

effect the ordinance of 1787. The Constitution, in express terms, had conferred on Congress the power to make all needful rules and regulations concerning the territory of the United States. This provision had been uniformly regarded as authorizing all necessary territorial legislation. Almost every Congress had exercised the power, and almost every President had approved its exercise. The very persons who denied the power to prohibit slavery, asserted the power to establish territorial governments and to define their departments and powers, and therefore, in denying the power of prohibition, were reduced to the necessity of denying that the greater includes the less.

Under these circumstances, after the prohibition had remained unquestioned for more than the third of a century, the denial of its constitutionality rather provoked indignation than excited doubt. It was, also, insisted that the doctrine of popular sovereignty required the repeal of the prohibition. This was a mere abuse of terms. The true idea of popular sovereignty demands, as a primary essential condition, the recognition of inalienable personal rights. There can be no genuine popular sovereignty where a portion of the population is enslaved. The prohibition of slavery is therefore a necessary prerequisite to the real sovereignty of the people. In the sense of the abolitionists for repeal, popular sovereignty signifies nothing but the right of a portion of the community to enslave the rest. It begins by the denial of the natural rights of man. It must end in the total subversion of the fundamental principle of American institutions. For a free and independent people it would institute a community of masters, dependents and slaves.

Such is the repulsive theory. In practical operation it has not proved more attractive. As embodied in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, it has been fruitful of nothing but evil. It has not conferred a single substantial benefit upon the settlers of either territory. In no respect are they distinguished from the settlers of Minnesota, where slavery is prohibited, except by exposure to its evils. The sole special effect of the Nebraska-Kansas act upon the territories organized under it, is to open them to the introduction of slaves. In one of them it has led to desperate attempts to effect that object—to invasion, usurpation, violence, bloodshed—almost to civil war. Crimes like these are not the legitimate fruits of that doctrine of popular self-government, to the maintenance of which our fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes and their honor.

In all these things our own state has a deep and peculiar interest. Our own history furnishes the most complete vindication of the policy of slavery prohibition. We occupy, in part, the soil protected from the blight of slavery by the ordinance of 1787. For more than half a century the people of Ohio have been accustomed to regard that ordinance with mingled emotions of gratitude and pride. Compromising among its provisions, and in fit companionship with its sacred guarantee of religious freedom, of liberty toward immigrants, of the inviolability of private property, and of universal education, stands the great interdict against slavery, acknowledging and affirming the rights of man a man. The world to which we always recur when seeking in the ordinance the peculiar springs of our wonderful prosperity and progress, are those which embody this prohibition.

Never did the noble pioneers who laid the foundations on which we now joyfully build, complain of that interdict as an abridgment of any rights, personal or political. On the contrary, they have ever spoken of it as the pillar of fire by night and of cloud by day, which guided and protected them in the wilderness. More than any other state, Ohio, as the first-born of the ordinance, and indebted to the ordinance for her proud position as the third state of the confederacy, and first among the new states, is bound to cherish and defend its great and beneficent principle. In so doing, we shall be following workers with its illustrious framers, in their own declared policy and purpose of "extending the funda-

mental principles of civil and religious liberty, whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions, are erected; and fixing and establishing those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions and governments which forever hereafter shall be formed in" American "territory."

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

JOHN S. MANN, EDITOR.

COUDERSPORT, PA.,

THURSDAY MORNING JAN. 24, 1856.

We publish in another column the Constitution and By-Laws of the Coudersport Library Association, adopted in November last. It will be seen from this, that an election of officers will take place on Saturday the 2nd day of February next. As the officers elected at that time, will serve for a year, we trust there will be a general attendance of the stockholders. The new books will be in a suitable case by that time, which will be another inducement for a general attendance; so we hope for an interesting meeting.

We ask attention to the sale of personal property advertised by Major Mills, to take place on the 22nd of February. We are requested to say that the property will be struck off on that day, even if sold at a sacrifice, as he is determined to make clean work of it. Any person desirous of purchasing a horse, can be certain to suit himself at this sale, as the Major's stable contains every variety and quality, all of which will be sold. To dairymen a rare chance is offered, as the cows to be sold are of the best to be had in the county, and the Alderney sold for \$110 in Philadelphia, when only fifteen months old.

We publish on the outside of this number of the Journal, the new road law passed at the last session, and to take effect at the township elections to be held in February of this year. We hope this number of the Journal will be kept by every subscriber, so that all can understand the road laws hereafter.

On Friday, the 15th day of February next, the various township officers will be elected. On the Supervisors then elected will depend the character of the road for a year to come; and on the School Directors will devolve still more important duties. The School Directors elected this year, will have a voice in choosing the next County Superintendent, and in regulating his salary. We do not know that this will add to the interest of the election; but we call attention to the fact, and ask all friends of education to keep it in mind.

