

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, February 23, 1858.

The telegraph has furnished you with the details of the proceedings last evening of the Special Kansas Investigating Committee. I will not repeat them. As I previously informed you, the committee were at a "dead lock."

Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, March 4, 1858.

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

CLIPPING—The Reporter will be sent to Clubs at the following extremely low rates: 6 copies for... \$5 00 15 copies for... \$12 00 30 copies for... 8 00 20 copies for... 15 00

ADVERTISEMENTS—For a square of ten lines or less, One Dollar for three or less insertions, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion.

JOB-PRINTING—Executed with accuracy and despatch, and a reasonable price—with every facility for doing Books, Blanks, Hand-bills, Ball-tickets, &c.

AN INSULT TO THE PEOPLE!

The attempt to deprive the people of this Judicial District of the right to elect a Judge, guaranteed to them by the Constitution, proceeding from and urged on by personal malice, is based upon the assumption that the 17,000 voters of this District, in October next, will re-elect Judge WILMOR. The scheme is, not to deprive him of his present commission, but to prevent the people from electing a Judge at the coming election.

We ask the voters of this County, if they will quietly submit to such an insult upon their intelligence and honesty? Shall a few men, to gratify their personal malice, libel the people of a whole District, by asserting or insinuating that they are not fit to choose their own Judge? Will they submit to be told that they must be annexed to another Judicial District, because they are so ignorant or debased that they cannot be allowed to elect a President Judge, for fear they will place upon the Bench a man covered with moral pollution and reeking with the manifestations of the grossest political prejudices, and in his decisions and manners a very JEFFREYS?

We would respectfully inquire of Messrs. PIOLETT, WARD, ELWELL, & Co., if the people of this District, are not competent to guard their own rights? Are they not intelligent enough to enjoy the privilege of electing their own Judges, as prescribed by the Constitution? In October a President Judge for the 13th District is to be elected. What grosser insult could be offered to the people of that District, than the declaration or presumption that they will then choose an unfit person? Will the people submit in patience to such an imputation? It is sheer assumption to say that Mr. WILMOR is certain to be chosen. The people, if they see proper, will elect him, who shall deny their right to do so?

SURGICAL OPERATION.—An extraordinary surgical operation was performed by Drs. Field and Jones, about ten days ago, on the person of Miss Amelia Miller, daughter of David Miller, of South Whitehall township, Lehigh county. The young lady is about 18 years of age and had an enormous tumor over her right eye, or rather behind her eye ball, which had been growing for ten years. It had so disfigured her face that although she was otherwise a very fair looking girl, it was sickening to look at her, and she says she led a life of misery and often wished herself in another world. The tumor had forced her eye down over her cheek until it was almost on a level with her nose. With the assistance of Dr. Innes, the whole tumor was skillfully removed by Dr. Field, the patient being under the influence of chloroform. Portions of the bone above the eye were found to be diseased, and had to be removed also. The patient is doing very well and says she feels like a new being.—Easton Argus.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.—Judge Woodward, of the Supreme Court, has recently made a decision at Philadelphia, upon the question whether railroads are liable for damages done by trains to persons or vehicles crossing the road. The suit was brought to recover from the Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore and Delaware Railroad Company for injuries done to the plaintiff while crossing the track of the road in a two horse wagon. The points decided by the Judge were:—1st. That a person about to cross a railroad track, is in duty bound to stop and look in both directions, and listen before crossing. 2d. That if the plaintiff contributed in the slightest degree to the accident in question, he could not recover, although the railroad company were negligent.

THE CONSPIRACY AND THE CONSPIRATORS.

The facts connected with the inception and prosecution of the great outrage upon the Constitutional rights of the People of this Judicial District, are fast being developed. [The secret plans, the stealthy movements, of those who seek to rob the people of their privileges, and to degrade Judge WILMOR as a man and a Judge, are coming to light. Every new development but adds to the dishonesty, the unfairness, the duplicity, of the movement, and convicts the actors of being engaged in a cowardly and dishonorable persecution, to gratify their malevolent feelings of personal malignity and revenge.]

