

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

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THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 25, 1855.

We are under obligations to Hon. Wm. Fearon, Jr., for various and valuable public documents:

Next week we shall publish an original poetical story; by one of the natives.

Brief thoughts on reform, No. 1, by Jonathan, is very good. Please write again soon.

P. Pry, Jr., received too late for this number. Will appear next week. Please write again.

There is no Foreign news of importance. The Allies have not yet taken Sevastopol; and there is a fresh attempt to settle all difficulties by Diplomacy.

On the third Friday in February, the people will meet together in Town meeting, and among other duties, will elect two school Directors to serve for three years. Thus they will have an opportunity to make the Town meeting a very efficient educational society. Will they embrace the opportunity and elect School Directors who are devoted to the cause, and capable of making their devotion effective in the improvement of the schools?

We take peculiar pleasure in calling the attention of the reader to the Inaugural Address of Governor Pollock. It is a noble document, and will exert a powerful influence in favor of the right and true. Whoever compares this address with that of the retiring Governor Higler, will have no difficulty in seeing which Magistrate is the frank, bold and determined advocate of Republicanism, and which is the dodging, timid, smooth-tongued demagogue.

A friend in Oswayo has just handed us six dollars for six new subscribers, and promises as many more in a few days. That is what we call the practical way of sustaining a free press, and we return our unfeigned thanks to these friends who have made such noble efforts to increase the list of the Journal. If all parts of the county would wake up as well as a half dozen Townships have, we should soon be at the top of the ladder. It is an easy matter to make the printer rejoice, when you once make up your mind to do it. Who speaks next?

OUR LARIMER.

We are deeply pained at the misfortune which has overtaken this public spirited and large-hearted man. The panic caused by the failure of several prominent houses in Pittsburg, caused a run upon his bank too severe to be sustained under the peculiar stringency of the money market. Mr. Larimer has invested very large sums in various public improvements, which will add much to the prosperity of Pittsburg, but are not available to him at present. He has also contributed large sums to private enterprises, and is one of the best men in western Pennsylvania. He has a host of friends, who will be happy to do all in their power to relieve him from his present embarrassments, and none of his creditors will suffer at his hands.

"Laziness in the South, and money in the North, are the chief bulwarks of Slavery. The South virtually says to the slave, 'Be lazy, for all that you earn shall do you no good; be lazy, for when you are old and helpless we are bound to take care of you.' It is this apparent care for the helplessness of slaves, that has won many northern men, and many who ought to have known better the effect of taking off from men the responsibility of labor, in both ways, its fruition and its penalty. Once declare in New York that Government would take care of poverty and old age, so as to make it honorable, and it would be a premium upon improvidence. With us, it is expected that every man will work, will earn, will lay up, will deliver his family from public charity. There is, to be sure, an Alms House to catch all who, by misfortune or improvidence, fall through. But such is the public opinion in favor of the personal independence springing from industry, that a native-born American citizen had rather die than go to an Alms House."

THE AGGRESSIONS OF SLAVERY.

Every intelligent man has known for years that the South had been year by year making encroachments on the rights of the free North, but it was not so well understood how those encroachments were made.

The Rev. H. W. Beecher in his Lecture at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on the 16th inst., accounts for this in part in the following passage:

It is very plain that while nominally republican institutions exist in both the North and South, they are animated by a very different spirit, and used for a different purpose. In the North, they aim at the welfare of the whole people; in the South they are the instruments by which a few courtiers and many in the North, they tend toward Democracy; in the South, toward Oligarchy.

It is equally plain that while there may be a union between Northern and Southern States, it is external, or commercial, and not internal and vital, springing from common ideas, common ends, and common sympathies. It is a union of merchants and politicians, and not of the people.

Had these opposite and discordant systems been left separate to work out each its own results, there would have been but little danger of collision or contest. But they are politically united. They come together into one Congress. There these antagonistic principles, which creep with subtle influence through the very veins of their respective States, break out into open collision upon every question of national policy. And, since the world began, a republican spirit is unfit to secure power. It generates it in the many. But an aristocratic spirit always has aptitude and impulse toward power. It seeks and grasps it as naturally as a hungry lion prowls and grasps its prey.

