

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

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COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 1855.

The great event of the week in Coudersport was the exhibition of the Coudersport Academy, for notice of which see article in another column by "G."

Mr. Robert Hamilton and family left this place for Nebraska, on Tuesday morning last. Mr. H. has a brother in Nebraska who will be glad to welcome him to his new home, and if the good wishes of all his acquaintances in this section will do anything for himself, and family, they will always be prosperous and happy.

There will be a Temperance Meeting at the Court House in this village on Tuesday evening, April 3, at which time Capt. W. M. Murrell, a popular and efficient Temperance lecturer, will address those who may attend. It is hoped that there will be a full house, as Mr. Murrell speaks from his own knowledge, and therefore speaks to the hearts of his hearers.

The persons who were arrested for butchering very juvenile calves have been held to bail in \$1,000 each.—Tribune, 17th.

Why do not some of the opponents of the Maine Law show the injustice of such an arbitrary statute? What! not let a man be his own judge of the proper age of veal? We commend this to the attention of the advocates of the largest liberty in the traffic of that which destroys the body and mind of such as use it.

Friday evening last, snow fell four inches. Monday evening three more, and it is now the best sleighing of the season, with a fair prospect of continuing an indefinite length of time. Hay is selling at \$22 per ton, and hard to get at that. It is a hard time for farmers, and we fear there will be considerable loss of stock. We sympathize deeply with the sufferers, and trust a brighter day is close at hand.

Col. Curtin, the Superintendent of Common Schools, requests each County Superintendent in the State to attend a School Convention at Harrisburg, on Wednesday, April 11, "for mutual consultation, and the discussion and adoption of such measures as may tend to a more complete and effective organization, for the advancement of Common Schools, and the cause of popular education." We hope every Superintendent in the State will attend.

The last Kansas Herald of Freedom contains a long address from N. W. Goodrich, Esq., late of Smithport, McKean county, Pa., in relation to slavery in Kansas. About half of the address is a labored attempt to prove what none doubted—to wit: that slavery could have no legal existence in Kansas until authorized by the Legislature of the Territory. No opponent of the Douglas fraud has ever said anything to the contrary, and no intelligent slaveholder has made any such claim; so there is no necessity for wasting paper with such an argument. The friends of Freedom opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, because such repeal would break down the barrier to slavery extension, and makes it at least probable that Kansas would become a slave State. Our side contended there was no reason or propriety for making such a catastrophe possible. Mr. Goodrich and others of his stamp are now laboring to undo the work of their own hands. We hope they will succeed, in which case we shall stand precisely where we were before this National outrage was consummated. But suppose they fail, what a terrible failure it will be! The true way to prevent the extension of slavery is to adopt the Jeffersonian plan as applied to the Northwest territory, and the people of the free States are about to apply that test to all the territory of the United States.

"Precedents, in every country, are the stairway of tyrants."

We suppose we are to have an Indian war on the Kansas frontier soon, as we notice that the Shawnee Indians have recently seized and destroyed a keg of liquor introduced within their reservation.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL

One of the odious features of this obnoxious act, is its provisions for consigning a man to hopeless and life-long slavery on ex parte testimony. That is, any unprincipled slave-dealer in the South may go before any "Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, or other legal officer," and get the affidavit of one or two birds of a feather, that the said slave-dealer is the owner of Frederick Douglas of Rochester, and this testimony taken a thousand miles from him, without his knowledge and without any opportunity to cross-examine or impeach, is sufficient under this slaveholders' act to tear him from his family and send him to a slave pen or the rice swamp.

As an evidence of the wrong and injustice of this way of taking testimony against a man, we ask the reader to turn to the account of the debate on the outside, on this subject. No Senator could be found to defend the practice of taking ex parte testimony, in suits where only dollars and cents are concerned; which shows the great injustice of allowing such testimony to be conclusive in cases where a man's liberty is at stake.

This debate also shows, even a North Carolina Senator will not admit that because a wrong has been acquiesced in for a long number of years, it should therefore be continued. He takes true ground on this question. That is, when an act of Congress does injustice, it should be amended or repealed. Apply this test to the Fugitive Slave bill, and how much of it would remain?