We stated, in first arousing the people to this threatened invasion of their rights, that it had its origin in personal hostility to Judge WILMOR, and its birth with those jealous, uneasy foes who have beset his path in years past, with falsehood and misrepresentation. We have now the evidence of this fact, in so tangible a form as to challenge controversy or contradiction. We shall therefore unveil the modus operandi by which this shameful conspiracy was to be carried on, and deal with the conspirators, as far as it is legitimate and proper for us to do so, carefully avoiding all harsh epithets and personal vituperation.

It is not at any time, nor under any circumstances, a pleasant task to hold men up to public reprobation, particularly when they are our neighbors, and in some instances, personal friends, but if they will forget what is due to themselves and the public, they must not complain if they are severely dealt with; for they cannot expect to perpetrate acts which insult and outrage the public, without provoking its indignation; nor must they expect to strike at private and official character, by base and false means, while the press stands dumbly by, and allows the infamy to be consummated.

This scheme to annihilate the 13th Judicial District, is not a new one; it has been threatened for a long time, and held in terrorem over the heads of the people. It is a favorite plan with the clique who have now for the first time, attempted to put it into practical execution. The late activity which has been given to it is owing to Col. PIOLETT, who has been spending a portion of the winter at Harrisburg, preparing the way, by poisoning the minds of the members, with violent denunciations of Judge WILMOR, wholesale abuse and misrepresentation, and unmitigated and unblushing falsehood, slandering his personal character, and traducing his official reputation by charges which if true would blast the character of the most upright Judge in Christendom. PIOLETT is the head and tail of this movement—the brains and venom of the whole concern. His particular speciality is in originating and conducting an unjust warfare against men whose upright characters make them hateful to his sight. His fruitful imagination teems with the most unheeded misrepresentations; like the hydra-headed monster, crush one falsehood another springs into being. Conscious, however, how obnoxious he is to the public, he has the shrewdness to keep in the background and puts forward better men to accomplish his purposes, while he directs their movements. Despised and hated by his political associates, they nevertheless are not proof against the unscrupulous impetuosity of the man, and docilely follow his lead. It is hardly necessary to say, that he is satisfied that the party in Bradford should be "conveniently small," and the gratification of his personal animosity is always considered, rather than his success and welfare. Towards Judge WILMOR he has the most implacable and violent hatred. He would shiver the Democratic party in a thousand fragments if thereby he could gratify his revengeful and malevolent feeling.

This man, actuated by these unworthy motives, visited Harrisburg to lay the plans for the outrage which has been threatened upon the people of this District. Thinking that the propitious moment had arrived, he returned to Bradford, and infused some of his own venom and activity into his satellites. He assured them that the time had come when they could wreak their personal vengeance upon WILMOR—that if they went at the work in earnest they could not fail of success. Knowing that if the movement was an open one, it would arouse the public—they sought in a private manner to obtain the necessary documents to carry out the plan. A petition was secretly circulated amongst such members of the Bar, as it was thought would either inconsiderately or willingly sign it, asking to be annexed to the 26th District. A copy of this memorial, with the signatures is here presented:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met:

The undersigned, members of the bar of Bradford County, respectfully, yet earnestly, pray that a law may be passed, by which said county shall be annexed to the twenty-sixth Judicial District of this State, and assign as a reason, that in our opinion the due administration of justice demands the passage of such a law—and will ever pray, &c.

WILLIAM WATKINS, W. ELWELL, D. A. OVERTON, EDW. OVERTON, WILLIAM SCOTT, E. W. BARRI, H. W. PATRICK, J. E. CANTFIELD, J. B. BAIRD, H. C. BAIRD, J. B. BEVIE, W. H. PECK, D. F. BARSTOW, STEPHEN PIERCE, C. L. WARD.

