

The main points urged in the discussion were uniformity of books, the universal introduction of Mental Arithmetic into the schools, a different order of taking up branches of science—that Physiology and Philosophy should precede the more obscure sciences of Grammar and Arithmetic, and lastly that the inertia of Directors, whose duty it is made by law to regulate these things, is in a great measure fatal to the interests of the schools.

The Democrat.

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN PENNA.
E. B. CHASE & ALVIN DAY, EDITORS.
Montrose, March 9, 1854.

Hon. D. Wilcox is expected certainly to be present and address the Mass Meeting to be held here on Wednesday next.

Hon. G. A. Gow of this District has made a speech in favor of the Homestead Bill, which we have not yet received; but hope we shall yet be able to lay it before our readers. The correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger of the 24th ult., thus comments upon it: "The debate on the Homestead Bill was brought to a close to-day, and the Bill reported to the House. It will doubtless pass that body; though perhaps in an amended form. Mr. Gow of Pennsylvania made a very powerful and eloquent speech on it, and was listened to with profound attention."

Mr. Silvester Holmes, a very worthy and respectable citizen of Great Bend township, in this County, was suddenly killed by being thrown from a wagon, on Wednesday last week. He was driving a young team, and while descending a steep hill, they took fright suddenly, and ran some mile and a half before stopping. Mr. Holmes, as it is supposed, being thrown from the wagon immediately upon the horses starting. The injuries he received from the fall, being through some distance upon the ice, caused his death in a few hours.

Gov. Bigler.—It is now generally conceded certain that Gov. Bigler will receive at least the votes of 120 out of 133 delegates which compose the next State Convention, which is to be held on Wednesday next at Harrisburg, and if all the delegates are present we should not be surprised if he is re-nominated by acclamation. Indeed, we confidently expect it as the opposition to him throughout the State is now brought down to almost nothing. Judge Black's re-nomination will also be unanimous. The contest will be for Canal Commissioner, as there are several persons as candidates for that office.

Ovid F. Johnson, formerly Attorney General of this State, says the Carlisle Volunteer, died in Washington city a short time since, having been picked up intoxicated and sent to the Vagrant Department of the Workhouse. Johnson was a man of abilities, but as a politician lacked the qualities which were necessary to secure the popular confidence. He went to Texas, commenced a paper there, and joined the Fillmore movement under Carvajal. After that failed, he returned to Washington. Disruption had, however, done his work, and the papers of Washington city record the miserable termination of his existence.

MELANCHOLI AFFAIR.—Chas. Fennes Hoffman, the author of a volume of sketches of Forest Life, and a book of Poems, which have won him some literary fame, is now an inmate of the State Lunatic Asylum, a pitiful victim to insanity! He was brought to the Asylum from his home in the land of the free. The cause of his malady is not publicly known.

New Publications.

Godley's Lady's Book, for March, has been received, and it surpasses, if possible, its former numbers. Its engravings are superb, the latest fashions always appear in this periodical, which give increased interest to the work; and it is filled with choice literature from the ablest pens in the country. To all who wish to take a magazine, we would say this should be the first choice. Terms, \$3 a year. We will furnish this magazine and the Democrat one year for only three dollars and fifty cents.

For some reason or other the February number has failed to reach us. Will the publisher be so kind as to send us this missing number.

The Popular Educator has again made its appearance. This is the most comprehensive educational periodical ever issued from this Press. It includes a regular course of instruction in every department of knowledge. It proposes to introduce the people to all the departments of human knowledge, and to afford to individual man the means of a complete secular education. It is published monthly at \$1.50 cents a year in advance. Address Alexander Montgomery, 17 Spruce street, N. Y.

The Illustrated Magazine of Art, for February, comes to us as usual with all its beauty and usefulness. For an illustrated work of this kind, it is the finest of any we have ever seen; and should find its way into every family in the country. Those who wish to adorn their library with an illustrated work cannot do better than subscribe for this one. Terms, \$3 a year, 4 copies, \$9; 10 copies, \$20; 20 copies \$40. Address Alex. Montgomery, 17 Spruce street, N. Y.

Mr. Buchanan.—There is a rumor prevailing at Washington that Mr. Buchanan will return home soon, disgusted with his treatment by the English officials, at the recent opening of Parliament. The rumor claims to be based upon a dispatch said to have been received from Mr. B. by the government, and his reference to the refusal of that Minister to appear in a Court costume, in obedience to the requirement of the Master of Ceremonies. It is generally considered only a report, although many of Mr. B.'s friends believe it.

