

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

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

COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 15, 1855.

PHOTOGRAPHS.—See advertisement of Thos. H. Johnson.

A stringent Prohibitory Liquor Law has passed both branches of the Indiana Legislature.

The communication of P. Fry, Jr., in another column, gives a very faithful picture of some of our Court scenes.

See an article on the outside from the N. Y. Tribune, in relation to the Fugitive Slave bill and its workings.

We give on the first page another extract from the lecture of H. W. Beecher, showing the effect of Slavery on Education and Common Schools at the South.

The public-spirited young gentlemen who made an excellent track on the sidewalks of our village after the deep snow of Wednesday last, are entitled to the thanks of the citizens.

Augustus Ciesar Dodge, of Iowa, has been appointed by the President Minister to Spain.

The excellent address of W. B. Graves, issued at the request of Millport Lodge of Good Templars, was best received by us till our last paper was made up.

We again call attention to the notice of Rev. S. E. Smith, that the dedication of the new and beautiful Methodist Church in this place will take place on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at which time we hope to see a large number of friends in attendance.

Mrs. Editors: In my article of last week your printer's types (perhaps the manuscript is to be blamed) make bad work in several places.

Had "JONATHAN" written his communication with as much care, and with as good ink as the above, the errors might not have occurred.

The friends of education in Coudersport, are invited to meet at the old Court House, on Saturday evening, the 17th instant, to take into consideration the subject of our Common Schools, and to elect delegates to represent this Borough in the county Convention, of Monday evening next.

J. M. HAMILTON, Sec'y of Coudersport School Directors.

THE TRAMP OF FREEDOM

Last week we had the pleasure of announcing to our readers the election of Henry Wilson to the Senate of the United States.

This week we have news of a still more stirring character. William H. Seward, the higher law man, for whose overthrow all the allies of slavery have been at work for so long a time, is reelected to the Senate of the United States for six years from the fourth of March next.

But better still, the Hon. Charles Durkee, one of the old Liberty guard, who can neither be bribed nor frightened into acquiescing in any of the schemes for slavery aggression, is elected from Wisconsin for six years.

But there is yet another indication of this feeling quite as unmistakable as the election of Durkee to the Senate. S. M. Booth, editor of the Milwaukee Free Democrat, who was lately convicted of doing a "most humane act" which violated the fugitive slave bill, and sentenced to a fine of one thousand dollars, and thirty days' imprisonment, has been discharged from the imprisonment and fine, by the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin, on the ground that the fugitive slave bill is unconstitutional.

Since writing the above we have received the most gratifying intelligence, that the Hon. Lyman Trumbull has been elected Senator from Illinois in place of General Shields, who supported the Douglas fraud.

COUDERSPORT, February 8, 1855. To the Editors of the People's Journal:

In your columns of to-day appears a communication entitled "H. H. Dent vs. the Census," in which it is assumed that I am editor of the Highland Patriot, and the author of an editorial article appearing in a recent number of that newspaper.

It gives us no pleasure to say that we think the above note will not add to the reputation of the writer, in this county.

Our correspondent "FACT," in common with a majority of his neighbors, believed that H. H. Dent was the real editor of the Patriot, and we permitted him to say through our columns what he thought.

When the writer of the above note shall show by his conduct that he respects the feeling and character of others, he will find no one in this community to wound his own.

SHALL KANSAS BECOME A SLAVE STATE?

There are not a hundred men in this county who are willing to see slavery extended. We think there are not half that number.

But a large number of those who desire to oppose the extension of slavery, have been deceived into voting for it. They were told time and again that slavery would not go to Kansas. Now that it is there, the leaders of sham democracy are as silent about it as if it was a matter of no consequence.

Four Southern members of Congress addressed a letter to Gen. B. F. FRISWELL, a Missionary of note, containing these enquiries: Will Kansas be a slaveholding State? Is Slave labor profitable in Kansas? Is it safe to take slaves to Kansas now?

The reply of Gen. Friswell is too long for our columns, but the following is sufficient for our purpose: "Is it safe to take slaves to Kansas now?"