The Center Democrat of Bellefonte, is doing a good work for the common schools of that county, as well as for Temperance, and other progressive movements. In its number of Jan. 10th, is an able and interesting report of a Teachers' Institute, which takes the true position. Our interest in these proceedings is increased by seeing the name of our friend John H. Humpal announced as reporter.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Institute, we select the following as having a special interest just at this time:

Resolved, That we have learned with pleasure that the School Department contemplates asking the Legislature to make an appropriation for the establishment of Teachers' Institutes, or Normal Schools, in every county of the State.

Resolved, That in the event of the Legislature declining to make such appropriation, we will ask for an annual appropriation of two hundred dollars, to be applied to the advancement of the cause of the "Center County Teachers' Institute."

The Harrisburg Telegraph, under its new administration, makes a fine appearance, and is just such a paper as was needed at the seat of government. We hope the Anti-Nebraska men of the State, will pour in the subscribers as if they intended to carry the State at the next election, and give the paper a living support.

C. S. Jones, Lewis Mann, and Arch F. Jones, have been consolidated and placed in the building heretofore occupied by C. S. Jones. The new firm will start with a capital of nine thousand dollars, and will be directed by us good business talent as any village the size of ours can furnish. We hope and believe this will prove an advantage to both seller and buyer; to the sellers, because it will materially decrease their expenses. It will cost very little more to attend to the enlarged establishment, than it did to run each one of the three of which it is made up. To the buyer it will give the advantage of procuring every article he may wish at one store, at the lowest price at which it can be afforded.

THE WARREN DEMOCRACY EATING SOUTHERN DEBT.

We now understand why the Warren Ledger has denounced the efforts of the administration to extend slavery, in one issue, and in the next has supported the administration candidate and policy. The party in Warren county, as a party, has abandoned the position it took in 1851, and now goes in for acquiescing in the Kansas fraud. At a meeting in Warren on the 8th of January, the following, among other resolutions, was adopted:

Resolved, That we are in favor of the admission of new States having a Republican form of government, leaving the question of slavery entirely to the citizens of the same, they being the most competent to decide that question.

That is a cowardly way of endorsing the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; but such is its true purport, as was made apparent by the rejection of the following, straightforward, manly resolution which expresses the old, Jeffersonian policy:

Resolved, That the Democrats of Warren county deem this a fitting opportunity to express their utter hostility to the further extension of slavery into territory now free.

So, the Democrats of Warren are not opposed to the "extension of slavery into territory now free." Thus is shown the true position of Pierce Democracy in Pennsylvania. There is not a county in the State where it is not the "natural ally of slavery."

We learn from the Warren Ledger that J. D. James, brother, we presume, of the man brought into this county to edit a pro-slavery paper, and slander our citizens—was one of the most active opponents of the above Jeffersonian resolution; and that he was chairman of the committee who reported the resolution of submission to the South and slavery extension. We learn from the same paper that the H. M. C. Curtis declines to follow Mr. James and the majority of the 8th of January meeting into the slavery camp. The following paragraph from the Ledger will give great pleasure to a host of Mr. C.'s friends in this county:

"We take this opportunity to express our decided approbation of the sentiments uttered by the H. M. C. Curtis at the Democratic Convention last Friday evening. Mr. Curtis is not one of those slippery politicians who give utterance to counterfeited opposition to those they utter at another; but he is consistent, unswerving, and true. As an able and stalwart champion of Jeffersonian Democracy, we hope soon to see him in the legislative halls of our country, where he may, as heretofore, do noble battle for the right and against the wrong."

ATTENTION, SCHOLARS!

The next term of the Coudersport Academy will commence on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of February, and not on the day stated by us last week, which was an error of one week, that we desire to correct clearly and emphatically. Those expecting to attend the next term, will please take notice that it will commence Feb. 25; and we hope they will interest themselves in presenting the claims of the Academy to the support of all friends of education. The character of Mr. Handrick as a teacher, is already established in this community; and it is the intention of those in charge of the institution, to procure assistants equally well qualified, to aid him in building a first class Academy. Will the people of this county second their efforts? We will not permit ourselves to doubt it.

PUBLIC WORKS OF THIS STATE.

We are gratified with the improved condition of the finances of our good, old Commonwealth. The receipts from all sources are more than the ordinary expenditures, and with prudence and economy, a portion of the State debt can be paid each year.

