

morning. It convened about 8 o'clock. It had been hurriedly called, but was a large one, and a firm and resolute spirit was manifested.

S. N. Wood, Esq., was called to the chair. A gentleman present, Mr. J. B. Abbott, was called on to state the objects of the meeting. He spoke of the murder of Mr. Branson, one of the most peaceable citizens of the County; of the rescue and the necessity of protecting Mr. Branson, and also of defending the community from attacks made upon it. These men had sent a dispatch to Governor Shannon, and threatened that a large force, chiefly Missourians, would be here to effect a recapture.

Mr. Branson himself being present was called on. He is a man of forty or fifty; a quiet, respectable-looking farmer. He spoke simply and briefly. He said that the deceased person who had been shot boarded with him; that the meeting of the citizens the day before, had first convened at his house, and had then proceeded to the spot where D. W. had been murdered. That he had attended that meeting and returned home when it broke up, and retired to bed at the usual hour. About 9 o'clock he was awakened by some kind of noise, and immediately asked "Who is there?" The reply was "A friend." He responded, "Come in," when the door was driven open, and immediately the house was filled with armed men. He was undressed and had got into the middle of the floor, when Mr. Jones, Postmaster of Westport, who had been elected Sheriff of Douglas County by the bogus Legislature, presented a pistol at his breast and exclaimed, "You are my prisoner."

They then ordered him to put on his clothes immediately. He responded, that he hoped they wouldn't hurry him, but Jones and some of the others replied that "they would"—that he must "come immediately," or "they would blow him to hell!" He hurried on his clothes as fast as he could, when they took him and put him on a mule and started off, leaving his family in distress and anxiety. There was another man about the house, who started and gave the alarm after they left. From his house Mr. Branson stated his captors did not follow a direct course, but rode round past several houses. He asked one of the men who was close to him what he had been taken for? The man replied, "Oh, it was only a peace warrant."

He afterwards asked Jones what he was taken for? Jones said, "Oh, just a peace warrant—but we had no fun. We expected to have seen those sixty men that were there to-day—we have had a fun."

This, he said, was the talk of all of them as they came along; they were boasting of what they would have done, and wishing they could have met his friends. As they approached the house of a Mr. Abbott, they met the company of men, fifteen in number, (exactly the same as Jones's party,) who had been apprised of his abduction, and had come out to rescue him, having apprehensions that his life was in danger. This company was planted across the road; Jones's party halted as they came near. A voice from his friends requested Branson to come out and join them; a voice from the Jones company said they would shoot him if he did. There was a clicking of the locks—Western Rifles on one side, and Sharp's Rifles on the other, and both parties leveled their pieces. Mr. Branson rode his mule out from among the party who had taken him, and, stopping between the parties, asked what he would do with the mule. A voice from his friends said "Let him go." He dismounted, and a man stepped from the ranks of the Free State party and gave the mule a kick, driving him back to the opposite party. These latter commenced to curse and threaten. The Free State men did not say much, and seemed determined to let their opponents make the first attack. This the latter did not appear to resist, and kept threatening, the would-be Sheriff declaring that Governor Shannon had promised that they should have ten thousand men to enforce the laws of their Legislature, and that they would let them see. His party, however, retreated, and sent messengers to Governor Shannon for a military force, while the Free State men wheeled about and marched to Lawrence,

most of them lived about the Waukauka, but they went to Lawrence to organize a defense against their enemies. Mr. Branson stated that he had been requested by some friends to leave Lawrence and seek himself or fly, so that no one would have even the semblance of an excuse for attacking Lawrence. He said he did not wish to involve any of his friends; and if it was the will of the majority he would go, but he did not want to leave his wife, his family and property were there unprotected, and he could go home, even if they should murder him, as they had done his friend Dow.

His remarks, which were rather a simple and plain narrative, than a speech, had a profound effect; and when he spoke of leaving, there were loud cries of "No, no!"

