

# THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

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COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 15 1855

The prospect of abundance of coal in M'Kean county, has created considerable activity in examining the high lands in this county. We hope the effort to find coal in our county, will prove successful.

The election in Massachusetts has resulted in favor of the Know Nothings, but the Republicans lead the administration, notwithstanding the liquor league gave all its influence to the administration candidates.

The new Steam Grist Mill of J. B. Brown's, commenced operations a few days since, to the great satisfaction of all our citizens. It is not yet completed, only one run of stone being in operation; but he is turning out a very fine article of buckwheat flour.

The prices of all kinds of grain keep up. Our farmers will have no difficulty in exchanging all their surplus produce into cash at remunerating prices. We trust they will be encouraged to increase their activity in farming operations; for the products of the farm are certain to keep up for years to come.

If the Indiana Independent really desires a union of the Anti-Nebriaka forces of this State, it will cease to stigmatize those who do not view Know Nothingism with its eyes, as "proscriptive, dishonest, and corrupt." Such abuse never converted any one from the error of his ways, and never will. Better use arguments than epithets.

We publish on the first page a full account of the imprisonment and final discharge of Bassmore Williamson. The Sun, from which this account is taken, is the only Philadelphia paper which possesses backbone enough to do justice to Judge Kane and Passmore Williamson. We commend the prospectus of this paper to the attention of all our friends who would like a Philadelphia weekly. See fourth page.

It takes \$15.50 in cash every week, to publish the People's Journal. Will our friends bear this fact in mind, and use some exertion to furnish us with material aid? We have a large number of generous patrons who have, from the start, done their whole duty; but just now we need a little more activity on the part of the patrons of the paper. Since Addison Avery was taken sick, we have been obliged to pay, each week, four or five dollars more than we receive. A little more activity on the part of the friends of the Journal, would put a stop to this onerous tax on the purse of the Editor.

## Allegheny Valley Railroad.

We gave in last week's Journal, an account of the opening of this important road, from Pittsburg to Eresport. We look upon this event as a fact of great importance to Northern Pennsylvania. Fifty thousand dollars worth of lumber is annually sent from this county to Pittsburg; and this amount would be doubled if the communication were direct, certain, and uninterrupted. Then we want a large amount of iron, glass, and the thousand articles manufactured from them, in return. In addition to our lumber, we can supply the Pittsburg market with potatoes and buckwheat. We therefore look upon the Allegheny Valley Railroad as a very great improvement to this and M'Kean counties; and we hope it will be pressed steadily forward to completion.

## The Way to Harmonize the Anti-Nebraska Forces of Pennsylvania.

This subject is engaging the attention of the liberal press, as it should. The Warren Mail suggested a basis of union, which was endorsed by the Philadelphia News. This was to favor Native Americanism, a Protective Tariff, and the restoration of the Missouri Compromise.

We are surprised that men of sense should dream of forming a union of the Anti-Nebraska forces on such a platform. We should like the advocates of such a plan to tell us what

advantage such a party would have over the old Whig party. We can't see that it would have any. We believe if we cannot agree to unite on the Republican platform as adopted in New York, Ohio, and Massachusetts, we cannot on any platform; and therefore we respond with great cordiality to the views of the Montrose Independent Republican, which are summed up in the following paragraph:

"We think, then, that in Pennsylvania, as in most other States, the Republican party should, for the present, make a clean issue on the Slavery question, and invite a cordial union of all men who agree with them on that issue. It is unfortunate that the Free Soil sentiment is not stronger in some parts of the State, and we may lose there considerably by not incorporating other principles in our platform. But what we lose there may be more than made up in other sections. For example, in Susquehanna County the Republican party as at present organized, can cast something over 3000 votes. And in case the Sham Democracy nominate a Presidential Candidate on a pro-Slavery platform, and he is opposed by but one candidate on an anti-Slavery platform, we should undoubtedly gain a large accession of wavering Democrats. But if we attempt to incorporate other questions on which our Republicans hold a variety of opinions, we shall here lose in strength instead of gaining. So it is, we believe, in most of the Northern and Western parts of the State."

