

THE REPUBLICAN.

CLEARFIELD, MARCH 1, 1854.

FOR GOVERNOR, WILLIAM BIGLER.

In conformity with the wishes of the Democracy of our county, as expressed at the Democratic meeting of last week, we this week, hoist to our mast head the name of our former fellow citizen and present efficient Executive, Wm. BIGLER, as the Democratic candidate for Governor, there to remain, we trust, until the day of battle and of victory shall arrive.

We have several communications on hand which shall be examined and properly disposed of next week.

Notwithstanding the effort which has of late been secretly making by some few individuals in and about town to prevent the further circulation of the Republican, and in fact to curtail if possible our present list, we are happy to inform our readers that a court has not passed within the last two years at least, at which so many names have been added to our list, or so many dollars found their way into our pockets. Our pile has accumulated sufficiently to enable us to pay off our old paper bill and enough left to lay in a supply for the future. We are thus encouraged to renew our exertions, and if possible make the Republican doubly interesting to our readers.

Resolved, That we will ever resist sectarian intermeddling with politics or political institutions, come from what source it may—religious freedom being the great corner-stone of American civilization.

The above resolution appears among the proceedings of the Native Meeting held at Curwensville on the 4th of February, and published in our paper of the 15th. It breathes the true spirit of republicanism. We subscribe to it in every part—and if the whole history of Nativism, and other resolutions adopted at this same meeting, did not show their hypocrisy, such false declarations might deceive the confiding. But the third resolution following the above, denounces Gov. Bigler for appointing Judge Campbell to office, "after he was repudiated and rejected by the people. Why was he rejected?" Judge Campbell was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for Supreme Judge. Some of his personal enemies in Philadelphia, failing in their efforts to injure him in an honest, open, manly manner, sent out secret circulars on the eve of the election, addressed to ministers of the Gospel chiefly charging him with being a Catholic, and appealing to their "sectarian" prejudices to aid in his defeat.

In our own county we well remember that at least two of these Reverend gentlemen spurned the base trick, and exposed it to the democrats at once. But the tricksters succeeded, and that by the influence of this "sectarian intermeddling with politics" which these natives so pointedly, yet so hypocritically denounce, Judge Campbell was defeated. Gov. Bigler, believing "religious freedom to be the great corner-stone of American civilization," and knowing that his defeat was not a fair expression of the will of the people, but the result of a cunning trick of a few political demagogues of Philadelphia, appointed him, not to the office for which he was a candidate and defeated, but as Attorney General of the State. He thus performed a righteous act, and as far as lay in his power, redeemed the Democratic party of Pennsylvania from the imputation of having repudiated the great principle that acknowledges "religious freedom to be the great corner-stone of American civilization."

If these natives are in favor of religious freedom, why do they persist in their denunciations of Judge Campbell. He is no foreigner, but a native born citizen of our own State, to which his father emigrated when a mere boy, and would therefore be a voter, even under the 21 years platform of nativism, of some 30 years standing.

Resolved, That James Campbell by his appointment, has demonstrated his utter unfitness for the office of Post Master General.

The above is the last of the resolves of the Curwensville native meeting. We wish they would be more explicit. Judge Campbell has made some thousands of appointments. Which one do they allude to? If they allude to the P. M. at this place, they must excuse us for telling them that they are not the proper judges in that case, and that the people of Clearfield and vicinity can make known their own grievances, if they have any.

But, from a faint recollection of the contest for Post Master at Curwensville, we rather suspect that this trust is included for that good old steadfast Democrat, Sam Way, and if so we hope and believe he will survive the shock. At all events, gentlemen, you would oblige us and the public, and do yourselves no discredit, by being more explicit.

based originally upon the idea that lumber floating in the river is in danger of destruction, and that it is expedient to preserve it from risk.

I am aware that an impression prevails, that the charters of these companies impair the authority to take up lumber, vested by the act of 1812, but I believe such an impression to be founded upon an erroneous construction of the law. To enter into an elaborate discussion of this point would occupy too much of your space, and I shall address but one fact, in support of the position I have assumed.

