

A FACTIONIST.

The Philadelphia News is a singular paper. During the late campaign, and even since the election, it professed to desire the union of the Anti-Nebraska men of this State, on a platform acceptable to all. But since the meeting of Congress, it has shown a different face. It has done its utmost to disorganize the Anti-Nebraska force in the House, by insisting that H. M. Fuller of this State, must be elected Speaker, and this after 107 members had indicated that in their judgment Mr. Banks was the man; and after Mr. Fuller had sold himself to the South. Nearly every issue of the News has an attack on Mr. Banks, which only a Northern doughface could make. If this course is pursued much longer, it will be impossible to unite the Republican and American forces in Pennsylvania, and we are not sure that this is not the very thing desired by this Philadelphia factionist.

At the last regular meeting of the Union Division, No. 288 of U. of L., the following officers were elected: W. L. Andrew Jackson; W. A. W. H. Shaw; R. S. R. O. Goodwin; A. K. S. Lucas Cuning; J. S. John M. Hamilton; T. Davis Ross; Conductor, John H. Jones; I. S. E. N. Ford; O. S. Lucien Litta; Chaplain, W. H. Shaw; Trustees, J. S. Mann, H. J. Oimsted, J. M. Hamilton. We hope the officers elect will all be present for installation next Saturday evening.

We publish this week the Report of Mr. Pratt, as County Superintendent of Common Schools. We hope every friend of education will give it an attentive perusal. The tabular statement attached to it, will be published when received. The Notes of Schools have already been published in the Journal. We like this report very much, and commend its suggestions to the favorable consideration of our members at Harrisburg.

The Legislature assembled at Harrisburg on Tuesday last, and we presume, organized the same day. Doubtless the Governor's Message will appear in our next.

The Journal appears again this week short of its usual amount of editorial. Cause—the pleasures of the season have engrossed nearly our whole time for a week past. Spent five days in a trip to Kettle Creek, during which time we went, rode all night, broke down, and enjoyed the great pleasures of a sleigh ride. If any of our readers are so dull as to expect us to resume the drudgery of the editorial chair immediately after participating in such pleasures—why we pity their appreciation of the Holidays, and hope the new year will do them good.

A teamster was taking a load of provisions down Kettle Creek, one day last week, to one of the ordinary establishments located on that stream. On a dugway about four miles from the turnpike, he upset into the creek. To get the horse house, he put his harness (a new one) all to pieces. Cause of the accident—a brick in the driver's hat, and a jug of whiskey in his wagon.

The Pittsburg Dispatch appears this week in an entire new dress. It has always been an excellent paper, but the new and large type on which it is now printed, gives to its old merits a new charm. We trust the independent men of Western Pennsylvania, will give the Dispatch a generous support.

The Academy under the charge of Mr. Hendrick, moves, right along, up to time in everything, and is a source of pleasure to all its friends.

The proprietor of the Pittsburg Gazette has placed us under great obligations, by sending us his large, daily in exchange for our small weekly. This is a favor we had no reason to expect, having felt constrained to condemn the Gazette in strong terms

for its opposition to Nicholson, and its general course about the time of the election. We still entertain the same opinions then expressed, but it gives us pleasure to agree with it as conducted for six weeks past, and to acknowledge its great service in strengthening the Republican cause in Western Pennsylvania. We would urge every friend of freedom to give it abundant aid and comfort.

Wednesday night of last week—the coldest night of the season, thus far; though it has been quite cold since. We have 8 inches of snow, and excellent sleighing.

CHARACTERISTIC. We received a few days since, from a friend in Ithaca, a letter which shows that our Haaker neighbors make it a point to slander our village abroad, as well as at home. The following is the material part of the letter: ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I write you on a personal matter to which my attention has recently been called. We have in this village a man by the name Barnaby, who formerly figured largely as a Good Templar, but was in now neck and heels with the Pro-slavery, Rum, Know Nothing, and edits a paper called the American Citizen. In his paper of July 25th, he published the following editorial article: SHAMEFUL OUTRAGE.—On the 4th of July, at a celebration in Coudersport, Potter Co., Pa., in place of the star-spangled banner of the American Union, there was hung to the breeze a black flag. The celebrators were a band of Anti-Americans, congregated to show their detestation of a contempt for the government of the Nation; and the man whose particular request the piratical flag was raised, we are sorry to say, is a resident of the village of Ithaca, and a prominent member of the Rustia party. We would laugh to see that man's colors here.