For fifty years the imperious spirit of the South has sought and gained power. It would have been of but little consequence were that power still republican. The seat of empire may be indifferently on the Massachusetts Bay or on the Ohio, on the Lakes or on the Gulf, if it be the same empire, acting in good faith for the same democratic ends.

But in the South the growth of power has been accompanied by a marked revolution in political faith, until now the theory of Mr. Calhoun, once scouted, is becoming the popular belief. And that theory differs in nothing from outright European Aristocracy, save in the forms and instruments by which it works. The struggle, then, between the North and the South is not one of sections, and of parties, but of Principles—of principles being at the foundations of governments—of principles that cannot coalesce, nor compromise; that must hate each other, and contend, until the one shall drive out the other.

Oh! how little do men dream of the things that are transpiring about them! In Luther's days, how little they knew the magnitude of the results pending that controversy of the friar's monk and haughty Pope! How little did the frivolous courtier know the vastness of that struggle in which Hampden, Milton and Cromwell acted! We are in just such another era. Dates will begin in the period in which we live!

Do not think that all the danger lies in that bolted cloud which flashes in the Southern horizon. There is decay, and change here in the North. Old New-England, that sucked American liberty, is now sucking wolves to devour it.

"For fifty years the imperious spirit of the South has sought and gained power." Why? Because, in nearly every county seat throughout the Free States there have been wolves devouring the Republican spirit. Men who have placed party above principle. Who made it their constant effort to deceive the people on the slavery question—telling them there was no danger, and if they would only stop agitating they could pay for their farms easier, or could get more work as mechanics. Even now, these men tell the people it is better to keep quiet. What if slavery does go into Kansas? What harm will it do the people of Potter county? For an answer to all such questions, we ask the reader to look over the above passage again, and if he is not then satisfied, ask himself what harm it will do to have the "sun of all villainies" and the meanest despotism on the face of the earth, take possession of all our western Territories. We shall give farther extracts from this masterly Lecture, which we trust will induce our readers to procure it and read the whole. It is worth a half year's subscription to the weekly Tribune, in which it will doubtless appear this week. We take it from the Daily of Jan. 17th.

Messrs., I communicate the following, thinking that it may compensate our temperance friends for their labor in a righteous cause. Two of our citizens concluded to have a *New Year's*,—and as whiskey with them was always the first guest, a fine load of wood was started for town, the avails of which was to purchase it. They first applied to Maj. Mills—"No, gentlemen, you can't have a drop." This brought on a damper, but there was an expedient. "We'll go to the Druggist; and under pretense of sickness can succeed." But guess at their chagrin, when informed by Mr. Tyler that their sickness must be attested by a physician. What volleys then rolled out, and are still rolling against the Maine Law! So instead of whiskey, which has already made one as wretched a being as the world ever saw, they brought home tea, molasses, &c. A CITIZEN.

The above is sent us by a man of undoubted integrity, who touches for

its truth, and in a private note gives the names of the men who came for the whiskey. We are greatly encouraged by such facts, and we thank our friend for the information. We think it equal to almost any Temperance Lecture, and it shows what agitation has done for the cause of Temperance. We shall labor on in undoubting faith that the same means will accomplish like results for the Anti-Slavery cause.

We are much gratified with the part Major Mills has in this transaction, and trust the day is not distant when his good sense and honorable feelings will induce him to answer all applications for intoxicating drinks with "No, Sir, you can't have a drop."

THE SCHOOL LAW.

The following abstract of certain portions of the School Law has been prepared by the County Superintendent, and revised by several gentlemen of legal attainments, and is published for the benefit of all persons concerned:

DUTIES AND POWERS OF DIRECTORS.

1. Each Board of Directors must establish a sufficient number of schools in the district, for the accommodation of all the pupils in the district, between the ages of five and twenty-one, who seek instruction. They must also provide suitable school-houses, or school-rooms, with proper convenience and fuel.

