

rains are over and gone, the flowers appear upon the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land. The trees are now in their full foliage and brightest verdure; the woods are gay with the clustered flowers of the laurel; the air is perfumed by the sweet-briar and the wild rose; the meadows are enameled with clover blossoms; while the young apple, the peach, and the plum, begin to swell, and the cherry to glow, among the green leaves.

This is the chosen season of revelry of the Bobolink. He comes amid the piny and fragrance of the season; his life seems all sensibility and enjoyment, all song and sunshine. He is to be found in the soft bosoms of the freshest and sweetest meadows; and is most in song when the clover is in blossom. He perches on the topmost twig of a tree, or on some long, haunting weed, and as he rises and sinks with the breeze, pours forth a succession of rich, tinkling notes, crowding one upon another, like the outpouring melody of the skylark, and possessing the same rapturous character. Sometimes he pitches from the summit of a tree, he sings his song as soon as he gets upon the wing, and flutters tremulously down to the earth, as if over- come with ecstasy at his own music. Sometimes he is in pursuit of his paramour; always in full song, as if he would win her by his melody; and always with the same appearance of intoxication and delight.

Of all the birds of our groves and meadows the Bobolink was the envy of my boyhood. He crossed my path in the sweetest weather, and the sweetest season of the year, when all nature ebbed to the fields, and the rural feeling throbbled in every bosom; but when I, luckless urchin! was doomed to be mewed up in that purgatory of boyhood, a schoolroom, it seemed as if the little varlet mocked at me as he flew by in full song, and sought to tempt me with his happier lot. Oh, how I envied him! No lessons, no task, no hateful school; nothing but holiday, green fields, and fine weather. Had I been then more versed in poetry, I might have addressed him in the words of Logan to the cuckoo:

"Sweet bird! the power is ever green,
That's never clear,
Thou'lt be no arrow in thy noie,
No water in thy river."

"Oh! could I fly, I'd fly with thee;
We'd be like joyful wing,
Our course 'round the globe,
Companions of the spring."

Further observation and experience have given me a different idea of this little feathered voluptuary, which I will venture to impart for the benefit of my school-boy readers, who may regard him with the same unqualified envy and admiration which I once indulged in. I have shown him as I saw him at first, in what I may call the poetical part of his career, when he in a manner devoted himself to elegant pursuits and enjoyments, and was a bird of taste, and song, and taste, and refinement. While this lasted he was sacred from injury; the very school-boy would not fling a stone at him, and the merest rustic would pause to listen to his strain. But with the difference. As the year advanced, as the clover blossoms disappeared, and the spring fades into summer, he gradually gives up his elegant tastes and habits; doffs his poetical suit of black, assumes a russet dusty garb, and sinks to the gross enjoyment of common, vulgar birds. His notes no longer vibrate on the ear, he is content himself on the seeds of the tall weed on which he lately swung and dandled so melodiously. He has become a non-vivante, a 'gourmand'; with him now there is nothing like 'the joys of the table.' In a little while he grows tired of plain, homely fare, and is off on a gastronomic tour in quest of foreign luxuries. We next hear of him, with myriads of his kind, banqueting among the reeds of the Delaware; and grown corpulent with good feeding. He has changed, his name is travelling, Bobolink no more—he is the *Reed-bird*, now, the much-sought-for tit-bit of Pennsylvania epicures; the rival in unlucky fame of the ortolan! Wherever he goes, pop! pop! every rusty firelock in the country is blazing away. He sees his companions falling by thousands around him.

Does he take warning and reform? Alas, not he! Incorrigible epicure! Again he wings his flight. The rice-swamp of the South invite him. He gorges himself among them almost to bursting; he can hardly fly for corpulence. He has once more changed his name, and now the famous *Rice-bird* of the Carolinas.

Last stage of his career; behold him spiced with dozens of his corpulent companions, and served up, a vaunted dish, on the table of some Southern gastronome.

Such is the story of the Bobolink; once spiritual, musical, admired, the joy of the meadows, and the favorite bird of the spring; finally, a gross little sensualist, who expiates his sensuality in the larder. His story contains a moral worthy the attention of all little birds and little boys; warning them to keep to those refined and intellectual pursuits which raised him to so high a pitch of popularity during the early part of his career; but to eschew all

tendency to that gross and dissipated indulgence which brought this mistaken little bird to an untimely end.

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

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

COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1855.

DANIEL OLMSTED, G. A. BARCLAY, and A. F. JONES, have been appointed Aids to Gov. POLLOCK, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

See "Notes on Proper Names," on the first page, for a little fun of an intellectual kind. This article is from Putnam for March, which is full of good things, that being a characteristic of this truly American Magazine.

