

# The Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

CHARLES F. READ & H. H. FRAZIER, EDITORS.

MONTROSE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1855.

FRAZIER & SMITH, PUBLISHERS, VOL. I, NO. 32.

## Correspondence.

For the Republican.

A DREAM.

On the eve of the fourth day of August, A. D. 1855, weary and worn, I sat down, and soon became oblivious to surrounding objects. In an unquiet slumber, as it now appears, I dreamt that I had journeyed long and far; that I had passed the boundaries of civilization, and was in the wild wastes of the far off West; roaming over the trackless prairies—near the close of day my eyes were greeted with the sight of an Indian village. I was kindly received by a chief of the tribe, and sheltered within his ample wigwam. I was made to feel that though among untutored savages, (to me at least) they were friendly. A bountiful store of smoked venison and wild-fruits was spread before me, upon which I feasted with a relish far better than that of many who sit down to tables loaded with the choicest dainties.

The repeat over, the tinkling of a small bell gave notice of a gathering of the tribe at the Great Wigwam, or Council House. I inquired the cause, and found that a company of musicians from a neighboring tribe had hired the wigwam, and were to give what (with us) would be called a musical concert.

For the purpose of learning how such things were conducted among the wild men of the prairie, I followed the Chief to the Council House. At the door we found a fine looking Indian collecting admission fees of all who entered. The fee was twelve beads, which he first strung, and then deliberately stowed away under his blanket.

Fortunately I was in possession of the necessary article, paid my fee and entered.—

There were few in the lodge. Seated on a low stool, I was carefully observing the few who were in waiting. An unusual noise attracted my attention toward the door, where a bevy of young Indian girls had just entered. They were swarthy, but fair as Europa's daughters. They passed on in high glee, and seated themselves in front of the musicians. Their merry mood was freely indulged in for a while, and I perceived by their remarks that the reception which the musicians were likely to receive from them was not such as awaited members of their own tribe or similar occasions. I learned that not in civilized life alone, does jealousy exist.

Other companies came in, and a large number of the young warriors of the tribe ranged themselves on the farther side of the lodge, from the musicians, and by their boisterous mirth, rendered the scene more lively than pleasant. Soon a young Squaw arose; her looks thrown back, displayed an ample forehead, fine features, and an eye that told a soul within. A string of pearls encompassed her neck. In her hand she held an instrument resembling a guitar. Her dark cheek assumed a darker hue; her bosom heaved with emotion; she advanced a step or two, graciously bowed, and sung, keeping time with her fingers on the instrument. It evidently cost her a severe effort, but she sung her lay and sat down.

The young braves were in ecstasies; they cheered most heartily. She came forward again, accompanied by her mother, sung and retired. This time the applause was overwhelming! The scene was repeated again and again, each time more boisterous and terrible than before, until the fair young creature seemed bewildered with terror. Her mother spoke kindly to the young warriors and asked for peace and quiet. But quiet did not follow. Then a stately Chief arose, and turning his fiery eyes on the young men, he too, demanded peace and quiet, but the response was still the same.

And yet that girl sung sweetly songs which sounded strangely familiar to me, like Home Again, and others which I had heard before, while the noise increased every moment until every other sound was drowned in the horrid din. Then, nervously herself for a last effort, she raised her voice and sounded out shrill and clear, a parting song. She ceased and sank down exhausted with exertion and fear. And such a yell arose; such screams and groans and shrieks, as if all the furies in Pluto's dark regions had broken loose.

Startled from my slumber, I sprang to my feet, gasped for breath, and rushed wildly from the scene. As I emerged into the open air, my consciousness returned, and I found to my astonishment that I had attended a concert in Monroe, the Metropolis of Susquehanna Co. The Great Wigwam was the old Court House. There were 20 Indians there, but the civilized, dignified and gentle sons and daughters of Pennsylvania.

For the Republican.

Messrs. Editors.—To admiringly upon, inquire into, and express opinion of all the acts, designs and purposes of men, are privileges and rights inviolable, because it is from that quarter morality and the well-being of society derive their strongest safeguards.—This principle being in universal practice, to complain against the use of it, or to find fault, is to be self-inconsistent. The exercise, then, of this privilege, common to all men, is my only apology for the following remarks.

