

THE HOMESTEAD BILL.

The interest which the country is looking for the action of Congress on the homestead bill induces us to publish it at full length; as reported by Hon. J. L. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, from the committee on Agriculture, of which he is Chairman.

Be it enacted, That any person who is the head of a family and a citizen of the United States shall have from and after the passage of this act, free of cost, one quarter section of vacant and unappropriated lands, or a quantity equal thereto, to be located in a body, in conformity with the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed.

Sec. 2 And be it further enacted, That the person applying for the benefit of this act shall, upon application to the register of the land office in which he or she is about to make such entry, make affidavit before the said register that he or she is the head of a family; and upon making the affidavit as above required, and filing the affidavit with the register, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land already specified: Provided, however, That no certificate shall be given, or patent issued therefor, until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, the person making such entry, or, if he be dead, his widow, or, in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisee, in case of her death, shall prove, by two credible witnesses, that he, she, or they have continued to reside upon the same, and have not alienated the same, or any part thereof; then, in such case, he, she, or they shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law: And provided further, in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child or children under fourteen years of age, the right and the fee shall inure to the benefit of said infant child or children, and the executor, administrator, or guardian may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent and, in accordance with the laws of the State in which such children for the time being shall have their domicile, sell said land for the benefit of said infants for no other purpose; and the purchaser shall acquire the absolute title by the purchase, and be entitled to a patent from the United States.

Sec. 3 And be it further enacted, That the register of the land office shall note all such applications on the tract books and plats of his office, and keep a register of such entries, and make return thereof to the General Land office; together with the proof upon which they have been founded.

Sec. 4 And be it further enacted, That all land acquired under the provisions of this act shall in no event become liable to the satisfaction of any debt or debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent therefor.

Sec. 5 And be it further enacted, That if, at any time after filing the affidavit as required in the second section of this act, and before the expiration of the five years aforesaid, it shall be proven, after due notice to the settler, to the satisfaction of the register of the land office, that the person having filed such affidavit shall have actually changed his or her residence or abandoned the said entry for more than six months at any one time, then, and in that event, the land so entered shall revert back to the government, and be disposed of as other public lands are now by law subject to an appeal to the General Land Office.

Sec. 6 And be it further enacted, That if any individual now a resident of any one of the States or Territories, and not a citizen of the United States, but at the time of making such application for the benefit of this act shall have filed a declaration of intention, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and shall become a citizen of the same before the issuance of the patent, as made and provided for in this act, shall be placed upon an equal footing with the native-born citizens of the United States.

Sec. 7 And be it further enacted, That no individual shall be permitted to make more than one entry under the provisions of this act; and that the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby required to prepare and issue such rules and regulations consistent with this act as shall be necessary and proper to carry its provisions into effect; and that the registers and receivers of the several land offices shall be entitled to receive the same compensation for any lands entered under the provisions of this act that they are now entitled to receive when the same quantity of land is entered with money, one-half to be paid by the person making the application at the time of so doing, and the other half on the issue of the certificate by the person to whom it may be issued: Provided, however, That all persons entering land under the provisions of this act, shall as near as may be practicable in making such entries, be confined to such alternate quarter section, and to land subject to private entry; and provided further, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to impair, or interfere in any manner whatever with, existing pre-emption rights.

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and, with the report, ordered to be printed. Mr. Dawson. I move that the bill be made the special order for the second Tuesday in February next; which motion was adopted.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CUBA.

HAVANA, Dec. 7, 1853.

To the Editor of the Union: Some days since I wrote a short letter upon the British project in relation to this island, (Cuba.) The letter intended for your paper, but through mistake I addressed it to the Washington Republic. I am not certain that a paper with such a name exists.