Monday last was the most wintry April day that we remember. Mercury was down to 10 deg. above zero in the morning. Tuesday morning it had slightly improved, and was at 16. Tuesday noon, 33.

The first of July is named as the earliest day at which it will be possible for the Commissioner of Pensions to make a beginning in the issue of the new Land Warrants, under the recent act of Congress.

The Post Office laws were amended by the late Congress, so as to require the prepayment of all letters to be delivered within the United States. This fact should be generally known, as no letter will hereafter be mailed unless the postage is paid in advance. We like this change, and we are glad to see a constant improvement in our Post Office affairs.

Captain Murrell had a fine turn out to hear his Temperance lecture on Tuesday evening, and he said many good things, some that were very good, but we fear most of his anecdotes had been told too many times to retain their interest. The meeting we thought rather long, but our indefatigable choir wound up with spirit, so that on the whole, we had a good, old-fashioned Temperance meeting.

The mail facilities of our people have been greatly increased within the last few weeks. First, through the liberality and perseverance of Major Mills, we have a daily mail, a favor which is duly appreciated. Then, through the energy and tact of somebody else, there is an express mail to Wellsville, by which means our daily papers are delivered here twenty-four hours after their publication in New York, except when the mail is forwarded from Wellsville to this place on a load of goods, which is done at least once a week. Our mail arrangements have been so much improved, that we have not the heart to complain, but we will just hint to the Wellsville end of the line; that if an opposition must be kept up, better do it by daylight in a respectable way.

We are a good natured people here in Coudersport—we are—but we submit that keeping our mail sixteen hours on the road only twenty-eight miles long, is "piling it up" a little too high.

Mr. Bloomingdale takes exceptions to our correspondent's notice of his exhibition. We very gladly lay his reply before our readers, and will cheerfully abide their decision in the matter. We have always had great confidence in Mr. B. as a Teacher, and have felt a lively interest in the school under his charge. The public exhibition under his management, though greatly marred, as we think, by those ridiculous masks and the mock "Woman's Rights Convention," was on the whole the most successful of any ever held in Coudersport, and furnished additional evidence of the skill, energy, and superior qualifications of the Principal of Coudersport Academy. But it is a characteristic of this paper, in which we take great pride, that its editors and correspondents express their own opinions, and do not bestow indiscriminate laudation upon whatever our friends say and do; hence the faithfulness of the notice of this exhibition.

The true way "of being agreeable in company is to appear well pleased with those you are engaged with, and rather to seem well entertained, than to entertain others."

THE PROGRESS OF TEMPERANCE.

The good cause is everywhere going ahead. Drunkard-making will soon be an acknowledged crime, as much so as gambling, counterfeiting, or horse stealing. A mighty effort has been made to resist this conclusion, but still the tide sweeps on.

Private letters frequently let us behind the curtain better than those written for the public eye, and so we make the following extract from one lately received by a friend of ours, which contains encouraging information as to the heart of the people everywhere:

"The Ohio people are enforcing their law, which is some better than ours, and not much either, but I hear cheering accounts every where of its good effects. Yesterday at the hotel table I heard two men talking. Said one to the other, who had just come to town, '—has stopped drinking.' 'For how long?' asked the other. 'Ever since they have been enforcing the law he can't get it, as he is known to be a drunkard; so he has been sober for six weeks.' They would do well by the Maine Law, if they had it here, since they do so well with the half way affair they have got. They are trying for a Maine Law for next year. * * * The anti-slavery feeling is very strong here, much stronger than ever before. I shall rejoice henceforth in every perpetration of Congressional rascality; since it seems to mend the people wonderfully. I move a vote of thanks to S. A. Douglas, for his great missionary work, in dosing the people with broken contracts until they are cured of much of their old fogysm. There are a perfect flood of anti-slavery emigrants from this region about to start for Kansas on the first of April. Preachers preach, and everybody talks about it. Two furiously anti-slavery ministers go with them to evangelize the heathen there.—One of them said to me the other day, 'We are going to settle along the Missouri frontier, so as to be strong enough to protect the polls against Missouri innovators.' Ministerial that, isn't it? That is a specimen of the Church militant—glad of it, though."