When the school teachers formed their "Association," I did entertain some faint hopes that possibly they might do something to improve our schools; but such has been the course of late, taking their own statement in evidence, as to remove every vestige of hope. If their motives are pure and upright, their purposes free from sinister design,

which is more than questionable, their whole performance has been very indiscreet, if not deeply fraught with peculation and selfishness.

That our Superintendent, after his election, the only one of all our literary men, and at that particular time too, should patronize the "Association," and become a fervid co-operator, was a mystery till their "Institute" was established; and from that time to the present, every act and resolution have apparently gone to show that they were working together for mutual benefit, and not the public good.

That the young men were wheedled from their original purpose, and that their "Institute" was established where it is by craftiness for some selfish ends, I cannot raise a doubt. And that it has injured the "Association," as some of its members alleged it would, without conferring any benefit upon our primary schools, is unquestionable.

In early last November there was a rumor that our teachers had not been examined as they should have been. I did not—I could not believe it. But when I saw their resolution of thanks, and complimentary for the manner in which they had been examined, every doubt was removed, and upon inquiry I found it to be not only unquestionable, but that many had been let to teach without being examined at all, and strangers too.

The complaint is general that our schools have not been visited and superintended; as they should be, even by whole townships.—Now, if this be owing to the greatness of the task, or the neglect of duty, the office is unprofitable and unnecessary. But the teachers' Resolved that the County Superintendent has discharged with fidelity the duties devolving upon him according to the conditions of his election? I was not aware of any such thing.

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The practices, then, of using the "rod," or of inflicting corporal punishment by any other means, is virtually condemned by himself. Making it an expedient of a *last resort*—places it the lowest scale, and puts upon it the meanest estimate as a means for school discipline and government.

"Chastisement," says he, "to do good, should be administered without the least sign of anger." Were that the case, we would have less to say. But it is rare that a teacher does take the rod in hand, and ply it to the smarting back of a scholar, in that state of mind.

And he who knows any thing of human nature, or of common practice, and considers the "busi" and very often trying scenes of the school room, will be the last to expect it, and others signs of anger, in using it.

It is a matter of almost every day's observation, that the scholar that is flogged most at school is still the *worst*; hence we have to conclude that he would be inconceivably more troublesome than the average, or that the whipping does not make him materially better. The latter is quite as likely to be the fact, and there is good reason for it; for boys, like men, love distinction in some way, and act in accordance with the feeling "I have got the name and may as well have the game," and thus are ripe for any amount of mischief.

Then is "moral suasion" unavailing, and the rod only potent for evil. And the belief that the rod does not generally make scholars better, is strengthened when hearing the irreverent and defiant shout, "whipping wout kill me, and kill me you don't!"

Some say their craft is to secure employment for the members of their "Association," to the exclusion of all others; then having thereby produced a scarcity of teachers, they can then raise their wages at pleasure, as they did last fall, in part, after many of those most competent had, as the report is, by the agency of the Superintendent, been sent out of the county. In fact, things do seem to list that way.

When the season opened for procuring teachers, all were minors yet, under age or under agreement; knew not what salary to demand, and could not possibly tell, as some affirm, 'till after the Institute met? Then they all forthwith became of age—the mystery was dissolved—a lack of teachers, according to *priori* calculation, was apparent, and they all, irrespective of qualification or ability, resolved upon higher and uniform wages. This like many other things, was "too good to keep," and hence some of the less discreet were made confidants and told of it. Thus, then, we have the sum total of all they had yet done, or ever design to do, to benefit our youth; and he who believes their "Association" has done its doing, or will do any public good, is confused in error and delusion. He who will take a leisure and impartial review of all they have said and done, cannot fail to see that their entire literary flourish is only intended as a rust and hardening and debasing effect from the former, and deceive us. In senatorial array they have met and debated several topics without coming to any definite conclusion, or showing the least probability, that they will ever will or can. Indeed, what interest can the public possibly have or feel in the rehearsal of the same old, dull and insipid piece, performed in endless variation? I admit they have as good a right to debate, resolve, edit, and publish, if they can find favor, as any others; but to hold a man by the hand or button to obtain a hearing, or to pour an incessant din of trifling volatility and nonsense in one's ears, who cannot easily retire from annoyance, is not an act of greater rudeness and unkindness than it is to cram the public against their taste, through the medium of our public journals, *perpetually*, with a series of fulsome, trifling and useless reports of meetings, debates, resolutions, adjournments, &c., merely to gratify vanity and cover design. It was really amatory and displaying much deference to the ladies, to debate the profound question whether women are competent to teach schools; or not—a question which, unluckily for them, (the gents,) has long since been decided by actual experiment—they (the ladies,) have surpassed and surpass—very many of those egotistic gents, in teaching and governing too. But their last explosion of wisdom goes off with wonderful force. Its effect, however, is not so horrific as to kill, as did the loaded pump which the Hebrews discharged to celebrate the nation's birthday. But to our admiration, the world has been illuminated thereby