Mr. Barnaby says the individual referred to in the article, is myself, and that his informant is the editor of the Democratic paper in your village, and that he met him on the cars upon returning from New York.

We know nothing about the American Citizen or its editor, but if he has any honor about him, he will retract his charge against this village and its inhabitants. There is not a word of truth in the above paragraph from his paper. No black flag was ever hoisted in Coudersport. No resident of the village of Ithaca ever addressed an assemblage here on the 4th of July, and the "Anti-Americans" of Coudersport are too few in number to form a congregation should they make the effort. Mr. Orlando Lund of Ithaca, spoke in Ulysses in this county, on the 4th of July, 1851, but he has not been in the county since. We hope, however, to have the pleasure of a visit from him ere long, as we deem him one of the best advocates of Temperance within our acquaintance, and a champion of whom any cause might be proud.

The Hon. J. J. Pearce, M. C. from this District, has been true to his constituents, thus far, and has already secured the censure of the Philadelphia News and its echo in Clifton Co. These censures are an honor to him, and indicate that he will make such a Representative as every Northern District requires. He has the approbation of every Press in the District that supports him, save one, and that is a 12th section pro-slavery concern, suited to the tastes and sympathies of Baltimore. Should Mr. Pearce continue to the end in his present course, he will be a star in the Pennsylvania delegation.

Mrs. GENERAL GAINES.—The country will learn with universal satisfaction that the Supreme Court of Louisiana has reversed the decision of the Second District Court, and decreed that the will of Daniel Clark, of 1813, be probated, and Mrs. Gaines, as his daughter, be put in possession of his large estate. For over twenty years this remarkable woman has asserted her legitimacy, and endeavored to expose the knavery by which the will of her father was concealed or destroyed. Aikin to the blind of Mr. Clark had appropriated his property; his friends in his and cruelly deserted his daughter after his death, and amassed fortunes from his estate. She has now triumphed—the decree of the Supreme Court of Louisiana is final, and she will immediately enter into possession. It is understood that Mrs. Gaines does not intend to embarrass present possessors, or demand any restitution; her main object in her heroic and persevering struggle has been to do justice to the fair fame of her mother, and take from her birth the brand of illegitimacy. She has succeeded, and she deserves success. Her life has been a struggle; her energies and endurance have been taxed to the utmost; she has fought millionaires with a purse of her own frequently exhausted, but she has never despaired, or for one moment recognized the existence of such a word as "fail."

Report of the Superintendent of Potter County for the School Year ending June 1, 1855. To the Hon. A. G. Curtin, State Superintendent of Schools. SIR: I herewith submit to you the Second Annual Report of the condition of the Schools in the County of Potter.

The beneficent enactment of 1854, found the majority of the schools in this county in a backward and unimproving state. Incompetent teachers; small and uncomfortable school-houses; short and infrequent terms of schooling; remoteness of many scholars from the school, and consequent irregularity of attendance; scarcity and variety of books; neglect of some of the most ordinary branches of study; embarrassment, if not worse evil, in the financial condition of many of the districts, together with much apathy and indifference, were among the discouragements to be encountered. These difficulties are, in some degree, inseparable indeed from a newly and sparsely settled region; but they were aggravated by the former imperfect and unoperative school system.

It would be unjust not to say, that there were creditable exceptions to the prevailing state of things; but they were only exceptions. The more enlightened friends of education were scattered, and could accomplish little, for the want of some concerted plan of action, and permanent bond of union. County Superintendency.—The important changes, however, which were made in the school law, sent a new pulse of life, here as elsewhere, into the school system, and awakened a more earnest desire for improvement. This was evinced from the hour of the meeting of the directors, of the several districts, to elect the first County Superintendent. To fill this newly created and important sphere, they made choice of Mr. J. Bloomington, a gentleman well qualified for the place by long experience as a teacher, and by a former incumbency of the same office in a neighboring State, but whose engagements unfortunately prevented his acceptance. Dr. M. R. Gage was then appointed, and held the office for a period of six months.