OUTLAWING THE SALE OF INTOXICATING DRINKS

We had the pleasure of informing our readers last week, that a bill had passed the House, repealing the license laws, and as we think it will pass the Senate, we publish it for the information and gratification of our readers. We hope this bill will become the law of the State, as it is a step in the right direction. A glance at the fourth section will show that this bill can be enforced much more thoroughly than the present laws on this subject:

The bill above referred to is as follows: Sec. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the passing of this act, it shall be unlawful to keep or maintain any house, room or place where vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixture thereof, are sold and drunk; and all laws, or parts of laws, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. That if any person or persons within this Commonwealth shall keep for sale, or sell, or in connection with any other business or profitable employment give, receive therefor any price, profit or advantage, by any measure whatever, and at the same time voluntarily afford a place or any other convenience or inducement, by which the same may be used as a beverage any vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquor, or any admixture thereof, he, she, or they, and any one aiding, abetting or assisting therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to indictment; and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to undergo an imprisonment in the jail of the proper county, for the first offense, for a term not less than three nor more than six months, and for a second offense not less than six months nor more than twelve months—and in either case to pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. That if any two or more persons conspire or act together, by which one may sell and the other afford the place or other convenience for drinking, with intent to evade the provisions of this act, he, she, or they, or either of them, indicted together or separately, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to undergo an imprisonment in the jail of the county, not less than four nor exceeding eight months, and be fined not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars.

Sec. 4. That it shall be the duty of every constable of every town, borough, township or ward within this Commonwealth, at every term of the Court of Quarter Sessions of each respective county, to make return, on oath or affirmation, whether within his knowledge there is any place within his bailiwick kept and maintained in violation of this act, and it shall be the special duty of the judges of all the said courts to see that this return is faithfully made; and if any responsible citizen of any county shall make known to such constable the name or names of such person or persons who have violated this act, with the names of witnesses who can prove the fact, it shall be his duty to make return thereof, on oath or affirmation, to the court, and upon his failure to do so, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon indictment and conviction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment in the jail of the county for a period not less than one nor more than three months, and to pay a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

WHAT A PICTURE.—We clip the following from the local column of the Wheeling Times of Friday: "Two persons came out of one tavern, on Wednesday, with the mania-plun, raving mad; three Irishmen lay dead at the same time in the house, while twenty drunken men and women were dancing and howling round their bodies; at the same time, too, the Clerk of the Circuit Court was issuing fourteen writs of manumission on the Clerk of the City, by order of the Judge of the Court, to inquire why the said Clerk did not issue a license to fourteen persons to sell liquor."

"LOVE, PURITY, AND FIDELITY."

We are glad to learn from the Kansas Herald of Freedom, that the Order of S. of T. has already worked its way into that Territory. Speaking of the Baptist Shawnee mission, situated about four miles west of the Missouri line, and of the Rev. FRANCIS BARKER, the efficient missionary, the Herald says: "The great obstacle to progress among these 'sons of the forest' is strong drink. Doctor Barker observed this, and has labored studiously to banish it from the circle in which he was laboring. The result is, a Division of the Sons of Temperance has been established in his vicinity, and at this time they meet regularly weekly at the Indian Council House, but a short distance from his residence.

We infer from the above that the Indians about this mission are becoming Sons of Temperance, but we wish the Herald would be more explicit on this point. Let us know how many "sons of the forest" are also "Sons of Temperance," and whether they make good members. Also, whether there are any other Divisions in the Territory. Is there one at Lawrence city? If not, have any steps been taken to start one?

We commend this action of Dr. Barker to our Baptist friends in Ullyses. Do they approve of this action of their missionary in Kansas? If not, for what reason? If they do, we hope they will imitate his example and thereby greatly encourage the active friends of Temperance in this country.

WORDS OF CHEER.

We have been greatly encouraged of late by the many kind messages sent us by subscribers, and by the substantial assistance furnished us for new subscribers, and we are further encouraged by the approbation of our friends of the press in other sections. The Lancaster Express is one of the oldest Temperance papers in the State. In its last issue it notices our humble sheet in the following kindly terms, which we trust will be as pleasant to our readers as it is encouraging to us:

The People's Journal, published at Coudersport, Potter county, by Messrs. Avery & Mann, deserves a commendatory notice as one of that class of truly independent papers which stands up manfully in the defence and advocacy of the true interests and Rights of Humanity. Its able editorials have the ring of the true metal. It is sound to the core on the three great questions of Temperance, Liberty and Education. Those who want a good paper from that far-off section of the State, should send a dollar for the People's Journal. It should be collected that the Journal is published in a model county. At the recent court of Quarter Sessions only one bill of indictment was laid before the grand jury, and that was ignored. Those who bear in mind the thousands of salaried drunkards have been granted by the Court of Potter county for three years, will be at no loss to account for the dearth of business before the grand jury.