In a case reported in the 4th volume of Watt's Report, it was decided: That lumber, which had gone adrift, and lodged upon an island in the Susquehanna river, was not subject to the provisions of the act of 1812; that act being held only to apply to lumber taken up while floating in the river. But by an act passed so late as April 20, 1853, it is provided, that lumber lodged upon an island in the Susquehanna, may be taken up in the same manner, and under the same terms as it directed by the act of the 20th March, 1812, to which the act of 1853 is declared to be a supplement. Here, then, is a legislative enactment, subsequent to the incorporation of the Boom companies, which established the fact,—not perhaps by express words, but by an inference which must be deemed conclusive—that the act of 1812 is regarded, by the body which passed it, as still in full life, force, and vigor.

Now, Mr. Editor, if the citizens of this county, interested in the suppression of the floating of loose logs, shall determine to avail themselves of the provisions of this law, it will require no prophetic eye to foresee the very speedy termination of the whole system. Supposing the views of the law I have taken, to be correct,—an action upon them would soon put that question, one way or the other, completely at rest,—this community has the power under the protection of the law, to abolish a practice which, year after year, is breaking upon our trade, with a progressive force which threatens, at no very distant period, wholly to destroy it. What is required, is a prompt, vigorous, and determined effort to ascertain the opinion of the courts, and if that prove favorable, the same promptitude, vigor, and determination will make a saw log an object as rarely to be seen, in our streams, as the celebrated sea-serpent.

I do not presume to indicate a mode in which the suggestions I have advanced, may be carried into effect. If they have any weight, the proper steps will readily occur to those familiar with the manner of carrying on the obnoxious traffic.—This article has already far transcended the limits originally assigned to it, and I close it, expressing the hope, that it may not prove wholly valueless, as an attempt to point out one possible method of settling this vexed question.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT.

The Court was in session the whole week—the following causes were the only causes on the trial list which were disposed of this week, all the rest having been continued.

Jonathan Pierce's heirs vs. David Michaels—Ejectment for 50 acres of land in Chest township—Judgment for Plaintiff—Wallace for Plaintiff. Barrett, Hale & Crans for Defendant.

Thompson & Eagleman vs. Reed, McCullough & Robertson. Ejectment for John Jones survey. Judgment for Plaintiff. Barrett, Crans, Hale & Cuttle for Plaintiff. Wallace for Defendant.

Augustin McClain vs. William H. Henderson—Scire Facias Sur mechanic's lien. Judgment for Plaintiff—\$326. Barrett & Crans for Plaintiff. Wallace & Linn for Defendant.

In the Quarter Sessions—John Hall, charged with an assault and battery on William Housler, was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$5, and costs of prosecution. Crans for Commonwealth. Gordon for defence.

George W. Condo, was convicted of an assault on J. H. Galer, a constable whilst in discharge of his duty, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$10, and costs. Crans & Wallace for Commonwealth. Swoop for Defence.

Thomas Biers, charged with an assault and battery on I. L. Barret, was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and costs. The prosecutor requested the Court to impose a light fine. Wallace & Crans for Commonwealth. Hale & McEnally for Defence.

Charles & Philip Blanchard, were convicted of a nuisance, and motion in arrest of Judgment made. They had thrown a large number of loose saw logs into the Moshannon creek, which it is alleged on the part of the prosecution obstruct the highway. When the verdict was rendered, the feelings of the people in the Court house was shown by clapping of hands and stamping of feet. Wallace, Barrett, Linn, Swoop & Cuttle conducted the prosecution. Hale, Smith & Gordon for defence.

The Grand Jury found a true bill against William McAlea, William Morgan, and John McShuey, charged with the murder of Richard Conklin. The bill was not presented until Thursday evening, a few minutes before the Jury were empanelled in the case against C & P. Blanchard, which occupied so much time that the homicide case had to be held over until next court.

We understand that the Grand Jury also found 10 true bills against persons engaged in log floating, charging them with nuisance, also several bills for assault, and that they presented, Hoyt's, Shaw's, Irwin's, Brush and Ringold dams as obstructions.

Thos. J. McCullough, Elmore S. Dunfee, of this place, and Benj. F. Lucas, Esq., of Brookville, were admitted to practice in the several courts of Clearfield.

The proposal of an article on the Saw Log question, which appeared in the last issue of your paper, has suggested to me the idea of offering to the public, through the same medium, some views of the subject which may not be generally entertained, and which may lead to some adjustment, in a legal manner, of the difficulties and injuries, so graphically set forth in the article alluded to.