to redundancy, and which cannot fail to endure for one whole generation—probably much longer! May they, then, in much kindness, cease to emit any more of such infernal effluvia from the matchless splendor of their radiant orb, lest the overwhelming flow of light become more oppressive than that darkness!

Gentlemen, do let the curtain down and stop the play, on our account and yours too,

9. 1. 8.

For the Republican.

Messrs. Editors.—As little as many of the teachers of the present day may have learned of nature and of common sense, they have observed that men of "scientific lore and erudition" do not trouble themselves about "imbecility, frivolity," and "things of the most trifling kind." Hence the surprise at the anomaly in the case of the recent correspondents to your paper, over the signature of

9. 1. 8. S. T. SCOTT.

"Think not that you are the Calibrons and Webster's of the age," says he. We don't think any such thing. (But did we think so, and should say any thing in favor of a school law, or do anything in behalf of schools, we should not expect to please the *Newtons* of the age.) We readily concede that enviable distinction to those who vainly attempt to distinguish us.

"They ought in to give us credit for the literary department; for what we have failed to furnish directly, our wings have elicited from them;

For the benefit of those who regard the Teachers' Association as so "frivolous" a thing; and its members as actuated by so much vanity, they are referred to Proverbs 12-11: 28-19.

S. T. SCOTT.

heads, and assisted to push the heavy equipment up the steep hill leading to the house; several girls standing near also bowed their heads to the ground, saying, "Welcome, father and master. Welcome, my mistress, among your own people. May the Lord bless your high nobility!"

As the general descended he bowed to all around, and extended his hand for those nearest him to kiss. The ladies stopped also to speak kindly to some of the women and children, and their hands were also covered with kisses. "As they passed into the house, the peasants separated to their respective homes. Nadegda alone remained loitering about until late, but she had a companion, who stopped to talk with her as she passed and repassed; may more, once he was actually seen to kiss her. "Yes, the serf girl was happy, Vladilin' was true.

That evening Borisoff was closeted for some hours with the general; and when he left him, the expression of his face was sombre, that which made them all shudder; it came from the unfortunate Nadegda. She had drawn the fatal cross—cross which must be borne, as such was the will of her earthly master.

She threw herself at the general's feet, and said, "Father have mercy upon me! Master, do me as thou wilt; make me in the meanest office, and I will not complain; but I cannot marry him, and she pointed to Kit. "Beast me, master—kill me if you will; and I would thank you on my knees; but remember what you are doing. Remember, I am—" Betrothed she would have added; but the general roared out with a violent rage:

"Silence!" thundered the general. "Unfold your papers!"

As they did so, they screamed with delight.

"It is not I!" and they separated with their faces on the ground, to thank the saints for their protection.

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Early the next morning, Borisoff sent for the sarosta, Nadegda's father, and after giving him orders for the day's work, addressed him thus: "Sarosta, hast thou attended to the orders I gave thee respecting the young men's marriages, those named on his excellency's list?" If not, see to it without loss of time, for thy master has had great losses, and lost all the good workmen; and what is more, his temper is not improved under the circumstances, and the lads will be worked all the harder, I promise thee."

"Your honor will be pleased to hear," replied the old man, "that I have arrested that master as well as possible. All the lads will be mated this week, except the surly fellow Kit, who, as your honor knows, is no favorite in the village, and not one of the wenches will consent to have him. Indeed, I pity him, his temper is not improved under the circumstances, and the lads will be worked all the harder, I promise thee."

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"As to that, Sarosta, thou must arrange it as best thou canst; it is as much as my place is worth to tell the general his commands have not been obeyed. Remember, thou hast now received the order, and it rests entirely with thee. Hast thou held out any regard to the girls?" If that does not have the desired effect, hast thou promised them a flogging all round? See what that would do!"

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