## DEATH STRUGGLES.

Pierce Democracy has had every thing its own way in this Representative District so long, that it grows desperate as it approaches its end. All manner of falsehoods have been put afloat by somebody in relation to the election in this county. We nailed one of them last week, but we learn from the Lock Haven Watchman and Jersey Shore Vedette, that there are others. The following paragraph from the last Vedette, shows at what straws drowning men will catch: "Democracy is making quite a fuss, and its champion, John B. Beck, is threatening to contest the election of Representatives because report says some fifty illegal votes were cast in Potter county. One story says the Yorkers helped kill Beck and another that the election was held contrary to law, that is at another place than that designated by the act of Assembly."

We hardly need inform our Jersey Shore friend that there is no shadow of foundation for either of the above stories. The election in this county was held as the Act of Assembly directs, at every poll in the county; and the stories that have been set afloat are falsehoods manufactured by desperate men to hide their condemnation of Mr. Beck will never go to Harrisburg again, if he waits until he can discover illegal voting in this county sufficient to save him.

The Center Democrat is a welcome addition to our exchange list. A great revolution has taken place in that county, and we have no doubt the Democrat has done its full share in the noble work; for the few numbers we have seen are edited with good taste, skill, and energy. The following extract from a communication in the last number, will interest our readers, as it shows the happy influence exerted by the act of last session, to restrain the sale of intoxicating drinks:

"Mr. Brown:—Although I have not heretofore been the most zealous advocate of a Prohibitory Liquor Law, I am now free to confess that after having witnessed the effects of the present law (falsely called the jig law) for the space of one brief month, and especially on the day of the late election, I am for prohibition in all its power. Why, sir, one circumstance alone on the evening of the election (if I had no other reason) would be sufficient to cause, it seems to me, any sensible man to stand up for this great moral reform. The circumstance to which I refer, is the following: A man who has been a voter in this township for a number of years, was never known, I believe to get home from the election sober, and in fact sometimes could not get home at all without the assistance of some of his neighbors; but on the evening of the last election day he repaired to his home at an early hour, a man instead of a brute. He met a neighbor on the way told him how many votes were polled when he left, &c., &c., a thing he would not have been able to do for many years before. Now, this is but a single case, and I have no doubt, just such men are to be found in every township in our county; and if withholding from them the intoxicating cup, preserves to them their reason, and to their families a decent husband and father, why not instead of trying to effect a repeal of the present law, go to work like men—like philanthropists, like Christians and secure an entire prohibitory law."

**COUDERSPORT ACADEMY.**  
The Winter Term of this institution will commence on Monday, December 3d, under the charge of Rev. J. Henzwick, of East Smithfield, Bradford Co., Pa., assisted by such teachers as the number of students in attendance may require.

Mr. Hendrick has been engaged in the business of teaching a large share of the time for fifteen years, mostly in Bainbridge, Chenango Co., N. Y. He has acquired an enviable reputation in this profession, and we feel greatly elated that our efficient Board of Trustees has secured the services of such a teacher. Mr. H. is a ripe scholar, an ardent lover of his profession, an accomplished gentleman, and an energetic man. With him there is no such word as fail. He comes to Coudersport for the purpose of making it his permanent home; and in that respect he will have claims upon the patronage of our citizens, which previous teachers in the Academy have not possessed.

Under these circumstances, we feel the utmost confidence that the Academy, under Mr. Hendrick's charge, will give entire satisfaction to all reasonable men. The friends of Education in Potter county owe it to themselves, their children, and society, to give this institution an enthusiastic support. Our people have manifested of late a great interest in common schools. These cannot be improved without better qualified teachers; and teachers of the proper qualifications cannot be furnished without patronizing some Academy. Clearly it is for the interest of our citizens to build up an institution of their own, where young men and women can complete their studies, and qualify themselves for first class common school teachers. Mr. H. will build up an institution of this kind; and therefore we expect the school will open on Monday, Dec. 3, with more students, and under more favorable prospects than ever before. We are warranted in coming to this conclusion, from the indications all around us; and therefore we say to the friends of the Coudersport Academy, if you will but make a little effort in its behalf, we shall soon have a better, more prosperous school than was ever organized in the county. Let us see who are the real friends of Education in this community.

