

by the act of 1849, for that act was limited. The school house named by that act as the place for holding the general election in Sharon township, was at the time of the passage of the act subject to the control and disposition of the school directors of said township. The very moment that this house in question was removed and converted to the use of a private family, that law ceased to have its effect, and the citizens were compelled to seek some other place where they could exercise the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution. There is no rule by which these votes can be condemned as illegal.

It has never been disputed that if the place designated by law for holding the election, should be destroyed, the citizens have a right to select some other convenient place for exercising that liberty. In such cases the citizens are the only judges of the proper place. Such elections may be deemed irregular, but not illegal.

The members of the committee were respectively sworn to "try the matter of the petition, and to give a true judgment thereon according to the evidence." Previously, upon assuming the duties of Representatives, they each took an oath to support the constitution of the State of Pennsylvania. The committee therefore was not bound by its obligation to any statutory regulation. It was at perfect liberty; yea, it was in duty bound to disregard the acts of the General Assembly, if in so doing it was protecting the constitutional rights of the voter.

The action of this House should be in favor, not against the free exercise of the elective franchise. It should at all times uphold the citizen in the exercise of his constitutional rights, and not seize upon the technical construction of an act of Assembly to strike them down. John C. McGee has beyond all question a clear and undeniable majority of the constitutional votes of his district, and the action of the committee in depriving him of his seat in this House is a great wrong inflicted on the people of that district, and one that merits at the hands of public opinion the most decided condemnation.

JOHN PURCELL.

#### TEACHERS' DRAWER ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

Answer to the Pole question, No. 15, by J. W. B.;

Let  $x$  equal the distance from the foot of the shorter pole, to the point in the base where the middle pole is to stand, and let  $y$  equal the distance from the foot of the longer pole to the same point; then  $x + y = 100$ . By leaning the middle pole so as to touch the top of the others, two right-angled triangles will be formed, the hypotenuses of which will be equal. Then the sum of the squares of the base and altitude of one triangle, equals the sum of the squares of the base and altitude of the other triangle; hence we have the equation,  $x^2 + 30^2 = y^2 + 30^2$ ; and therefore  $x^2 - y^2 = 0$ . Dividing the second equation by the first, we have  $x - y = 30$ , and  $x = 30 + y$ ; substituting in the first equation,  $2y = 136$ ,  $y = 68$ , and  $x = 100 - 68 = 32$ .

Therefore the middle pole should stand 68 feet from the foot of the shorter pole, and 32 feet from the foot of the longer.

J. W. B. has done well upon this problem, and his perseverance is commendable. There is a slight obscurity in the reasoning, but a correct solution is given.

#### NEW QUESTIONS

We have a number of Questions from Ed. Parker, of which we give three at this time.

22. How many townships in Pa.?  
23. What is the Latitude and Longitude of Coudersport—in degrees and minutes?

24. What is the difference between the polar and equatorial diameter of the Earth?

25. A gentleman has a tract of land in a circular form, and it is inclosed by a rail fence, there being fourteen rails per rod (the fence being seven rails high and two lengths per rod); the No. of acres in the tract equals the No. of rails in the surrounding fence, require the No. of acres in the tract.  
W. M. M.—Troy, N. Y.



### THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

JOHN S. MANN, EDITOR.

COUDERSPORT, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING FEB. 21, 1856.

The next term of the Coudersport Academy will commence on Monday next, Feb. 25, at nine A. M., at which time we expect to see at least seventy-five students in attendance. In consequence of the liberal patronage of the first quarter, under the administration of Mr. Hendrick, Miss CLARA A. STOCKWELL, from Bradford county, has been secured as an assistant for the next term. Miss Stockwell comes highly recommended as an accomplished and successful teacher, and we trust will secure quite a number of additional students. Miss S. is a teacher of French, German, and drawing, and these branches will be taught in addition to those of the past term.