Hon. Wm. P. Schell, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, has been chosen Senatorial Delegate to the next 8th of March Convention, from the counties of Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton, with unanimous instructions to support the re-nomination of Governor Bigler and Hon. J. S. Black.

It will hardly be credited, when we state that a printing office in Boston, was entered on Friday night last, and robbed of a dollar in change. What unfeeling conduct!

Mrs. Elizabeth Stillwagon, of Connersville, Pa., aged 115 years, was burnt to death on Monday last by her old-fashioned fire while fighting her pipe.

A friend has furnished us the "Ohio State Democrat," published daily at Columbus, Ohio, in which we find the following account of a "presentation of plate" to A. G. Dimock, Esq., formerly of this county, (a son of Eld. D. Dimock of this place) who has been for some years Warden of the Penitentiary at the above named city. Presuming that his numerous friends in this section, will be highly gratified to learn of his success in life, we take pleasure in transferring the matter to our columns:—

Interesting Scene at the Prison.

The assistant officers of the State Prison, anxious to testify their respect to the Warden and his amiable lady, for their unvarying kindness, procured a beautiful silver pitcher silver waiter, and two silver goblets, which, on Christmas eve, were presented. The scene, as pictured by an eye-witness, was a deeply interesting one. Mr. Dimock, who has just recovered from a severe illness, and is still weak, was with his family in the sitting room, conversing with some of our citizens who had called to see him, when word was sent him that the officers, in a body, would wait upon him to pay their respects and to congratulate him on his recovery. In a few moments the officers entered, and Mr. Dimock rising to receive them, Mr. JOHN H. VAN WERT, (a lineal descendant, by the by—a grandson, if we mistake not—one of the captors of Major Andre, during the revolutionary war,) stepped forward and thus addressed him:—

Mr. Dimock.—I am requested by the officers of this institution, to present to you in their behalf, on this Christmas eve, a slight testimonial of their regard and esteem for you as an efficient and attentive officer, mingling justice and humanity, kindness and severity, in such a manner as to promote the general objects of the prison, and at the same time, conduce to the comfort of those unfortunate fellow-beings under your care.

We not only recognize in you a faithful and efficient officer, but an accomplished gentleman in your intercourse with us as assistant officers; that intercourse gives us ample opportunity to know your worth.

Not only as an officer and a gentleman in the position you now occupy, but in any sphere of life—whether in the halls of legislation, advocating the homestead exemption, and protecting, by legislative enactment, the widow and orphan, or as the editor of a public press, advocating "land to the landless," and "homes to the homeless," you have ever been the friend of the poor and the oppressed.

We take this occasion, sir, to sympathize with you in your late affliction, and hope that your permanent return to health and strength may be speedy.

Turning to Mrs. Dimock, the accomplished lady of the Warden, Mr. Van Wert said:—

Mrs. Dimock.—The officers living a just appreciation of your kindness and virtues, embrace this opportunity to present you, in connection with Mr. Dimock, a token of their regard.

The female in life is the promoter of man's joy, the soother of his pain, his grief, and his sorrow. We behold her at the feet of Christ, weeping; we behold her at the feet of the martyr, weeping; we behold her in Rome contributing her wealth for the defence of the "eternal city"; we behold the Roman matron leading her children forth to fight the battles of her country; she who had no wealth, no gold or silver, yet she could exclaim, when she presented her children, "Here are my jewels."

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pleased with the appropriate remarks of Mr. Van Wert addressed to him and Mr. Dimock, a note requesting a copy for publication.—

The note to Mr. Van Wert and his reply are all we have received. They are as follows:—

Mr. Van Wert.—Dear Sir:—You will confer a favor upon me, as a committee, as well as upon the public, if you will furnish us a copy of your address, delivered on the evening of the 24th inst., to Mr. and Mrs. Dimock, the guards and citizens assembled on that occasion.

Respectfully,
JOHN H. COOL,
JACOB FRELAND,
G. H. WRIGHT,
CYRUS THOMAS,
Committee.

The reply of Mr. VAN WERT is as follows:—

GENTLEMEN:—Your favor is duly received, and your request granted.

I herewith place at your disposal the manuscript, trusting you will overlook its imperfections, knowing the short period of time I had for its preparation.