It is by no means probable, that the present legislature can be induced to enact such a Bill, as would be requisite to afford adequate protection to the lumber trade of our county. The passage of a law of any description, having for its end the restriction of the so-called rights of the log floaters, would meet the most strenuous opposition of what has been forcibly designated the Third House of the Assembly, and it is unfortunately for the credit of our State, but too notorious that a well-organized and well-paid majority of the said Third House, can prevent the passage of any Bill which may be brought before the legitimate branches of the law-making power. Little hope of a recognition of our rights, or of redress for our wrongs, from any such source, can be reasonably indulged.

Another method which has been attempted, contemplates the arrest of those engaged in the business of floating loose logs, on the ground of their being perpetrators of a common nuisance. As this phase of the subject will no doubt be submitted to the decision of the proper tribunal, I shall not venture to express an opinion upon it, further than merely to advert to the probability that no decision which may be pronounced in a case of nuisance, founded upon the floating of logs, can be considered as a termination of the difficulty. Each conviction would meet only the circumstances of the particular case on trial, and the parties engaged in the traffic might easily make such arrangements as would enable them to avoid the risk of conviction under the precedents, while carrying on the offensive pursuit as briskly as before. It may be doubted, too, from what has already occurred, whether this mode of redress might not be rendered ineffectual, by the unfavorable disposition of certain of the public officers.

The object of this communication is to bring to the notice of those interested, the provisions of the act of Assembly of 1812 in regard to lumber float in the Susquehanna and its branches; and to offer some reasons for believing that under this act, a complete and perfect remedy for the evils under which our trading population now suffers, is afforded. I do not suppose, that the expediency of enforcing this law has not been presented frequently to the minds of those affected by its evils, but so far as I am informed, no measures to determine the question in this mode, have ever been taken. An explanation of the law, and of the decisions upon it, will show that its provisions are sufficiently extensive and well-defined, to enable those concerned to give a final blow to the operations of the floaters.

The act of 1812 gives to any person, or persons, the right to take up "any logs, shingle-balls, boards or lumber of any kind, which may have been, or may be put into the river Susquehanna, or either of its branches."

This authority is to be exercised under the following conditions: The person so taking it up, shall within thirty days thereafter, lodge a list of the lumber so taken up by him, describing the number, quality and quantity of the lumber, with the marks upon the same, with the nearest justice of the peace, who is therefore required to enter the said list upon his docket, and to cause a copy of it to be published for three weeks, in a weekly paper of the county wherein such lumber was taken up; and if within three months after such publication, the lumber so described shall not be claimed by the owner, or some person authorized by him, it shall become forfeit to, and the property of, the person who has taken it up.

If the owner of said lumber shall desire to reclaim it, he shall, before regaining possession thereof, pay to the person who may have taken it up, the sum of six cents for every log, one cent for every shingle bolt, provided the number so taken up shall exceed fifty, the sum of fifteen cents for every hundred feet of boards, as also the costs of advertising the same, and the costs to be charged by the justice; upon compliance with the terms, it is made the duty of the person who has taken up the lumber to re-deliver it to the proper owner.

These are the provisions contained in the first and second sections of the act of 1812. The third section enacts certain penalties against those who shall take up lumber, without pursuing the directions of the preceding sections.

This Statute has never been repealed. The charters of the several Boom companies do not, explicitly, or by implication, interfere with it. The supposition that they do limit its operation; can only arise from an inference, for there is no word or phrase in any of these acts which can be perverted into the argument, that they repeal former acts. And the inference must fail, for there is no rule of law more clearly settled, than that which declares the powers of corporations, strictly within the terms of the statute creating them—leaving out of sight what are termed the incidents of corporations, which can have no bearing upon the present question.

