

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

JAC. S. MANN, A. FERRY, Editors.

COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1855.

The Spring Term of the Coudersport Academy commences next Monday, March 5.

We have two more communications on hand in relation to the Teachers' Meeting. They are pretty good, and will appear next week.

M. H. Cobb, editor of the Wellsborough Register, will lecture before the Coudersport Literary Association this Thursday evening. Mr. C. is one of the best writers in Northern Pennsylvania, and we bespeak for him a full house of attentive listeners.

A new British Cabinet has been formed, with Lord Palmerston at the head. It is about like the old one, and will soon fail to please. There will be no strong Cabinet formed, until the people are better represented in the House of Commons.

We are in receipt of the Pennsylvania School Journal for February, which is filled with useful and interesting matter. No Teacher should be without this valuable aid. Published monthly by Thomas H. Burrows, at Lancaster, Pa., for one dollar per annum.

The communication of "Jane," in reference to the late school meetings, and in defense of school teachers, has several good points in it. We will see if we can do anything in the way of complying with her request. Meanwhile we suggest to her, that it is the duty of those who can use a pen as well as Jane does, to write regularly.

At the Court of Quarter Sessions for this county, held last week, only one bill of indictment was laid before the Grand Jury, and that was returned as a bill. Those who bear in mind that no licenses to sell intoxicating drinks have been granted by our Courts for three years, will be at no loss to account for the dearth of business before the Grand Jury.

We are indebted to Hon. R. M. Faneur, for a copy of the bill introduced by Mr. Kirkpatrick, entitled "An Act for the suppression of intoxicating liquors as a leverage." We hope this bill will pass, as it will undoubtedly accomplish the purpose for which it is designed. We think, however, sections 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th should be struck out, as no such provisions will be attached to any other act of Assembly, and we cannot see why this should be made an exception.

We ask attention to the communication of P., in relation to common schools—the late Convention—in reply to our correspondent, "A Teacher," &c. We deem this communication of P. the best that has yet been called out by the Educational movement, and although he is mistaken about "A Teacher," on the whole, we endorse this article as taking the true ground. Let us have the Institutes first, and the Normal School as soon as it can be had; and to this end let every one who takes an interest in the Educational movement, keep at work. If the last meeting did not meet your expectations, try again.

We republish a marriage notice from last week's paper, in order to supply extra copies to the friends of the parties. The \$2 bill we received from the happy groom, is a handsome remuneration for our services, and entitles him to our best wishes.—Ocean Journal.

We insert the above as a hint to those who may hereafter send us marriage notices for publication. The custom recently adopted, of sending dimes instead of cakes, is an excellent one—for the printer.

No man should be thought valuable "but for his public spirit, justice, and integrity; and all other endowments should be esteemed only as they contribute to the exerting those virtues."

"No great movement in human affairs can be made without zeal, energy, and perseverance. It must be animated by a strong will, and tempered by a benevolent purpose."

"Malice, rancour, hatred, and vengeance, are what tear the breasts of mean men."

THE SENATORIAL QUESTION.

We last week gave the vote in joint convention for Senator, on the second ballot. Our readers were doubtless astounded to see in the list of Cameron men, the names of Wood and Fearon. We do not believe there would have been more astonishment, if our representatives had voted for William Bigler, than for Simon Cameron, the trading politician, who is noted for nothing but his success in acquiring money, and his skill in using it for political and selfish purposes. Twenty-eight members of the Legislature, who are well known throughout for integrity, ability and devotion to principle, have issued an address exposing the means by which Cameron was nominated. It is the old story. Fraud and corruption ruled the proceedings of the caucus, that nominated Cameron, and we do not see how an honest man could submit to be governed by such open fraud.