Gentlemen, receive the assurance of my esteem, and believe me your obedient servant,
JOHN H. VAN WERT.
To John R. Cool, Cyrus Thomas, G. H. Wright, Jacob Freland, Committee.

When next a ceremony, so interesting, occurs, may we be there to see.

From the Harrisburg Keystone, of last week we clip the following:—

Light.—

We notice that Dr. Foster, the talented and fearless chairman of the committee on banks in the House of Representatives, introduced into that body last Monday a joint resolution, authorizing and requiring the State treasurer to commence suits for the recovery of the amount of notes on the bank of Susquehanna County, and the Bank of Lewistown, held in deposit at the time of the failure of those institutions.

The facts of the case, as they have come to our knowledge, are these:—Shortly before the failure of the Bank of Susquehanna County, the department became suspicious that all was not right, and refused to take its bills. Notice to that effect was given to the persons interested in and connected with the bank; but not wishing to injure the bank if their suspicions were groundless, the notice was accompanied with a statement, that if responsible persons in the vicinity of the bank, and acquainted with its affairs, would state to the department in writing that the bank was solvent, its notes should be received. Whereupon Judge WILLIAM JESSUP, and perhaps one or two other persons interested in the bank, made the requisite statements and recommendations in writing, which were filed in the department as vouchers, and the notes were received. At the failure of the bank a large amount of its notes was on hand. The Lewistown Bank stands in about the same position, and it is now proposed by a resolution to institute suits in behalf of the commonwealth, against the persons writing the recommendations on which the money was taken, and to recover the amounts from their personal estates if sufficient to pay them.

The resolution will pass upon a vote at an early day, probably by a unanimous vote, and we doubt that any member will take the responsibility of voting against it. It is time that men, who do not profess to palm off such frauds, should be taught that though they may do it on poor and defenceless citizens, and escape, they cannot do it on the treasury of the commonwealth; and when they attempt it, as in these cases, we trust the State authorities will pursue them to the end, as well to vindicate the honor of the commonwealth as to punish the guilty. We say pursue them to the end, even though it shall cost double the amount recovered, for it will be money well spent. It will be a warning for evil-doers, and likely protect the treasury from more stupendous frauds hereafter. We hope to see our indefatigable attorney general take hold of these cases in good earnest—with his accustomed energy and ability, as he undoubtedly will, and we do not fear the result.

Township Elections for 1854.

The following is a List of the Justices and Constables, elected in the several townships, on Friday the 17th day of February:—

Editorial Correspondence.

HARRISBURG, Thursday, Feb. 23, 1854.

DEAR DEM.—In many respects this has been a day which will long be remembered in the history of the Legislation of Pennsylvania. When the House was called to order this morning, the galleries and lobbies were crowded with anxious lookers on, and even the passage-ways and aisles were filled in every nook and corner. Nearly every seat in the lobbies were occupied with ladies—the beauty and fashion—all showing that something unusual had stirred the multitude, and that a question of great moment to society was expected to be discussed, and perhaps decided, within those halls, before the sun should go down. And so it was. The discussion of the Prohibitory Liquor Bill was about to open in the House.

The reading of the Journal was concluded and the Bill taken up, when, during the pendency of a motion to amend the first section by striking out the manufacturers of liquor, a motion further to amend by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting a substitute for the Bill was made by Mr. Ellis of Adams county. The amendment to the amendment was supported by the mover in a short and well timed speech, and then finally Mr. Cook of Westmoreland took the floor, and the silence that soon pervaded the vast assemblage, told plainly that it was to hear from him on the Bill that public curiosity had become excited. Mr. Cook occupied the floor full one hour and a half, in support of the substitute offered by Mr. Ellis, and we venture to say that those who listened to him will retain a distinct impression of the effort to the latest day of their life. Were I an author, I would speak of it as its merits really deserve.

After the conclusion of his speech the discussion again assumed a rambling form, till a motion was made to postpone the further consideration of the Bill for the purpose of printing the substitute. On this motion Mr. Miller took the floor, and before he had concluded the hour of adjournment arrived which cut off further discussion and also prevented a vote being taken.