In the said letter I made it clear that the question of the Africanization of Cuba was not a subject got up in the United States to serve a purpose, but that the British government had made proposals to Spain; that Canedo had been communicated with from the peninsula; and that in his turn, he had sounded our proprietors; and so the matter got before the public. There is nothing strange or wonderful in the business. Britain would like to ruin Cuba—to cause it to be a bad sort of Uncle Sam's side; and it need not surprise anybody that that country should have spoken to poor, weak Spain on the subject, and that the news should have come thence to this island, and again was communicated to the United States. In fact, this appears quite natural; for Great Britain could only be silent so far as relates to the United States.

Since I wrote the letter I speak of as contained in the London Times of the 29th of October directed against the Union and the people of the United States. It is a mass of verbiage, suitable for the tastes of the shallow-pated cockneys; still it has some effect upon the great in the United States; for during the seventy-eight years that have transpired since the declaration of independence, some among you have not been able to throw off the awe and admiration of the British lion colonists; and the thunder of words, received as reason by too many of you, whom, I believe, it keeps in a tremble. Now, a little Scotch merchant neither trembles in the presence of the English voice. Brave, free, and independent, as of old, the Scot united to England the better to explore its riches and those of its colonies.

At the present day Scotland supplies the greater part of brain required in public offices, &c., and its sons are the richest merchants of England. But, to return to the Times and a specimen of the "gift of the gab" referred to. Its own logic kills itself; or, rather, the projectile sent against you slays the projector. For instance, the time mentioned as the term of slavery is ridiculed, and the Times ask where shall we be in 1902? For the Times I could answer, but I should have to approach a hotter place than Havana to do so. The island of Cuba, if the plan of the British should be commenced, would be ruined before five years, and Britain nor any one else would have to wait until 1902. In five years' time, what the government of that country desires would be accomplished; no blacks then would be brought from Africa; and then, what would the very honest Times say? Before that period, let it know that in cuteness, which it is pleased to harp upon, it will never sell Brother Jonathan.

The sneers of the Times do not prove that the subject has not been broached at Madrid; and, although the British government in a body has not stood up, still its agent at Madrid has, and that he cannot deny. The Times and the British government, of course, deny that they would not have known to the stern republicans of the United States, just as the boy does his fault when a whipping is anticipated; and the traitors to their country for self-interest attack you because of your glory in checking the insolent Bull.

Yours, &c., CALEDONIA.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

We take from the Pennsylvania the following condensation of the report of Col. Jefferson Davis Secretary of War:

The authorized strength of the United States army, is 12,821 men and officers; but the actual strength, according to the latest returns, is only 10,417, of which number 8,878 are employed in the frontier departments, and are now on their way to them. It is stated further, that the measures taken for the prosecution of our frontiers have been successful, that the troops everywhere have been actively and constantly employed; that Indian depredations have been comparatively unfrequent, and, except in California and Oregon have not attained more than a local importance.

New posts are to be established in the Indian country west of the Mississippi, in more favorable positions, to enable the Department to dispense with a number of smaller and less important posts. A great force is also to be employed for the protection of the emigrants crossing the plains. A majority of the cases of Indian depredations in Texas which have come to the knowledge of the Department, have been committed by Mexican territory. Major Gen. Smith, aided by an experienced officer of engineers, is selecting sites for permanent fortifications on the Rio Grande; another at the Camanche crossing. It is the intention of the Department that, as soon as possible, a considerable force shall be sent to the Pacific coast, and one of the Brigadier-Generals of the army ordered to the command. Nine companies of artillery are posted in Florida, to aid the efforts now in progress there to effect the removal of the Indians. Coercive measures are to be used if found necessary. Two of the regiments of artillery are to be rearranged on the Canadian frontier and the Arctic and Gulf coast. Of the Cavalry regiments; one will be required in Texas, besides two on the frontier west of the Mississippi, one in New Mexico, and one in the Indian country of the Pacific. It is the purpose of the department to post the troops in large bodies at commanding positions, instead of dispersing them in numerous small posts.

