itself as a settled rule; and I confidently trust this salutary precedent may not be disregarded.

Obscurity, confusion, and inaccuracy in the construction of our laws, inroads upon private rights, and unguarded corporate privileges, litigation and confusion in the interpretation and administration of our statutes, have been the fruits of a loose and unguarded system of legislation. The evil has been one of the greatest magnitude, and the remedy should be cherished with unyielding tenacity. Special legislation has so little to recommend or sustain it in principle, it is surprising it has been so long endured. Although much was done by the two preceding Legislatures, by general laws, to obviate any supposed necessity for special acts, there still is much to be performed in avoiding a return to this unsafe practice. It is believed that general laws can be so framed as to avoid in most cases the necessity for special acts, and the proposition is most earnestly commended to your favorable consideration.

The omnibus system—a pernicious mode of legislation, by which the most opposite measures, good and bad, are thrown together in one bill and under one title—was, I rejoice to say, entirely broken down and discarded by the last General Assembly. The volume of laws for 1854 contains no acts of this character. Each law embraces but a single subject, and that indicated by its proper title.

The 5th section of the act providing for the expenses of government for 1853, authorized and required the

Governor to sell the State arsenal at Philadelphia, and apply the proceeds of such sale towards the purchase of another site, and the erection of a new building; and restricting the expenditure to the sum received for the old property. The building and lot were readily sold for \$30,000. The selection of a new location, and the erection of another building, presented a far more difficult task. I readily discovered that the sum thus appropriated was entirely inadequate to accomplish the end in view. The price of a similar location would leave but a meagre sum with which to erect the building. Under all the circumstances, I have not felt authorized to attempt to carry out the law, and would respectfully suggest the propriety of increasing the appropriation for this purpose.

The report of the present able and energetic Adjutant General will inform you of the condition of the military affairs of the State. This department of public affairs, I regret to say, has been in a confused and declining condition for several years.

The public Librarian has called my attention to the fact that the law reports of twenty-two other States, have been regularly received by this, and that no provision has ever been made, on our part, to reciprocate this courtesy and generosity. I respectfully suggest the propriety of authorizing some officers of the government to procure the necessary copies of the Pennsylvania reports, to supply those States which have so generously added to our library.

The registration act, I respectfully suggest, has essentially failed to accomplish the end designed, and should be repealed or amended. A record so incomplete and imperfect, can do no good, but may really do harm. It has already cost the State about \$25,000, to which there must be annual additions. The object is a desirable one, but I am confident it can never be attained by the mode contemplated in this law. It is a subject of constant complaint by registers and physicians, and only such registration is made as a compulsory order to legalize letters of administration.

By the 6th section of the appropriation law of last session, the Secretary of the Commonwealth was authorized to continue the publication of the Archives to the year 1790. Under this authority the selection of documents from 1783 to 1790 has been made, and the tenth volume containing this matter, will be ready for distribution before the close of the session. Two additional volumes will complete the work as originally designed.

The councils of Philadelphia, by an ordinance passed in October, 1852, dedicated the necessary ground in Independence Square, to the erection of a monument commemorative of the Declaration of Independence; and tendered the possession of the premises to the Representatives of nine or more of the original States.

Since that time, the States of New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Georgia and Pennsylvania, have signified their willingness to accept the proposition on the terms indicated by the councils, and to participate in this patriotic work. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the two Carolinas have taken no action on the subject.

I cannot refrain from again expressing my unabated solicitude for the success of this movement. If American history furnishes a single event worthy of commemoration by a monument, the Declaration of Independence is that event. In moral grandeur it is without a parallel, and stands above all others for the mighty influence which it has exerted upon the political, religious and social condition of mankind. It has been justly said, it ushered in a new member into the family of nations and electrified all Europe. It opened new revelations of liberty, and changed the relations of people and government, by teaching the one how to resist and conquer oppression, and the absolute necessity to its own continuance of recognizing and respecting the rights of humanity. From that time forth, a new, vital and quickening spirit has pervaded the world. Thrones have been shaken, empires have been overturned, society has been convulsed, blood and carnage have desolated the earth; but still the intelligence and souls of the people of all Christendom have been so vivified, elevated and expanded, to a comprehension of their rights as will never be obliterated or forgotten; but will advance, enlarge and increase, until that moral and social preparation for the appreciation and enjoyment of liberty shall be effected, which, in the Divine economy, is so indispensable to the permanence of free institutions.