From the law there can be no danger. Slaves are now, and have been for years, in the Territory, so that slavery, in fact, is already established. I need not say to you that no lawyer, unless he was an abolitionist, will pretend that any positive law is necessary to make slavery legal.

See what comes of repealing the Missouri Compromise. The slaveholders are publicly boasting that they have got possession of Kansas and will keep it; and yet every Administration democrat is as silent as death about it.

The Every-Day Workings of Slavery.

As there are a few men in this county who think the people can be brought into submission to the rule of Slavery, we shall now and then let our readers see what are the legitimate fruits of placing one class of human beings in the absolute power of another class.

A family of negroes, consisting of a woman, 40 years of age, a splendid Cook, Washer, and Ironer, and her Three Children, viz: a dark mulatto Girl, about 16 years of age, a most excellent Nurse, and good Seamstress, and accustomed to all kinds of housework; also a Girl, about 16 years of age, a good House-servant; also a boy, about 11 years of age, who is a very good and useful boy, fully guaranteed. They are slaves of excellent character, and are sold only from necessity. A bargain will be given to any one who will buy the family together.

The Telegraph comments on this "rare chance" as follows:

Mr. Greenwood, you are mistaken. Such servants are often offered for sale, if we may believe the advertisements in the Southern papers. Sold only from necessity, indeed! Whose necessity? Who is this great liberality Greenwood, and by what title does he relieve his countrymen in this way?

her children, will compel the next purchaser to sell the nurse or the young boy away from the mother. Such is the inevitable working of the system which our Congressmen think so admirable that it must be protected and encouraged by legislative bounties.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.

The Hon. Lewis Cass has said and written more on the duty of the Representative to obey the instructions of his constituents, than any other man. He also claims to be the father of the doctrine that Congress has no right to prohibit the establishment of Slavery in any territory of the United States, but that the people of the Territory may establish slavery if they choose.

The people of Michigan have got tired of the rule of slavery, so they united last fall, without regard to former political distinctions—carried the State for freedom, and the Republican Legislature then elected have just instructed the Senators from that State as to the wishes of the people on the slavery question.

We publish these resolutions for two reasons,—to show the principles of the Republican party, and also, that our readers may see with what facility a sham democrat will eat his own words; for nobody is so green as to expect that General Cass will either obey the instructions, or resign his seat.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the further extension of Slavery, or the recognition or permission thereof in any territory now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the United States.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be, and that they are hereby, instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure the passage of an act of Congress that shall prohibit the introduction or existence of Slavery in any of the Territories of the United States, and especially in Kansas and Nebraska, and to introduce without delay a bill for this latter purpose.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be, and that they are hereby, instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure the repeal of the act of 1850, known as the Fugitive Slave Law.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING IN HEBRON.

On Monday evening, February 5th, an Educational Meeting was held in School House District No. 1. Rev. H. W. Babcock was called to the Chair, and S. H. Storrs appointed Secretary.

Remarks were made by H. L. Bird and the Chair and others.

On motion, Sylvester Greenman, H. W. Babcock, Joseph Stone, W. H. Metzgar, W. H. Hydrorn, E. A. Richmond, and Julius Baker were appointed delegates to the Educational Convention to be held in Coudersport on Monday evening of Court Week.

On motion, a meeting was appointed at the Hollenback School House one week from this evening, and the Rev. Mr. Babcock requested to deliver an address on that occasion.

On motion, resolved that we extend to Mr. Pradt a vote of thanks for the able address with which he has favored us this evening.

On motion, resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the county papers.

The meeting then adjourned with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Pradt.

S. H. STORRS, Secretary.

Resignation of United States Commissioner.

George W. Meeker, Esq., has resigned his office of U. S. Commissioner, which he has held for many years, in Chicago, owing to his repugnance to acting under the Fugitive Slave Law. The following is a copy of his resignation:

To the Judges of the Circuit District Court U. S., Dist. Illinois: Being unwilling to aid in enforcing the Fugitive Slave Law, I hereby resign the office of United States Commissioner, for a long time held by me under your appointment.