In consequence of the difficulty of keeping the ranks full, the Secretary proposes: 1st, an increase of the present pay of the common soldier; 2d, an annual increase for each successive period of five years so long as he shall remain in the army; 3d, provision for the promotion to the lowest grade of commissioned officers of such of the non-commissioned officers of the army as may be found qualified for, and by their character and services entitled to such advancement. Also, that every soldier who having been honorably discharged from the service of the United States, shall, within one month thereafter, re-enlist, shall be entitled to two dollars per month in addition, to the ordinary pay of his grade for the first period of five years, after the expiration of his first enlistment and a further sum of one dollar per month for each successive period of five years, so long as he shall remain continuously in the army.

The Secretary argues elaborately in favor of the increase of the army, showing the actual necessity for such a measure. He recommends that the militia organization of all companies be fixed, as in the mounted riflemen at 61 privates, and that there be added to the present military establishment, one regiment of dragoons and two regiments of riflemen, which would give a minimum organization of 15,920 officers and men, which may be expanded if the limit fixed by the law of June 7th, 1850, be continued to 17,414 and a war establishment of 120 privates per company, to 27,818, thus providing for a state of war an effective increase of from 10,000 to 12,000 men without the creation of new regiments. Gen. Scott recommends a larger increase. The Secretary recommends also, that another company of snappers and miners be added to the engine corps.

With a number of other recommendations calculated to render the army more efficient and capable of enduring the hardships of active service, the Secretary proceeds to speak of the necessity of encouraging regularity and uniformity in the militia; he recommends providing the militia with the proper books for actual instruction. The condition of the Military Academy is favorably spoken of, and the Academy term is, by the Board, recommended to be increased to five years.

EVADING THE LIQUOR LICENSE LAW. Peter Buckley, of Delaware city, Del., has been convicted on four counts, and fined \$104, for selling liquor without license. It appears he attempted to evade the law, by selling a crocker or segar for a nip, and then asking the purchaser to take a drink. He proved the sale of a crocker in one instance, and a segar in another, and contended that he had the right to give away his liquor to his customer. But it was proven that the purchaser went to the house to get the liquor, and that the crocker or segar would not have offered sufficient inducement to call them there, had the liquor not been in anticipation. The Court held that it was an attempt to evade the meaning and spirit of the law.

The Berks and Schuylkill Journal states that a confidence man, named Jonathan S. Beckley, who has been extensively figuring at Lebanon, as financier, preacher, &c., disappeared very suddenly a week or so ago, after swindling a number of persons out of large amounts.

Persons continue easy on call, in Philadelphia and New York. In the latter city, Bill Brokers are negotiating round lists of good paper at 10 per cent. per annum. Ponnell Hendricks, convicted at Raleigh for passing counterfeit gold coin, has been fined twenty-five hundred dollars, and sentenced to hard labor for ten years.

THE REPUBLICAN.

CLEARFIELD, DEC. 24, 1853

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, showing the financial operations of that department of the government for the past year, together with its present and prospective condition, possesses peculiar interest.

The estimated receipts from all sources, as reported in 1852, were \$51,300,000 00 To which add balance in Treas. 1st July, 1852, 14,632,136 37

Total receipts for the year 1853, \$56,572,079 51 Total estimated expenditures for the same time, 46,203,753 60

Estimated expenditures for the same time, 67,251,283 16 Leaving an estimated bal. in Treas. 1st July '53, of 11,266,004 62

These figures certainly show a most unprecedented state of financial prosperity. The Secretary, after describing the practical operations of his department, takes up the subject of the tariff. The revenues from customs, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1853, amounted to a little less than \$59,000,000. Mr. Guthrie proposes to modify the present tariff duties so as to reduce the receipts from customs to about \$45,000,000, and which sum, together with the land revenue, he thinks, will be quite sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of the government, and pay the public debt as it shall fall due, or before it.