The following extract from the report of the Canal Commissioners, is very encouraging:

From this abstract it will be seen that the receipts from the canals and railroads exceeded the expenditures \$822,694 02. To which add the tonnage tax, \$196,935 76; and the operations of the year exhibits a clear profit over expenditures of \$1,019,629 78. The gross receipts, exclusive of tonnage tax, for 1855, is \$37,012 72 over that of 1854; and the net revenue \$48,185 68.

Including the tonnage tax, the actual profits of the two years will appear from the following comparison:

1854 - - - - - \$ 916,443 58

1855 - - - - - 1,019,629 78

Increase in 1855, over 1854 - - - - - 103,186 20

In the statement of expenditures the following items are not included, viz: Purchase of locomotive engines \$80,500, for the Philadelphia and Columbia, and Allegheny Portage railroads; for addition to the depot at West Philadelphia, and for tunnels and steam hammer for Columbia road, \$5,514 32; for patent right for turntables, \$1,800, and for pay of Canal Commissioners and expenses of their office, \$8,495. These items amount to \$93,609 32. Last year the expenditures amounted to \$108,991, being \$16,380 68 less in 1855, than in 1854.

But there is still something rotten in the management of the Allegheny Portage Railroad, as appears from the following extract:

The Superintendent of the Allegheny Portage railroad reports an indebtedness in the motive power department for 1855, of \$25,110 58; and in the repair department of \$7,766 75. The appropriation for motive power was \$203,358, and for repairs \$35,000; add to these appropriations the above indebtedness, and it shows an expenditure of \$228,468 58 for the former, and \$42,766 75 for the latter. While this is a reduction in the whole working expenses of the road for the year, as compared with 1854, of \$63,814 67, and is \$296,966 less than it cost in 1853, yet the Board are of the opinion that with strict economy in the administration in the affairs of the road, the appropriation would have been amply. In two items alone, the Board think there might have been a saving of an amount nearly equal to the reported indebtedness in the motive power department, viz: wood and oil. They have been led to this conclusion by a comparison of a cost of these two articles the past year with what they cost previous to 1850.

From this it appears that over thirty thousand dollars were fobbed by somebody, and they charged it to "wood and oil."

We cannot find advertisement of Messrs. Rockow & Thompson, to the attention of all persons desiring to purchase sleighs or wagons, or who want any repairing done. Their shop is always open, and they are prompt in filling all orders.

R. W. Cheney informs the public through his advertisements in our paper, of what he has to sell, and of the work he can do. Give him a call.

It gives us pleasure to note the absence of any appearance of intemperance in our village, except occasionally old snakers from a distance come in, and then one or two poor unfortunate in the neighborhood so sometimes unite with them, and procure adulterated cider with which they disgrace themselves and injure the town. This, however, is a rare occurrence, and we hope will soon be entirely stopped. Those members of the Legislature who propose to repeal the present law which has done so much to prevent intemperance, are asked to point out any evil the law has produced, as an offset to this unquestioned good.

There is no Speaker yet, but the Republican phalanx is unbroken, and we believe they will cover themselves with glory by their steady and unswerving support under the most discouraging circumstances. The member from this District is always in his seat, and always votes as his constituents had reason to expect he would, when they voted for him. We assure him that the people are rejoiced at his course. The following is the result of the 117th ballot:

Banks - - - - - 94 Richardson - - - 69
Fuller - - - - - 31 Pennington - - - 3
L. D. Campbell 3 Porter - - - - - 1
Foster - - - - - 1
Necessary for a choice 102.

A MODEST REQUEST.

The Lycoming Gazette is asking the Hon. John J. Pearce to resign. And what reason, good reader, do you think is given for preferring this modest request? Why, simply, because Mr. Pearce desires to secure the election of Hon. N. P. Banks to the Speaker's chair. Mr. Pearce does not vote to suit the notions of the editor of the Lycoming Gazette, and therefore, he ought to resign. This is characteristic of Hunker leaders everywhere. They think it is unconstitutional for any but pro-slavery, Union-saving Democrats to hold office; and so when the people choose a man who believes in the Declaration of Independence, they ask him to resign, or contest his election if there is the least possible quibble to hang their hopes on, as in the case of Mr. Beck, who is asking the Legislature of this State to turn out the H. M. C. McGhee whom the people of this District chose to represent them, and give his seat to Mr. Beck whom they requested to stay a day in his own business. This request of the Gazette, that Mr. Pearce should resign, and the petition of Mr. Beck that Col. McGhee should be ousted from his seat, are of the same piece. Both proceed on the assumption that the will of the people is nothing, and the edicts of the pro-slavery leaders is everything.