Since the middle of last December, our friends have done nobly by the Journal, and we endeavor to return the favor, by making it more wide awake than ever before. But it has not quite reached the point that will satisfy us. When our list of subscribers reaches five hundred, exclusive of exchanges, we shall cease to urge our friends to make extra exertions to procure subscribers, and not before, because that is the least number that our faithful publisher can afford to print.

These are hard times, we know—very hard for a large number of the people, and we would not increase the burdens of a single family. But there those who can furnish a few subscribers, greatly to our encouragement, and but little to their inconvenience. Shall it be done? How much longer shall we wait for a list of 500 advance-pay subscribers? We only lack twenty-five of that number, and we believe we have friends enough to make up the number without further delay.

RATHER DEAR.—The principal achievement of our navy for a number of years past, is the taking of Greytown. What the army has done, we cannot for the life of us think. And yet it appears from the appropriation bills that the support of these idlers costs more than the whole government expenditures before the time of Gen. Jackson. The appropriations for the army are, for the next year, nine millions of dollars, and fourteen millions for the support of the navy! Making an aggregate of twenty-two millions for the article of Army and Navy alone.—Syracuse Eve. Chronicle.

Gen. Houston is something of a wag, as well as a Mexican fighter. In speaking of the chaotic state of political parties on a recent occasion, he remarked that the Whigs were like sheep without a shepherd, and the Democrats like a shepherd without sheep.

EXHIBITION OF THE COUDERSPORT ACADEMY.

FIRST EVENING.

On entering the new Court House on Thursday evening last, the scene was perfectly delightful. A large stage had been erected in the east part of the room, carpeted and furnished like a parlor, and enclosed with a border of evergreens, among which, all across the front, lights were gleaming. In the background were green trees full of flowers, and one involuntarily began to listen for the birds, and fancy one could see the nests. Chairs were placed at the eastern extremity of the stage, and to these were shown the three clergymen of the place, and the President of the Board of Trustees; also a baby boy, who preserved all the decorum proper to his position.

The Opening March was commenced by the entrance of the Principal of the Academy bearing a banner, followed by two assistant teachers, and then by all the younger portion of the scholars, who, alone, went to exhibit this evening. They were a beautiful sight, those little graceful creatures in white dresses and pink ribbons, winding round each other and the banner, among evergreens and lights, and to the sound of music from an unseen player. Next came a Latin salutation, followed by an English translation, both well spoken; then a prologue by a little fellow, followed by a speech from another scarcely any larger, who showed his sense of propriety very justly, as I thought, in facing the dignitaries instead of the multitude, but, after being turned round, spoke his piece very well indeed. There was no difficulty in hearing any of the children, it being the best exhibition in that respect I ever attended. The Schoolmaster, a song, went off with spirit, as did all the music. The Duets were very good, though we could not see the performers. Compositions and speeches by the little boys and girls were all so well got up and spoken that it is difficult to particularize; but I must mention one or two that were even better than the rest. "Gambling," by Miss F. C. Mills, and "The Beautiful," spoken by Miss M. E. Rees, bore the palm. One of the best of the whole, however, was an original colloquy by the little girl, in which they did themselves and their teacher great credit.

After so much that was charming, and of which the school and the village may well be proud, came an original colloquy that very much marred the whole. It was very laughable, and reminded one of what some one says of Barum's Life: "It was as funny as it was mean, and as mean as it was funny," which is saying a good deal for it in both particulars. It was got up secretly, which accounts for its being got up at all. It is most to be regretted on the Principal's account, as it will in no wise increase the respect felt for him and his school. The benediction followed very inappropriately, though after such a piece, I cannot say but it was much needed.

SECOND EVENING.

The time appointed was half past six, but those who went at that time had great difficulty in finding seats. Although benches appeared at the door in quick succession, they were filled as soon as placed, and a number were obliged to stand the entire evening. There was an opening prayer, and then a march played by Master Bloomingdale, and led, as before, by Mr. Bloomingdale and the banner, followed this time by the young ladies and gentlemen. As on last evening, this was the prettiest part of the whole performance. Several good speeches followed and compositions, but though the students spoke with commendable distinctness and sufficiently loud, the crowd was so dense, and the stir and murmur so perceptible, that it was far more difficult to hear them than last evening. Many of the pieces spoken were poetry, which assisted our hearing very much. We missed the French compositions we had been led to expect, but forgot the omission until afterwards. The little choir appeared again and sang, as before, very well, and just as though they did not think anything about it. One thing, begging the young gentlemen's pardon, I wish to ask—Is spitting a part of stage performances? As it was not in the programme, I was surprised to see it.