The franchises accorded to the Boom companies are in their very nature, identical with the rights conferred upon all persons by the act of 1812, with the exception, that for the purpose of facilitating their operations, the companies are allowed to erect and maintain piers and booms, far from being antagonistic in their purpose, the act of 1812, and the acts of incorporation of these companies, are concurrent, and of similar effect, both being

Our readers cannot have failed to notice the repeated denunciations of Judge Campbell, the present efficient Postmaster General, or rather, the denunciations of Gov. Bigler and President Pierce for appointing him to official trusts. That the real cause of these denunciations arise from the presumed Catholicity of that distinguished statesman, cannot be denied. Whether he is a Catholic or Protestant, it does not matter, at least in a political sense, so long as the constitution of our country guarantees to every man the right to worship his God according to the dictates of his own conscience; nor yet in a moral sense, for no reasonable man will deny that a person may be a Catholic and also a true Christian.

But if Judge Campbell is deserving of the hatred and denunciations of Protestants, why is it that Protestant associations where he is personally known—where his daily walk and conversation is observed by the whole community—voluntarily confer upon him their testimonials of respect and confidence? Are our natives more wise than they? Do they pretend to know him better than those who were his playmates in youth, and are now his companions in riper years? If so, they should give us something stronger than naked assertions. And before they repeat their denunciations we would advise them to ascertain the truth of the following announcement made by the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, in his letter of the 14th instant:

"The Harmonia Literary Society, connected with the Academy at Cassville, Pa. (an institution under the patronage of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church) having elected Postmaster General Campbell, Senator Cass, and Professor Henry, honorary members, each of these gentlemen, acknowledge the compliment in handsome letters. The two former accompany their epistles respectively, with a couple of beautiful volumes for the library of the society."

Some of our Methodist friends in this community, who have allowed their feelings to carry them astray on this subject, should be sure they are right before they deal in such uncharitable denunciations—for it is not to be presumed that any institution under the far-famed Baltimore conference of the M. E. Church, would thus bestow its honors upon any man, however high and great, who was inimical to the Christian faith.

Professor Sumnerfield, the Magician and Wizard, gave an exhibition in the Town Hall last night. His feats of slight of hand &c., were really astonishing, and every thing attempted admirably performed. Mr. S. surpasses any and all who have heretofore visited our town.—He will give another entertainment this evening. Admission 12 cents. Children half price.

For the last ten days or more the river Susquehanna has been clear of ice, and our lumbermen are about making preparations to prepare their rafts and other crafts for starting to market.

The Markets.—Grain of every description still continues to command high prices here. Wheat is still selling at \$1.50 cents per bushel, and some has been sold as high as \$1.75 cents per bushel, Rye \$1.00; Corn \$1.00; Buckwheat 75; Oats 50.

In Philadelphia, on the 24th ult. wheat flour was selling at from \$9.25 to \$9.75 per barrel. Wheat from \$1.85 to \$1.95 per bushel; Rye from 95 cents to \$1.03; Corn 88 and 90 cents; Oats 45 cents.

New York on the 28d, wheat flour was selling at \$8.37 to \$8.75 per barrel.

A LITTLE BOY WITH A STRAW HAT.—A crippled beggar in a large city was striving to pick up some old clothes that had been thrown him from a window, when a crowd of rude boys gathered round mimicking his awkward movements, and hooting at his helplessness and rage.—Presently another noble little fellow came up, and hastening forward through the crowd, helped the poor crippled man to pick up his goods, and fastened them in a bundle. Then slipping a piece of silver into his hand, was running away, when a voice far up above him, said "Little boy with the straw hat, look up."

He did so, and a lady, leaning from an upper window, said earnestly, "God bless you, my little fellow. God bless you for that." The lady was the wife of a man so distinguished among the great men of this world, that every one of those boys would have been proud to obtain her approbation; and when she wrote down his name as one she wished to remember, he felt more than paid for all he had done.

As he walked along, he thought how glad he had made his own heart by doing good. He thought of the poor beggar's grateful look; then of the lady's smile and words of approval; and last, and better than all, he could almost hear his Heavenly Father whispering, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

Little reader, when you have an opportunity to do good, and feel tempted to neglect it, remember "the boy with the straw hat."

New York, Feb. 23.—A letter received here from Canton, dated December 9th, states that the U. S. ship Plymouth had just arrived, having lost overboard Lieut. Mathews and fourteen of her crew in a typhoon, near the Bonin islands.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1854.

