The Miners' Journal

POTTSVILLE, PA.

Saturday Morning, Oct. 15.

B. BANNAN, Editor and Proprietor:
O. LITTLE, Associate Editor.

THE MAINE LAW VOTE.

"Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again—
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies amid her worshipers."

THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX MAINE LAW VOTES POLLED IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY!!

Some one has said that "the very essence of Political Wisdom is to *dare to do right*." The Maine Law men of Schuylkil County, we claim, are pre-eminently entitled to the appropriation of this great moral, as well as political, truth. "To dare to do right" is not only the wisest, but in the end also the surest, policy. For one may formerly temporary adversity and discouragement, may arise; but with pure motives, an honorable consistent, course and an honest noble purpose in view, a complete and permanent success will be the ultimate reward.

Now, what has been accomplished by the Temperance men of the County? Let us analyze the elements of the late contest and see what we have gained. We premise, what was stated before the Election, that the success of the Maine Law candidates was but a secondary consideration, to the contest—that being, under the circumstances, a result hardly dreamed of by the most sanguine in the cause—but that the main purpose of the movement was to develope the strength of the Prohibitory Law advocates, so as to influence the next Legislature in its favor.

First, it is shown conclusively that the strength of the Maine Law party in the County, is superior to all the combined forces of its opponents; for, if the vote on first trial, with all the disadvantages of three regular political organizations to contend with, has run up to the unexpected figure of Thirteen Hundred, what, we may significantly inquire, would it be, if submitted, directly and alone, to the people? A vein of policy runs through all mankind—it is natural for every man to shun a weak cause and to cast his lot with the strongest of ruling party. Hence, many more would have voted with the Temperance men on Tuesday last, had it been at all anticipated that they could make so respectable a muster as they have done; and, we venture to say, that if it were possible to have the polls opened anew to-day, with the people's eyes open on this subject as they now are, the Maine Law ticket would be elected over all its competitors.

Again, partizan ties are next to inseparable—with the great majority of men they bind faster and hold longer, and are in every respect, superior to any other considerations, moral or otherwise, that can be presented. Hundreds and the thousands of men, all over the country, go annually to the polls, for a lifetime, and vote their party ticket, from top to bottom, without ever so much as knowing or caring, whether or not who or what the candidates are or is, so they be regularly nominated by the party they belong to.

There are scores of men in this County, who never exercise an independent thought about their suffrages, but who invariably vote the ticket their leaders put into their hands; and we believe that numbers of such men can be found, who would this very minute vote themselves into a place that shall, for the present, be tormentable to our good things, if their party leaders would only give them the tickets to do it with!

All this the Maine Law men of the County had to contend with on Tuesday; and yet, notwithstanding the novelty of a separate Maine Law Ticket, with over Six Hundred licensed places in the County where Liquor is sold, and against three regularly nominated tickets in the field, and the Whig and Democratic politicians using their utmost efforts to kill it, by displaying its strength and employing all possible devices of persuasion and almost force, to keep the people in their party ranks, it, the Temperance ticket, goes upwards of *Fourteen Hundred Votes!* That is a victory worth contending for. It is the triumph of right and justice over the most evil of the age, the Rum traffic, and its collateral train of moral ruin, taxpoverism, poverty and suffering.

Another important point gained, is the establishment of mutual confidence between the two leading political parties on this subject. Many good men of both parties regarded the Temperance movement with a feeling of suspicion and distrust, and professed politicians taught the impression into a conviction. Each feared to lent a manœuvre of the other, and hesitated to leave his party, for his acknowledged Maine Law preferences, lest his political opponents might not prove as faithful and honest, and might thereby triumph. But the vote goes to establish entire confidence between the two parties on this point, and to do so state beyond a question that Whigs and Democrats stand alike on this common platform, and that there is a goodly proportion of both parties that are willing to drop their partizan affinities, and boldly support, a cause they conscientiously believe of far more importance than mere party ascendancy. It will be observed that both gentlemen on the ticket, one a Whig and the other a Democrat, have run pretty evenly—with this difference only; Mr. Godfrey made greater exertions in behalf of the ticket than Mr. Jones, as is shown by his increased vote in the West end of the County, where he labored faithfully, as a Temperance canvasser, from the time of his nomination; while Mr. Clemens did comparatively little electioneering; and another consideration, that Mr. Godfrey stood more prominent as a politician, merely, with his party, than Mr. Clemens with his. With these considerations, both candidates run almost evenly, showing that the question was regarded by those who favored it as separate and distinct from partizan influence as it was possible for any other, under the circumstances, to have been.

