

Letter from Hon. C. P. Avery.

SEBASTIAN STROPE. ADDITIONAL PROOFS OF HIS REVOLUTIONARY SERVICES. THE CHARGE OF TORISM MADE AGAINST HIM BY MR. MINER OF WILKESBARRE, CONCLUSIVELY DISPROVED BY DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

To Wm. P. Miner.

Editor of the Record of the Times, Wilkes Barre: Sir—Under date of the 26th of March last, I addressed a letter to you through the columns of the Times of this village, which with some additions was published the next week, in the Owego Gazette. A copy of each of those papers, was promptly forwarded to you; and from that as well as from another fact that the same letter, as published in the Gazette, was copied into the Luzerne Union, of Wilkes-Barre, and several other papers of this and that vicinity, I must conclude that you have been duly apprised that I have thus attempted to vindicate the memory of Sebastian Strobe from the charge of Torism, and the character of a spy, which your father sought to fasten upon it in a letter to Judge Jessup, published in your columns, on the 21st of March last.

To my answer to those serious charges proffered by him, he has made no reply, and having remained silent for more than three months, I might justly claim a judgment of discontinuance against him, and, obtaining it there leave the matter; but documentary evidence of a positive and convincing character, having been recently obtained by me, placing the patriotism of him, whose memory you have so wantonly assailed, far above the reach of attack, cavi and hara, I desire to spread it upon the record along with that which has been already submitted.

Before proceeding to do so, let me say that if, upon reading my answer of the 26th of March, your father found that he could not substantiate the serious charges which he had made, affecting as they did, not only the feelings of many intelligent and patriotic descendants, but also tending, if established, to bring into ridicule and disrepute the Pioneer and Historical Festival of the 22d of February last, and to cloud the integrity of my informant, Mrs. Whitaker, and several others, together with my own, it would have been fairer in every view, historical and otherwise, if instead of suffering a default by silence, he had frankly and manfully avowed such inability. Having failed, signally in the attack, the next best, in fact, the only thing proper or politic in the emergency, was a retreat in as good order as possible, a prompt substitution of a white flag for this merciless red one with which he opened the assault, and a full and fair retraction. Neither your father, nor you on his behalf, have thought proper to take this course, and I shall treat the matter upon the theory that you still desire to have it continued an open question.

Last winter, I was informed by the Hon. George Sanderson of Towanda, that he had become apprised of the existence of valuable manuscripts, relating to the history of our valley, then in the possession of a descendant of the Rev. Thomas Smiley, residing in Philadelphia. In the course of the winter through the thoughtful agency of Mr. Sanderson, the manuscripts were obtained and placed in the keeping of Hon. C. L. Ward, by whose courtesy I now have them in possession. The manuscripts are the results of the historical researches of Mr. Smiley in the year 1829 and 31, in the vicinity of Towanda, Wysox, Standing Stone, Wyalusing &c., while he was settled as a minister of the Baptist Church at White Deer, Lycoming County Pa. From the great care with which they were written, the plainness of the hand-writing, correctness of style and punctuation, together with some rather clear intimations expressed in them, it seems that he had then a design of publishing them as annals, or perhaps as a more laborious history.—The time of researches, (1829, '31,) you will bear in mind, was prior to the period when your father commenced similar labors.

The manuscripts, which we are now considering, consists chiefly of narratives of aged revolutionary soldiers, then surviving upon the Susquehanna, who shared in the dangers and adventures of its border warfare. Among them DAVID ALLEN, JOSEPH ELLIOT, WILLIAM HUYCK, &c. The narrative of Judge HOLLENBACK has also a deserved place in the compilation embodied at the time above given from minutes of a previous date. All the pages, detached and collective, bear on their face the fullest evidence of identity and genuineness, and it may be well added that the excellent repute which the revered compiler of these narratives has left throughout the wide field of his missionary labors upon the Susquehanna and its tributaries, the Towanda creek and the West branch, extending from the year 1794, down to the close of his mission by death—a good fame, which has been transmitted as a valued legacy to his descendants—can leave no question as to the fairness, honesty and complete authenticity of his laborious researches.