I suppose your readers are anxious for some information as to the probable fate of the measure. The shape it has assumed now is a puzzle to everybody, and leaves all alike in the dark. The original Bill you have published, and your readers will recollect that it is stringent in its provisions, but does not contemplate taking effect till the first of March 1855. If passed, however, it becomes a law, and at the next October election the people are to vote for or against its repeal, thus seeking to obviate the decision of the Supreme Court that the submission of a law to the people for their adoption, is not constitutional. There is a I think no doubt now of its defeat should it come before the House as it came from the Committee. The substitute offered by Mr. Ellis amounts to this—that at the next October election the people shall vote for or against a "Prohibitory law, which shall contain the following provisions": Then follow its provisions, setting forth clearly and distinctly the skeleton of a Bill, which, if the Bill is adopted, will be the law to be enacted into a law by the next Legislature. The advocates of the substitute contend that, by its adoption the same end is arrived at as in the original Bill, inasmuch as it would take effect equally as soon. And they also claim that it will avoid all questions of constitutionality, more likely to receive an affirmative vote from the people, who would know exactly for what they were voting, a provision being contained in it that the Sheriff of the several counties shall publish it in their proclamations for the several counties. There is undoubtedly much force in their arguments; but, to my mind, there is more force in the fact which has now become apparent, that the original Bill cannot pass both Houses this session. The friends of prohibition then seem to be acting the part of wise, honest, and prudent men, to take something of the character I have understood that Mr. Pater of the city, whom the ultra are now denouncing as a traitor, and who have called upon him to resign his seat in the Senate, has declared his willingness to vote for this substitute, which would secure its passage that body, the old Bill having not lost there by one vote. It strikes me that it can also pass the House, in which case the whole question will be settled and taken out of the political arena, a consummation most devoutly to be wished for by all true lovers of the Temperance Reform.

It must be expected that those uneasy, restless spirits, who see nothing valuable in Reform further than to ministers to their own aggrandizement politically or otherwise, who would forever disturb the public mind with the agitation of any question, however dangerous that agitation might be to the welfare of Reform itself, or to the peace and happiness of society will oppose and denounce anything that looks like a settlement of this question, unless it shall be in a form so odious as that it shall be rejected by the people and thus be kept open at last.

But the people are fast finding these men out. They may have deceived them once or even twice, but the third will be an infelicitous effort. They may preach prohibition and at the same time run Liquors vendors for the Legislature twice, but such duplicity finally will meet its merited reward, which will come in a visitation of utter contempt upon them from every high-minded and honorable man. It will be shown too in the total withdrawal of public confidence and public trust from their hands. I say it will be, has it not been indeed already been? I shall send you the result of the offered by Mr. Ellis as soon as it shall be printed, and hope it may reach you in time for next paper.

It seems now understood that both Houses will adjourn a week from to-morrow for the whole of the following week. If so I think I will give you a call.

We have had a terrible snow storm. No mails have reached here from Philadelphia since last Sunday morning. Probably trains will get through by to-morrow. E. B. C.

NEW YORK CANAL ENLARGEMENTS.—The question of enlarging the New York Canals was submitted to a vote of the people in that State on Wednesday; the result is in favor of the enlargement by overwhelming majorities, although the vote in all the districts was exceedingly small. The cost of the enlargement is variously estimated at from five to ten millions of dollars.

The Whig State Convention of Connecticut has nominated Henry Duff as the Whig candidate for Governor, and Alexander Holly for Lieutenant. Resolutions in favor of a protective tariff, and against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, were passed by the Convention.

A verdict of \$4,500 has been obtained against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, by the administrators of a man named McCloskey who was killed by a collision of cars upon their road.

Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1854.

FRIEND CHASE.—The debate on the Nebraska Bill still continues to be the absorbing topic of interest in the Senate. General Houston, of Texas, occupied two days in discussing the special issues raised in the bill. The first day's speech was devoted to the merits of the bill, which he considered the bill made upon the rights of the Indians. Perhaps no public man in this country is so conversant with Indian relations, in every shape, as the distinguished Senator from Texas. His second day's argument was principally directed against the bill so far as it proposes to disturb the Missouri Compromise in any way. Being much indisposed during the past week, and occupied more than usual with the other duties, I did not have an opportunity to be a listener to this speech, and have not as yet had an opportunity to read a full report of it.