A third fact proved by the result, is that the Temperance men of the County hold the balance of power between the two political parties, and that their peculiar wishes will not be so lightly esteemed in future County Conventions, nor will political candidates think so lightly of Temperance Conventions and their letters of inquiry touching their respective views on the Maine Law.—The Temperance vote, added to the Whigs would have elected them with an ample margin for contingencies; and it is evident that the Whig strength of the County was not out on Tuesday. Many Whigs refused to go to the polls because they were led to believe, by interested parties, that the Temperance movement was certain to defeat the Whig ticket, and they accordingly considered it useless to vote; and were it not that many Democrats, in several districts particularly, imputed the Temperance and in most cases the entire Whig ticket, the latter would have been beaten much worse than they are.

To sum up then,—The Maine Law men of the County have succeeded in placing the subject, where it should be, independent of and above all political party considerations, and proved their honesty of motive and faithfulness of purpose beyond dispute; and have, moreover, brought out enough of their strength to command the respect of politicians in future, and to show what can and will be done on a second effort, or when the question shall be put more fairly before the people.

P. S. It turns out, contrary to our expectations when writing the above, that Clemens runs ahead of Godfrey. Had the former exerted himself, his vote would have been largely increased.

☞ *The exhibition* at the Crystal Palace will close on the 1st of December.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Educational Convention.*—The Schuylkill County Educational Association will commence its seventh session in Schuylkill Haven on the 4th of November next. The prospect of a full and useful meeting is highly favorable. Teachers and all the friends of general Education are respectfully solicited to attend and participate in the exercises, which will consist chiefly of lectures and discussions on topics relating to the general diffusion of knowledge.

The following persons have been appointed by the President, in compliance with a resolution adopted at the last session, at Minersville, to prepare essays for the ensuing meeting, on the annexed subjects:

Miss Sarah A. McCool, ——
" Olinda Lattimore ——
" Rebecca Sotler, ——
" Mary Whitaker, ——
Rev. C. F. Turner, On Instruction;
J. Barnett, Book-keeping;
Wm. E. Porter, The use of Globes;
N. Olmstead, Normal School;
J. B. Sherman, Free School;

Addresses will be delivered during the session by the President, by Mr. C. Little and others; and at the close an address to Parents.

A. K. Browne, *Sec'y.*

☞ *Portraits and Paintings.*—Some days ago, we had the pleasure of examining several portraits and other paintings, by Mr. E. Wenner of Philadelphia, who, by particular request, has spent the last two or three weeks in this place, giving instructions, taking portraits, &c. No commendation of ours can add aught to the artistic fame of Mr. W., but we cannot help expressing our great gratification on seeing such specimens of taste and skill. The portraits, we saw, are *all but the originals*—the expression of countenance, perfect, the position and coloring, graceful and correct. The other paintings—altitude to, were principally of a historical character, and sufficient, alone, to stamp the author as an artist of superior skill.

Mr. W. has left Pottsville for the present, but will return in a few weeks and remain some time, if sufficient inducement be offered him. We think it is doing those, who want their portraits taken a great service, to recommend them to employ Mr. Wenner.

☞ *Military.*—The Continentals (formerly National Light Infantry) left the place on Wednesday morning last, on an excursion to Philadelphia and New York, to be absent a week or ten days. The Philadelphia *Inquirer* thus notices their arrival and reception in that city:

The National Light Infantry of Pottsville, under the command of Capt. Frank Pott, arrived in the city about one o'clock yesterday, on their route to New York. The uniform of this company is the Continental dress. They were accompanied by the Pottsville Brass Band. The State Fencibles, Capt. Page, met the military strangers at the depot on Broad street, and escorted them to their quarters at the Arcade Hotel. They will start for New York to-day. (Wednesday)

☞ *The Election* in our Borough, on Tuesday last, was unusually quiet. We do not remember to have ever witnessed less wrangling and confusion at our polls; and to our reckoning credited of our citizens be it recorded, there was less drunkenness than was, perhaps, ever known on a similar occasion in Pottsville before. As far as we have heard, there was a general improvement in this respect all over the County. Whether it resulted from any radical reform in the morals of our people, or because the Maine Law Ticket was so well, we leave for politicians to cypher out—but such was the fact.

☞ *Mr. Frank Leach*, well known by our people as one of the best and most popular Singing Teachers we have ever had, will form classes and give instructions here during the coming season, commencing on Wednesday next. See advertisement for particulars.

☞ *We are requested* to give notice that a meeting of the members of the Apprentices' Library Association will be held next Monday evening, 17th, in Mr. Vandenburg's Dancing-room room.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Well, the Election is over, and "there's no use to cry the over spilt milk." There is not the least doubt but that this disastrous state of things was brought about by Mr. Fraley, when he addressed an immense mass meeting (half of an Democratic, a dozen Whigs, not a few Natives, and a sight speaking of the "street urchins") at the Frederick Swan Hotel," last Saturday evening. It was a "cock tail" I can assure you. The postmaster are those who were nominated at Charles Fowler's, for great gratification on seeing such specimens of taste and skill. The portraits, we saw, are *all but the originals*—the expression of countenance, perfect, the position and coloring, graceful and correct. The other painting—attitude to, were principally of a historical character, and sufficient, alone, to stamp the author as an artist of superior skill.

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