I call your attention in the first place to the narrative of WILLIAM HUYCK, (usually pronounced HUCK,) who settled at Standing Stone, in 1776, and served under Gen. SILVANUS, in the campaign of 1779, against the Iroquois. He died at an advanced age, a few years since, at the place where he made his early settlement, and for many years previous had received a yearly pension, which he so well deserved, at the hands of a grateful government. This should, and doubtless will exempt both his patriotism and veracity from cavil. The following are extracts from his narrative as embodied by Mr. Smiley. When your eyes rest upon that portion of it in italics, I think you must agree me that your columns have been made the vehicle of a miserable and most unpardonable calumny.

[While reading the following extracts, it should be borne in mind, that Standing Stone, where Mr. Huyck resided, was distant only about three miles from Wysox, below it, on the same side of the river, where the capture of the Strope's took place, in May 1778, as stated by me in the series 1853 and '54, of the St. Nicholas, a statement which you have disputed and attacked.]

"Mr. WILLIAM HUYCK's account of suffering from the Indians in the Revolutionary war, and at the time of the Indian battle, taken from his mouth, December 3, 1831, Standing Stone."

"Mr. Wm. HUYCK, of this place informs me that he was residing in December 1777, with his uncle, in this place on the river, about seventy miles above Wyoming. \* \* \* About a fortnight before the party came (from Wyoming) to take off the Tories, about twenty of those refugees came to his uncle's house \* \* \* and plundered the house of an abundance, then putting it into a boat of our own, proceeded up the river with their booty, driving off four young cattle, 18 sheep,

and three good horses. Two other whig families above, shared the same fate. \* \* \* We could not go down with the party that came up and captured the Tories on account of the haste they were in, but after a time, we put what little we had left in a boat, and descended the stream, thick with floating ice. We descended the river slowly about twenty five miles, and there the river was shut up before us. Here we had to pass an uncomfortable time. \* \* \* In our winter quarters we had hard times; however in the month of March, 1778, the river opened, and on the very next day we descended the river, and reached the Forty Fort, so called. \* \* \* Seen after this our Whig neighbors above us, John and Sebastian Strope, met with adversity; the enemy was approaching Sebastian made out to escape, but his wife & children were captured. John was taken with his family & none of both those families were released until the war ended. They then got home and resided on their farms until the end of their lives."

In addition to this, there appears among the manuscripts of Mr. SMILEY, a written memorandum or statement made by the aged veteran, upon a sheet by itself. As it contains some facts not embodied in the other, I will give extracts also from it. It not only bears his own signature, but is written entirely by himself—a complete holograph—having no letter, nor mark upon it, made by any other pen. It accompanied the Philadelphia manuscripts, when they were placed in my hands, and was doubtless a memorandum furnished at the request of Mr. SMILEY, by the old soldier, from which as well as from personal interviews with the narrator, he gleaned the facts embodied in the extracts just given. I have italicized a portion to draw your attention to the fact that SEBASTIAN STROPE, upon whose memory you farther have sought to fix the character of a Tory and Spy, and whose family, he alleges, courted the protection of the enemy as willing captives, actually shared in all the perils of the Wyoming battle of July 3, 1778, at a time too when his wife, children and every relative, who had a drop of his blood in their veins, were prisoners in the hands and at the mercy of the same savage and revengeful foe.

"In the year 1776, our family immigrated from the country of Albany, in the State of New York, and went on as far as Springfield, at the head of Lake Osego. There we waited, until the Lake was clear of ice.— We stayed there about three weeks. My uncle Fitzgerald bought a large battoo, and we moved on down the river with considerable difficulty. There were many obstacles in the way, until we got to the Uddilly and we proceeded on to the Standing Stone.— There we planted corn, and raised a crop, and we lost the whole. We were quick returned to want; likewise Mr. STROPE and his family. \* \* \* Mr. Bastian Strope made his escape from them (the Indians), and got safe to Wilkes Barre, and was in the massacre, but he made his escape, and the rest of his family were taken to Canada, and suffered greatly, and never returned until peace was proclaimed, and then they were sent to Albany by a British court."

Signed, "WILLIAM HUYCK." Upon the same sheet appears a list of Tories, drawn up by Mr. Huyck, and signed by him. It commences and closes as follows: "Now comes on the Tories, \* \* \* a pack of vile wretches. \* \* \* preceds to say that he wishes his name to be kept a secret. As for this \* \* \* he was a deserter from our army. I publish this for truth, and am willing to attest to it."