As the third generation of that posterity, for whom the men of the revolution chiefly labored and suffered, and died, it is peculiarly fitting that we should erect such representations of their great and controlling acts as shall speak to our own hearts, to our children's hearts, and shall testify to God and the world that we appreciate and reverence, and would cultivate and disseminate the mighty truths and principles which brought our nation into existence, which constitute its very life, and of which it seems designated by Providence to be the special defender and protector.

I believe we should have a monument to perpetuate the remembrance of the great event, from which such manifold and inestimable blessings have sprung; some imperishable memorial of our gratitude to the authors of the Declaration of Independence; to the heroes who participated in the mighty struggle; an enduring witness of the great things done amongst us and for us; an embodiment of the origin and principles of our government; some distinguishing mark of the place of the nation's birth; a consecrated temple of liberty, about which unborn generations of Americans may meet and renew their assurances of fidelity to the principles of the Declaration and to their natural offspring—the Constitution and the Union. I am for this work most earnestly; and I trust that Pennsylvania will not permit it to fail; but that it may be pressed upon the attention of the original thirteen States, until each and all shall evince a willingness and determination to participate in the erection of this glorious structure. To this end I respectfully suggest to the General Assembly, the propriety of again calling the attention of the original States to the subject, by resolution or otherwise.

In closing my last communication to the General Assembly, and terminating my official relations with the people of my native Commonwealth, I may be indulged in a brief and general reference to her present proud position as a member of the great family of States, and to the patriotism, integrity, and general prosperity of her citizens. The advantageous geographical position of Pennsylvania, with a fine harbor open to the Atlantic, and another connecting her centrally with the magnificent chain of western lake navigation—her long branching rivers, spreading their arms and arteries through every portion of her territory—all added to her fertile soil and exhausted deposits of valuable minerals—present a combination of the natural elements of greatness, scarcely equalled in our own or any other quarter of the globe. These have made her an attractive field for the science, industry and enterprise of man; and all her natural advantages have been cherished and cultivated, until she has reached a condition of varied wealth and positive prosperity. Her system of internal improvements will safely compare with those of any sister State, whether in regard to completeness in construction, or the extent of country which they traverse. Nor have the higher hopes of humanity been disregarded by our statesmen, and the people at large; as the liberal provision for common schools, academies and colleges, and our numerous crowded churches attest; while, at the same time, the various Asylums for the insane and for the unfortunate of all classes and conditions, and Houses of Refuge, for the reformation of the wayward and erring, silently, yet surely bear witness that the cause of benevolence has always found effective advocates within her borders.

In physical improvement and population her progress has been steady and rapid. In the days of Governor Snyder the erection of a bridge over the Susquehanna river, and the construction of a turnpike road was the subject of executive exultation, and a matter of congratulation among the people. Now her whole surface is checked over with railroads, canals and other highways. Then the whole revenue of the State amounted to but \$450,000. Now they exceed five millions. Of the four large States her per centage of increase in population, since 1840, is the greatest; and she has besides, excelled the best of her sisters in the production of wheat, iron and coal. Her population numbers not less than two and a half millions; nearly as large as all the States at the time of the Revolution. The present value of her real and personal estates exceeds \$850,000,000. Her annual production of coal is worth in the market over twenty millions.—Her great interests of agriculture, and commerce are rapidly extending.

She has, in addition, a history of which we may well be proud. Within her limits is found the birth place of Independence—that sacred spot which first was declared the great truths which lie at the foundation of American nationality. In the maintenance of those truths, she bore a glorious part. Her contributions of men to the field, and money to the treasury—of talent and wisdom to the Congress of the Colonies, were not surpassed by those of any other State. It was her sons who crossed the Delaware and overthrew the tyrant under the lead of Washington, and for a time turned the tide of war. Again, in the struggle of 1812, for the rights of American citizenship, and in that of 1846, for American honor and progress, she contributed with a prouder generosity. The contest among her sons was not as to who should have the right to stay at home, but who should have the privilege of going into the field. Bearing this honorable part in matters of foreign war—she has had no less energetic participation in allaying domestic strife. Whenever the exigency seemed to require it, she has stood firmly by the Constitution and the Union, and contended for the rights of all sections of the country, and all classes and denominations of the people. Such is our State. To live and die within her limits, and to have borne even a very humble part in her civil service and in her history, I shall ever esteem a proud privilege—one that as it draws nearer to its close, swells my heart with gratitude to her people, at the recollection of the numerous proofs of confidence I have experienced at their hands. The fullness of my exultation in the character and happy condition of our beloved Commonwealth, and of the gratitude I have expressed, leaves no room in my bosom for