OF DISTILLED LIQUORS AND ADULTERATED WINES

are embraced in this list. This recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury will no doubt give Congress something to think upon, and the people and the newspaper world something to talk about for the next six or nine months. The policy of having but two classes of duty-paying importations may be questioned. But that the people of the U. States will object to the reduction of their yearly taxes from fifty-eight to forty-six millions of dollars is not probable.

The Secretary next shows the operations of the mint. To 31st October 1853, the whole amount coined was \$370,008,192, 50; the gold coinage from 1st January to 31st October 1853, was \$46,998,945 50; silver coinage, same time \$0,996,225 50; total, \$53,995,170 50. And without estimating the gold and silver brought from abroad by emigration, the Secretary shows that within the last four years the very large sum of \$135,072,097 73 has been added to the gold and silver coin remaining in the country. In view of these facts the Secretary well remarks, that, "should this increase continue for but a short term of years, this country will be able to dispense with banks of issue and the attendant evils, and have the gold and silver contemplated by the Constitution."

There are many other highly interesting topics presented in this report, but we have not room to follow the subject further at present. Enough is given however, to afford the reader a tolerably correct idea of the growing greatness of the country, and to induce all who may have an opportunity, to give the whole document a careful perusal.

PRINTER TO THE U. S. SENATE. In the United States Senate, on the 13th of November Trecher, Esq., proprietor of the Washington Sentinel, was elected printer to that body. This was no doubt intended as a slap at the administration on the part of one or two free soilers, with many disaffected democrats, of that body, who thus united with the whigs to defeat Gen. Armstrong of the Union. We admire the remarks of Gen. Dodge, of Iowa, on this vote. The adoption of his suggestion will no doubt prevent such occurrences in future. They were as follows: "I wish to give notice that I will on tomorrow, or some subsequent day, move the repeal of the 35th rule, which provides that the election of officers by the Senate shall be by ballot. I consider that I cast the vote of the people of Iowa, when I vote here upon any question, whether in relation to the public printing or any other matter, and I think that my lords and my masters have a right to know how, and for whom, I cast my vote. A certain election which I regard as here to-day, the result of which I regard as any thing but complimentary to the democratic organization of the Senate. I make no reflection upon any one who has voted here to-day. But I want my vote known to the people of Iowa, so that they may know how I cast their vote. I voted to-day for Gen. Robert Armstrong, the defeated candidate for public printer, and the proprietor of the Washington Union."

This secret ballot, and the practice of closing their doors whilst in Executive session, is beneath the dignity of the United States Senate, and is a reflection upon the independence of U. S. Senators.

Dr. Clarke of the Pittsburg Christian Advocate, in an able article on the reformations in Ireland, says that "Irish Romanism is not only perishing in its native soil, but transplanted to American soil, seems to succeed no better. In sixteen years—that is, from 1828 to 1844—according to their own showing, the Catholic Church lost, from her Irish emigration in this country, about two millions!"

Some of the knowing ones in and about Clearfield, who have lately declared themselves Native Americans, entertain the opinion that the Catholics are increasing in numbers at a very rapid rate, and boldly assert that they already outnumber any other religious sect. To such the report of the Superintendent of the Census made to the last Congress on this subject, might prove interesting and instructive, as it is an official document, and may be relied upon as correct, or nearly so. Accordingly we herewith annex it.

Christian (Apostolic) (Ch. Protest.)

OUR WHIG MEETING.