"WILLIAM HUYCK." I omit the names in the last extract for obvious reasons. No useful purpose would be subserved now by blazoning them to the public. It would merely wound the feelings of many worthy descendants, without an adequate return of advantage, historical or otherwise. My only object in inserting the extract at all, is to show the ample means of knowledge possessed by Mr. Huyck, and that his attention has been called to the subject at an early day, when the names and incidents were fresh in his recollection. It is enough for this present controversy to know that none of the STROPEs, or of their relatives appear upon that black list, whoever else may have found and richly merited a place there.

This, I apprehend, Sir, makes an end of the controversy. The defence against the attack of your father and yourself, is now so fully and clearly established, that comment seems superfluous. A retraction even through the columns of your paper, now is neither called for nor required by the descendants of SEBASTIAN STROPE, however outraged may have been their feelings, however ruthless and impertinent your intrusions upon their old family hearthstone. They stand thanks to the God of Truth and Justice, self vindicated in full defiance of our attack, and there is no acknowledgment which can now make, that would not add insult to the injury.

Here let me introduce a few extracts from your father's letter. Speaking of Mr. Whitaker, he asks derisively, "why does she not tell us where her disconsolate father was all this while," (when the family were prisoners at Tioga.) "Did he join the patriot band at Forty Fort to defend or avenge? His name is not on the list, of those massacred at Wyoming. His name is not on the list of those who escaped! The probable inference is dreadful, and I am not responsible that at late day it is raked up to. \* \* \* Where was he?" This is printed, stars and all, just as it appears in his published letter, with the exception of the italics which are of my suggestion.

I think he has been fully answered; to each and every interrogatory, which he has here put with so much of taunt and arrogance, and so little of the true spirit of the historian. His boasted list is proved imperfect—a broken reed. Again, let us observe further, by limited extracts, the letter, and particularly the spirit of his impeachment; he says of Mrs. Whitaker, "Her narrative must have been an after-thought. \* \* \* How apparent and powerful the motive to write a narrative of patriotic losses and sufferings—to turn the voluntary joining the enemy into a forcible captivity, thus not only avoiding censure but gain respect and pity for patriotic suffering."

Again he says, politely impeaching either my informant or me, probably intending both, "The story was pretty well got up."

Again he says, speaking of the captive families, when taken to Tioga, "The rebel ladies had the honor to be presented at once into the presence of the Commander-in-Chief (Col. John Butler,) and doubtless met familiar acquaintances, and a hearty welcome."

After having in the first part of his letter, with high reaching pathos, commiserated Gen. Case, Mr. BROOKS, and others for having

sent cordial letters of response to the Pioneer and Historical Festival, on the 22d of February, at which the name of SEBASTIAN STROPE was commemorated in fitting terms, he closes thus: "With this exposition, Judge JESSUP, I submit the case, renewing, with unfeigned sincerity, my personal regard, (presuming you 'ha not investigated the matter,) and adding the 'hope that the names of SEBASTIAN STROPE and 'GEORGE WASHINGTON may not be again 'brought in juxtaposition as kindred American Patriots, worthy of being coupled and toasted together."

I humbly submit, sir, as a plain question of courtesy, whether it was at all proper for you or your father, to have presumed in any manner, as you do in this extract. The simple fact is that the gentleman, whose name you have so freely introduced had investigated the subject. He replied to the sentiment, commemorative of the STROPE family and of the old family Bible, which was the companion of their trying captivity, after due investigation. He was conversant with his theme, while you, his officers, self-constituted patron, are at one and the same moment upon this very subject, touched the point of profoundest ignorance and loftiest arrogance.

In a letter received from Mr. MINER STROPE, a respectable and intelligent gentleman of Plover, Portage County, Wisconsin, he informs me that he has been told by his father, ISAAC STROPE, (a son of SEBASTIAN, and captured with the other children, now more than eighty years of age, living in Summit County, Ohio, where he has resided for a great number of years,) that his grandfather, not only volunteered for the defence of Wyoming, and shared in the battle, but was in the hottest of the fight, receiving a wound which so disabled him that he could not reach the Fort upon the retreat. In the language of the letter, "He then sought the shelter of an old stack yard, grown up with briars, thistles, &c., in which he secreted himself, rightly judging, that the half naked savages would not care to enter.— Here with his musket ready cocked, he lay closely secreted, until in the night he sought a place of greater security. His position was such that he saw much of the bloody tragedy. He saw and heard the Tory Windaker, when he called to LIEUT. SHOEMAKER, and told him he would give him quarters, and when SHOEMAKER gave himself up, he saw the villain deliberately murder him."