even a lingering regret at the decision of my fellow-citizens, which is soon to relieve me from the cares and labors of a public life. Its transient excitement have already been forgotten, and its alienations, if any, forgiven. I shall resume my place in the ranks of the people with a calm consciousness of having always sought to advance their best interests to the extent of my ability; and of never having yielded my convictions of right, either in subservience to any selfish purpose, or any narrow and unworthy prejudice.

Having adverted to various subjects of congratulation, in regard to the public affairs of my own State, I may be indulged in a brief reference, also, to the happy aspect of our common country, and the elevation it has reached among the nations of the earth, in the light of liberty, and through the workings of its benign institutions. Who amongst us, and throughout this broad land, does not experience at this moment, and at every moment, in his own condition, and the condition of those who surround him, the influence and benefit of our happy Union, and the well-considered compact by which it is sustained. A basis of calculation, exhibited by past experience, will give our country a population of thirty millions in less than ten years from the present time—of eighty millions in thirty years to come—and of one hundred millions at the close of the present century! But mere numbers are of no moment, compared with moral elements, in a nation's greatness. The vital strength and stability of the United States, as a people, consists in the substantial interest which each individual has in the permanency of those glorious institutions, which were baptized in the blood of our revolutionary struggle, and handed down to us as the sacred legacy of our fathers. Peril, or destruction, and we peril or destroy the share of sovereignty and equality which the States designed to secure, alike to the richest and poorest, to the highest and humblest in the land. The experience of more than three-fourths of a century proves, I am persuaded, that the American people, in the main, truly appreciate the beneficent structure and beautiful operation of our republican system. We are not an alien people, and have not open hostility from abroad, and have, at times before the present, been encountered by both the concealed and palpable spirit of faction at home; yet the Constitution still stands as widely and firmly riveted in the affections of the honest masses of American freemen, as at any former period of our history.

The more fruitful sources of our national prosperity, undoubtedly consist in the freedom, industry, and intelligence, of our people, and in the rich natural resources of our country, united to an advantageous commercial intercourse with a warring world. But there is one element which we should cherish as more potent than all these: it is the protection and encouragement afforded by the Union of the States, under an equitable and stable government. To this and the virtue of our citizens, under the smiles of Heaven, we are more indebted as a people, than to any other circumstance or relation. No one who has studied our history, and marked the spirit in which our Union was formed, can avoid the conviction that our government, as far as concerns the stability of our confederacy, must be one of opinion rather than force. Born in compromise and conciliation, it must be cherished in the same spirit; it must present itself to every member of this republic in the welcome guise of friendship and protection—not in exulting pride, or as wielding the strong arm of power.

We have before us the plain written compact of our fathers, to which they reflectively consented and subscribed, and so bound us who have succeeded them. Its blessings and its benefits have been felt throughout long years of unexampled prosperity. If we would change any of its provisions, let us, with at least equal candor and wisdom, pursue the mode of amendment which is pointed out with admirable precision, in the noble instrument itself. But until this is done, those amongst us, who, from whatever motive, or under whatever pretext, either openly or covertly, attempt to subvert the Union, or to violate its spirit, or to avoid compliance with its clear behests, dishonor the faith of their fathers, and deny their own palpable and solemn obligations. Entertaining these views, how can any American patriot regard, with the least degree of complacency, the continued and combated existence of one section of the country, against the domestic institutions of another; or the more recent organization of secret societies throughout the Union, based upon doctrines of exclusion and proscription, utterly at war with our National and State constitutions, and obnoxious to the liberal spirit of American republicanism? What admirer of the venerable father of his country, but must now feel, with resistless force, his solemn warnings against secret societies for political ends, as placing a powerful engine in the hands of the selfish and designing, and enabling them not only to acquire power unworthily, but also to sap and destroy the most sacred principles of our government?