We publish in this week paper the proceedings of a meeting of our whig friends. It always affords us pleasure to comply with the request of a respectable political party, who base their claims to popular favor on some platform of principles consistent with the constitution of our country; however widely they may differ from our own views. But while we do this, we shall always claim the right of making in a respectful manner our own comments on such of their principles avowed, as we shall think proper, and we trust that privilege will be awarded to us. Many of the resolutions are only a reiteration of stale and worn out assertions, that have often been condemned by the people. We had hoped the party would not themselves be willing to see them again in print. The preamble declares that the whig party of Pennsylvania "still lives," and this was certainly a well timed preface to their proceedings, as the intelligence seemed to be met with surprise by even the former members of that party. But if they expect to revive their old and broken down party by making charges against their opponents, false from beginning to end, they mistake the intelligence of the people. It is not true that the Democratic party is "divided and split up," except in the state of New York. In all other parts of the Union they stand firmly united on the Baltimore platform and the Compromise, and will by a rigid adherence to the principles of the Constitution, meet the common enemy, in the campaign of 1856, only to secure another and a more glorious victory, and that too, with or without the aid of the Empire State. President Pierce avowed his principles in his Inaugural, and by that paper he, and his party are willing he shall be tried, not fearing the judgment of an enlightened people.

A contest closer at hand, and coming nearer home however, claims the attention of the meeting. The signal ability—the honesty of purpose, and the adherence to Democratic principles and usages which have characterized the administration of his Excellency William Bigler, seem to carry fearful apprehensions into the whig ranks, and hence the charge of extravagance during his administration. How shamefully false! Why speak against the positive and unquestionable record? Have our whig friends no regard for truth? What new work has been recommended or commenced during Gov. Bigler's administration? What appropriation made? Shall the Whig party be allowed to make appropriations, and charge them to the Democratic party, without contradiction. The completion of the North Branch Canal, was urged by Gov. Johnston, and an appropriation made for it; but it required the triumph of Democratic principles, and a Democratic administration to borrow the money. Gov. Bigler, to redeem the pledged faith of the Commonwealth, and to raise her credit to the present proud standard, aided in borrowing the money to complete and render productive that valuable branch of our State improvements. Who does not approve of the course? It would be worse than idle to argue its propriety to an intelligent and thinking people.

Our whig friends are in favor of a sale of the public works, because the Democrats have the control of them, and against whom they charge all kinds of fraud and corruption. As to the sale we express a present no opinion. We are, however, much amused at the horror expressed by these political saints at the idea of frauds on the public works. Have they forgotten the Huntingdon branch—the Young Womanstown election, and the Gettysburg Rail Road. Are Joe Ritner and Thad, Stevens forgotten? But while they assert that Pennsylvania cannot manage her improvements, embracing four or five hundred miles of Canals and Rail Road, they call upon the General Government to open the doors of her Treasury for the construction, as a government work, of the great Pacific Rail Road, three thousand miles in length, and involving an expenditure of three hundred millions of dollars of the people's money. Oh! consistency thou art a jewel! We are in favor of building the Pacific Rail Road, and hope to see the work commenced soon and with a certainty of its early completion. It is a great enterprise, and will be among the noblest achievements of our people, but if the whig party are satisfied that our State improvements should be controlled by individual management to make them profitable, it adds another and powerful reason, to the many already advanced against making it a Government work.

We apprehend however that a "large and respectable" whig meeting in Clearfield composed of about a dozen disheartened members of that long since annihilated party, reluctantly drawn together, will neither overthrow the Democracy of the Union, or disturb for any length of time the slumbers of Governor Bigler. There never was a time when the chief executive of our State, stood higher in the estimation of the honest Democracy of Pennsylvania than at the present moment; nor a time when Gov. Bigler had a stronger hold in the affections of the people of this county. His re-nomination being already settled, his old neighbors and friends only await the opportunity to give to the democracy of the State, sure evidence of their continued confidence in him by an increased majority at the polls.

Those who had not been informed that the week which has nearly passed, was court week in Clearfield, would probably not have been able to have made the discovery. But few persons were here from the country. A number of public meetings were held however. On Monday evening the friends of the temperance cause assembled in the Court House, and very able and appropriate addresses were delivered by Mr. Jenks of Brookville, the Rev. Mr. Hauchanberry, and J. B. McEally, Esq. On Tuesday evening there was a Whig, and afterwards a Railroad meeting,

of \$6,011 - 13,840,896 \$89,416,939