Here is a virtue most expressly and carefully enjoined upon us, and lately I have thought much of the reason, it is so particularized. Human beings have so much to forgive in each other, more than the Divine Being has to forgive in them, that this virtue must be exercised to its utmost extent. While the Omnipotent Eye looks into every soul, and knows the thoughts and intentions thereof, whether they be good or whether they be evil; we, with our narrow vision, see evil where only good was intended, and call out all our Christian principle to forgive acts noble in themselves, and often performed by great self-sacrifice and sense of duty. Not long ago, I heard a young friend express, humbly and sincerely, her thankfulness that she had been able to forgive another, for an act, painful in the performance, but which she (the actor) considered an unavoidable duty, and which, I doubt not, was a duty. To this friend, who forgave her so heroically and yet with such earnest effort to do right, the act appeared to be evil. Thus we have not only to forgive real trespasses, but a great many imaginary ones created only by our own perverted vision; and to live happily with even our best friends, we must trust to their charity to forgive, not alone what wrong we do, but a great deal that we never thought of doing. This is, it seems, the best we can do until we learn that better "charity" that "thinketh no evil."

We hope the rummies won't take offense, and attack Mr. Bloomingdale and the Academy, because of the Temperance declamations at the Exhibition. If they do, however, they will find the efficient Principal able and ready to defend himself and charge against their assaults. We hope the Principal will in future have more respect for the feelings of such a useful class of community, and not lay himself under the ban of their "virtuous indignation" to the serious detriment of the best interests of our country.

A PROPHECY.
We some days ago referred to the probable result of the coming election in Virginia, and the conclusion we then came to is strengthened by recent developments. It cannot be disguised that the people of Virginia are running pell-mell into Know-Nothingism, and the only reason we can assign for such a course is the hope of "killing Free-Soilism stone dead." Virginia will go Know-Nothing beyond all doubt, and this result will produce a new feature in party politics. The Presidential contest then will be Free-Soilism and Democracy versus Pro Slavery Know-Nothingism and religious persecution. In such a contest, we should not be surprised to see Mr. Seward, the most prominent man in the Union, as a candidate for the Presidency, and thousands of the best men in the nation standing on the same platform of principles with him.—Harrisburg Union.

The above is a remarkable paragraph; and is, perhaps, a key to the sudden conversion of Simon Cameron to free-soilism. The English of the above is, that the Union and its associates have heretofore been pro-slavery, not from principle, but for spoils, and now if the South desert the party, they are equally willing to unite with the friends of freedom and even to support Wm. H. Seward. Such is sham democracy, as proclaimed by one of its leading papers in this State. Willing to advocate any principle that gives promise of securing the most votes. A pretty paper this to talk about unholy coalitions. Why, it is unblushingly proclaiming its desire to coalesce with men who, have not a single idea in union with its own, and who will spurn its proffered embrace. We have heretofore hoped that Wisconsin would be defeated in Virginia, but if that event is to bring the Union and its associates into the support of Seward and free-soil, we shall most anxiously desire Wise's election.

THE WEATHER.

The past season has been a trying one for the farmers. First there was a drouth unparalleled in the history of the country. Then a winter more severe than has been known for years. As a consequence, there is suffering and loss of property, and a good many sensible people think of selling out to improve their condition. But would this do it? From the accounts, we judge that the winter has been more severe in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, than here in Potter county; and that the spring will be equally late; in proof of which we clip the following from the Tribune of the 31st whose editor has just returned from the West:

Winter still lingers in the North-West. Even at Springfield, Ill., last Monday (the 26th) was a sour, chilly, windy, wintry day—more like the middle of December than the end of March. The snow was not yet out of the ground nor the snow wholly off of it, and it did not seem as if thawing could be commenced before the middle of April at the earliest. In Northern Illinois and Indiana, (as also in Michigan and double Wisconsin also) there was a smart snow squall next evening, and the snow lay fairly in the streets of Chicago the next (Wednesday) morning. So it did throughout Western Michigan, but the bright weather of the last two days has doubtless wasted much of it throughout. Still, plowing and all spring work will necessarily be delayed by this unreasonable winter, and the area of Spring Wheat sown will be far less than it otherwise would have been.

The following from a Cleveland paper shows that Ohio has suffered as we have:

A HARD WINTER.—The Cleveland (O.) Leader says: "The farmers of Carroll county have lost a very large number of sheep. One man's flock in that county has suffered a diminution of 500 head. Almost every sheep grower has sustained loss. The clip of the great wool region of Ohio will be considerably reduced from last year."

The Mercer Freeman, published in the South-West part of this State, says that the farmers in that section are losing stock for want of sufficient fodder for them, and even in Western Virginia we hear the same complaints about the severity of the winter and the starving of cattle. We think, on the whole, that our people, though great sufferers from the severity of the drouth and the hard winter, should be thankful that is no worse with them.