In these reflections upon certain political organizations, if I rightly comprehend my own motives, I am actuated by no mere partisan hostility or resentment. Were I to say less at the present moment, I should still my clearest convictions of right, and shrink from a duty I owe to the people of Pennsylvania, who have so generally sustained me in various public relations in the past. Nay, more: I should, by silence in this regard, fail properly to reflect that constancy and unswerving faith which our noble Commonwealth has ever evinced toward the principles of our national compact, in reference to the freedom of conscience and universal religious toleration; and also to the wise doctrines of popular and State sovereignty, and the inherent right of self-government.

During the brief period which remains of my official term, I shall readily and cheerfully cooperate with the General Assembly in all proper measures, to advance the public weal; and I earnestly invoke upon our labors, and the labors of those who may follow us in our public career, the kindly care and keeping of that Great and Beneficent Being who holds the destinies of nations, as well as individuals, as it were, in the hollow of his hand, and without whose continued smile there can be neither national nor individual prosperity.

EXECUTIVE CHANCELLER, Harrisburg, January 3, 1855.

RENUNCIATION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES.—The Free-Will Baptists have expressed the following sentiment in regard to the Anti-Slavery character of professed Anti-Slavery political parties.

Resolved, That the repeated treachery to the slave, and the firm alliance with pro-slavery interests, which have characterized the old political parties, leave no adequate ground for confidence in their anti-slavery professions; and hence all political support given to those parties, as such, while bearing their present character, is inconsistent with a profession of anti-slavery or Christianity.

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

JNO. S. MANN, A. AVERY, Editors.

COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 18, 1855.

Lucius Binn is an agent for this paper, and is authorized to receive and receipt subscriptions.

The Rev. L. F. Porter will preach at the old Court House next Sabbath morning at half past ten.

N. B. Giddings, and Independent, Anti-Nebraska Democrat, is elected the Delegate to Congress from Nebraska by about 100 majority.

We have another capital article from Punch, received too late for this paper, but will appear in the next. This Correspondent has our thanks for his many favors, and we beg other friends of the paper to write out their views for publication.

Life Illustrated is the most perfect weekly paper in its mechanical arrangement, that we have ever seen. It is very good in its reading matter, as our columns have testified. It is published by Fowlers and Wells, N. York.

William Bigler's last message to the Legislature occupies most of this paper. There are some very good things in this document, and some that will add nothing to the credit of the retiring Governor. What he says about log-rolling legislation, and the common school system, will meet the hearty endorsement of all honest men.

We had the pleasure of attending the organization of a Lyceum at Oswayo on Monday evening, which went off with spirit and decorum. We hope those engaged in this effort will persevere, from winter to winter, making such improvements in their organization as experience may suggest. If they do this, it will be a great benefit to themselves and their neighborhood. We hope every hamlet in the county, where there are a half dozen who will engage in the work, will organize its Literary Society, for debating, Lecturing, or reading communications.

The Wesleyan of Syracuse, N. Y., the organ of that large body of independent Methodists who succeeded from the mother church for conscience sake, begins the new year and its 12th volume, with an elegant outfit which adds wonderfully to the appearance of this fearless champion of the right. Brother Matlack is one of the most indefatigable editors in the United States, and the Wesleyan under his management, deserves the most generous support. Price \$1.50 per year, in advance. Four copies for \$5.00.

The progressive movement of the people is gaining strength in all directions. The last mail brought us the first number of the American Watchman published at Lock Haven, Clinton Co., Pa., by T. Martin. It is a fine-looking paper, and the editor in his Salutatory makes the following significant announcement:

The Democratic party, in many well-fought battles, has succeeded in beating down its opponents, and has made its policy the policy of the country, which doubtless it will continue to be for many years to come. It has fulfilled its mission and finished the work whereunto it was sent, whether for good or evil, is hidden in the womb of time. With that party the editor of this paper was identified, and uniformly supported it, believing that the welfare of the country depended upon its success; nor does he now see anything to regret in his past action. But the law of progress is absolute; no man can stand still—Americans cannot rest with what they have achieved for human freedom and individual rights. They have yet much to do, not only for the perpetuation of the liberty they now enjoy, but for the disenfranchisement of millions who yet write in the toils of despotism both physical and mental.