After giving a statement of the plan of action which the American members adopted at the commencement of the session, the address thus describes the proceedings of the caucus which nominated Simon Cameron:

At the caucus held on the evening of the 9th inst., those who had been refused admittance to the previous caucus were found in attendance; and some who were known as bitter enemies of the American Organization, were admitted and exercised their right of nomination of one of the most corrupt and notorious politicians in the State. A resolution was offered to exclude these objectionable persons, and their enemies indignantly opposed the consideration of the resolution. A motion was then made to proceed to nominate a candidate for the U. S. Senate, a vote was taken, and the resolution carried by a majority of only three, thus showing that those who had no right to be present held a controlling influence, or the balance of power. Here we must refer to a man, from our own position. There were before the caucus the names of many of the best men in Pennsylvania, whose friends were urging them as proper candidates. There were in the caucus less than twenty men who openly admitted they would vote for Simon Cameron. Under these circumstances, it seems scarcely possible that he could be nominated. He was, however, repudiated by three-fourths of the members, and certainly we had no reason to fear, with this open avowal of his liability, for almost any other of the many names before us would have been acceptable. It is true they had masked themselves by the secret ballot; but to us this was more evidence of cowardice than of perfidy. We could not believe that all who had voted for the secret ballot, had done so to hide themselves from their constituents, or to betray us into the support of a man despised and disowned by every political organization in Pennsylvania. It was not until we began to believe that our betrayal had been successful, that we discovered the treachery that was pretending to oppose Cameron, and yet hypocritically and secretly voting for his nomination.

The power that controlled that caucus was too palpable; corruption was behind the throne, and we wonder that its victims should not have secret votes, and covered their deeds from the eyes and knowledge of all beholders!

This address closes nobly. We wish our members had signed it, and we trust a little reflection has convinced them that these men are right. The people everywhere will applaud this address, and if it saves the State from the impending disgrace, its authors will long be remembered with gratitude. Here is what they say in closing:

Shall the American party then, in the face of all its professions and actions, be now made the dishonest instrument in elevating Simon Cameron to the highest office in his gift; and thus hold him up to the world as the exponent, emblem, and personification of Americanism? We trust not. We consider him a fit representative of nothing good; and a fit exponent of no honorable principle. As Pennsylvanians, we remember that our State motto, as adopted by our ancestors of seventy-six, is "VIRTUE, LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE." We reverence this glorious old motto; and bear in mind that we but recently swore as representatives, to perform our duties as such, with FIDELITY; fidelity to our constituents, fidelity to our native State, and fidelity to the ennobling principles engraven on our State escutcheon. Shall we then, or can we, consistently with the motto we have taken, support a nomination so destitute of every element of virtue, which would disgrace the American Organization and our native State; and which we feel well assured, our constituents will repudiate with scorn and righteous indignation. We recognize no power in any caucus, to require us thus to sacrifice our integrity, to throw away our self-respect, or to violate our oaths; and therefore it is, that in the independence of freemen, we strike down king caucus at the bidding of our country.

Above our venerated motto, and associated with it in all the memories of the past, and our hopes of the future, is the American eagle—our national emblem and our country's pride. It ever adorns our sash; and it spreads its "wings of glory over us" as a protecting angel. When we go into the Hall of the House of Representatives, to execute the most important trust confided to us, we desire to meet something there having some analogy or concordance with these glorious recollections, and these sacred emblems. Grant us this or something approximating to this, and all will be well; and our hearts and hands will be with you, both to do and to dare. But what we say unto one we say unto all, invite us not in there to share in our country's feast. Ask us not to support a nomination brought about, as we believe, by the concentrated and cohesive power of public plunder, and the superadded element of shameless and wholesale private bribery. All countenance and participation in such things as these, we not only most earnestly and peremptorily decline, but have pledged ourselves unitedly and determinedly to oppose.

Such is the brief and hasty outline of our past action and our intended future course. We submit it to our constituents, confident of a triumphant vindication, and we cordially invite all our honest representatives, whether in the late caucus or now, to rally with us in this contest, and to make common cause with

us for the honor and glory of our native State, assuring them that though it may have passed into an adage that "Paris is France," yet Harrisburg is not Pennsylvania.