"The vicious man and atheist have, therefore, no pretense to cheerfulness, and would act very unreasonably should they endeavor after it. It is impossible for any one to live in good humor, and enjoy his present existence, who is apprehensive either of torment or of annihilation; of being miserable, or of not being at all."

"A friendship which makes the least noise, is very often most useful; for which reason I should prefer a prudent friend to a zealous one."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.—My friends who so generously volunteered to bear with me the expenses of the late Exhibition of our Academy, will please accept my most cordial and grateful acknowledgements.

J. BLOOMINGDALE.

SLAVERY IN KANSAS.—According to the census returns of Kansas there are slaves in nine of the fourteen districts of that territory. The lowest number in any district is three and the highest thirty-five. We mention this fact for the consideration of those who were so vehement last year in asserting that slavery could not exist in Kansas, or that if it could, it would not.—Pittsburg Gazette.

We should like to hear what N. W. Goodrich, Esq., has to say to the above ugly looking facts. The opponents of the Douglas fraud asserted that the repeal of the Missouri Compromise would open the door for slavery to enter Kansas. The Northern defenders of that measure replied that the Douglas bill did not legalize the admission of slavery in that Territory, and with this quibble deceived a few, who cared more for party than principle. The trouble is here.—Slavery does not wait to be legalized before entering a territory. If there is not a positive statute against its admission, it is sure to take possession all the Territory of the United States. Slavery is already in Kansas, although it is not legal, and it will stay there, unless it is excluded by statute law.

CATHOLICISM AND COMMON SCHOOLS.—The following extract from the report of Wm. B. GILLES, Esq., the Superintendent of Common Schools in Elk county, develops a beautiful state of affairs:—

"Of the two schools reported by that district (that is Benizer township) one is taught by nuns or sisters, as they are called, and is under the direct supervision of the Priest. It numbers about seventy-five female pupils, and the teachers are all paid out of the public monies. The entire community are German Catholics, and the school is nothing less than a nunnery! The directors will not allow me to inspect those teachers, or set foot inside the building, on any consideration. Still they expect aid, as heretofore, from the State appropriation. Are they entitled to it? Does our system recognize such schools?"

"A man who uses his best endeavors to live according to the dictates of virtue and right reason, has two perpetual sources of cheerfulness; in the consideration of his own nature, and of that Being on whom he has a dependence."

CIRCULAR.
To the School Directors of Potter County:
GENTLEMEN: Allow me to call your attention to the 41st Section of the School Law, in regard to the examination of persons proposing to teach. I shall hold myself in readiness to attend to such examinations in each district, upon being requested. It would seem most proper that all the teachers proposing to take schools in a district, who do not hold certificates, should be examined at one time. Allow me to say, however, that a general public examination will probably take place at the close of the Institute, which will be held in Coudersport during the last two weeks of this month. At this examination, of which more particular notice will be given, it would give me pleasure to see directors present—who could thus have an opportunity of judging of the capacity of Teachers, and making a selection. School-books will also be examined at the Institute.

Blank forms for the Annual Report of each district have been received, and will be forwarded in such manner as may be directed. The directors are requested to furnish me with the names of the members of their respective Boards, and of their President and Secretary; and to designate the time at which the schools in their respective districts will commence.

J. B. PRADT,
Supt. of Schools in Potter Co.
Coudersport, April 2, 1855.

From the New York Courier and Enquirer.
THE KNOW-NOTHINGS.
The Branch of the Know Nothings to which the epithet "Hindoo" has been applied, and of which Messrs. Ullmann and Barker are the recognized leaders, is undergoing a very marked decline. Another branch, claiming an older organization and rejecting the practices of the Hindoos in making separate nominations and insisting upon their adherents voting for them, is said to be superseding the Barker organization in all parts of the State. By some, the "other" branch is denominated the "Allen" branch, and by others the "original." It is quite certain that it has no connection with what are called the "Seward Know Nothings," though it is not considered a sin among the "originals" for a man to be attached politically to Gov. Seward. The "originals" are making great inroads upon the Barker branch in this city; two Barker councils have surrendered their characters, and applied for fellowship among the originals. In one word, where there were thirteen hundred of the Barker branch last fall, less than thirty have been taken on the newly promulgated third degree. In another, where, a few months ago, there were many hundreds, a recent meeting was adjourned for want of a quorum.

A town in Western Massachusetts has elected a woman as a member of a School Committee.

The Mayor of Rochester closed the bars of all the Hotels in that city on Sunday last.

THE EXHIBITION.