ELECTIONS AT TAVERNS. One of the first things our next Legislature should turn its attention to, is the divorce of Elections from the Liquor interest—removing the places of voting from the grog shops. The change has long been needed, and is now a days more than ever. School Houses, when convenient, are proper and appropriate election places. We are glad to see a number of the leading papers in the State speaking on this subject—keep it going until the desired end is attained.

The above from the Gettysburg Star and Banner, we heartily endorse. Let School Houses, instead of Taverns, be occupied for election purposes in the several Townships of the several Counties of the Commonwealth. We unite in the demand for a law of the kind indicated.—Eric Gazette.

Keep that ball in motion. There are four Townships in this County in which Hunkerism was greatly assisted at the late election, because the electors met at liquor taverns to deposit their votes. We unite in the demand to remove the places of holding the elections from grog shops.

A FREEMAN'S RESPONSE TO THE BASE PROPOSAL TO SILENCE A FREE PAPER.

A friend in Clara sent us by last mail twelve new subscribers with the cash—an example which we commend to other friends who desire the triumph of Freedom and Temperance. We have received more than a hundred new subscribers since the commencement of last Court, which has greatly strengthened our hands and encouraged us in the work before us. Should the same interest in extending our circulation be continued a few months longer, that has been manifested for a month past, we shall have a list of which any county editor might be proud. What say you, friends in Bingham, Allegany, and Hector? Will you cooperate with your brethren in other sections of the county to give the Journal an independent and influential position? We ask this question of freemen who do their own thinking, and not of those men who can be fooled with smooth words that mean nothing, into the support of pro-slavery men and measures—who think more of receiving the smiles and compliments of the rich, than of maintaining Republican principles. Of them we ask nothing. They will of course go where thrift may follow flattery. But we have an abiding faith that a large majority of the people of this county are honest-hearted, independent Republicans, who hate oppression in all its forms, and who love free speech and free men too well to be silenced by the promises of slave holding cottages and improvements; so we shall labor on, saying what we think, and asking for the support of our paper, all who are not ready to pass under the yoke of slavery. Before any of our soulless men make the attempt to silence free speech in this county, in the hope of thereby securing southern favor and patronage, (bear in mind the devil's offer to Christ if he would but worship him,) we ask them to ponder on the following truism:

No error of opinion is a hundredth part as detrimental to the interests of men as the forcible suppression of opinion; either by the European modes of suppression or the American.

AMERICAN FREEMAN.

This paper takes the place of the Promulgator & Freeman, but is edited by the same untiring friend of humanity. We congratulate Mr. Clark on the improved appearance of his paper, which we hope is an indication of material prosperity commensurate with his services in the good cause. We also congratulate him on his good fortune in securing the services of so able and tried an advocate of our cause, as the Rev. A. B. Bradford. With such aid, and his own skill and experience in conducting a paper, the Freeman must be one of the ablest and most valuable papers in western Pennsylvania. And then the new name, American Freeman, yes, that is a decided improvement, and we hope is significant of the course of the paper. It is quite time that American ideas, and feelings, and principles, were the predominant ones in this country, and we welcome every indication in that direction.

The following question will be discussed at the next meeting of the Literary Association, on Tuesday evening next. We trust there will be a general attendance:

"Ought all laws against usury, to be repealed?"

Affirmative: F. W. KNOX, JOHN MANN, T. B. TYLER, HENRY YOUNG.

The telegraph brings us the gratifying intelligence of the election of the Rev. James Harlan, Anti-Nebraska candidate from Iowa, for U. S. Senator for the full term from the 1st of March next, to succeed Gen. Augustus C. Dodge, of Nebraska infamy. Mr. Harlan was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, in 1847, over Chief Justice Mason, (the present Commissioner of Patents,) by 400 majority, and again in 1848 over Thomas H. Benton, Jr., but was defrauded out of the certificate by a process in Iowa termed "Cutlerization," and this cheated out of the office, Mr. Harlan received the Whig nomination for Governor in 1850, but we believe he did not run. On the withdrawal of Fitz Henry Warren, Mr. Harlan was put in nomination as the Republican candidate, and received the support of all Mr. Warren's friends. A few of the Silver Grays formed a fusion with the Nebraskaites, and endeavored to elect Ebenezer Cook, a renegade Whig, as Dodge's successor; but as the result has shown, this Hunker coalition has been signally beaten.—N. Y. Tribune, Jan. 10.