2. They must oversee the schools, and once at least of their number must visit each school in the district as often as once a month, and a report of such visits must be entered on the minutes of the Board.

3. They must employ suitable teachers, and may at any time dismiss a teacher, by verbal or written notice, for incompetence, negligence, cruelty, or immorality. They should make no contract with a teacher not holding a certificate from the County Superintendent, and cannot legally pay a teacher without such certificate.

4. They must direct what branches of learning shall be taught; but it is expected that the following branches at least will be taught in every school, viz.:—Orthography, Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Geography, and Arithmetic.

5. They must also direct what books shall be used in the district during each school year, and to this end are required to hold a meeting immediately after their election, the teachers being present, and make a selection for the year.

6. They may suspend or expel from the school all pupils found guilty, on full conviction and hearing, of refractory or incorrigibly bad conduct "in school."

7. They must make an Annual Report to the County Superintendent, on or before the first Monday in June, for which purpose blanks are provided through the County Superintendent.

8. They must keep open all the necessary school in the district at least four months in each school year, and certify the fact to the County Superintendent, for which purpose blanks are provided through him. Without this certificate, the State appropriation cannot be obtained, nor any school tax that is levied be lawfully collected.

9. They must make arrangements, when circumstances require it, to enable pupils in the district to attend a school more convenient in an adjoining district.

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

Teachers must make a monthly report to the Directors, and Directors are prohibited from paying any teacher unless such reports are made. The reports of the teachers should be filed by the Secretary, and are subject to the inspection of any citizen of the district.

TAXES.

1. In addition to the ordinary tax for supporting the schools, the directors in any district may, once in a school year, if necessary, levy a special tax for school-house building purposes. This tax is to be levied and collected at the same time, in the same manner and with the same authority as the regular annual tax; and must not exceed the amount of that tax for that year.

2. The business of farming, or working on a farm, is not taxable as an occupation; but farmers or farm-laborers, if single freemen, are taxable as such.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

1. He must visit all the schools in the county as often as practicable; he must note the branches taught, and the mode of teaching; he must also, in conjunction with the Directors, give instruction and advice in the mode of teaching.

2. He must see that the requisite branches are taught in each school, and must notify the directors of any neglect in this respect.

3. He must examine all persons who wish to teach, and apply for examination, and grant the proper certificate to such as are found qualified.

4. He may for good reason annul any certificate given by himself or predecessor, first giving ten days' notice to the teacher and directors concerned.

A GOOD CHANCE FOR LAWYERS is advertised by the St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer, as follows: "One hundred able-bodied lawyers are wanted in Minnesota to break prairie land, split rails, and cord wood. Eastern and Southern papers please copy." What a blessing if they would all go to tilling the soil instead of *soiling* the soil. (That last is an original idea of our own, and we protest against its being stolen!)—*Sat. (Lan.) Express.*

IS KANSAS TO BE GIVEN UP TO SLAVERY?

This question will be practically decided very soon. The slaveholders are determined to make it a slave State. The people of the free States are opposed to this extension of the hateful curse. But the leaders of the sham Democracy, are in alliance with the slaveholders, and are doing their utmost to prevent any action of the people to save Kansas from the peril which hangs over it. Before the election these same leaders told their followers that Kansas was safe enough—Slavery would never go there, and hence there was no use in leaving the party to vote for freedom. This false pretense was not believed in many places, but it took in this county, and so we found nearly every old line democrat who pretended to be opposed to the extension of slavery sticking to the party that repeated the Missouri Compromise, on the ground that Kansas was safe from the pollution of slavery. Well, the election is over, and the Delegate from Kansas is carried for slavery by fraud and outrage. And what do the leaders of hunker democracy propose to do now? Why, simply that the people shall stop agitating, and let slaveholders have everything their own way. Yes, the people of the free States, and particularly of this county are expected to stick to the party, fold their arms, put a padlock on their lips, and send ex-slaveholders to Congress, "that slavery may be established and magnified in Kansas, that barracks may there be built, handcuffs manufactured, and the auction block erected whereon may be exposed to public sale the image of God—where husbands may be sold from their wives, wives from husbands, parents from children, and children from parents!"