[It is but justice to Messrs. BARSTOW, PATRICK and H. C. BAIRD, to say, that in signing this memorial they did not intend to call in question the character of Judge WILMOR, as a man, nor his impartiality as a Judge.]

The names of the signers of this petition were obtained in the most private manner. The whole plot was enveloped in the deepest secrecy. While Judge WILMOR was engaged in holding the February term of his Court, a portion of the members of the bar, were privately concocting a nefarious scheme to publish him as unfit to sit upon the Bench and to disgrace him in public estimation. It was also

arranged that the persons having this scheme in charge, should quietly slip off to Harrisburg, denying their place of destination, and while Judge WILMOR was unsuspectingly at home, convict him before the Committees of the Legislature for grossly and outrageously prostituting his official station to the most base and disreputable purposes. Is this denied? Will a single assertion we have made, be called in question? If so, we have the proof, from one of those engaged in the movement. If any doubts that a scheme has been secretly concocted, and was to be stealthily carried on against Judge WILMOR, let him read the following letter, written to W. H. PECK, of Troy, a copy of which has been placed in our hands with authority to make it public:

Confidential. Towanda, February 15th, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—The petition of members of the Bar of this County, asking to be set off to Judge WOODWARD's district, is likely to be numerous signed. From present appearances, we shall have the names of twenty members of the Bar upon it. Mr. BARRI will go with it to Athens on Tuesday, and will be at your place on Tuesday night. His chief object in coming there is to get the name of PARSONS, signed to it. Please, I understand, is not at home. If Parsons should not be at home on Tuesday, would not a line to that effect reach me at East Smithfield, on Tuesday, about noon or a little after? I have a suit at Smithfield, on Tuesday; BARRI comes that way, and we intend to get the names of BELLOCK and LYMAN. If Parsons should not be at home, BARRI could come home from Smithfield, and save a good deal of travel.

Now comes the most important part of my communication:—BARRI, D. A. OVERTON, PIOLETT, and myself will start for Harrisburg, on Thursday, the 18th, at noon, and stay that night at Owego. On the next morning, Friday, we take the cars to the Great Bend; there we will take the cars for Wilkes-Barre; stop there and fix up matters so that Judge CONYNGHAM will consent to take Susquehanna County, and go on to Harrisburg by way of Northumberland, arriving there on Friday night, or sometime on Saturday, and stop at Buchler's. Now you and Judge WILMOR must come down either come by way of Waverly, and stay with us Thursday night, or else go down so as to be at Harrisburg on Saturday. We would like your company this way, and think Judge WILMOR could talk smooth things to his old friend CONYNGHAM.

I write at once, as soon as we have settled upon a course of action. So that you can be ready. There is to be no back out in this war—and if we get not well, Will you and the Judge go? And which way? You must go. Such a necessity for action will never arise again. I have neither time nor money to spare, but still will write at this business, for the sake of my friends. I don't think we will need to stay there over three or four days.—Come on! the prospect is fair.

Yours, Truly, WM. ELWELL.

It is not necessary to let it be known where we are going, or what our business.

