

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

JOHN S. MANN, EDITOR.

COUDERSPORT, PA. THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 6, 1855.

The school at the Academy, under the charge of Mr. Hendrick, opened on Monday last, with very encouraging prospects. Fifty-two students enrolled...

Should our brief notice of Mr. Leggett, in another column of this paper, make any reader desire to learn more of this "true man," we refer him to "Old Portraits and Modern Sketches," to be found in the Coudersport Library.

Horace Greeley will spend the winter at Washington, as the special representative and correspondent of the Tribune. We hope this announcement will induce the making up of lists for the Weekly Tribune...

Putnam for December is received. It is a superior number, and contains a variety of the choicest reading matter. It is truly and emphatically an American Magazine...

This number ends the sixth volume, and the publishers say "the arrangements for the new volume are such that they may confidently predict an increasing excellence in every department."

OUR NATION'S DISGRACE—THE AUTHORS OF IT.

That the Slave Power has ruled this Nation for the past fifty years, is a fact as well understood. We can say this better than by taking a paragraph from the last Northern Christian Advocate...

This is a most humiliating picture, but is not in the least overdrawn. What has brought this degradation upon us? The doughface spirit which dictated the following paragraph in the Philadelphia Daily News...

No true friend to the cause of Freedom will favor such meetings, if he reflects for a moment on the consequences likely to grow out of them. The Free-State party in the Territory is now largely in the ascendant...

The man who wrote that paragraph would counsel submission to any act of tyranny dictated by the South; and it was just such a spirit as pervades the above paragraph...

Mr. Leggett was one of the editors of the N. Y. Evening Post in 1835, when an attempt was made to destroy the lives and property of leading abolitionists. He came to their defense...

Station in Office.

It is not often that we find anything in the Locoming Gazette with which we agree; but the following in relation to an evil of great magnitude...

"Another objectionable feature in our present system—which, however, is mainly owing to the first—is a too hasty rotation in certain offices, and no where is it more hurtful than in Congress. Almost every day we hear it said that the south controls the north...

been chosen, who by his abilities, sound judgment, and rational views on public affairs, has given general satisfaction on a trial, let him be retained as long as he can possibly, or until there is some better reason than rotation or sectional interests for removing him.

WILLIAM LEGGETT—DEMOCRACY.

Probably no one man ever did more to commend the Democratic party to the masses of the United States, than William Leggett. Like the great founder of the party, Thomas Jefferson, he was an honest man and a true Democrat.

To the teaching of such a Democrat we listen with reverence, and shall follow his example to the best of our poor ability.

We commend the above manly declaration to those timid souls of the present day, who are frightened at the senseless cry of abolition. We also commend the following extract from his review of one of Mr. Calhoun's speeches...

"We have Mr. Calhoun's own warrant for attacking his position with all the fervor which a high sense of duty can give; for we do hold, from the bottom of our soul, that slavery is an evil; a deep, detestable, damnable evil; evil in all its aspects...

"If any one desires an illustration of the opposite influences of slavery and freedom, let him look at the two sister States of Kentucky and Ohio. Alike in soil and climate, and divided only by a river where translucent waters reveal, through nearly the whole breadth, the sandy bottom over which they sparkle, how different are they in all the respects over which man has control."

"This is the State which, but a few years ago slept in the unbroken solitude of nature. The forest spread an interminable canopy of shade over the dark soil on which the fat and useless vegetation rotted at ease; and through the dusky vistas of the wood, only savage beasts and more savage men prowled in quest of prey."

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had resented for ages. The rivers flow in the sunlight; and the fields smile with swaying harvest. This is Ohio, and this is what freedom has done for it.

"Now, let us turn to Kentucky, and note the opposite influences of slavery. A narrow and unfrequented path through the close and sultry canebrake, conflicts us to a wretched hole; it stands in the midst of an unwooded field whose dilapidated enclosure scarcely protects it from the lowing and hungry kine. Children half-clad and squalid, and destitute of the buryness natural to their age, lounge in the sunshine, while their parents saunter apart, to watch his languid slaves drive the ill-appointed team afield. It is not a fancy picture. It is a true copy of one of the features which make up the aspect of the State, and of every State where the moral leprosy of slavery covers the people with its noisome scales; a deadening lethargy beclouds the limbs of the body politic...

"SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY."

As the slaveholders and their Northern allies are making a desperate effort to extend slavery, under the cloak of this popular cry, we think it is the duty of the free press to expose the hollowness of the pretense. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, were settled, and formed into noble, free commonwealths, under the Jeffersonian plan of excluding slavery from the Territory by act of Congress.