The election in our Borough passed off very quietly, and resulted in the election of the following persons by large majorities—most of them without opposition: Burgess, Isaac Benson; Town Council, Jacob Reckhow, J. M. Hamilton, N. Schoemaker and Lewis Mann; Constable, P. A. Stebbins, J. P. Lucas Cushing; School Directors, A. Robinson, G. Goodsell, and D. B. Brown; High Constable C. R. Pradt. Mrs. Miles had four votes for Burgess. We presume this was intended as a snub upon the office, but we tell the persons who voted for Mrs. M., that she is quite as fit for the office as either of those who voted for her, or as several of their old hunker associates.

Last Thursday morning, Feb. 14, was the coldest ever known in Coudersport. At 7 A. M., mercury was 35 degrees below zero according to the thermometer of Edward Jones, and by John M. Hamilton's to 30; but even this last figure is two degrees lower than any point ever reached by the mercury here before.

The Liquor League of this State is not likely to accomplish much after all the expenditure of money in purchasing presses and politicians. Four or five Democratic Senators refuse to obey its mandates, which will save the present restraining law, or secure a substitute nearly as good. Senator Souther has made one of the best speeches of the session in favor of the law as it is. Courage, friends of Temperance! The good cause is onward.

We stated some weeks ago that every paper in the District but one, which supported Mr. Pearce at the time of his election, approves his course in voting for Banks. We may have been in error. If so, we shall cheerfully make the correction. But calling us hard names, as the Luck Haven Watchman seems to delight in, proves nothing. If the Watchman will name more than one paper that condemns Mr. Pearce, which advocated his election, we will take it as a favor, and will state the fact to our readers. Till then we advise our amiable neighbor to keep cool, as we intend to prove that Mr. Pearce has the support and confidence of a majority of his District.

#### ALL HAIL THE FREEMEN OF SHARON!

At the election on Friday last for township officers, held at the Leroy school house, in pursuance of the act of assembly, and of the notice of the constable, sixty-five votes were polled—every in approbation of Beck's usurpation, and eighty-four against it. This is the largest vote ever given in that township at a spring election, and the largest but one ever polled in the township. Seventy-three majority for freedom in a township that in 1851 gave Bigler ten majority, is a significant fact which we commend to the authors of the Beck petition and their abettors in the Legislature. The in-

telligent freemen of Sharon township, and of Potter county, are not to be insulted, and their right of suffrage taken from them with impunity.

The ball was started on Friday last, and after reading the facts in the case, as given in the reports of the committee, which we publish this week, every honest voter in the county will say it ought to be kept in motion. We knew we should have thunder from the Oswayo valley; for her sons are nearly all intelligent, determined, go-ahead freemen who will never permit their ballot-box to be torn from them without rebuking the insult as becomes freemen. All hail the sovereigns of Sharon! They have spoken like freemen. Now let the county resound their thunder, and no ruthless hand will ever again dare do violence to one of our ballot-boxes.

"There is a weapon firmer set,  
And surer than the bayonet—  
A weapon that comes down as still  
As snow flakes fall upon the sod;  
And executes the freeman's will,  
As lightning does the will of God."

#### JOHN C. M'GEE DEPRIVED OF HIS SEAT.

We gave our readers two weeks ago, the petition of Timothy Ives, T. B. Tyler, F. W. Knox, and certain others of the faithful in this county, asking the Legislature to deprive Mr. McGee of his seat, and give it to John B. Beck whom the legal voters had requested to stay at home and mind his own business. We now lay before our readers the report of the committee which consummated the outrage commenced by the above named persons and their associates. We ask every voter to give these reports a candid perusal. When they have done so, we believe every honest one among them will admit that our statement made in a letter from Harrisburg, is true to the letter. We then said in reference to the petition of these men, that "the reasons set forth in this document for making Mr. Beck a member in defiance of the fairly expressed will of the people, are based on false statements; and the men signing it know they were false, or they did not know any thing about what they were signing." Having heard all the testimony given before the committee, we now repeat the above statement.