MR. ELWELL has some reputation as a fair and upright man, and it is more in sorrow than anger, that we use this evidence to unravel the secret conspiracy to which he has lent himself. What PIOLETT lacks in character, he endeavors to make up by using Mr. ELWELL. He uses the latter on all opportunities to supply the want of public confidence and respect towards himself. Mr. ELWELL, though an "amiable" man, is not a decided one; and it must have been the baleful influence of PIOLETT which extorted from him such a precious document as that we have given above. Men should never write letters they would not care to see in print. Accident may throw them into the hands of political enemies, where they are considered, of course, fair weapons of warfare. This letter unfolds the programme of the conspiracy, and proves everything which has been asserted of the conspirators. The secret manner in which signatures to the petition was to be obtained; the trip to Harrisburg, via Wilkes-Barre, when Judge CONYNGHAM's ear was to be poisoned, until he would consent to be privy to the arrangement to injure a brother Judge; and particularly the "smooth words" which our old and esteemed friend Judge WILMOR knew so well how to employ. Above all comes the climax of disingenuousness—"it is not necessary to let it be known where we are going, or what our business." No, Mr. ELWELL! it was necessary for the success of the "war" in which you were engaged, that it should not be known where you were going or what your business. We submit if such a journey, for such a purpose, was in accordance with the reputation you enjoy, and we have no doubt, are proud of, for fairness and integrity. The highest reputation could not stand many such developments. If you have just grounds of complaint against Judge WILMOR, the impulse of a fair and manly heart would be, to make open, manly and fair accusations. What is this "war," which is urged on, and from which there is to be no "back out"? Is it a war upon the private and official character of Judge WILMOR? If so, let it be openly made, and honorably prosecuted. Or is it a "war" upon the 17,000 voters of this Judicial District, to deprive them of their rights under the Constitution? Or has Mr. ELWELL not forgiven the voters of this District, that they passed over his merits and qualifications, to elevate Judge WILMOR to the bench? A fair and manly nature makes no guerilla war—but revengeful passions tempt to stealthy attacks and secret assassination. The public will be astonished to learn that Mr. ELWELL has lent his name and influence to such an unjust war; and in charity to him we believe that he has allowed PIOLETT to lead him into it, against the dictates of his better judgment, and the natural impulses of his heart.

At Harrisburg, it became necessary to urge some good and substantial reasons why the proposed change should be made. The 11th and 26th Judicial Districts are already large enough, and unless there could be shown some very cogent reason why Bradford and Susquehanna should be annexed, the proposition would meet with no attention. We will now quote from the "Press" an extract from its Harrisburg Correspondence, which is evidently official, to show the reasons given for annihilating the District:

"It is asserted by gentlemen who are here urging its passage that Judge WILMOR frequently makes speeches at political meetings during court week; that he is unfair to his political opponents in his official intercourse, and that in various ways 'the due administration of justice' is interfered with by the President Judge's partisan proclivities, although he is sufficiently careful to avoid impachment."

These are the public accusations made; privately, no assertion that malice can invent is spared to poison the minds of members towards Judge WILMOR. The hundreds of people who have attended the Courts of this Coun-

ty for the last six years, will be astonished to learn that he is a drunkard and a gambler; that no political opponent can obtain a fair hearing in Court; that he is tyrannical and over-bearing in his disposition. Yet these things are charged upon him at Harrisburg, and falsehood and perversion of facts are employed to sustain the allegation.

The aim and object of the Conspirators, was, and is, to make a "party question" of the matter. By so doing, they hoped that a blind partisan zeal, would hurry it through the Legislature, without regard to its merits, its justice, or its entire impotency to effect any useful party purpose. The abolition of this Judicial District, would not strengthen the Democratic party. Let this outrage be consummated, and Judge WILMOR is stronger with the people of this District, than ever. This the men who are pursuing him understand perfectly well.—They have no expectation of accomplishing anything political by effecting their plans; their sole object is to gratify their personal malice. But it is necessary, in order to succeed, to make the members of the Legislature believe that a great political revolution is to be effected in Bradford and Susquehanna by wiping out the 13th Judicial District. The idea is too ridiculous to be seriously entertained; but it is nevertheless asserted at Harrisburg with great vehemence.

This conspiracy receives, as it deserves, the reprobation of the candid and honest men of all parties. Outside of a small circle, where jealousy and malice towards Judge WILMOR have festered for years, it has no support or sanction. We hear of neighborhoods which remonstrate unanimously, Democrats as well as Republicans, against such an outrage upon their own rights, and such gross injustice to an officer who they respect for his ability and integrity. If the voice of the people controls the action of the Legislature, the 13th Judicial District will be allowed to stand intact, and the people allowed to elect who they please to preside over its Courts.