The agitation and excitement are rapidly on the increase hereabouts, and in Congress all arguments, laws, covenants, compacts, guarantees and compromises are disregarded by those who have resolved upon perpetrating this act of I had almost said perfidy. Appeals are made by members of the south—who are upon this question a unit—to the Pennsylvanian delegation—they are promised that the United States Mint shall not be removed from Philadelphia to New York, and that the protection of their iron and coal productions shall be continued, if they will only go for the Nebraska Bill. At one time these appeals and seductive promises, were appa- rently successful, but it is now said that five of the Democratic members have bolted.

We are told by friends of the bill that Congress has no power over slavery in the territories; that the people of the territories alone have the power to enact laws upon that subject, but yet the bill itself provides that Congress shall have a superior jurisdiction, and veto every law if it sees fit. It has the power to prohibit slavery, but it has the power to prohibit the people of the territory from allowing it or prohibiting it, as the majority in Congress may determine. These are fair-splitting distinctions, perfectly ridiculous in themselves. How can it be expected that the people of the north will sit quietly and see their representatives play such "fantastic tricks before high heaven," without even a remonstrance. And yet we are told this is the way to put an end to the slavery excitement. The way, and the only way, in my opinion, to put an end to agitation, is to stand by the Compromises of the Constitution, shall they be sustained or overthrown, and the peace and quiet of the country subject to a sectional agitation which will shake the government to its foundation!

The House, soon after convening, on Monday last, went into Committee of the whole, (Mr. Olds of Ohio in the chair) who announced the special order of the day to be the Homestead Bill, and it was the last day appropriated to that measure, when Mr. Gow, of your district obtained the floor, proceeded to discuss the Homestead Bill. It was his good fortune to be present and listen to his able arguments and masterly eloquence. Mr. Gow is an easy and fluent speaker, and commands universal attention wherever he addresses the House. It is a great mark of respect to see old members—members from Virginia and Georgia in the South, Maine and New Hampshire in the North—sitting quietly and attentively in their seats, listening to one of the youngest members in the House; such, however, was the case on this occasion. The speech is decidedly the ablest one of the session on that subject. Would that every man in the Union would read it; there is "moral and material" in it. The Bill will pass the House by a large majority.

NOTICE.

REGULATIONS OF CONDUCT.—At a regular meeting of Montrose Lodge No. 151 I. O. O. F., held at Montrose on Tuesday evening, February 28th A. D. 1854, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, it hath pleased the Almighty Disposer of Events in the exercise of His pleasure to remove from our midst by death, the wife of our highly esteemed and much respected Brother, Mr. Francis Moore, of Oneida Lodge of the State of New York, at the prime of her life and usefulness; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, That in this dispensation of Divine Providence, we again recognize, and are reminded, that the All-seeing Eye is ever upon us, warning us of our rapidly approaching dissolution.

Resolved, That this Lodge tender to Brother Moore our most heartfelt sympathy in this his deep affliction and bereavement; and that to his motherless children, we know not how sufficiently, to express our sorrow for their very great trial; and would most earnestly press upon their attention the hope we entertain that they will take the many virtues of their departed mother as a guide to lead them to that God who has seen fit in his wisdom thus to afflict them.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be presented to Brother Moore, and also be published in the County papers.

Signed by the Officers.

ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPA.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

On the 25th of February, the Europa, under the command of Commodore Pasha, arrived at New York. The Europa is improving in health. Two or three Americans, (names not mentioned), a Wallachian General, and several Swedish and French officers, had arrived at head quarters to take service with the Porte. Considerable reinforcements were on march from Sophia for Kalafat, where there is already assembled an army of 25,000 men, provided with a numerous and excellent train of artillery. This news comes from Varna.

ON THE DANUBE.

By telegraph we have a brief announcement that on Feb. 5, an encounter took place between the Turks and Russians near Kiumgrovo. Three thousand Turks crossed the river. They drove in the Russian outposts and attacked the town. At nightfall, they retreated to their camp.

Further than the above there is scarcely any news from the seat of war. A few days since mention was made of a retrograde movement on the part of the Russians; and in reality they attempted to entice the Turks from their entrenchments by retreating to some distance beyond Radovan, where but 2,000 men were left. On seeing that the Turks did not fall into the trap, the Russians resolved to send 2,000 men to carry off the Turkish outposts at a place a little to the northward of Skripetz. The commandant at Kalafat was evidently informed of what was intended, for before the Russians had quitted Radovan 3,000 Egyptians were dispatched to the advanced post, and when the Russians came up they were met with such a heavy fire that they deemed it advisable to fall back upon Radovan. A Russian General was wounded.

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