What were these reasons? The following extract from the petition contains the whole of them, we believe:

But in violation of the act of Assembly, and the Proclamation of the Sheriff aforesaid, and contrary to the wish of many of the citizens of said township, of which notice at the same time was given to the election officers, the election board in and for said township, did hold the last general election aforesaid at the Sharon Center school house, a distance of about one mile from the Le Roy school house, the place designated and fixed by act of Assembly aforesaid, and that in consequence of the change aforesaid, there were electors in said township deprived of voting at said election.

Any person will see, even by reading the majority report, that the above contains several falsehoods. There is no pretense in this report that any of the above allegations were sustained except the first in relation to the place where the act of assembly fixed the place of holding elections; and the majority admit that "it is not pretended in this case that the change was made from any improper motives on the part of the officers of the election, or that the election was improperly conducted at the place where it was held."

So there was no shadow of excuse for asserting as Messrs. Ives, Knox, and their associates did, that the election was held in violation of the proclamation of the sheriff, and contrary to the wish of many of the citizens of said township. That statement is false, as is the following that the election officers were notified of a wish to hold the election elsewhere. The closing statement of the above paragraph, is such a gross misstatement, that we shall not rest until the man making it prove their assertions, or publicly retract their falsehoods. These petitioners assert "there were electors in said township deprived of voting at said election," in consequence of the change of the place of holding it. Now the man who drew up that statement for his associates to sign, must have known who these electors were, or he not only uttered a falsehood, but he procured others to do the same. So we call for the names of these elec-

tors. Meanwhile we ask the voters of the county to ponder over the following passage from the minority report:

"The simple question is now submitted, were the 73 votes of Sharon township legal or illegal. The election was held in the new school house. It was the only election held in the township on that day, and there was no objection on the part of any citizen to the holding of the election at that place.

"The Sheriff's proclamation clearly and plainly designated the place at which the election should be held. It required the citizens to meet at the 'Leroy School House.' There was but one Leroy sub-district in Sharon township, and there was but one school house in Leroy sub-district. Hence, no man could have been mistaken in the place designated by the Sheriff, and there was no evidence whatever before the committee that a single citizen in the township was mistaken or misled by it; more than this, there was no evidence before the committee that any citizen of the township wanted the election held at any other place."

Hence we think every honest man will come to the same conclusion that the minority of the committee did, to wit: that

"John C. McGee has beyond all question a clear and undeniable majority of the constitutional votes of his district, and the action of the committee in depriving him of his seat in this House is a great wrong inflicted on the people of that district, and one that merits at the hands of public opinion the most decided condemnation."

#### KANSAS MEETING.

Pursuant to public notice, the citizens of Potter county assembled at the Court House, on Tuesday evening, the 19th of February, and organized by calling Capt. N. J. Mills to the Chair, and choosing Wm. McDougall and L. H. Kinney Vice Presidents, and W. B. Graves and E. P. Huntington Secretaries.

John S. Mann was called on by the Chairman to state the object of the meeting, which he did briefly, saying that the object as he understood it, was to express our sympathy with the citizens of Kansas, and to contribute such aid as was in our power to assist them in their trying circumstances. He concluded by moving the appointment of a committee of five to draft resolutions expressive of the sympathies and feelings of this meeting.

The Chair appointed J. S. Mann, S. Stevens, G. G. Colvin, A. J. Lewis, P. A. Stebbins. The committee retired for consultation, and during their absence S. P. Johnson addressed the meeting, portraying the state of affairs in Kansas, graphically and truthfully. At the close of the address, the committee presented the following resolutions, which were adopted without a dissenting voice:

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize with the sovereign people of Kansas in their struggle for free principles and State rights.

Resolved, That we will assist the sovereigns of Kansas with the sympathy of our hearts and the contents of our purses; therefore,

Resolved, That we appoint Hon. Joseph Mann our Treasurer for the purpose of receiving such material aid as those present at this meeting may feel it a duty to contribute, with instructions to transmit the amount to Gen. Robinson of Lawrence, Governor elect of Kansas.