G. P. Lowry, Esq., late secretary of Governor, Reader, rose and proposed that a committee of ten should be elected to cooperate with the militia companies that he understood were organized for the mutual defense of all. Mr. Lowry said he had hitherto taken no part in the matter, but from the aspect of affairs the time had come when it was incumbent on every one to act. He wished no irregular proceedings taken, and merely proposed this committee, and the organization they should perfect, as a measure of defense, not of aggression. He thought the interests and security of every one was involved, and that it would be irrational and improper for any to stand back. The gentleman's remarks were well received, and his proposition immediately adopted.

## THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

JOHN S. MANN, EDITOR.

COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1855

Remember the concert this (Thursday) evening, at the Methodist church, by the little girls, under the direction of Mrs. Shaw. The proceeds of this concert, are to be applied to the purchase of lamps and other needed furniture for the church. Let a generous spirit fill the house. Admission twenty-five cents—Children half price.

Our friends who can communicate an item of news, are urgently requested to do so, as that is the life of a country newspaper.

We hope no farmer will cease his efforts to improve his condition because winter has set in. There are many kinds of necessary work, which can better be done in winter than Summer.

"The District School under the charge of H. J. Olmsted, is well organized, and in good condition. The exercises are conducted with spirit by the pupils, which is evidence that the teacher is doing his duty.

The Montrose Independent is a good paper. We read it with attention and great pleasure, as often as received, which is about once in four weeks. What is the matter, Messrs. of the Independent? Do you exchange with us or not?

Sleighs commenced running quite briskly last week, which gave the town a lively appearance. The weather was just cool enough for comfort, and every body seemed delighted, especially the children, who kept their little sleds going with great glee from daylight till bed time.

The organs of Pierce Democracy, even in the free States, sympathize with the border ruffians of Missouri. Hence their alacrity to charge the origin of the troubles in Kansas upon the Free State men. That the *Missouri* was father to the thought, in this matter, is apparent to the duller reader.

The Independent Press of Williamsport, is sent to us semi-occasionally. As the *Gazette* of the same place comes regularly we ask for an explanation. If the *Press* did not come at all, we should know what to depend on, but these irregular and far between visits are not the thing among friends.

We regret that Mr. Mather has ceased to supply the town with fresh meat. The next time a butcher commences here, we hope our citizens will feel the need of one sufficiently to give him a support. We find it a great inconvenience to be deprived of the regular visits of a good butcher like Mr. Mather.

The Tribune's Correspondence from Kansas, on the first page, is of thrilling interest. It gives a graphic and detailed account of the origin of the civil war in that Territory, which is the legitimate fruit of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the reign of "squatter sovereignty." Was ever a villainous humbug more effectually exploded?

The Academy is moving off in grand style. The building has been improved and made more comfortable. Mr. Hendrick is up to the recommendation of his friends, and the students are full of life and energy. The school was never in better condition than at the present time. Keep the ball in motion.

The snow will doubtless put an end to the search for coal and iron in this county, until spring, which we regret, as many favorable indications have been found, and the spirit of our people was up for action. In the spring, we fear, other duties will engage their attention, and considerable time will elapse before any progress will be made. But we feel confident that our county is rich in mineral resources.

Do our friends realize that the loss of our publisher very much increases the expenses of the office? A little activity on the part of each friend of the *Journal*, in procuring new subscribers, and in inducing old ones to renew their subscriptions promptly at the end of the year, would soon relieve us from all care of the publishing department. Have we not a right to ask this? Can we afford to give more than our services to the paper?

Congress had not organized on Friday last. The Republicans stand firm for Banks, and will elect him speaker.

A favor well bestowed, is almost as great an honor to him who confers it, as to him who receives it.

### THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

Important accessions are constantly made to the only party which makes opposition to slavery extension the first plank in its platform. Francis P. Blair, editor of the *Washington Globe* while it was the organ of Gen. Jackson, has lately written a most important letter in which he endorses the Republican movement. Mr. Blair has always lived in a slave State, and therefore his letter will exert a strong influence. We have not room for the whole of it, but the following extract knocks the bottom out of the "squatter sovereignty" argument:

"GENTLEMEN: Having relinquished political employment, and to avoid encouraging again its anxieties, addicted myself to country life, I am constrained to decline your invitation to join the Republican Association of Washington City, although tempted by the honor of becoming its presiding officer. Yet I feel it my duty to say that in the main I concur in the aims of the Association. To exclude Slavery from the Territories of the United States, and to rebuke the violation of the Compromises which were made to stand as covenants between the slave and the free States to effect that ex-emption, are, in my opinion, the most important movements which have engaged the public mind since the Revolution.