**A SLAVE HEROINE.**—The Trenton, N. J. Gazette, records the passage through that town of a party of fugitive slaves, under the following remarkable circumstances: Two years ago a slave woman, advanced in years, the mother of six children, who had all been sold from her when old enough to be useful, overheard her master bargaining for the sale of her grand-aunt, a boy fifteen years old, to a trader. This being the last of her family, she resolved not to permit it, and the same night fled with the boy. They traveled by night northward, guided by the north star, and after long wanderings, reached Canada.

There she hired herself out for wages, and two months ago, with the result of her own and her boy's labors, returned to the South, where, concealing herself in the woods, she revealed her presence only to her friends, and thus collected seven of her children and grandchildren. They started northward, traveling only by night, and concealing themselves during the day. Before reaching Philadelphia, they were so worn out with hunger and hardship, as to be obliged to seek the aid of friends. These were found, and the whole party were then fed and clothed and forwarded safely to Canada. This woman is nearly sixty years of age, yet alone she has done all this.

We should like to have some one of our fugitive slave bill men express an opinion on the above case. Do you rejoice at the escape of this woman, or not? If you do, then why do you sustain the fugitive slave bill and the party that is upholding it?

## Truth Well Expressed.

We clip the following pungent but truthful paragraph from the Pittsburg Gazette:

"We will not, however, conceal the conviction that is steadily forcing itself upon us, that the tone and temper of the various elements of opposition in the State is not now favorable to a cordial union. There is, at the present, too much crimination and recrimination, too strong an anxiety on the part of one branch to overreach the other, and too little disposition to yield in the very questions which are the matters of controversy and difference. There must be a change in this respect

before a proper combination can be effected. We venture to assure our Pittsburg friend, that if he will but set an example of treading the path here marked out, he will find a large number ready and anxious to follow him.

**THE RESULT IN NEW YORK.**  
Contrary to our hopes and expectations, the Know Nothings have carried their State ticket in the Empire State, by a majority of from five to ten thousand. The same party having carried Maryland and Massachusetts, we fear a union of the Anti-Nebraska forces of the North, is seriously endangered.

There is, however, a cheering side to this picture. The Pierce Democracy are everywhere overwhelmed. The people repudiate with scorn the faith-breaking party. The Liquor party has also been signally defeated.

The Legislature of N. Y. is about as follows:

	Senate.	Assembly.
Republicans	15	41
Know Nothings	9	30
Dem. (Hard and Soft)	7	46
To hear from	1	11

Allegheny and Cattaraugus have done nobly, which is doubtless owing, in good part, to the gallant manner in which the Free Press and Journal conducted the campaign. The election of R. White to the Senate, from the Cattaraugus district, is a great triumph, and we beg to congratulate the editor of the Ocean Journal on the brilliant triumph which has crowned his efforts.

## MORAL COURAGE.

What is it? It is a willingness and a fixed determination to suppress moral evil; and moral evil is every thing contrary to the gospel of our Lord and Savior, and deleterious to the happiness and welfare of mankind. Hence so few take a decided stand against Intemperance, Slavery, and Sabbath-breaking. Upon the last of these I wish to make a few remarks, and especially upon the worst feature of it, which is hounding deer on Sundays. This is frequent in our county, and sometimes to the annoyance of religious meetings, as I once witnessed. When the baying of the hounds is heard upon the hills, men, women, and children, mount the fences, climb the highest stumps, eager to catch the first glimpse of the deer as he emerges from the forest. Soon the poor creature is seen, panting for breath, like the hunted fugitive from the land of manacles and Bowie-knives. He plunges into the water with the instinctive idea of safety; but the rifle seals his fate. Then a discharge of guns, and a hallooing; bring together the different companies of liars in wait, who, with the spectators, oftentimes make a large company. The deer, although cut in small pieces, hardly suffices to give each a small bit.

Just look at this faint picture, friends, and tell me of a greater and more useless desecration of the Lord's day, and anything that will more retard the settlement of our county by men of moral courage. This is done frequently by foreigners who take the liberty to do as they please in Potter. Sometimes hunters go into other townships, as did these from Cushingville who lately set their dogs out on Pine Creek, and when on their way home, were reproved by an individual living in Pike township. They turned the reproof into ridicule, then fired their guns, and went off with a shout.