BLOWING HOT AND COLD.

There must be a singular moral atmosphere in the latitude of Harrisburg; Men who have always sustained an unblemished character at home, remain there but a short time, before it is whispered about that a bribe will obtain their vote. Sons of Temperance, in good standing at home, do not remain there half a session, before they become public brandy drinkers. It is quite time there was a purification of the atmosphere at the Seat of Government, and we thought the election of Governor Pollock, with a Legislature who sympathized with him, would accomplish that work. But the nomination of Simon Cameron, whom no respectable number of the people desire elected, has blasted nearly all hope in the present Legislature, and the inconsistencies of the Editor supposed to represent Governor Pollock is in a fair way to do the same work for the administration.

Before the election this editor was a zealous Maine Law man; since the election, he has written several articles to show why such a law should not be passed. Before the election he was an able advocate of free soil principles; since that time, he has proposed to hang high as Haman, Greeley, Beecher, and other true men of the North. His last paper contains the following bid for Southern Know-Nothing influence and support:

Large numbers of petitions have been presented to the Legislature of Massachusetts, in favor of Judge Loring's removal as Judge of Probate. We detect the fugitive slave law heavily as the people of Boston do—but we cannot approve of the fanaticism which prescribes Judge Loring for executing a law pronounced to be constitutional by the Supreme Court of the State. Regarding the fugitive slave law as a foul blot upon our national status, we are ready to unite in any and all honorable efforts for its repeal;—but while it remains there, as a law-binding and ordering citizen we feel bound to abide by it, and to condemn all seditious opposition to its legal enforcement. Judge Loring simply did his duty, and this pro-conviction of him, to say the least, is highly creditable to the parties concerned.

The editor who can write in that way is not fit to be the mouthpiece of a free State Governor.

Just look at it. He admits that the fugitive slave bill is "a foul blot upon our national statutes," and yet asserts that "Judge Loring simply did his duty" in accepting office, and actively assisting to execute a law that is a foul blot. Does the man who accepts the post of hangman under our law simply do his duty? Suppose Judge Black of the Supreme Court, or Judge Pearson of the Dauphin Common Pleas, were to volunteer their services as hangmen, would not the whole State ring with the cry of shame? And is not an acceptance of the post of Slave Commissioner under the detestable fugitive slave bill, and an active participation in executing that "foul blot" more degrading than the post of hangman? It is very evident that the current is running in the wrong direction at Harrisburg, and that a few men there think they can control the State. If the people would make their late triumph available, they must make their influence felt at Harrisburg, and it will not reach there a day too soon.

"A good and truly bold spirit is actuated by reason and a sense of honor and duty. The affectation of such a spirit exerts itself in an impudent aspect, an overbearing confidence, and a certain negligence of giving offense."

"Any man who relies upon a good government to sustain acknowledged evil, does much to modify the notions of goodness which honest and conscientious men have entertained respecting that government."

"But apart from personal considerations, I will never by example invite further aggression on any of my fellow men liable to experience and who in fact have experienced from the same quarter, assaults cruel and unprovoked." H. H. DEWEY.

Language is an invention of man to conceal his ideas. [TALLYRAND.]

EDUCATIONAL.

EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL: It is easy to criticize, but difficult to do it to any good purpose. Your correspondent "TEACHER" misapprehends the object for which the late Convention was called. It was not to engage in the exercises of a Teachers' Drill or Institute, which would require at least a week's time, but to "form a Teachers' Association, and consult upon matters of mutual interest." To this it may be added, that it is obviously of advantage for Teachers to make each other's acquaintance, and to acquire that esprit de corps which results from such assemblages.