The extension of slavery over the new Territories, would prove fatal to their prosperity; but the greatest calamity to be apprehended from it, is the destruction of the Confederacy on which the welfare of the whole country reposes. Every conquest of this element of discord which has so often threatened the dissolution of the Union, increases the danger. Every surrender of the free States invites invasion.

The cause which your organization is intended to promote, may well draw to its support men of all parties. Differences on questions of policy, on constitutional construction, on modes of administration, may well be merged into one man who believes that nothing but concert of action on the part of those who would arrest the spread of slavery, can resist the power of the combination now embodied to make it embrace the continent from ocean to ocean.

The repealing clause of the Kansas bill, is predicated on the nullity of the clause in the Constitution which gives Congress the power 'to make regulations respecting the Territories' of the United States. Yet nothing is clearer in the history of our Government, than that this phrase giving power to Congress 'to make regulations respecting the Territories,' was meant to give it the power to exclude slavery from them.

Mr. Jefferson's resolution of 1784, declaring 'that there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the States' laid off in the Western Territory, was subsequently renewed in the Congress of 1785, which added, that 'this regulation shall be an article of compact,' and it was so voted unanimously by the delegations of eight States out of twelve.

It was passed by the unanimous votes of all the States by the Congress of 1787, which set contemporaneously with the Convention forming the Constitution, and that Constitution gave Congress the power 'to make regulations respecting the Territories,' and moreover affirmed the validity of 'the engagements entered into before the adoption of the Constitution,' by the confederation—one of which engagements was that made by the regulation excluding Slavery from the Territories. Thus the Congress of the confederation and the Constitution united in giving a double sanction to the exclusion.

They first exerted the power of enacting Mr. Jefferson's interdict of Slavery in the Territories then held by the United States, to which it has previously given an impressive sanction by adding, 'This regulation shall be an article of compact,' &c.; and the Convention guaranteed this 'engagement,' by declaring it 'valid,' and employed the same terms, 'regulation of the Territories,' to transmit the power here exerted to future Congresses. In the face of this history, and the letter of the Constitution granting the power to make what ever regulations it deemed fit respecting the Territories of the United States, the authors of Kansas and Nebraska bill deny the constitutionality of all the regulations which exclude Slavery from the Territories, and set at naught all the precedents that confirm them, which have followed in uninterrupted succession, from the foundation of the Government."

[For the Journal.]

### THE COMMERCIAL, COMPARED WITH THE MILITARY SPIRIT, OF NATIONS.

National prosperity is not the result of a single agency, but it springs from the embodiment of correct principles working out their legitimate consequences. Every State has had its leading agencies, which have formed the basis of its power, and stamped it with peculiar characteristics, but more of these perhaps have left a more indelible impression upon National character, than those of commerce and war. Two master spirits, whose real essence is composed of antagonistic principles, the one resulting from those relations which God has established by local differences and similar constitutions—the other springing from the outbreaks of human depravity and tolerated by the universal prevalence of evil; and the want of sufficient moral courage in man to rebuke. Commerce unrestrained by those hostile spirits to which it has been forced to pay tribute is conciliatory in its character, and with no opposing influences to impede its progress, would as naturally work out its own perfection in consistency with the highest good of man. It stands an angel of mercy, to unite in one common brother-hood the universal family of man, formed alike mid Polar snows and the arid waters of Arabian sands. When viewed as an agent in carrying forward to a complete development the great and universal law of love, the Sea might well rejoice in the grandeur of her mission while she bears upon her swelling bosom the commerce of peace and plenty. The heavy laden ship strikes her noble prow to the snow-capt wave and is soon away to other lands—but as oft as she returns, fresh tokens of her peaceful mission are seen in the utility, friendship and benevolence which give abundant proof in her well filled store, while all unite in uttering sentiments replete with honor to God, and good will to man. But of the military spirit no such sentiments can be expressed. In its infancy a monster, and in its riper years encompassed by a legion of other spirits destitute of the least vestige of mercy, truth, or justice; and yet, it claims a place among men and exacts its homage as if glory beamed on every feature, and its virtuous crystal robe wrapped its hideous form. But when we trace the deep lines of woe it has written upon the brow of society, and mark its preying will as a gangrene upon the general prosperity, it is then that humanity feels its bondage, and conscience loathes its charms. Go thou dark spirit whose mission is not to create but to destroy!