Is there no remedy? Is there not a man of moral courage, who with righteous indignation will rise up and put in force the strong arm of the law? I believe if an example were made of one of these reckless barbarians, the rest would be discomfited; and I am sure if another instance of the kind falls under my observation, the trial will be made. Will not our fearless, faithful Journal which possesses so large a share of moral courage, speak! If it be not afraid to measure swords with King Alcohol, nor to raise a banner against the encroachments of the slave oligarchy, will it fail to espouse our cause, and help us enjoy the privileges of the Sabbath?

## A CITIZEN.

Sweden, Nov. 4, 1855.  
We do not see that it requires any great amount of moral courage to rebuke such gross violations of a

wholesome law, as our correspondent describes; for every good citizen is opposed to such scenes. Those who witness the violation of law, are the very ones to prosecute the violators; and if they do not, they have no right to call on others to do it.

## PASSMORE WILLIAMSON'S RELEASE.

One of the most memorable acts of judicial oppression, one of the most glaring instances of the wresting of the law to purposes of injustice and tyranny, was concluded on Saturday by the release of Passmore Williamson on the order of the same judge who flung him into prison.

If the incarceration of this innocent man, against all law and every shadow of justice, proves that even under a democratic system the private citizen is not secure against arbitrary power and violent malice on the part of magistrates, his release equally demonstrates that under such a system the force of public opinion is sure at last to right the utmost wrong, and to humble the most bold and reckless contemner of Justice and official duty. On the 9th of August Passmore Williamson was brought before Judge Kane by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus, commanding him to produce the bodies of Jane Johnson and her two sons, alleged slaves of John H. Wheeler, freed by the act of their master, and taken from the latter's keeping by the will of Jane herself, who left him as soon as she was informed by Mr. Williamson that she had the legal right to do so. To this writ Mr. Williamson made return that the persons required were not in his custody, and that accordingly he could not produce them. For making this return, Mr. Williamson was shut up in Moyamensing prison on the 27th of July, on the ground that it was a false return, and as such contemptuous toward the court.

Since that time Mr. Williamson and his friends have been incessantly engaged in endeavors to extricate him from this unjust and illegal confinement. As a matter of course, they first applied to the courts of Pennsylvania, whose manifest and primary duty it is to protect the liberty of her citizens against arbitrary and tyrannical violence, from whatsoever quarter. The chief justice pusillanimously refused to interfere; and then with great expense and delay they resorted to the full bench of justices, who again after long waiting, gave their notorious decision in favor of Judge Kane and his right to shut up men in jail without either law or right.

Meanwhile the universal indignation of the country, expressed through every conceivable channel, had not only branded this unjust judge with a stamp from which his reputation can never recover, but had been felt by him as a burden too great to be borne. Private suggestions were given that any reasonable pretext would be adopted for the release of Mr. Williamson; accordingly Jane Johnson's petition was presented, but true as all its statements palpably were, and just as were all its demands, it was rather too strong to be allowed. At the same time, however, the court took occasion to open the door for a different arrangement. Other proceedings were had, till finally Judge Kane proposed that Mr. Williamson himself should appear and take immediate steps for his liberation. Hereupon, willing to adopt every means that should not compromise the truth or surrender a principle, Mr. Williamson petitioned for leave to appear before the court and purge himself of that contempt because of which he was imprisoned.

When this petition was presented, the district attorney contended that the word "legally" should be inserted so as to make Mr. Williamson admit that he was legally incarcerated, which of course, he would never have done. But so desirous was Judge Kane of extricating himself from the detestable position in which he stood, that he overruled the proposal and allowed the petition to pass as it was. Then Mr. Williamson was to answer why he had not produced the bodies of Jane Johnson and her children as required by the original writ. To this interrogatory his reply now was simply "Because it was impossible." Here again the district attorney sought to go further and compel him to answer whether he would have produced them had it been possible, but this the judge also excluded, and upon this answer released the prisoner.

The case then stands thus: Mr. Williamson was adjudged guilty of contempt of court, and was even declared by the judge to be guilty of perjury, because he had made oath that Jane Johnson and her sons were not in his custody, wherefore he could not produce them.