A colloquy entitled "Every Day Life," was very well spoken and acted. We hope such scenes of drunkenness and starvation may soon cease to be every day life. "Indian Wrongs," Ontario and Uno, was a pretty interlude, very pleasing indeed to those of us who feel for the perishing race we have wronged, and have some sympathy with the wild life they present to our view. The "Laural Wreath," a periodical, was very interesting; particularly the Reminiscences of Coudersport, and a poem called the Phantom Building. "The Beauty of Piety," spoken by ten young ladies, was very fine indeed, particularly the last part of it where Celestia and Meteora appear together before the Priestess. They all appeared in spotless white with their girls, seeking a reward—it reminded me of "Paradise and the Peri." It would have been a charming plan to have had them daguerreotypied as they stood, the Priestess surrounded by her votaries. I suggest that as a part of the next Exhibition. The last piece, "The School ma'am's Experience," was far too natural to be considered acting at all—hope it may do some good. Some quaquering appeared this evening which had the effect to produce noise and uproar. Are not such things too entirely theatrical to be appropriate in a school exhibition? So it seems to me. They lower the character of the entertainment.

The scenery and arrangements were the same as last evening, and it is delightful to think that five hundred or so pair of eyes feasted on the delightful scene, and enjoyed it together.

Engrave the virtues of your friends on the enduring tablets of memory, but write their errors in sand.

THE BIBLE READ IN COMMON SCHOOLS.

A correspondent of the Journal requested that the subject of Bible instruction be resumed.

It is well known that seed sown in rich and fertile soil, produce much more abundant harvests than that sown in dry and sandy. Apply this to the mind. Let the good seed be scattered in season, ere the intellect has become corrupt with worldly vice and degradation, and what would be the result? Think you that our nation would groan under the sins of Intemperance and Slavery, if the Bible was taken as the standard of Law? No.

Why is it that the Catholic religion is increasing so rapidly in power over our land? It is simply this, that the Bible is almost entirely excluded from our Common Schools, and that they are more faithful in the study of theirs and its various doctrines. Where is the child of Protestant faith who would voluntarily run away or absent himself from school, merely to go and recite his catechism to the minister? In our opinion, the instances would be few indeed. But they are of frequent occurrence among the Catholic children, when restraint is put upon them by a teacher. Many points have they gained by being instant in season and out of season, both in the Common School Law, and in the Legislature. Many children might receive instruction from the Bible at school, who will fail to obtain it elsewhere—whose parents are so low in the depths of sin as not to care what should become of the immortal souls of their offspring. Let it not be said of these United States as of ancient Rome, that while they stand high upon the scale of wealth and splendor, the worm of corruption is gnawing at their vitals, and ere long they shall away and fall in a mass of ruins. What will prevent this? Christianity and Morality; and where can they be without the Bible? As essential elements, one cannot exist without the other: hand in hand they wander over the earth, dispelling the darkness of crime and superstition, bearing down the fabrics of heathenism, and building on a sure foundation the temples of piety. Let infidelity and skepticism scoff and endeavor to prove that the Bible was not written by the hand of God, and then ask them what they have done to improve the condition of mankind. What answer can they give but this: In my train follow bloodshed and a pestilential breath, more poisonous than the simoon of the desert. My power is supreme where the Bible is not. The Bible is the only enemy they dread to contend with, and as such shun and avoid contact.

Where then can champions of youth be better fitted to go forth than in the school-room, the seminary, or college? In the streets of our own little village we hear the voice of profanity echoed from the lips of children who scarce know the meaning of the word that they use in blasphemy against high heaven. Go seek the child of the Bible, and behold the contrast. Even six looks with admiration, and wonders at the beautiful scene. But oh! how she shrinks back with shame as these words are uttered with meekness: "I am the light of the world. Wisdom and understanding, the fountain of life everlasting life, my ways are pleasantness, and all my paths are peace." M.

RUSSIAN POLITENESS.