To the members of the several Lodges of the I. O. G. T. in the County of Potter.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Engaged as we are, with the Demon of Intoxication, it behooves us to employ all honorable and justifiable means for the purpose of defeating this dire enemy of our country and our race. The rum power is entrenched behind the forms of law, and strengthened by the interests of one portion, and the appetites and prejudices of another portion of its associates. They are united and active, crafty and unscrupulous, and will do all that desperate men, urged on by such motives, can do.

The object of this communication is, not to argue the question of the propriety or policy of the law, for that you are already convinced; but to ask you, one and all, to petition our Legislature at its present session to pass such a law.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be, and that they are hereby, instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure the repeal of the act of 1850, known as the Fugitive Slave Law.

W. B. GRAVES, W. S.

P. S. If petitions are not furnished you, any one can copy the following short form and circulate it: To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly convened:

The undersigned, citizens of the county of Potter, pray your honorable bodies to pass a General Law prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating drinks as a beverage. If, however, the late popular vote should be considered a decision against it, we pray you to pass such a law for those counties that voted for it; and especially for the county of Potter.

MILLPORT, Jan. 31, 1855.

KANSAS AND SLAVERY.

We hope the people of the North appreciate the dangers that beset Kansas. There is one way to free her from them, and a good way. This, is, as we have often declared, to fill up the Territory with emigrants not in the interest of the Slavery Propaganda. But if this fails, as it may, there is another. This is by an inflexible determination of the free States that Kansas shall never be admitted to this Union as a slave State.

LIVING IN SECRET.—Rev. Mr. Goodwin who lately got a seat in the state Senate by his connection with a secret society, is said to be a member of all the secret organizations in the state. He has, we see, just been elected Associate Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Masons now or lately in session at Albany.

cowed and driven back for the last time in Congress on the question of Slavery extension. If they have not, God help the United States of America! For the coming, possible, we will not yet say probable, struggle, let every northern man gird on his armor. —N. Y. Tribune.

It will be my effort in this and following articles to make some suggestions that appear to me to be called for, in the hope that if nothing more is effected, at least they may furnish food for reflection. In the first place, then, a state of things has grown up in our Courts that should not be tolerated, in relation to the trial of minor offences subject to indictment. For instance, Jack Snaphire, having received what he considers a personal affront from Tom Saucebox, tweaks Tom's nose. Tom, resenting the injury done his visage, and being doubly moved by considerations of revenge, and also of being at the same time a conservator of the public peace, applies to Mr. Attorney Pettifog for legal redress.

Moved mainly by the necessity of doing something to save themselves from this dilemma, both parties enter into the contest in earnest. Eminent counsel are employed, who, when the case comes on for trial, carefully write down all the testimony, lengthening out both the direct and cross examination of witnesses to the utmost limit of their ingenuity, and dragging in very much that is entirely irrelevant, in order if possible to make the Jury lose sight of the plain fact, in the sea of supposition and assumption with which they labor to surround the case.

Finally, in summing up, there must be two speeches on a side, of from one to three hours in length! And the Court is expected to review the testimony and lay down the law applicable to the case, in a clear and forcible manner. In this way, about two days have dragged their slow length along; and it would not be at all surprising if some of the Jurymen, after the case is submitted to them, should have lost sight of the cause of complaint amidst the learned dust that has been raised by counsel, and refuse to agree on a verdict—leaving all the tiresome work to be done over again.

Is this picture overdrawn? If so, let some one better informed say how much. To obviate much of this unmitigated humbug, let the Court at once abolish the custom of waiting for attorneys to write down the testimony in this class of cases, dismiss witnesses as soon as they have once related the facts of which they are cognizant, compel attorneys to try such cases on the strong points, confine them strictly to a very short time to review the evidence, state the law applicable to the case in brief, and my word for it, justice will be much more likely to be attained than under the present practice, and with a saving of four-fifths of the time and expense.

CHEAP PAPER.—The success of Basswood paper seems certain.