Summon to the dead, and lot thy votaries shout thy praise. Let all the mighty heroes from an Alexander to a Napoleon sit in judgment on thy merit, and then would reason blush and seem thy mockery. Those monuments which science, art, and commerce would have rejoiced in raising along the borders of the sea to have written for man a better history, the pestilential breath of war has touched and blasted with premature decay. Those republics which once stood forth like the morning star, heralding the approach of a brighter day, are now mouldering in the grave of buried Nations, blasted by the shock of war. Oh thou foul scourge of human kind, if thou hast ought to offer for thy work of desolation or death; if thine ambition hath outdone thy nature in acts of atrocious wickedness, then offer frail man some apology, and let him cease to acknowledge thine infallibility, that when wit and reason fail, all may not fly to thee for refuge.

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VOTRE AMI.

From the N. Y. Eve. Post, A CONTRAST.

The contest between the policy of Mr. Jefferson and the statesmen who were associated with him, and that of Mr. Pierce and his associates, in relation to the government of the territories, is beginning to be known and marked. Under the Jeffersonian policy, peace and prosperity attended the rising territories—under the Pierce policy, anarchy, strife and blood prevail. One dedicated an empire in the northwest to freedom, the other has opened in the west a vast domain to slavery. Jefferson imposed restrictions and limitations on slavery; Pierce has removed all restrictions that had been devised to check its extension. The enlightened wisdom and benevolent forecast of one has been tested by nearly seventy year's experience, the rash innovation of the other brings us its bitter results after a trial of a few months.

When the politicians in the Senate of the United States commenced two years ago the work of unsettling the principles and policy which statesmen had established, they were forewarned of their unwise and ill-advised legislation. In abdicating sovereignty in the territories, and repealing all laws on the subject of slavery, the administration and Congress directly invited civil commotion. The people were left without law on a question that was, in the future, to affect, for weal or for woe, their government and institutions and were virtually told to fight it out among themselves. It was not an act of omission on the part of the politicians in Washington, but was accomplished by positive legislation, betraying reckless and inexcusable want of fidelity and honesty in the discharge of their duty. The question was not an open one, it had been settled more than thirty years previously, under circumstances that gave its adjustment the sanction of more than ordinary solemnity and validity—the policy of Jefferson, first proposed in 1784 and adopted in 1787, in regard to the whole territory then owned by the United States, was in 1820 made to apply to all the territory west of the Mississippi above the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min. A compact with conditions had been entered into at the time this law was enacted, and the country had peacefully acquiesced in the measure, without a complaint against it, or a wish or expectation that it would be abrogated; when the administration and the politicians in Congress, suddenly, remorselessly, proceeded to arrest the Jeffersonian policy, and installed that which is now the test of party orthodoxy on the part of the administration.

As if to bid defiance to the people, who have rebuked this great wrong, by sending representatives to Washington of a very different character, the chairman of the committee, who in the Congress, introduced and forced through the bill which changed the whole action of the government, is the selected administration candidate for Speaker. He, like the Senatorial politicians who occupy positions once filled by statesmen, was too democratic to sustain the policy of Jefferson—he, like Mr. Pierce, would leave the territories without law, and, with profound deference to "popular sovereignty," would let the squatters decide for themselves a question on which it was impossible for them to agree. This orthodox administration candidate for Speaker, by the aid of the power and patronage of the government, has been able through forty-five successive ballotings, consuming more than a week, to obtain seventy-four votes from two hundred and twenty-five representatives. This is a pretty decisive indication that the people prefer the Jeffersonian policy, to the policy of this administration. In addition to this, the President and his friends have brought upon themselves an unwelcome test of the sincerity of their professions of regard for popular sovereignty. The sentiment of the country has been expressed in the elections that have taken place, the popular will has been conveyed to