Aside from the performance of its proper functions, the influence of this office has been highly beneficial in awakening new interest in the cause of common school education, and in stimulating its friends to more active measures in its behalf. As indications of what has been done here during the past year, may be mentioned the following facts: 1. Several large assemblies of people have been addressed at the county seat, upon educational topics, by gentlemen of ability from abroad, while numerous township meetings have been held, and the condition and wants of the schools fully discussed.

2. A Teachers' Association has been formed, and several meetings of the same have been held, with the usual accompaniment of addresses, essays, and discussions. This organization, it is hoped, will be of permanent and essential benefit. 3. A Teachers' Institute, or Normal school, was convened in April last, and resulted in much satisfaction. It is believed, to those who were in attendance. Improved modes of teaching, increased interest in the profession, and juster views of its dignity, duties and rewards, already begin to prevail. Another session of a similar character will be held in October.

4. Both of our county newspapers have opened an educational column, and besides the free publication of educational notices and proceedings, have given much valuable matter to the public, and thus rendered important aid in the good work. 5. School directors exhibit increased interest and activity, and seem generally disposed to discharge the duties of their office with reasonable promptitude and fidelity.

6. A more enlightened public sentiment prevails in regard both to the value and importance of the common school, as one of the fundamental institutions of society, and the character of the education which our children need, as future citizens of the Republic, and heirs of immortality.

Results.—As the natural consequence of the foregoing facts, many of the schools already exhibit an improved condition. In several districts increased rates of compensation are being paid to teachers; more branches are studied; a better selection and supply of text-books, has been introduced; some maps and other apparatus have been obtained, and some improvements have been made in school-houses. But one of the most encouraging evidences of a right spirit, is

found in the fact, that notwithstanding the past year has been one of almost unexampled scarcity and hardship for the people of this county, still, in several districts, a heavier school tax than usual was levied: in May last, amounting, in some instances, to the highest sum authorized by law.

Thus a hopeful beginning has been made; and as these impediments to a flourishing condition of the schools of the Commonwealth, which grew out of an imperfect and unoperative school system, have, in some good measure, been removed by the enactments of 1854 and 1855, we hope to carry forward our part of the work of practical improvement. If the elevation of the schools shall not prove to be so rapid in this county as in some others, it should be remembered that our population is as yet small and scattered, struggling with the hardships of pioneer-life, and meeting the expense of schools, not out of an abundance, but often out of the hard earnings laid by to pay for a farm and secure a home.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS. The common school system of Pennsylvania may now justly claim to be one of the best in the Union. It would be unwise, however, to suppose that it has reached perfection. Your Department will, doubtless, be glad to elicit the opinions of the local Superintendents, as a class of officers brought into direct contact with the actual working of the system. Permit me, therefore, to say, that in my own judgment, the State, still needs the following facilities to give to her school system proper efficiency and enduring success:

1. A much larger public fund, to be equitably divided among the districts, for the support of the schools. 2. Several training schools for the supply of competent teachers. 3. More adequate provision for the supply of books, and other means of instruction. 4. More adequate provision for the erection of suitable school-houses. 5. More efficient district supervision of the schools.

Reserve must be used, no doubt, in asking of the Legislature enactments or appropriations in behalf of the schools, which will involve an increase of expenditure from the public treasury. The wants just mentioned are of such a nature, nevertheless, as imperatively demand to be supplied. I will add, a few words, therefore, under each of the foregoing heads:

1. The support of the schools.—Both justice and sound policy obviously require that something be done to equalize the pecuniary burden of sustaining the schools. If it be the admitted duty of the State to educate her children, the expense should be principally met, not as at present, by an unequal local tax, levied separately within the limits of each district but rather by a common fund, or a generous appropriation from the public purse. The State establishes schools, not for the private or individual benefit of parents or their offspring; but for the public weal; for her own safety and perpetuity, and that her children may be properly prepared, when they come upon the stage of action, to discharge their duties, and enjoy their privileges as citizens of a free republic. It is not too much to ask, then, that the State shall herself provide, at least half the amount necessary to give to every child within her borders the best possible elementary instruction. If an appropriation sufficient for this purpose were granted to each district, but made conditional upon the actual expenditure of an equal amount raised by local tax, and the employment of none but competent teachers, the present inequality would be much diminished, and the schools in the poorer districts would be placed on a footing of greater efficiency, than they are likely to exhibit under the present system. But as long as it requires a burdensome tax in such districts, to keep the schools open, even half the year, many a qualified teacher will be employed, at low rates of compensation, and meretricious results will be obtained. It is true that certificates may be withheld from all candidates of inferior qualifications, but this the present constitution of the law evidently does not contemplate; and the effect of such a course would be to close half the schools. If a sufficient number of well qualified teachers were readily to be found, their services could not be obtained for the small wages which many boards of directors feel able to offer. And while the friends of education must steadily labor to elevate the popular estimate of the value of good schools, and to increase the willingness of the community to make sacrifices, if necessary, to maintain such schools, still it is to be hoped that the State will, ere long, render to her citizens more equal justice in this matter. Some relief can at once be afforded by increasing, even moderately, the annual State appropriation.