He also states, in the same letter, that soon after the Indians and British left the Valley, his grandfather, aided RALPH MARTIN, whose wife was a sister of the Lieutenant, in giving a proper and decent burial to the body of that gallant, but unfortunate man, betrayed as he was into the hands of the ungrateful Tory who had fed in former years upon his and his father's bounty. This fact is preserved as a tradition, also by the descendants of the patriot STROPE, now living at Wysox; and from conversations with them, and letters received, I have no doubt that all their statements are to be relied upon, fully, as true and faithful traditions.

But one fact remains to be suggested, and is contained in the following extract from one of the letters of Mr. MINER STROPE, of Wisconsin: "After my grandfather died, which must have been in the year 1804, or 5, (I live I think) a newspaper published at Wilkes-Barre was sent to his friends, in which was an obituary, by some person unknown to the family, and of considerable length, recounting many of the leading incidents of his life, his devotion to the cause of freedom and to his country. This paper was preserved for a long time by his family; but, like many of the incidents of those days, only exists in recollection. There is a bare possibility, that a file of papers published at Wilkes-Barre, of that date, may be yet extant."

If I am not wrongly informed, the only paper then published at that place was "The Luzerne Federalist," by Messrs. ASHER and CHAS. MINER. You have, perhaps, a complete file of it preserved. We have searched elsewhere unsuccessfully. This branch of our evidence is in your possession, probably, certainly not in ours. We would like to have it adduced with the rest of the proof, and am I asking too much to desire you to search the files of 1805 and 6, and, if such an obituary did appear, and I feel convinced that it did, will you not, I ask earnestly, will you not republish it now for the sake of truth and fairness?

But without that, the memory of the worthy patriot stands fully vindicated. The attain which you sought, through your columns, to fasten upon his descendants is thoroughly wiped off. The integrity and strict truthfulness of the captive, JANE WHITAKER, after repeated corroborations, must be considered firmly established. My statements upon the subject, in the series of the St. Nicholas of 1853-'54, are literally and completely confirmed. The Pioneer and Historical Festival of the 22d of February last, which you sought to bring into ridicule and disrepute, stands, not only with its accuracy and usefulness unshaken, but with its claims to public confidence fresh and renewed. Underlying all these facts and supporting this handsome pyramid of truth, rests that massive old STROPE Bible, a sublime witness of that long captivity, a time-worn, glorious proof that the same God, who saved from harm the captive family, has provided, in His wise providence, witnesses and testimony to save from unmerited shame the descendants, even unto the fourth generation, of the Christian Patriot. With due consideration,

Yours, &c., C. P. AVERY.

MOVEMENTS OF COL. KINNEY.—The schooner Active, Capt. Moorehouse, arrived from Turks Island, and reports the loss of the schooner Emma, Capt. Norris, which sailed from New York June 6, with Col. KINNEY and his party of twenty men.

The Emma had a successful passage until the night of the 19th ult., when she struck upon the Caicos Reefs and proved a total loss, with the stores and effects of the passengers. No lives were lost. The passengers proceeded to Turks Island, which they reached in five days time, where Col. KINNEY was negotiating for the charter of another vessel to carry them to Nicaragua. The party were in excellent spirits notwithstanding their disaster.

Col. Steptoe, appointed Governor of Utah Territory, in place of Brigham Young, whose term had expired, declined the appointment, and recommends the re-appointment of Young. Col. S. has resided for sometime, with a detachment of United States troops, in Salt Lake City, and is presumed to be acquainted with the disposition of its government and people.

Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR. TOWANDA: Saturday Morning, July 21, 1855.

TERMS.—One Dollar per annum, invariably in advance.—Four weeks previous to the expiration of a subscription, notice will be given by a printed wrapper, and if not renewed, the paper will in all cases be stopped.