COUDERSPORT ACADEMY, April 2, 1855.
Eds. Journal.—GENTS: This very rarely does I attempt to inflict any of my scribbles upon the public, in any matter of personal consideration merely; and were my own reputation the only thing involved, I should pass the matter by in silence, as I have at all times done; thrusts of a private or personal nature. But I happen, by the accident of my position, to stand before the people in a light somewhat different from that of a private individual. As the Principal of a Literary Institution, it is perfectly right, and I expect that all my doings in relation to the public affairs of that Institution, so far as the welfare and interests of the public are in any way affected, will be judged by them, and a verdict of approval or condemnation rendered according to the evidence.

In the judgment of such a tribunal, it becomes me cheerfully to acquiesce. It is urged, however, and with much force and truth, that public opinion, if not created, is nevertheless materially modified by the public press; and it is expected that a respectable newspaper will lead in some measure the minds of the people in whatever direction it casts its light. This, then, leads me directly to the object of writing this epistle. The public exercises of our Academy came off on the evenings of the 23d and 29d of March, in the presence of probably five hundred persons, nearly all of whom were capable of judging of the merits of the affair. There probably never were so much intelligence and refinement together for two consecutive evenings in this place. Of the success of the undertaking, I have nothing to say. The exercises seemed to be of sufficient public importance to elicit a review from both of the presses of the place, and the length and breadth of a large section of the Territory. The hundreds of readers of the Journal have been informed that at the county seat the enlightened equity of Potter, a public exhibition has taken place, of the very highest quality which the Journal has been to glorify and generously lauding during the latter years; and that at this exhibition, many very good things were done, and also some very mean ones. Would it not have been fair for "G." to have stated, what it was that was as funny as it was mean, and mean as it was funny; that the judgment of the people might not have been forestalled? "G." seriously regrets a state of things that the article on that signature will go farther to produce than any thing else, namely, disrespect for the Principal and the school; for parents and guardians of youth should, and probably will, be very careful about placing their children in charge of an instructor that will countenance and encourage indecency, immorality, and meanness in any form, and particularly a form of school exercises.

Now, what it was that, according to "G." was so particularly "funny and mean," was nothing more nor less than a playful banter upon the ultra, ridiculous notions of a vast number of half-brained fanatics, who, in fancy, framed into a system and set in motion would lead to the utter subversion of a wise domestic policy, and terminate in nothing short of domestic anarchy and the wail of the holiest affections of our race. It may be true that the picture, in this "mean and funny" play, was pretty highly drawn; but to this complexion must it come at last—indeed, it cannot, even now, be doubted that some of these women, now floundering the country and clamoring for and lung for "Woman's Rights," would be more appropriately employed in assisting their husbands in the discharge of those duties for which neither of them, singly and alone, is very properly fitted to discharge. In regard to the language of this "mean and funny" thing, I am not disposed to admit that it contains a single mean or immodest word or expression—nothing for which I would hesitate to furnish a copy for publication to the world, without note or comment. What "G." means by the declaration that "It was got up secretly, which accounts for its being got up at all," I am at a loss to understand. This much I do know: that it was requested by many of the most intelligent and refined citizens of the place to represent it on the second evening; and I confidently believe that if I had given notice on Friday evening that this piece would have been repeated on Saturday, we should have had a full house to hear it.

"G." asks, "Is splitting a part of stage performance?" I answer, No. And will add, that in the whole number of sixty students that took part in the exercises, but two were guilty of this breach of propriety, one of whom was seriously indisposed all that day and evening, and only appeared on the stage at all to prevent an interruption; and the other, partly on account of a severe cold, and partly a feilid atmosphere, was obliged to clear his throat.

To the question, "Are not such things (alluding to masks) too theatrical for school exhibitions?" I answer: If masks are not admissible to represent a particular expression of countenance, or old age in their "costume," then the robe of the Priestess, the decorations of Flora and the other dignities, the Indian costume, and even the decorations of the stage itself, must all be excluded on the same ground. Divest, then, the whole affair of all its "theatrical" appearance, as "G." is pleased to term it, and the crudest taste would be offended. No, no, "G.," all that pleased all that enjoyed the entertainment, all that was so much admired, both in action and costume, was of this same "theatrical" character.

Praying pardon for this infliction upon your patience, I subscribe myself,
Respectfully yours, &c.,
J. BLOOMINGDALE.

"AN Indian hung himself at Otonagon, the past winter. He was attacked by the small-pox, when he drove the other Indians from his camp, took his faithful dog and hung him to the limb of a tree, and then suspended himself to another.