FOREIGN NEWS.—By the arrival of the Arago at New York, and the Anglo-Saxon at Portland, we have received four days' later news from Europe. The advices from India and China are important. The bombardment of Canton commenced on the 28th of December; 4,600 British and 900 French troops being landed on the morning of that day. The bombardment was continued throughout the day and night, and on the morning of the 29th the assault was made, and by 9 o'clock the heights within the town were in possession of the assailants—but little resistance being made to this progress. From India the news is generally of a cheering character. Sir COLIN CAMPBELL had taken possession of Ferakabad, which was abandoned by the enemy, and Goruchpore had been taken on the 6th of January, with but trifling loss. The European news is also interesting. The appearance in the *Moniteur* of the bellicose addresses from the French Army continued to excite the British public. The subject had been noticed in the House of Lords by Lord LYNDBURGH, in reply to which Earl GRANVILLE said that a note had been received from the French Government expressing the regret of the Emperor for the appearance of anything offensive to the English nation. In the House of Commons Lord PALMERSTON had succeeded in introducing his bill to make conspiracy to commit murder a felony, by a vote of 299 to 90.—Nevertheless, a great doubt existed whether Parliament would accept the bill, and this doubt, combined with unfavorable rumors from France, had a depressing influence on the funds. Symptoms of revolutionary movements have been discovered in Spain, and outbreaks are apprehended. The news from other portions of Europe is unimportant.

THE LOST DAUGHTER; AND OTHER STORIES OF THE HEART. By Mrs. CAROLINE LEE HENTZ author of "Linda," "Love after Marriage," etc., etc. The lamented author of the charming story that gives its title to this attractive volume has left behind her many lasting and beautiful souvenirs of her literary triumphs.—But, among them all, there is not one, perhaps, more worthy of her reputation than the affecting story of "The Lost Daughter." We are not called upon, we are aware, to repeat here all that able critics have so often and truthfully said in praise of the dramatic powers displayed in the writings of the late Mrs. Hentz—of the ease, correctness, and gracefulness of her style—of the purity or the strength of her moral principles—of the applicability of her lessons and examples to the prudent regulation of the affairs of every-day life. Exclusive of "The Lost Daughter," this volume contains no less than nine of the authoress' most delightful stories. Price, in cloth, 1 25, or, in two volumes, paper cover, One Dollar. Address, T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, 306 Chestnut street Philadelphia, who will forward the work free of postage, on receipt of price.

WHERE'S SNOBBLE?—The following paragraph is taken from the financial article of the *Evening Post*:

"A young man of genteel appearance, named ELLIS B. SCENABEL, from Williamsport, Penn., has been obtaining money from different parties in this city, upon the representation that he is a brother-in-law of Governor PECK, and giving drafts upon that gentleman, but which, of course, returned protested. He has carried on his mal-practices in Washington and Philadelphia with much success. He is known in his native State as being the son of a highly estimable man."

The eloquent, the indomitable Snobble has been victimizing his friends very freely. We hear that friend BEEZ of the *Owego Gazette* is stuck to the tune of \$150.—Served him right! what business had an editor with so much money.

It is said that Leocompton and Minnesota will be compiled together in the Senate.

THE CONSPIRACY IN THE LEGISLATURE.

We have from private sources, an account of the performances of the Committee which went to Harrisburg, to effect the annihilation of this Judicial District, and their appearance and success before the Judiciary Committee of the two Houses. As these will not appear in the proceedings of the Legislature, we give a brief account, as we have it from private authority:

In the House, on Tuesday, 23d ult., Mr. SERRIN of Wyoming, read in place the following bill which was referred to the Judiciary Committee:

AS ACT Relative to the Courts in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties.