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THE FOREIGN NEWS. There has been two arrivals from Europe since our last issue, but the intelligence is not of much importance. The Arago one of the Havre steamers, arrived on Monday at New York, after a passage of twelve days, with four days later from Europe. The interest of every arrival centres in the news from the Crimea, and the progress of that eventful siege. The most important event from that quarter is the death of Lord Raglan, the Commander-in-chief of the English army.

Sir George Simpson will now assume the command of the English army, and co-operate with Pelissier. No new movement had occurred in the Crimea. From the Baltic the news is that the frigate Amphion ran ashore near Sweaborg—a fire was commenced upon her from a Russian fort, which she returned, and caused considerable damage in the fort by an explosion. This probably accounts for the report by last steamer that Sweaborg had been bombarded, and all the stores destroyed.—Sweaborg is one of the most formidable places of defense the Russians have in the Baltic, and is not to be attacked with impunity.—From England the news is interesting. Lord Grosvenor's Sunday bill, restricting the working people in some of their usual pursuits and enjoyments on that day has produced a very formidable manifestation of popular indignation. The first Sunday, fifteen thousand persons assembled in Hyde Park, who compelled the nobility and gentry, by hooting and outcries, to leave their carriages, while taking an airing. The authorities made preparations for the succeeding Sunday; but, in spite of the preparations, a crowd of workmen, numbering one hundred thousand persons, assembled in the Park again, and the same scenes were re-enacted, with the addition of an assault upon the police. The Sunday bill had to be withdrawn by its author to quiet popular tumult, at a time when the government needs all the moral force and physical aid the nation can give to enable it to conduct the war with advantage.

The steamship Canada arrived at Halifax on Wednesday morning last, with three days later intelligence than that brought by the Arago. The news by this arrival is very meager and wholly unimportant, consisting mainly of details of the recent repulses of the Allies at the Malakoff and Redan.

Further evidences of mismanagement on the part of the Allied Generals are revealed. Affairs before Sebastopol were without the least change, and there was no indication of any new movement. There is no political news of moment from any part of Europe.

THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT. A Republican State Convention was held at Columbus, Ohio, on Friday of last week, which on the first ballot and by a unanimous vote nominated Hon. SALMON P. CHASE as their candidate for Governor. The entire ticket is as follows:— For Governor..... S. P. CHASE. Lieut. Governor..... THOMAS H. FORD. Chief Justice..... CHAS. C. CONVERSE. Justice Supreme Court..... JACOB BIRNEY. Auditor..... E. M. WRIGHT. Treasurer..... W. H. GIBSON. At-Large..... F. B. KIMBALL. Pres. Board Public Works..... A. G. CONOVER.

The honor conferred upon Mr. CHASE is well merited. No man in the North has more uniformly, consistently and discreetly represented the Northern sentiment. The ticket is said to be a very strong one, and will be triumphantly elected. Our friend CHASE, in the last number of the Montrose Democrat, devotes three lines to the proceedings of the Democratic State Convention. He awaits the official proceedings before making any comments! If he can find any excuse which will satisfy the Democracy of Susquehanna, that the proceedings of the Convention are worthy of respect, we are much mistaken. He was too thoroughly snubbed by that body, to allow of any shuffling or double-dealing. He had better acknowledge that the Convention in refusing to pass his resolution, were derelict, and failed to give expression to the sentiment of the State.

CROPS IN ENGLAND.—A correspondent of the London Times, writing from Gloucester, says that he has been an observer and a cultivator of crops for the last fifty or sixty years, and never did he see so rich a prospect as at the present time.

Dr. Thos. C. Bunting of Philadelphia, a benevolent and generally esteemed gentleman, died in Wales, on the 29th ultimo, having left this country for Europe, on a tour for the benefit of his health.

LOCAL NEWS.

A second letter, from Hon. C. P. AVERY, which may be found in another column, contains some very interesting and convincing evidence regarding the conduct of SEBASTIAN STROPE, and conclusively refutes the imputation attempted to be conveyed by Mr. MINER that he was a sympathizer with, if not an active ally of the Tories, in the border troubles which so severely afflicted the early settlers of the Susquehanna valley.

Judge AVERY has evinced a commendable zeal and industry in thus warding from the descendants of Mr. STROPE the odium which would necessarily attach, if such a charge should be made out. The evidence which is given this week, will satisfy any candid person, even if tradition and the memory and testimony of cotemporary pioneers had not in the lapse of many years failed to convey a single intimation which tended, in the slightest degree, to fix such a stain upon the memory of one of the first settlers in the valley of the Wysox.