There was, no doubt, considerable ability displayed, by some speakers, in wandering from the subject under discussion; nevertheless, the results aimed and arrived at, were calculated to be far more practically useful, under the circumstances, than would have been any attempt to do what "TEACHER" speaks of. Drill exercises would have benefited only the few teachers that were present, and those very little, as most of them were not continuously present. We wonder what "Teacher" imagined could have been done in the fragments of time that might have been taken from other exercises? We judge that he never attended upon any such drill; we judge, moreover, that he was present at the convention himself, but a part of the time, and therefore call his attention to the Resolutions, that were discussed and passed; and which embody as far as they go, the views and experience, not only of the teachers and principal supporters thereof, but of many eminent practical educators. These resolutions will be read, it may be presumed, by all the teachers, and a large share of the people of the county; and as "Teacher" admits that he was "made wise to a great extent," we hope the resolutions will do good wherever read.

We agree with "Teacher" entirely, when he says it would be a capital plan to have a "Teachers' School," or "Teachers' Institute," of from one to two weeks' duration. This would do some good, and by all means let us have it, when the teachers are disengaged from the schools; but not attempt to hold one in one or two half days, and not more than three or four teachers present, for six consecutive hours.

We agree with your correspondent also, that the teachers of the day received unnecessary castigation. But on the other hand, there is no disguising the fact, that the majority of our common-school teachers, are very incompetent to perform the duties which should be performed in the school-room. This is not to be wondered at, since so many of them have neither experience in years, nor experience in the art of teaching; and especially since most of them have never received any considerable practical instruction in the art. But where does the origin of the fault chiefly lie? Not in the teachers, but in the people. There is no other kind of business whatever, in which the community are contented to employ persons without adequate skill and experience; none other in which they are not more willing to pay for skill and experience. What then is the remedy? We answer, First, in the legislative action of the people. The Common School System of Pennsylvania, excellent as it is in many respects, is radically defective in this, namely, that it makes no provision for training, and supplying the schools with teachers. This is left to chance; with what results, every one can see. If the State undertakes to educate her children, she must furnish competent educators,—otherwise, the more intelligent and opulent portion of the community will not rest satisfied with the advantages offered to their children in the common school. The result is, that sending them elsewhere, their interest mainly goes elsewhere, and the common schools fall into neglect and contempt. Instead of this, our public schools ought, by a proper system of gradation, or of "Union Schools," to furnish all the advantages of our best Academies. Until this is the case, the results of the system will continue to be, comparatively abortive; and the institution, instead of tending as it ought, to preserve republican equality, will be neutralized in this respect, by the aristocratic tendencies of Pri-

TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

Let the people then, and especially those croakers who find fault with the School Law, and who are just now doing what they can to paralyze the School System, by seeking to abolish the feature of County Superintendency, set themselves to the more beneficial task of remedying the defects of the system. Let them petition the Legislature to establish Normal Schools—institutions for the thorough instruction of suitable persons in the art of teaching. In addition to this, let the Legislature be requested to appropriate something at once, for establishing in every county, each Spring and Fall, Teachers' Institutes—in connection with our Academies or otherwise—something that shall afford some degree of immediate instruction to those who purpose to engage in teaching for the ensuing year. This is the plan pursued in New York, Massachusetts; and wherever any efficient system of Public Schools is maintained, Teachers' Institutes are a mere temporary provision. Normal Schools are the main reliance for creating and continuing a sufficient body of competent, permanent, professional teachers: These institutions have been known in Prussia, more than one hundred years. We hope that Pennsylvania, already one century behind, will not wait another.