Washington by the immediate representatives of the people, chosen since the policy of Mr. Pierce and his political friends was disclosed, and if "popular sovereignty" be in fact a controlling principle with them, they must retrace their steps, and adopt the policy of Jefferson and those real statesmen, whose beneficent legislation has been attended with such happy results, and to which the people are attached. The wretched system substituted by the last Congress, the experiment of abdicating sovereignty, and leaving the territories without law, has not only proved a failure in Kansas, but has been condemned by the people and the states. Men of enlarged views, conscientious men, students of the public good, would not hesitate to correct and undo what is so palpably shown by experience to be a great error. From politicians of a less noble class—from men who set out with low personal motives, assign false reasons for their acts, and think to cheat public opinion—we do not expect either the degree of intelligence or the courage which leads them to correct their own wrong. We do not expect it from such a man as Jefferson, if he had been betrayed—which could hardly have happened—into such a mistake, but not from the man who now bears the rule at Washington.

But the administration having set "popular sovereignty" at defiance, is now prostituting the power and patronage of the government to sustain itself. The test of party orthodoxy at Washington—and it will be the same at Cincinnati—is fealty to the Pierce policy and repudiation of the policy of Jefferson. This is now called democracy. No man can receive an appointment from this administration, no delegate will be received into the Cincinnati Convention, who does not abjure the policy and principles of Jefferson, and adopt those of the administration. The candidates to be nominated for Presidents and Vice Presidents at Cincinnati are to be, like the administration candidate for Speaker, opposed to the policy of Jefferson, and co-laborers in the cause of slavery extension.

### THE ALLEGANY IRON AND COAL COMPANY.

This Company is now fully organized. Its books have been opened, and its stock is being issued. The property of the Company is located in Keating Township, McKean Co., Pa., about twenty-five miles from this village. The capital stock is \$250,000, and the Company are to commence business immediately, with \$30,000 in their treasury. They will have a furnace in successful operation by the 1st of July next. A geological report upon the extent and value of this Company's mineral property will be published within the next three or four weeks. It is to be prepared by Professor Richardson, of Massachusetts. This Company is composed of energetic business men and heavy capital. We can see no good reason why it may not move straight along with its business, a source of profit to the stockholders, and an important addition to the business enterprises of this village and vicinity.—*Olean Journal*.

### LUMBER QUOTATIONS.

The *Pittsburg Gazette* of last week stated that the run of lumber on the late rise was quite large, and that the supply was considerably beyond demand. The dealers have their yards pretty full from their spring purchases, and are not disposed to buy freely. It is probable, that a considerable portion will have to be piled unsold. The *Gazette* of this week says that a good deal of lumber is drawing on the banks of the Allegany, but holders find the market dull and heavy. Sales at the river, at \$9 and \$9 75 for common, and \$20 for clear. Shingles \$2 to \$2 75 per 100.

A few days since a lovely little child of four summers was buried in this town. On leaving the house of its parents, the clergyman, Rev. Mr. Jay, plucked up by the roots a beautiful little "forget-me-not," and took it with him to the grave. After the little embryo of humanity had been deposited in the grave, the clergyman, holding up the plant in his hand said:—"I hold in my hand a beautiful flower which I plucked from the garden we have just left. By taking it from its parent home it has withered, but I here plant it on the head of this grave and it will soon revive and flourish. So with the little flower we have just planted in the grave. It has been plucked from its native garden, and has withered, but it is transplanted into the garden of Immortality, where it will revive and flourish in immortality, glory and beauty."—*Ohio Farmer*.

This is the best season of the year for transplanting either fruit or shade trees, and ought to be improved by every one who has an unshaded house, or a corner of unoccupied ground.

A trial of fire engines took place at New York, a day or two ago, when the highest altitude reached was 182 feet, by engine No. 13 of Brooklyn. The same engine threw a horizontal stream of 205 feet 10 inches.