Resolved, That the said Treasurer be requested to appeal to the people of Potter county to contribute to this fund.

Resolved, That Kansas has a guaranteed right to be, and by the power of strong arms and true hearts, shall be FREE.

After the adoption of the resolutions Mr. J. S. Mann made a few remarks urging the importance of contributing material aid to the citizens of Kansas, and announced that two young men of Coudersport were preparing to start on the 1st of March, for that land of squatter sovereignty. He was followed by A. P. Cone of Tioga, who thought that Burder Ruffianism was as prevalent at the White House at Washington as at Kansas, and urged the young men to go and settle the question in the right manner.

Elder Davis was called for, and proceeded to address the meeting showing that guilty as the President is, his guilt is shared by those who elected and support him.

Hon. O. A. Lewis moved that the proceedings be published in all the papers friendly to the objects of the meeting.

The motion was adopted, and the meeting adjourned sine die.

N. J. MILLS, President,  
W. McDUGALL, Vice Pres't  
L. H. KINNEY, Secretaries.  
W. B. GRAVES,  
E. P. HUNTINGDON,

At the close of the meeting \$67.00 were contributed to the Kansas Aid fund.

[For the People's Journal.]

In the *Highland Patriot* of the 30th ultimo appeared an article in addition to many previously published in the same paper, filled with personal abuse of myself, which induced me to call at the Office of that paper on the morning of the 31st, requesting the person in charge of the Office to give me the name of the author of said article and was informed by him that the author would give his name and furthermore that he would not keep me waiting some two weeks as James had done previously, but as soon as he had his breakfast he would see the writer and let me know. I went back to the Office in the afternoon of the same day and received this satisfaction "that I could not have the name there, but if I would go or send to the writer it would be given." Upon that I sent a gentleman to Henry H. Dent, who, I had good reason to suppose, was the author and received the following reply from him in writing:

"The article in the *Highland Patriot* of the 30th, of January A. D. 1856 expresses what I believe to be true and just in fact and sentiment: I have not the right to say more.—H. H. Dent."

After this I learned from a reliable person that Dent had avowed himself the author of the article alluded to.—On Saturday afternoon February 2nd Dent and myself met face to face on the side walk below the Temperance Hotel. I asked him if he was the author of the article alluded to above, he made no reply but walked around me; I turned and repeated the question, we continued side by side on repeating the question the third time and receiving no reply, I struck him with my fist, not from behind, but on the side of his head, after he fell I drew a whale bone cane inflicting it over his head till it broke to pieces.—I then released him, stepped back upon the walk, picked up my shawl and started for the other side of the road, where I then discovered for the first time Mr. S. Ross. While I was crossing the street Dent got up and ran backwards about twenty feet and then drew a six-barrelled revolver from his breast pocket, and snapped it twice (as I believed then and still believe and in which I am sustained by the evidence of others) but neither time did it go off.

As I had no weapon I retreated and was followed by him but a few rods. I may only add that Mr. Ross, was not present to lend me any aid whatever and moreover was upon the other side of the street.

It may be appropriate for me here to say that I am unconscious of ever having done Mr. Dent any injury whatever up to the time of our meeting while he has sought to crush me under the lash of public print. He has but little cause to complain, while he sets himself up as an outlaw and boldly proclaims both publicly and privately that no court or jury here should control him he leaves me no other alternative however much that kind of redress may be condemned.  
G. B. OVERTON.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.  
DEMOCRACY DEIFYING THE PEOPLE.

Were it not for opportunities that every day present themselves as kind of snares, into which the totally depraved unwittingly set their feet, we would never learn the amount of black-hearted villainy that enshrouds itself within the dignity of humanity.