For the Journal. Messrs. Editors: I have read with a good deal of interest the proceedings of the Educational Meetings in this county, and saw with no small pleasure the call for the Teachers' Convention in your village. I attended a part of the meetings and saw and heard enough to convince me that such gatherings might be made very profitable. Mr. Bloomington's lecture on Saturday evening was worth taking considerable pains to hear. But I entirely disagree with Mr. B.'s statement that the office of district teacher is a sinecure. How many teachers, he may have found who make it such, I do not know, but I have attended district school in Potter county several years, and never found one. They are not so numerous as I was led to believe, but I believe the majority work quite as hard as anybody can ask. That some of their labor is misdirected for want of knowing the best method of teaching, I freely admit. And on this last point I wish to speak. We were told by one of the speakers, that every teacher should be provided with some good works on teaching. This is true enough. But many have not got them, and I wish to ask if you can't render them some assistance. Perhaps you have some of those School Journals or books that were recommended, at your command. Now can you not glean some of the most practical and useful hints from these, and make room for them in your paper? That, doubtless, is read by nearly all the teachers in the county; and thus we can have a sort of Teachers' Convention every week. Not long theorizing articles, but practical methods of teaching Arithmetic, Geography, &c., such as I saw in a number of the Pennsylvania School Journal that fell into my hands a few months since. When our teachers see how the thing is done, they, doubtless, will want to write their experience in such matters, and thus improve themselves in more ways than one. I think our young ladies who are preparing to teach school next summer, will give you many thanks if you will assist them in this manner. J. H. WILKINSON. Feb. 1855.

Concluded, Feb. 27, 1855.

On motion, Mr. Gage, late County Superintendent, was elected President.

The Committee on business presented the following Order of Business for the Convention, which, on motion, was adopted:

- 1. Reading.
2. Orthography.
3. Arithmetic.
4. Grammar.
5. Geography.
6. Physiology.
7. Penmanship.
8. School Discipline and Management.
9. Miscellaneous.
10. The same committee reported a plan of organization, which, on motion, was accepted, and laid on the table.

The Convention then listened to a valuable Educational Address from Mr. Bloomington, Principal of the Coudersport Academy.

Mr. F. A. Allen, in behalf of the committee, presented the following resolutions upon the exercise of teaching, which, after a further brief discussion, were adopted:

Resolved, That we cheer in the truthfulness and importance of the doctrines laid down by the leading compilers of reading-books, upon principles of good reading.

Resolved, That we deem it a difficult branch to teach, the more so that so little importance has been attached to it in time past.

Resolved, That it is indispensable that the art be taught by example, as well as precept, and that teachers must therefore be good readers themselves.

Resolved, That we deem it of the importance that the matter presented for reading lessons be not only interesting and instructive, but suited to the capacity of the pupil—in whose latter respect there is a great defect in the usual classification of second and choice of books.

Resolved, That we recommend the use of Periodicals, in addition to ordinary reading-books, as giving great interest to the exercise, and which call attention to the School Master, and other periodicals published for the purpose.

Resolved, That we recommend to teachers a thorough trial of what is called the "word method," which teaching new beginners to read. By this method, the child instead of learning the alphabet at first, begins with words as a whole, as presented to the eye, in a manner analogous to that which he learns spoken words, by the ear. The method is sanctioned by eminent educators, and is fully explained in a little work prepared by Mr. Howard, of the Albany Normal School.

On motion, adjourned to Monday, Feb. 19, at 9 o'clock A. M.

Concluded, Saturday, P. M., Feb. 17, 1855. Pursuant to a call issued by the County Superintendent and the Secretary of a former Teachers' Association in the county, a number of teachers, ex-teachers, and citizens, assembled at the old Court House at the time above indicated.

The object of the meeting having been stated, Mr. J. Bloomington was called to the Chair, and Lucien Bird appointed Secretary.

On motion, the Chair appointed Rev. J. B. Pratt, Hugh Young, and D. D. Colcord a committee to report an order of business for the Convention, and a plan of permanent organization.

On motion, the subject of reading, as a school exercise, was taken up and discussed at length by the County Superintendent, by the Chair, by Rev. C. S. Smith, and by Messrs. F. A. Allen, C. A. Allen, of Smithport, and various other persons; when:

On motion, F. A. Allen and Messrs. Rathbun and Hamilton were appointed a committee to present resolutions embodying the sense of the Convention upon the subject.

On motion, adjourned to 5 o'clock, P. M.

LUCIEN BIRD, Secy.

EVENING SESSION.

Convention met, and the Chair being vacant:

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