We find in the December number of Putnam (the best American monthly ever published), some remarks on this subject, which we should like every voter in the county to read. The following extract will perhaps induce a perusal of the whole article:

"We need not, surely, retrace the ground which has already been so thoroughly traversed in these pages and elsewhere. We cannot deem it necessary to argue further that Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Crawford, J. Q. Adams, and all the eminent men of the country, from the peace of 1782 down to the year 1848, every one of them clearly committed, by his acts or his published opinions, to some form or other of assertion that Congress has power to exclude slavery from the Federal Territories, were not ignorant of the vital provisions and intent of the Constitution. If it really remained for an aspirant for the Presidency, distracted by the conflicting dangers of alienating the North, or of mortally offending the South, to discover, sixty years after the Federal Constitution became the paramount law of the land, that it had, throughout these sixty years, been totally misapprehended, in a most important feature, by Congresses, presidents, cabinets, judges, and that the entire action of the Federal Government with regard to the Territories, had been founded in usurpation, then we can never more regard any power exercised by that government as clearly constitutional. If Congress, in organizing a new Territory, may not say that each man being, not a fugitive from justice or labor, who makes that Territory his residence, shall be legally entitled therein to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, then our Union is a chimeric and chaotic mass again."

"That the doctrine of 'Squatter Sovereignty' is a mere device—the doubling of a fugitive from the sharp horns of a dilemma—in coarse but expressive phrase, a 'dodge,'—is shown by the repugnance or inability of its champions to define it. If you direct the entire people of the United States, acting through their representatives in Congress, of the power of deciding whether their territory, the prospective home of their children, shall be free or slave, you necessarily invest some portion of this grand tribunal with such power. Who, then, shall say whether Kansas is to be free or slave? 'The squatters.' Yes; but do you mean the first dozen who reach the territory? the first score? the first hundred? the first thousand? the first five thousand? the first ten thousand? or what number of pioneers do you invest with this tremendous power over the destinies of your children and ours? Suppose your favorite number shall, to-day, establish slavery, may the far larger number who will be there next year expel it? Or is your 'dodge' to serve

any the slavery gets into the territory, but be entirely impotent when invoked to turn it out? In the acceptance or rejection of slavery by the people, are all men to vote? or whites only? Who defines and discriminates the people from the mute subjects of their sway? The people, may want slavery, or may not; but who expects that these are not other rational adults are not the people?"

Mr. Jefferson Davis, following in the wake of Mr. Calhoun, long since propounded, in opposition to General Cass's theory, the doctrine that, since slaves are property, and property is protected by the constitution, which guarantees to every citizen of any State his rights in every State or Territory, therefore any slaveholder, may take his slaves into any Territory, and there hold them interminably in bondage, under theegis of the Federal Constitution. This doctrine is more coherent than General Cass's and is not exposed to the peril of suicide. Like the General's, it defies our country's unbroken history under the constitution, and brands all our statesmen anterior to '48 as charlatans and impostors, while it tells our pioneers that slavery must go into every Territory to which any solitary slaveholder may see fit to remove one or more of his chattels, and that no majority of the people of said Territory have power to prevent it. The Cass doctrine gives freedom an apparent chance to fight her way into any territory; but the Davis assumption denies even this, and restricts freedom for all to the States which have already established it, by positive enactments. Had Jeff. Davis flourished fifty years earlier, and been headed, we should have had no free States west of the Ohio. But it would have been morally impossible to produce an influential endorsement of such a doctrine at any time prior to the annexation of Texas."

Gen. Cass and Temperance.

A large Indian council was recently held in Detroit, Mich. While it was in session, Gen. Cass entered, and was immediately surrounded by the Indians, who generally regard him as their father. The Gen. made a speech to them, in which he alluded to the terrible effects of whiskey among them, and advised them to banish it. One chief arose and said: "When I hear that there is any fire-water among my people, I search until I find it, and then I pour it out on the ground."

Wise Chief, that. But we are not aware that whiskey does any more mischief among the Indians than among white people; and hence we think the State should do as this Indian Chief does, search among the grog shops for it, and when found, "pour it out on the ground."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

We learn from the Connecticut Courrier, that "the property belonging to the late Temperance organizations of that place, was disposed of at public auction on the 9th instant." The same paper says that all the different organizations have "passed away," nothing but the Washingtonian yet exist, and they only in name. This is certainly a strange result in a place in which, during the last few years, the temperance sentiment has seemed to prevail. There must be a cause for it unconnected with the legitimate operations of the great Reform.

We are happy to believe that in our city and county the friends of Temperance continue their efforts with unabated zeal and determination. There must be something wrong about this movement in Connecticutville. If neither a Lodge of Good Templars nor a Division of the S. of T., can be sustained in a village of that size, then there is very little vitality in the temperance cause, in Western Crawford, and it is quite time the live men there were at work. We are pleased with the report of the Gazette for Erie county; and we have no doubt most of the counties in the State might report equally favorably. In this place the Temperance organizations are increasing in strength and influence, and we believe such is the fact wherever the members are devoted to the cause.