We may remark in this connection, that Judge AVERY has devoted much time and great research to the history of the Red Men, whose favorite hunting grounds were the Susquehanna and its tributaries, and to the trials and fortunes of those early settlers whose fortitude and courage first led them to this region, when it was an unbroken wilderness, distant from any evidences of civilization, to contest with the Indian and wild beasts for a possession.—The result of his labors will in due time be given to the public, when a rare treat may be expected by those all curious about Pioneer history. The endurance and sufferings and exploits of those who led the van of civilization into the country, watered by the Chemung and Susquehanna, is imbued with much romance and heroism, which will find an authentic and enthusiastic chronicler in Judge AVERY, who brings to the task not only an ardent devotion to the subject, but abilities of the very first order.

Our farmers are now in the midst of haying and harvesting, and are enjoying as fine weather for that purpose, as could be desired. We are gratified to learn from all quarters the most favorable accounts. The promise of fair returns seems more than realized. The draw-backs which were feared, seem to have been exaggerated, and the crops are almost without exception, without injury or blemish. We can hardly form an accurate estimate of the abundance which will be secured this fall; but our readers can make their own "guesses" by a comparison with the figures which we publish below, which are taken from the census returns, as the amount produced in this County for the year ending June 1, 1850:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes: Acres in farms, 234,037; Wheat, 54,840; Corn, 278,257; Potatoes, 374,143; Cash value, \$2,945,689; Pigs, 510,175; Value of farming implem., 4,476; Sheep, 69,403; Poultry, 1,290,218; Milk cows, 17,067; Horses, 128,621; Oxen, 6,959; Cattle, 20,579; Swine, 17,739; Sheep, 108,419; Val. of live stock, \$1,369,690; Tons of Hay, 74,925; Wheat, bushels, 301,794; Maple Sugar, 195,251.

A comparison shows that Bradford has a greater number of Farms than any other County in the State; has more working oxen; raises more bushels of potatoes except Philadelphia; more Buckwheat with the exception of Butler. Bradford in 1850, had a population of 42,831.

The colored people of this place, as will be seen by their advertisement, will celebrate the First of August, the Anniversary of the abolition of Slavery in the British West India Islands, in a becoming manner. Distinguished speakers are expected from abroad, and every arrangement will be made for a proper demonstration.

Gov. A. H. REEDER.—It is matter of very general regret, not very quietly expressed either among Democrats, that the Harrisburg State Convention refused to endorse the course pursued by Gov. REEDER, in his patriotic efforts to enforce the laws and protect the rights of the people of Kansas from violence and usurpation. He has heretofore been regarded as one of the particular friends of Mr. BUCHANAN;—but now appears to be a fallen star, and no longer worthy of being sustained by the "faithful!"

The above paragraph we take from the Pottsville Register. The friends of Gov. REEDER appear to be disappointed in the non-action of the Convention, but we do not see any cause for their disappointment. They had no right to expect that that functionary would weigh a feather in the balance, against the "Favorite Son." If a holocaust of REEDER was necessary, and a dozen slave states to be made out of Free Territory, BUCHANANISM would pay the tribute in a vain endeavor to propitiate the South, and gain the goal of the mad ambition of old Buck.

SIX PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH.—A most horrible calamity occurred in the town of Brant, near Buffalo, on Sunday morning last, between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock. James Thompson, a farmer in good circumstances, was awakened by an alarm of fire, and discovered his house to be in flames, having been fired by an incendiary in three places.

Mr. Thompson, who is an aged gentleman, rushed up stairs immediately on discovering what was the matter, to alarm his daughters, when becoming overpowered by the smoke he was unable to return, and himself, his three daughters, Julia, Mary and Mrs. Elizabeth Carr, with the two little children of the latter, perished in the flames. The ages of the unfortunate ladies ranged 18 to 24 years. The rest of the inmates of the house, twelve in number, escaped with much difficulty.—There is not the slightest doubt whatever of the fire being the work of an incendiary.

PRESIDENTIAL MOVEMENT.—The Harrisburg Keystone hoists the name of Hon. GEORGE M. DALLAS for the Presidency in 1856.