After being held in prison for contempt for the period of three months and one week, he is at last allowed to amend his former answer by making oath simply that he did not produce those persons "Because it was impossible to do so."

With regard to the essential identity between these two answers, comment is needless.

Had this eclatant act of repentance and submission been sooner made,

Judge Kane might have founded upon it some hope of regaining some portion of those relics of public esteem which may possibly have remained to him after his conduct in the Christiana affair; but now it comes too late, and is too evidently enforced by that supreme power of public opinion which even the most obstinate and audacious offender must sooner or later bow. But the ill effect of this matter is not confined to Judge Kane alone. It has deeply shocked the public confidence in the administration of justice in general, and in the efficacy of our laws to secure the most sacred rights. To be a judge was once a title of respect, but at this rate it must soon become the contrary. People talk sometimes of radicals and destructives who sap the foundations of society and undermine the basis of public morals; but a judge like Kane does more at a single blow to shake the social fabric and retard the progress of a people than the vices of private criminals in half a century.

In any other northern city than Philadelphia such an outrage as that which for more than the quarter of a year, Mr. Williamson has been the victim, would have provoked public disturbance. Certainly there was never an occasion in which a revolutionary remedy would have seemed more truly justifiable. But the result, as it now stands, puts those in the right who hold that violence should never be employed even for a right end. Passmore Williamson comes from his prison to the peaceful fiat of public opinion—released by the justice of his cause and by the voluntary submission of the tyrant who immured him.

## ELMIRA FEMALE COLLEGE.

The beautiful and capacious building, just completed in the village of Elmira, for a Female College, was inaugurated during the late State Fair. The venerable Dr. Benton of Troy, made the first speech. Brief addresses were delivered on the occasion by Rev. Allen Steele of New-York, and Rev. Dr. S. H. Cox of Owego. The following extract from Dr. Beman's speech evinces a wholesome progressive feeling:

"But I am glad that you have taken the name of College; were it for nothing else than to remove that fastidious distinction, which neither God nor man, nor the structure of the human mind, warrants the founders of literary institutions to monopolize for the young man, while the girl and young woman must go to school. Such institutions, embracing as this shall, in their course of study, the liberal branches of science and literature; that useful and the ornamental; shall be the strong and bright link in the golden chain of intelligence and piety which shall hand our country to the high destiny which God has decreed for her own future; while the same chain thrown around the heart of the nations, shall draw them together, in the bonds of a holy, Christian brotherhood."—Northern Christian Advocate.

**THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY IN MOTION.**—An appeal has recently been made to the Republican party in Europe, by Kosciuszko, Mazzini and Lenin Rollin, announcing that by the fall of Sevastopol the war is irretrievable and indefinitely prolonged—it being impossible for Russia to treat after a defeat, without sinking into a third rate position, and it being impossible for the allies, in the face of public opinion, to offer peace on less onerous conditions. They call upon the European democracy now to unite against their enemies and act, precluding liberty and fraternal association for all.—Philadelphia Sun.

**CHARLES SUMNER** made a forcible and eloquent speech in defense of the Republican party, in Faneuil Hall, on the 2d inst. In his exordium, he thus alluded to his recent tour in the slave States, and to what fell under his personal observation:

"It has been my fortune latterly to see slavery face to face in its own home, in the slave States; and I take this early opportunity to offer my testimony to the open barbarism which it sanctions. I have seen a human being knocked off at auction on the steps of the Court-House, and, as the sale went on, compelled to open his mouth and show his teeth, like a horse; I have been detained in a stage-coach, that our driver might, in the phrase of the country, 'help lick a nigger'; and I have been constrained, at a public table, to witness the revolting spectacle of a poor slave, yet a child, almost felled to the floor by a blow on the head from a clenched fist. Such incidents were not calculated to shake my original convictions. The distant slaveholder who, in generous solicitude for that Truth which makes for Freedom, feared that, like a Doctor of Divinity, I might, under the influence of personal kindness, be hastily swayed from these convictions, may be assured that I saw nothing to change them in one little, but to confirm them, while I was entirely satisfied that here in Massachusetts, where all read, the true character of slavery is better known than in the slave States themselves, whose ignorance and prejudice close the avenues of knowledge."