Just look at it. Col. McGhee received a majority of all the votes polled; but Mr. Beck, who is a fair sample of the class of politicians who control the sham democracy, asks the Legislature to give the seat to him, simply because the voters of Sharon township, in this county, assembled at the new school house, instead of at the building which was the school house when the act was passed fixing the place of holding elections in that township. It is not pretended that a single voter was ignorant of the place of meeting, or that the result was changed by meeting at the new school house. The voters met at the only school house in that District; and this attempt to set aside the election, is in character with the efforts of the Missourians to rule the elections in Kansas, and of the Pierce party to aid them in so doing.

If Col. McGhee is ousted from his seat on such a claim as this, we shall look up some of the flaming articles of the Gazette against the Riker administration for their attempt to set aside the election in Philadelphia. In that case there was a shalaw of excuse for the Riker men; but there is not even a shadow to justify Beck in claiming a seat which the people of the District have decided he should not occupy.

Constitution of the Coudersport Library Association—Adopted November, 1855.

PRELIMINARY.

We, the undersigned, desirous of improving ourselves, enlarging our fund of general intelligence, and encouraging the same for reading among the young people of this community, have adopted for our government the following Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order:

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. Name.

This society shall be known by the name of the "Coudersport Library Association."

Article 2. Officers.

The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, Librarian, five Directors, and such standing Committees as may be provided for in the By-Laws.

Article 3. Duties of President.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the society—to enforce a due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws—to decide all questions of order—to offer for consideration all motions regularly made and seconded, to appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, and perform such other duties as his office may require.

Duties of Vice President.

Sec. 2. In the absence of the President, the vice President shall perform the duties of that office, and shall be Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Duties of Recording Secretary.

Sec. 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep in a book provided for that purpose, a record of the proceedings of the society; also a record of the

name and residence of each member, showing when he or she became such, and when he or she ceased to be a member.

Duties of Corresponding Secretary.

Sec. 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall perform the duties usually devolving upon that office, and shall be secretary of the Board of Directors and be one of the number.

Duties of the Treasurer.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Society; keep a record of all dues and fines, and of all receipts and expenditures; notify each member of the amount due from him, and collect the same; pay all orders drawn by the directors; and report annually to the state of the treasury, the number of members, and such other information as may be deemed of general interest.

Duties of Librarian.

Sec. 6. The Librarian shall take special charge of the books of the Association, keep them in their regular places, make an entry of the time when each book is taken out, by whom taken, and when returned; receive the hire of books when let, and the fines provided for in the By-Laws; pay over all moneys so taken to the treasurer every month, and report annually to the stockholders as to the condition of the Library, stating the number of volumes owned by the society, and the number read during the year.

Duties of the Directors.

Sec. 7. The Directors shall purchase such literary and other works as the funds of the Association will permit, of a character suited to the taste and necessities of this community; they shall procure suitable desks and cases in which to place the books; and other property of the association; publish annually a catalogue of the books; enter such catalogue in a book kept for the purpose; regulate the time of letting the books to stockholders, and shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the society. They shall meet on the first Saturday of every month, at the Library, for the transaction of business, inspection of the books, and for the general good of the society.

Article 4. Elections.

All the officers shall be elected at the meeting in February. They shall immediately enter up in their respective duties, and continue in office one year, and until their successors are selected.

Article 5. Membership.

Any person may become a member of this Association, by paying two dollars to the treasurer, and such quarterly dues as may be determined by a majority of the members, and regulated in the By-Laws.

Article 6. Amendments.

This Constitution and the By-Laws when they are adopted, may be amended by a vote of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting; provided the proposed change shall be proposed in writing at a regular meeting previous to its adoption.

By-Laws.

Article 1.

Sec. 1. Every member shall be entitled to select any book from the Library, and retain it two weeks. Those living out of the Borough of Coudersport may retain a book four weeks. If retained a longer time, the holder must pay a fine of six cents a week for the excess.

Sec. 2. Books may be let to persons not members, at the rate of ten cents per term of two weeks; if retained longer to pay six cents per week for the excess of time.

Article 2.

Any person who takes a book from the Library, and loses it, or otherwise injures it, shall pay such fine as the Librarian shall deem a sufficient one to make good the injury; provided, however, that an appeal may be taken from the decision of the Librarian to the directors, which shall be final.

Article 3.

No book shall be loaned by the person taking it from the Library. The person violating this By-Law shall pay a fine of twenty-five cents, and be deprived of the use of the Library until the fine be paid, and the book returned in good condition.

Article 4.

Any persons owing to pay their dues and fines for twelve months after being notified of the amount, shall not be entitled to any privileges as members, and all arrears are paid; nor will they be allowed to hire books.

Article 5.

The regular meetings of this Association shall be held on the first Saturdays in February, May, August, and November, to commence at 2 o'clock, P. M. Special meetings may be called by the President, on request of five members of the society.

Article 6.

The quarterly dues shall be twenty five cents for each member.