SECTION 1st. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, that from the first Monday of December next the County of Bradford shall be annexed to and constitute part of the twenty-sixth Judicial District of the County of Susquehanna shall be annexed to and constitute part of the eleventh Judicial District of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 2d. The terms of the several courts of Bradford County shall be held by the presiding judge of said county on the second Monday of February, the first Monday of June, the third Monday of September, the first Monday of October, and the first Monday of December, and continue as now provided by law.

SECTION 3d. That the terms of the several courts of Susquehanna County shall be held by the presiding judge of said county on the second Monday of February, the first Monday of June, the third Monday of September, the first Monday of October, and the first Monday of December, and continue as now provided by law.

This Committee met on Wednesday, to consider the bill. Messrs. PIOLETT, ELWELL, BARRI, D. A. OVERTON, and PECK, appeared before the Committee, to unobscure themselves of their grievances. They severally made long speeches, bitterly complaining of Judge WILMOR's partial conduct upon the Bench. When asked to point out the cases where Judge WILMOR had shown partiality or political bias upon the Bench, they failed to do so. We learn from the *North American*, that Mr. M'CLURE, who had them if they could say, as lawyers and judges, that Judge WILMOR was ever shown partiality or political bias, in the discharge of his duties. They all failed to answer directly except Mr. OVERTON, who said "he believed so." At a hearing, the Committee postponed the further consideration of the subject for two weeks.

The next attempt was made in the Senate. On Thursday, Mr. BREWER read in place a bill similar in its provisions to the one we have quoted above, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee. On Friday, the Committee met, and the conspirators appeared before it, now reinforced by Mr. WARD.

The same violent and denunciatory speeches were made as before, while Mr. WARD, put a hypocritical guise, and under a pretended friendship for Judge WILMOR, endeavored to stab his reputation.

Here they were also asked to specify writing, the particular instances of Judge WILMOR's misconduct upon the Bench, but they declined doing so, except PIOLETT, who declared his readiness to reduce his grievances to writing, but did not, however, do so.

The misstatements made by these gentlemen were promptly met by Senator MYER and G. F. MASON, who were present. A motion was made to report the bill with an affirmative recommendation, which lost by 2 yeas and 3 nays; a motion was then made and adopted to postpone the further consideration of the bill, and that the Chairman inform Judge WILMOR of the allegations made; the bill was then negatived, by 3 yeas to 2 nays.

On Saturday morning, however, the Committee was again assembled, and at the request of Judge WILMOR's friends, the second day was reconsidered, and adopted.

The whole matter now stands thus: The House Committee has postponed the further consideration of the matter until the 1st of March. The Senate Committee has also postponed it and instructed their chairman to inform Judge WILMOR. We also understand that Messrs. WM. WATKINS and EDWARD OVERTON, heading the memorial to the Legislature, have been written to, to make charges specific, and in writing. Judge WILMOR will thus have an opportunity of meeting his accusers, showing how unjust and frivolous are the charges, provided they dare make any thing of it.

The Conspirators, who thought they would only be necessary to stay at Harrisburg 3 or 4 days to effect the annihilation of this District, have learned that it is not so easy to inculcate the Legislature with their personal malignity and that the majority of that body require some good cause for the outrage which is asked to perpetrate. The people of the members of the bar, not availing themselves of the opportunity of presenting petitions, and are now circulating them throughout the County, asking the Legislature to franchise the people of this District, which they expect the public to sign.

In the meantime, the remonstrances against this outrage are being generally signed and sent out regard to party. As great exertions are made to obtain names enough to the petition, to give something like a popular sanction to the movement, it behooves friends of "popular sovereignty" to have remonstrances in every district, that the Legislature may see how universally this outrage is condemned.

MUSICAL CONVENTION.—Our musical friends in the Western part of the County have arranged for holding a Musical Convention commencing on Tuesday next, to be presided over by Professor G. F. ROOR, whose reputation is too well established to need mention at our hands. We trust there will be a large attendance, and we have no doubt that it will find the occasion both profitable and profitable.