The French have always been considered the most polite people in the world. But their reputation in this respect fades away before the courteous demeanor of their semi-barbarian foe in the Crimea. The Russians are as polite as they are brave, and Menschikoff is a perfect Louis XIV. for politeness. The following anecdote is told of him: "An English officer, now a prisoner in Sebastopol, had a letter sent him from a young lady in England, to the effect that she 'hoped, when he took Menschikoff prisoner, that he would send her a button from his coat, for her to keep as a relic.' The letter was forwarded by flag of truce into Sebastopol, with other letters for prisoners now in the enemy's hands. This letter fell into Menschikoff's own hands, of course, to be read ere delivered. On coming to the above passage, he immediately cut a button from his coat, and sent it under a flag of truce to be conveyed to the lady, with a remark to the following effect: 'That he had no idea yet of being taken prisoner; but rather than disappoint a young lady of so simple a request, he would fulfill her wish himself before that time arrived.'

MAINE SPEAKING OUT.

The following resolutions adopted by the Maine Senate will attract general attention. They are fruits of the recent revolution in public opinion at the North, and will be followed by similar resolves in other states; including our own. While these resolutions were under consideration in the Senate the House was engaged on a bill for the protection of personal liberty, which will doubtless be passed. The North has been a little stimulated by Mr. Toucey's bill for treading the states under the heel of the General Government. But to the resolutions:—

Resolved, 1. That human Slavery, in all its aspects, an unequalled evil and wrong, and as such, merits the reprehension of mankind.

2. That in the early periods of our national history, both the opinions of the people and the policy of the Government were adverse to the institution.

3. That the Constitution of the United States is, and was designed to be, a charter of liberty, and hence, that all acts of the national government, by which slavery maintains a legal existence in territory subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, are in direct conflict with the whole spirit and with the clear provisions of that instrument.

4. That the act of the thirty-third session of Congress, repealing the law of 1820, known as the Missouri Compromise, by which Slavery was forever prohibited in the territory north of parallel of 36 deg 30 min., was an unjustifiable violation of a solemn compact, and a flagrant breach of faith on the part of the South.

5. That Maine will never consent to the admission into the federal Union of any more states, with constitutions authorizing slavery.

6. That the act of 1850, called the Fugitive Slave Law, is unconstitutional, and odious to the whole North; Maine therefore, demands its immediate and unconditional repeal.

7. That it is the duty of the general government, without delay, to abolish slavery wherever it has exclusive jurisdiction; and to exert its influences whenever and wherever it legitimately may on the side of universal liberty.

8. That the third paragraph in the section of the first article of the constitution of the United States, should be amended by striking out the words, "which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and including Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all persons," and adding in the place thereof the words, "excepting Indians not taxed, and all persons deemed and held as chattles personal."

Therefore, Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to use all practicable means to secure the passage of the following enactments:—

First, An act repealing all laws of the United States authorizing slavery in the District of Columbia.

Second, An act repealing the statute of 1850, known as the Fugitive Slave law.

Third, An act forever prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, within the territories of the United States.

Resolved, further, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, at all times hereafter, most strenuously to oppose in every justifiable way, the admission of any new State into the Union, except upon the condition, to be embraced in the act of admission, that slavery or involuntary servitude, excepting for crime of which the accused shall have been duly proved guilty, shall be forever prohibited therein.

ATCHISON FOR KANSAS.

The St. Louis Democrat states that Senator Atchison was at Jefferson, (Mo.) in "a cloud of anger at his defeat." A recess of the Legislature was taken to allow his friends to meet him, (his stay being very short) when he stated, that one of his chief reasons for so hurried a departure was "the necessity of his being in Kansas time enough to attend to the spring elections there."

THE ST. LOUIS DEMOCRAT THEREUPON REMARKS:

His object is to secure the predominance of nullifiers in the councils of the infant territory. Thus it seems he is intent upon playing the same game over again of a fraudulent importation of Missouri votes which he and his followers did last fall, and this he calls "SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY." He goes fully equipped, too—carrying his tools with him, being accompanied by Mr. Stringfellow and a live Yankee, from whom the only thing that can be gleaned is that he is exceedingly desirous of becoming a fire eater and of owning a goodly number of slaves—if he can get them. It is to be hoped in view of his "companions de voyage" the General will at least receive a cordial welcome at Weston, where Mr. Stringfellow was so kindly entertained but a few short months since—vive la bagatelle.

A high wind the other night blew over all the steeples in town; but didn't blow the steeples over.