We ask the voters of this county if they propose to permit this to be done without making an effort to prevent it. If not, what do they propose to do? The active friends of freedom propose to all opponents of slavery extension to unite together and form a new party, whose first object shall be, to exclude slavery by act of Congress from all the Territory of the United States, and to prevent the admission of any more slave States. If any other way can be suggested by which the extension of slavery can be prevented, will some of those Anti-Nebraska Democrats who voted the old party ticket please inform us? If no other way can be suggested, then it will follow that those who continue to support the old party, have given up their opposition to slavery extension, and are ready to submit to the control of slavery. How many in this county have become thus servile future elections will show.

NOT TO BE GOVERNED BY A MERE SPIRIT OF GAIN.

The allies of Slavery in Milwaukee are astonished that the people should oppose the Government, in view of the harbor improvements lately made. This *Free Democrat* of Jan. 8 says:

"The Marshal and one of the Grand Jurors were, last night, speaking of the ingratitude of the indicted in refusing Glover, when the U. S. Government had done so much for us, in the way of Harbors, &c."

What would the men who followed Washington to Valley Forge think of such base propositions? What would the men of New-England, who spurned the prospect of gain if they would submit to British aggressions, think of their descendants who would consent to suppress their free thoughts for the sake of securing Southern support? It seems our British tyrants had the same idea of purchasing the acquiescence of our forefathers that the Slavery men have of purchasing acquiescence now. In his Bunker Hill Oration, Webster says:—"It had been anticipated that while the Colonists would be terrified by the severity of the punishment inflicted on Massachusetts, the other seaports would be governed by a mere spirit of gain." "How miserably such reasoners deceived themselves. ••• Everywhere the unworthy boon was rejected with scorn."

We make these quotations for the benefit of those men in this county who are disposed to listen to the proposition of hunkerism, to stop agitating and "be governed by a mere spirit of gain." We suspect the ally of Slavery who made this base proposition will be as miserably deceived as were the British tyrants in 1776.

Messrs. Editors: I am glad to see the interest which is being manifested of late on the subject of improvements in our common schools. I hope the subject will be agitated until, if not all, at least some of the evils inherent in the present system will be remedied. In a former article on this subject, I gave it as my opinion that there should be an equitable division of the school moneys among the several districts, without regard to the number of months' school in each. This will bear a different construction from what I intended should be given to it. I would not be in favor of giving money to a district that should have no school at all. I gave that opinion on the supposition (though I failed to express it) that there should be a minimum fixed by law of the number of months a school should be kept to entitle a district to any money at all; and having complied with this condition, should receive its just proportion without reference to the quantity of school it might see fit to have exceeding that amount. Suppose the minimum to be six months in a year, by a qualified teacher, without which a district would not be entitled to its share of money; would not every district exert itself to come up to the requisition? while districts that were able could have as much more as they pleased. In connection with this plan, there should also be an alteration in the mode of levying and collecting taxes for school purposes. That our County Superintendents can do more to discover and point out the defects in our present school system, or the operation of it, than any other set of men, I have not a doubt; and their suggestions for remedying the evils complained of will receive greater consideration than they would coming from any other source. Mr. Calkins, of Tioga, it seems has already directed his attention to the subject, and he does not fail to discover the inefficiency of the director system. One of the evils of which he complains, viz: the want of proper town supervision, the Directors not being sufficiently distributed through the districts, &c., is inherent in the system itself, and can only be remedied by abolishing it, and adopting a better one. It is not always possible for every district to have a director residing within its limits; and there is, moreover, a certain strange feeling, which sometimes exhibits itself among the people, even in school districts—a sort of vague idea that they have some rights of their own, and are fully competent to manage their own affairs—especially in so small a matter as the education of their children—as outsiders, who have little interest and less responsibility, are to do it for them. Add to this the fact that Directors (there being so many of them) are often chosen with very little reference to their qualifications for the office, and that their duties (if they perform them as they should) are necessarily arduous, often requiring considerable travel, to say nothing of the expenses, and for which they are paid \$800,00, and we have a little insight into the superlative excellencies of the system.