[For the Bradford Reporter.] COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. EDITOR:—I was not surprised to see in your last paper, a notice to the School directors to assemble at Towanda on the 28th inst. for the purpose of raising the salary of the County Superintendent, pursuant to the provisions of an act of Assembly approved on the 8th of May last. I say I was not surprised, but it was from the fact that I knew such an act had been passed, and that during the past few months the Superintendent had been very active in circulating a petition among the directors of the several townships for that purpose.

It is in the memory of every one who was a member of the Convention that elected Mr. GUYER, that the salary was fixed at \$500 a year, before it proceeded to an election; and hence Mr. GUYER knew what his compensation was to be, in case he was elected. From the remarks he made that day before the Convention, a person would be persuaded that he cared little for wages. His motives for seeking and accepting the office, if we could judge anything from his speech, were philanthropic, rather than mercenary. By annexing the agricultural society with the common school interest, with his experience as a school director in Harrisburg, he thought he could accomplish much good. He was anxious to raise the "standard of common schools in Bradford County." Of course, he did not think of mixing politics with his philanthropy, (although since then he has thought, and so expressed himself, that a party identified with the school interest should be formed, and send men to the legislature who have had experience in that interest, and could advocate it with effect.) Thus by his philanthropy, agricultural love, and some other wires that were pulled, he succeeded in being elected. Nothing was said about insufficiency of salary. He gave no assurances of his competency. His friends did not pretend to say that he was a "friend of literary and scientific acquirements, and of skill in the art of teaching." In fact, it was not asserted by him or them that he had ever taught a common school in his life. If this be true, he is as well qualified to perform the duties of his office as a purely theoretical farmer is to take charge of and superintend those who have been engaged in agricultural pursuits all their lives.

In his remarks in the Convention before the last ballot which elected him, he stated that he would do all he could to carry into execution the spirit of the statute—that it would be difficult to do so, and was not in the power of an ordinary man—that the County was large and had to be traversed by private conveyance, &c., &c., but if he were elected he would do all in his power to satisfy the wants of the common schools. This was when he knew his salary was to be \$500 a year. Now he asks the directors to increase it. On what grounds can he not perform the duties of his office for that sum? He ought to have thought of that at the time of his election. The directors said we will give you \$500 a year for three years. By accepting the office you agreed to take it. It was not intended as a "boy's bargain." We did not expect to be put to the trouble and expense of going to Towanda again to amend this bargain. There are about two hundred and fifty directors in the county, the most of whom are farmers. This Convention is called at a time when they are in the midst of their haying and harvesting. Counting their time, it will cost each of them, on an average, two dollars to attend the Convention. They get no compensation whatever for their services—except curses. To say the least of it, it is asking a good deal of them—so much, I fear, that the remote townships will not be represented.—They cannot afford it. They know well enough, strictly speaking, the Superintendent has no right to ask an increase of pay. "A bargain is a bargain the world over." It costs them too much to make "boy's bargains;" and I think it requires a good deal of nerve on the part of the Superintendent to ask them to do it, especially when he knew what his salary was to be before he was elected.

Let us see what his pay really is. If he works 200 days out of the 300 working days his wages is \$2 50 per day. If he is employed six months in the year, deducting Sundays he receives daily \$3 20. The schools in the County, on an average, are not kept open six months in the year—and hence he can not be engaged in visiting them longer than that.—The balance of the time, if he expends any more, is mostly employed at home. On the whole, I take it, his salary is not very low. It is more than most men get for several jobs than his. Be that as it may, the only question for the directors to determine is, is his labor worth to the common schools, more than \$500 a year? It matters not what he thinks his services are worth. To him, they are worthless he can get. His own opinion must govern himself—not the directors. They, as the representatives of the people, who are well acquainted with the perplexities and inconveniences of the new law, must determine the value of his office and services to the common schools. If he is dissatisfied with their decision of the matter, the "shades of private life" are inviting—the statute makes provision for his successor. The people seldom urge a man to remain in office, especially when he is dissatisfied with his wages. A poet has said, "Man wants but little here below, Nor wants that little long."

That may be true in poetry, but it is sadly deficient in matters pertaining to politics and Common Schools. Peaches, watermelons and muskmelons, ripe and luscious, are now enjoyed by the inhabitants of Memphis, Tenn.