2. Teachers.—But however ample or equal the pecuniary provision for the support of schools, it will be of little avail, if no provision is made to supply the schools with suitable teachers. We have training schools for all professions—even to the murderous art of war—except that of teaching. The State will be recipient to her duty, until she supplies this grave defect in her system of popular education. That the Legislature will, at no distant day, make some provision for furnishing well qualified teachers, by means of Normal schools, is a hope now cherished, doubtless, by many earnest friends of education. But unless institutions of this nature are founded upon a gigantic scale, and the business of teaching made far more permanent than it is at present, many years must elapse before all the ten thousand schools in the State can be supplied from such sources. If we suppose the schools to be once filled with competent teachers, and the average length of time during which they would remain in the business to be five years, even then it would require that two thousand new laborers should, annually enter the field, to supply the vacancies in the ranks, and to meet this demand, would require several large training schools. Our immediate wants must be supplied, in great part, therefore, in some other way.

To meet these wants, temporary schools for the instruction of teachers have already been formed, and have accomplished much good; and as these efforts have been favorably noticed, and in some sense commended by the School Department, it may be hoped that the Legislature will place a moderate sum at the disposal of the County Superintendents, to assist in future in defraying their expense. One of the most important benefits of a State Normal school, would be, to send forth well qualified persons to aid in these local efforts at improvement.

3. Books.—The present system does not result in an adequate supply or proper uniformity of school-books. This impairs seriously the efficiency of the schools, especially when the teachers are poorly qualified. Not only do the pupils pursue their studies at a disadvantage, but some of the most necessary branches are neglected. This difficulty results partly from the ignorance, neglect or poverty of parents partly from the frequent changes and varying notions of teachers; and partly from the fact that the law devolves a duty upon directors in this matter, which they do not always feel competent to perform. Why should not the State aid in furnishing books, as well as teachers, and require as the condition of her aid, an adequate and proper supply of books in every school, and instruction in all the requisite branches? Would it not be well to empower directors to devote a certain per cent. of the school tax, when necessary, to the purchases of books? But the provision made for the instruction of our children, should not be limited to teachers, text books and school apparatus. It will be conceded that the State has not done her part in simply furnishing the key to written knowledge, when it is remembered that multitudes of our youth, both before and after they leave school, have little access to books. Some aid therefore from the State, in the formation of a well chosen library in each district, for the use of both parents and children, would be of great benefit. Such a measure would give practical efficiency to the instructions of the school room, and would diffuse a degree of intelligence, and a taste for books and learning, which would soon react beneficially upon the schools. The enterprise of establishing school libraries, as a public means of instruction, has been attended to other States with the happiest results. Where books and a taste for reading are unknown, ignorance prevails, and along with it, in religion and vice. But without intelligence and virtue, no community can enjoy the blessings, or long maintain the institutions of self government.

4. School Houses.—These are generally defective. Much good it may be hoped will result from the publication of the proposed work on school house architecture, but it may be doubted whether the supply of good plans, will insure their imitation. By the conditional offer of a small amount of aid, the State might secure more attention to convenience, comfort and health, than is usually exhibited in the construction of school houses.

5. Directorship.—I have no reason to complain of any signal neglect on the part of directors within my jurisdiction. That sentiment prevails here, however, I think, that the efficiency of these important officers would be increased by a diminution of their number, and by allowing them a moderate compensation for their services. The accompanying tabular statement has been made as accurate as circumstances would admit. The district reports were generally forwarded in season, and are reasonably correct. If more minute and specific directions, however, were appended to the blank reports, greater accuracy and uniformity would be secured.