I fear Mr. Calkins' remedy for the evils of which he complains would be worse than the disease. He would have the County Superintendents co-operating with the Town Superintendent, appoint a Director "near each school-house, to take that local supervision," eh? Why not let the territory around each school-house have an organization, and elect its own Director, and other officers, if necessary, "to take that local supervision," and transact other business properly coming within the sphere of their operation?

Or would that be too near an approximation to Democratic principles to be compatible with safety? It is possible the people might abuse their privileges if so much power were placed in their hands, but I should like for one to see the experiment tried. Perhaps it may be proper to explain that I have used the term "district" uniformly to designate, not a town ship,—but that interesting portion of country whose nucleus and focal point is the district schoolhouse, from which emanate, and radiate in every direction, beams of intelligence, constituting the chief glory of our country, and in their multifarious ramifications penetrating every nook and corner of the land.

I may be somewhat under the influence of early New England prejudices in these matters, and it occurs to me whether even the State of Pennsylvania might not be benefited by the reception of a little light from her Northern neighbors in perfecting her system of common schools. I hope it may not always be said that she is a quarter or half a century behind them in a matter of such vital importance.

P. S. I like your suggestion to Farmers to write for the Journal; won't some of our more experienced and successful farmers take the hint, and "let their light shine," tell us how you manage to raise your biggest crops, and a host of other things we'd like to know; you might in this way not only add to the interest of the paper, but confer a rich benefit on the county. I should be glad if some one through the Journal would give the best method to secure a good crop of wheat in Potter county.

For the Journal.

For the Journal.

BRIEF THOUGHTS ON REFORM. No. 1.

AGITATION.

Is the first stage of all great reforms. Christianity was cradled amidst the whirlwinds of agitation, and in its onward triumph over darkness, error, and sin, has been dependent upon it for success. The truth is, mankind never advance in morals, intelligence, or politics, while they are sleeping in their present condition. What but agitation in regard to the oppressions of the "mother country" awakened her oppressed children to a sense of duty, and prepared them for the great conflicts which resulted in American Independence? And what but agitation can arouse our countrymen to a just sense of the moral and political evils existing in our government, fostered and protected by our laws? We must be aroused to the evils existing among us, ere we can feel the importance of exerting our influence to eradicate them. Hence, as a lever of reform, and progress, we go in favor of agitating the public mind in relation to every actual evil, and every defective system existing in our country, until public opinion becomes corrected and controlled by principles of righteousness. We harbor no fears in the application of the principle to the direct moral political evils, which are fostered by our national laws, and are satisfied that agitation may open her batteries upon the most "peculiar institutions" and not endanger the "Union." In an enlightened government, any principle or system which will not bear the light, should be removed and destroyed. I am aware that a class of political partisans profess many imaginary fears in the general application of agitation, being particularly in love with or troubled about the fate of the great "Diana." But it is consoling to know that even these are in favor of reforming and elevating the common school system. We give them all due credit for their good works in Potter county, and bid them a hearty God speed in their efforts in this department of reform. Verily, we have hopes of humanity, yet!

Our school system needs to be reformed—radically changed—in many respects, before it can subserve its objects. To effect this enterprise, we must agitate the subject—keep it before the people—point out its present defects—suggest proper remedies, and labor on till our purposes are accomplished. The scholar, the statesman, the philanthropist, may labor in this field side by side; and even should the clergy enter in the work and "preach politics," they might not be charged with "desecrating the Sabbath" or the pulpit, or trampling upon any *in-dent-ures* by which some demagogues would cramp their consciences, or stifle their convictions of duty to God and humanity, as when touching the subjects of temperance and freedom. As we all agree that the "Union" is not in danger from agitating the subject of a reform in our school system, we can all unite our efforts and labor together for its renovation and perfection.

Alam has been expressed in France lest the Czar should excite revolutions in Hungary and Italy, to punish Austria for the English Alliance.

Beale, the dentist, has been pardoned.