RETALIATION.

They have an act on the legislative anvil in Georgia which we read rather carefully when it was first reported, and resolved to say nothing about until it should pass; but our contemporaries have commenced ventilating it, and will doubtless in time discover its true drift and necessary consequences; so we have no adequate motive for further forbearance. It is substantially as follows: "A Georgian goes before a proper tribunal and swears that one of his negro slaves has run away—or a dozen of his slaves, as the case may be—that said slave—or slaves—has made his way to some Free State—say, New York—and that he cannot recover him: whereupon the tribunal gives

legal authority to seize or attach any property belonging to or debt due to Georgia to any citizen of said Free State wherein said fugitive is sworn to have found refuge, and pay himself the sworn value of said fugitive slave out of said property or debt. There is a good many cases of such verbiage; but the gist of the bill is here given.

This bill had not passed when we last heard from Middletown; but we stated likely to become a law. We sincerely hope it may, for these reasons: 1. It will strike a damaging blow at our infatigable system of Mercantile Credit. A Southern retailer of dry goods rarely or never pays for them when he lays them; his old questions on credit of the jobbers of New York or Philadelphia, expecting to pay for them out of the proceeds of their sales unless he can find some more adequate investment for the money. Should the crop of his section fail, or the price of cotton rule low, or the rivers fail to rise so that it can be floated to market, he won't pay; if he has invested his current receipts in Government funds, or a new house, or a gambling business, this supplying the South with goods on credit, in good part extended to men who have neither the property nor the established character which could clothe them to such credit. It inundates retail merchants enormously, and floods the Planting States with goods which are neither wanted nor paid for. We believe this Mercantile Credit course both to the North and to the South, and hail the advent of anything calculated to break it up. This flood and unjust Georgia bill will tend both ways so we hope it will pass.

2. Our merchant jobbers, who job goods on credit to Southern retailers, are nearly all Union men, who think Slavery either a good thing in itself, or a necessary evil which the North has nothing to do with. When one of them shall have been called upon to pay, under this Georgia law, for ten or fifteen slaves whom he never saw nor heard of till he found them in his little bill, it may possibly crawl through his hair that we have something to do with slavery. It may even occur to him that it is not exactly the right thing for a man to sell his half-brother into the most brutal and cruel bondage in the one-field or rice-swamp, merely because that brother has one eighth African blood in his veins. 3. This act will tend rapidly to diminish the slave population of the States adopting it, and so to weaken the impediments to emancipation. Every slaveowner who has a particularly vicious, intractable, unprofitable negro, whom he cannot sell, and does not wish to keep, will continue to have him run away, taking care only that he runs into some Free State. Thence he may go to Canada or wherever else he may choose; the master will only track him to some Free State trading with and trusting the South, and then proceed to levy on the property or debts of citizens of said State for his liberally estimated value. So long as there shall be any property liable to attachment under this law, so long, we may be sure, will the slaves keep running away.

4. Our neighbors who sell goods to the South on credit sometimes get rich very fast counting their "bills payable" as "securities" or realized profits, and take to building each his palace on the Fifth Avenue or thereabouts on the strength of such good fortune. By and by these Southern promises fail due and are not paid—"not then nor ever"—and the half built palace has to be sold, and the mechanics are sometimes losers. Let this Georgia bill pass, and our merchants will estimate their profits and build their palaces on the basis of their payments received rather than their goods sold, which we believe the more excellent way. In short, the passage of this Georgia bill will burst some pernicious bubbles and do much more good than its authors intend, while we do not perceive that it is more unjust and oppressive than other measures which the maintenance of Slavery renders necessary. Let us have it enacted.

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SUBSTITUTE FOR THE POTATO.—A subscriber at Middletown, N. J., inquires if any of the Chinese Yam, or Japan Potato, (Dioscorea Japonica,) can be procured in this city. We understand that D. Bull, florist, corner of Broadway and Fifth street, has grown some of them this season, and is so well pleased that he has sent out a large order to France for seed. Some of the roots were exhibited at the Fair at the Crystal Palace, and a specimen cooked has proved satisfactory. It is said that the yields will be large to the acre. We advise farmers, however, to make calculations to plant about the usual quantity of our good old-fashioned potatoes the Mercers, the Shamrocks, the Pink-eyes, next Spring, as we will assure them that there will be still a large consumption of potatoes, owing to the increase of Know Nothings who abjure everything imported except Heidsieck, Coggins, and Jamaica-Tribune.

Patience is the key of content.—Mamelot.