The present Legislature seems to have been raised to power for no other purpose than to give to the world the last exhibition of democratic misrule in its utter prostitution. Nearly every act which has been considered, so far, in the present Legislature, calculated to inspire an independent expression on the part of the representatives of an independent people, has but exhibited most humiliating servility to party, and a reckless disregard of duty. Our object at present is to speak particularly of an outrage that has no parallel in the history of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

In to-day's paper we publish the two reports presented to the House on the case of the contested election of JOHN C. M'GEE. The minority

report, by Mr. PURCELL, is a straightforward statement of the facts and the law, and shows conclusively that no member of that committee could innocently have mistaken his duty. Both reports show conclusively that JOHN C. M'GEE was fairly elected a member of the Legislature by the qualified voters of his district. At no time during the trial was it alleged that improper influences had been brought to bear upon the result. The majority report shows that the election in Sharon township was held in good faith and strict integrity. From that report the public learns that the place for holding general elections in Sharon township, Potter county, was fixed by law at the Leroy School House; that the Leroy School House was changed by the School Directors of Sharon township from the location on which it stood when the law was passed, to another location, less than half a mile distant; that the election was held at the new School House, and that at the time of the last election there was no School House between Lewis Wood's and SIMON DRAKE'S. The report further informs us that no election could have been held at the House formerly known as the Leroy School House, for the good reason that it was occupied by a private family. To use the language of the Report, "Mr. BURICK informed one of the officers of the election that he would not permit the election to be held there, owing to sickness in his family." The majority report bears witness to the good faith and integrity of the officers by saying—"It is not pretended in this case that the change was made from any improper motives on the part of the officers of the election; or that the election was improperly conducted at the place where it was held." Then, in the name of all that is sacred, why should these citizens be deprived of their constitutional rights? But M'GEE had to go by the board, and a pretext was found and used as a poor, pitiful apology for this wanton exercise of an arbitrary power.

The Act of Assembly of 1849, instead of using the words "Leroy School House," as all the citizens of Sharon township believed it did, the words "the School House situated between LEWIS WOOD'S and SIMON DRAKE'S" were used to designate the place for holding the elections in said township. The citizens were not alone in this mistake, for it appeared in evidence that the Sheriff, for several years previous, in his successive proclamations, had designated the Leroy School House as the place for the citizens to meet and hold their elections. But no matter—it was enough to answer the purpose of the committee. The report at once breaks loose in a strain of petty balderdash, and attempts by diluted and feeble expressions to show the world how diminutive the reasons need to be to answer their purpose. It forgets that there is a constitution, and that that constitution defines the legal qualifications of the voters. It forgets that the committee stands at the very fountain of legislative authority, with full power to commute irregularities, when, by so doing, it does no wrong to the citizens or inflicts no injury upon the State. It forgets that each member of the committee was simply sworn to hear the evidence and give a true judgment thereon. It forgets that the courts of this State have repeatedly refused to set elections aside on the ground of irregularity and that they have made it a rule in all such cases to look into the good faith and integrity of the election.

To our mind there is no apology for this unmitigated outrage. Scarcely a man we meet, of any party, approves of the action of the committee. Those that do attempt to justify their action pretend to cover themselves by the legal reputation of Hon. Henry D. Foster, the chairman of the committee. It is queried whether the report evidences weakness, laziness or wickedness. The report certainly creates the impression that its author has no just appreciation or comprehensive sense of the great legal principles that should have controlled the committee. It is conclusively, however, conveys the knowledge that its author never examined the subject or theme of the report. But however humiliating it may be, the last idea suggested by the query is perhaps the nearest to the truth. The constitution, the laws of the State, and least of all the consciences of the committee, had to be sacrificed to appease the passions of Locofocoism. The seat of a member of the House of Representatives depended entirely upon their decision. The game was within their reach, and that insatiable thirst for power, the only distinguishing trait of the party to which Beck belongs, dictated the result. Hence the report is but the formal apology. It could be nothing else than weak. It could exhibit nothing more than ignorance and be true to the instincts that dictated it. With its author we have nothing to do.—Let his fame lean upon this bantering of his choice. The world will not be long in selecting the proper sphere to which both should be consigned.—McGee goes home to his constituents, not disgraced, but honored in the overwhelming disgrace of his opponents. We might write a chapter upon another creature that figured in this contest, but for the present we forbear.