After all that has been said by the correspondents of the northern papers to the contrary, the Gadsden treaty with Mexico was submitted to the Senate yesterday.—Where its true character shall be made known, it will be found to be, as I before stated to you, highly advantageous to our country—not only because it adds largely to our present boundaries, and gives us many privileges which we could not well do without, but because we thus settle a dispute with Mexico which might otherwise lead to another war with that country—and, although a war might bring us more territory—indeed might leave nothing of Mexico in the end—every body knows that a war would cost perhaps ten times the price stipulated in this treaty.—And besides, we assert all the evils that war necessarily engenders to a nation.—Its fate in the Senate, however, is uncertain. There is a powerful interest against its confirmation in all parts of the country; and not the least powerful and influential is that class who think we are paying too much for what will come under the shadow of our eagle's wings in the course of a very few years on the progressive principle of the age, and that then for the policy of "masterly inactivity" is the wisest course for our country to pursue. There can be no question, however, that the President and cabinet have acted wisely in submitting it to the consideration of the Senate.

The discussion still continues in the Senate on the Nebraska and Kansas bill. Both the Ohio abolition Senators have made their speeches against it, as have also Everett of Massachusetts, and Smith of Connecticut, in reply to Dixon (Whig) of Kentucky. Gen. Cass will reply to Everett, and then perhaps the country will hear from Sumner, the great abolitionist from Massachusetts, who, by the way, is a man who has but few superiors in our country. After that, Seward of New York and several others will address the Senate, (or rather the country, for these speeches are made to be read, rather than to be heard) when Douglass will close the debate in one of his best efforts, and then it will pass the Senate by at least three to one. It will also pass the House by a decided vote, and at perhaps an early day, for members of Congress are just about as well surfeited with the State arguments of abolitionists as the people are. The meetings held in the northern cities, and the remonstrances sent here against the passage of this measure, are nothing like as formidable as the demonstrations made against the adoption of the peace measures in 1850. They show a weakness even for abolitionism; and as for their showing the true feeling of the great mass of the northern people, it is all gammon. The freemen of the north are loyal to the Constitution, and only ask that its provisions may not be departed from.

In the House, on Thursday, the deficiency bill was accidentally laid on the table—accidentally, because the members had practised the log-rolling system until they had erected a monster of such large dimensions that each political party was ashamed of it, and when it came up for final passage it was voted down, and then a motion to reconsider it was laid upon the table. It embraced many meritorious items, for the want of some of which much public inconvenience and individual suffering is endured. But then again, there were large sums appropriated for the building of custom houses, &c., by various citizens, which more properly belong to the regular appropriation bill. The legitimate end of the deficiency bill will no doubt be effected without much longer delay.

Theater-visiting people at Washington have been richly entertained the past week by the great American tragedian, Edwin Forrest, who has been performing at the National in some of his favorite characters. This is one of the largest theatres in the country, and it is crowded to excess every night. Mr. Forrest is certainly at the very head of his profession; and is idolized by the common people—by whom are meant all except the aristocracy. As often as he appears upon the stage, this partiality is exhibited. Much of this is doubtless attributable to the effort made a few years ago by his enemies to drive him from the stage, by lauding an English rival of scarcely half his real merits, which had a directly contrary effect, as it created a deep national feeling in his favor. But on, or off the stage, Forrest is a fair specimen of a true American republican, and wherever you find a man possessing his personal acquaintances—I speak of the industrial class—you find a man ready to throw off his coat and roll up his sleeves for the great American actor.

Your readers have often heard of the profligacy and debauchery—the disregard of public and private morals practised at this metropolis. There is no doubt a great abundance of all sorts of vice practised here; but there is one thing certain, and that is, that the police regulations are of the strictest kind, and are as strictly enforced as they are in any other city; and if vice does abound, it is well hid from the public and the civil authorities. "Drunkenness, however, cannot be hid, and is practised here to an alarming extent. Many of the brightest intellects of our country have gone down to a drunkard's grave here; that might have been saved elsewhere; and at this time there are numerous instances of men of capacity of the best order for usefulness to the country fast travelling in the same direction. It was only this week that two men of this character, one of whom is a Pennsylvania man, and at one time held one of the most honorable positions in the State—possessed of talents of the very first order—a perfect gentleman in every sense—was taken to hands by the city authorities and sent to the workhouse as common vagrants.—Such facts speak volumes against the legislation of the traffic in this destroying monster Alcohol.