Certificates.—In the examination of teachers, I have found much variety of capacity and attainments, and some persons of superior qualifications for the business; but have seldom felt authorized to give the higher form of certificate. The new feature of graded "provisional certificates" will have a happy effect in elevating the standard of qualifications among our temporary teachers; but until more permanent

employment and better compensation are offered, few will seek the business as a profession, or make any elaborate preparation for its duties, and few, therefore, will be entitled to rank as professional teachers. The number of certificates granted for the school year ending June 1, 1855 was as follows: Permanent certificates thirty-one; temporary certificates forty-three. Of the permanent certificates, twenty seven were granted by my predecessor, during the first half of the school year. Several, however, which were granted under a misapprehension, and before the other form was received, have been or will be recalled.

I should a more detailed account of the condition of the schools in this county be deemed useful, allow me to refer to the appended notes, drawn from memoranda made during official visits.

With many thanks for the kindness and courtesy which I have experienced at the hands of the School Department, during my brief tenure of office, I am, &c. J. B. PRADT, Co. Supt. Coudersport, Aug. 1, 1855. From the Erie True American. MEN'S WIVES.

Men's Wives.—A quaint theme, truly! though it has employed the pen of Thackeray—a sensitive theme too, perchance, but as it is one not wholly unconnected with social reform, a few thoughts on this subject—thoughts suggested by the following passage from a late number of Life Illustrated—will not seem out of place in the columns of the True American: Letty adies and strong minded women generally, have heretofore indulged in but a remote sense of social change. Men like to number her among their ends, but they generally look on a wifery as a necessary, or at best a desirable consequence of her house.

That men do, either from choice or necessity, look elsewhere for their wives, is doubtless true, and "pity his true" for herein may dwell the potent source of the social chaos, above mentioned, herein may be the origin of a state of society in which, says a writer in Life Illustrated, the proportion of unhappy marriages is very great.

Men do look elsewhere for their wives, hence we see mothers, stitch, stitch, stitch away their lives to beautify the outward form, the material part of the offering, to the utter neglect of the material, the immortal principle within. No pains are spared to adorn the case, while the precious plant is within— a plant which being properly cultivated, a d watered with the promised dews of Heaven, would bloom eternally in Elysian fields—its light to fade, droop, and wither.

Men do look elsewhere for their wives, hence, the almost universal complaint from teachers, that they can effect but little, comparatively, because the mothers of their pupils are unable to sympathize and cooperate with them in their labors. See the great number of ignorant and superstitious families, which furnish the fuel that feeds the flames of spiritualism, and the other popular delusions, that spread their baleful light over our entire land, and know that 'men do look elsewhere for their wives.' Mark the scarcity of eminent statesmen and scholars, and learn that men look elsewhere for their wives; for when the former are the topic of conversation, do we not, often stow away, hear it asserted that the genius of the son was owing to the genius of the mother?

That men looked elsewhere for their wives, in St. Paul's time, is also evident, for he speaks of the Jewish women as being "tattlers and busy-bodies" and consequently, he—being a wise and prudent man—obtained a bachelor to the end of his life. Now, had the women of Paul's day been educated; had their minds been furnished with the materials of thought; had they not been compelled to look exclusively to the outward world for enjoyment, they would not have laid out all their energies in the pleasures of the intellect as they would not have sacrificed them for the very inferior enjoyment, that comes from wandering from house to house—from making a liberal call.

Men do look elsewhere for their wives, hence inexorable fashion has ever a horde of followers, ready to obey her most ludicrous, disgusting, and tyrannical whims; for a long a men choose their companions for more outward grace and personal accomplishments, to the neglect of more substantial qualities; just so long will the showy, ornamental, and a woman, be cultivated to the neglect of that which is enduring and intrinsically valuable. Duty, therefore, comes to our ears the cry,—our husbands never stay at home,—they prefer their books, their business, the club-room, almost any place to our society. When shall this cry cease? When men and women generally, shall have become educated, mentally and morally; when the high-minded, thinking, and cultivated among men, shall have learned that education and domestic virtues are not incompatible—that true nobility, gentleness and affection go hand in hand—when they shall have learned to choose their companions such ladies as have well balanced, symmetrical