

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, EDITOR.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, Feb. 15, 1855.

LECTURES.—The Wellsborough Literary Institute has engaged the services of the following Lecturers:

CASSIUS M. CLAY, 16th and 17th.

RE. REV. ALONZO PORTER.

The Universalist Conference meets at Mansfield on Wednesday and Thursday, 14th and 15th insts.

Our thanks are due T. L. BALDWIN, Esq., for documents.

Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, have enacted stringent Prohibitory Laws since our last issue.

More Wisconsin!—Harian from Iowa, Durken from Wisconsin, Wilson from Massachusetts and Seward from New York—a glorious company of anti-slavery men, have been elected to the U. S. Senate within a few weeks.

Cassius M. Clay, the most eloquent advocate of human freedom in the Union, will lecture at the Court House on FRIDAY EVENING 16th inst. Subject—"Slavery."

This distinguished gentleman is so widely known that commendation is unnecessary.

See Labor, Young & Co's, new advertisement on third page.

Also, A. Bixby's notice of Cayuga Plaster, just received and for sale at a reduced price.

Also, MacLaurin's new system of Penmanship, said to be the greatest discovery of the age.

Also, D. S. Ireland's Sash and Blind Factory.

ORLANDO LUNDY, of Illinois, lectured on "The influence of Intemperance on National Character," on Monday evening at the Court House, to a full house.

His lecture was excellent, qualitatively, but quantitatively not so good—as in those who stood up to bear it. The lecturer dealt largely in facts.

Are Christian Men proper Subjects for the Gallows?

When men become so quickened with a love of justice for the sake of humanity as to frame laws for the punishment of offenders that through punishment reformation may come, instead of destruction to the life and budding usefulness of the reformed, then society will have put away one of the most inconsistent of its inconsistencies, and will exhibit a better degree of harmony in its development.

But at present, how painful are its efforts to move upward and onward—all the while, crab-like, sliding off on the same dull level. It labors hard enough to accomplish its redemption—its means are ample, but its means are applied and its labor directed with astonishing effect against itself. Its measures are suicidal or contradictory.

For instance: Chastity is considered indispensable to the moral health of every community. Its lack in any degree, especially in the female individual, is severely dealt with, and its total want is considered a misdemeanor verging on the darkest criminal action.

But if an individual falls under suspicion, just or unjust, community casts her off utterly, and concentrates upon her the full force of its terrible laws, lest she by some chance trespass upon the domain of Virtue and Respectability. Then Society is inconsistent; for it forces an erring member from the commission of slight wrong down the plane of Disaster, to the utter abandonment of every virtuous aspiration—thus defeating itself in the accomplishment of one of its most desired works—the reformation and restoration of an erring member.

And again: Sobriety and industry are held as cardinal virtues. Not to be sober, industrious and honest is to be detestable. Lack of sobriety as often results from an accumulation of unwarmed circumstances, as from any other cause; but society expects it, and punishes it, as if it were a crime.

At least, oftener than it lifts him out of it with kindness. And not only this, but it stigmatizes the inmate's family, and in forgetting that the child is not responsible for the acts of the parent, perhaps forces it into a career of reckless dissipation to drown the shame of unwarmed disgrace. Thus society, by its intolerance, forces the child into the pursuit of the very wrong for which it condemned the parent.

And again: Society regards the sacrifice of human life at the hands of man as the highest and most terrible of human crimes. It expresses itself in strong terms when it measures out to the murderer the death penalty. Yet, it consents to legalize the act it abhors, in the vain hope of making of two wrongs, one right!

A nervous might presume, that to render human life most secure, it would be necessary to make it as sacred in the eyes of man as possible. But we apprehend that the best way to do this is not by legalizing murder. Why should the law prescribe the most severe of all penalties for an act which it authorizes its ministers to commit with impunity? Why does it command—"Ye shall do no murder"—and add—"Thy life shall be required in compensation?" The law in this case does not contemplate reform, but vengeance, rather. We are unable to see how this highest of crimes can be metamorphosed into a virtue even by legislators. If his life is a good rule, then, if an evil-disposed person burn his neighbor's house, let the sheriff apply the torch to the culprit. If one steal his neighbor's goods, let the sheriff lay and make restitution. This policy would preserve the animus of the legislation, which the Christian world, starting from the dogma of non-resistance, so fondly clings to.

We own no allegiance to this "blood for blood" rule of action. It is wanting in the essence of all righteous law—HUMANITY. The true object of punishment should be, the protection of society through the reformation of the offender. It does not seem a very Christianlike act to hurl any man out of existence with a brother's blood upon him; for, to do so, is to hurl him down to ever-ascending pain, if the popular belief is to be credited. It is an act of inhumanity, then, to hurry a blood-stained soul into the presence of an offended Deity, since the vilest may find pardon at the gate-way of Repentance.

To this view it may be objected, that a culprit has no time for repentance intervening between sentence and execution. Admit that he does repent—what right have we to punish a repentant man? If we read the Word aright, we shall find that "repentance cometh remission of sin. Does God punish after he has pardoned?"

Take another view: It is objected that the murderer has ample time for repentance. Let us see: Joe and Bill are schoolboys. Joe is bright, active and quick to master the hardest task. Bill is stupid

and lazy (constitutionally), and with difficulty masters the easiest task. The master, knowing the capacities of the two boys, gives them a hard task to perform in the same time. Joe masters his with the closest study, but Bill goes to recitation as ignorant as ever. Now, was Bill allowed sufficient time to get the task?—that's the question.

Joe studies on, gets a good education and is fitted for a life of usefulness. Now send him away to the Rocky Mountains to shoot bears and fight Indians, and forbid him to return to civilized life. Would that be a proper investment of his means to do good? We conclude not.

Very well: Now suppose that Bill goes on getting no better very fast, and finally lands on the gallows. He went to his cell a pretty hard case, but by coaxing and threatening, his spiritual advisers convince him that he is sorry that he—got in limbo. He repents, (of being caught), and becomes a Christian—professingly. He makes a speech to the throng assembled to see a man die legally, and drops.

Now, if his conversion was real, and not a sham, what was accomplished by the sacrifice of this exemplary Christian? Why, he was just fitted to discharge his duty to his fellow-men, just ready to be useful, when the law stopped in and cut him off! True, society must be protected, but does it need protection against Christian men? Certainly not. Then his death was unnecessary, for society was already protected by his conversion. Could his death atone for the life of his victim? Oh, no. Then it was unnecessary that he should die for that. Was it necessary that his death should be made a warning to others? Not if the death-scene of a Christian is to be pointed at as an example for all to imitate. This sacrifice was made to satisfy the law of retaliation—for nothing else.

It is but a few days since two men—Llanau and Short, were executed in Kentucky. Both held out "game," till all hope of a reprieve vanished. Then both suddenly became good Christians. Short made a speech on the gallows, stating that he had been to a great many "hanging spots," but never thought he should be hung himself. But he said he had "whipped Satan clean out of his old coat," and made his "election sure." He hated life, and would be in Paradise before sundown. So much for the "errors" inspired by "hanging spots," and so much for a law that makes no distinction between Christian men and black-hearted villains.

In justice to the friends of free-trade in Rum we must state that Short acknowledged that his inebriation resulted from a train under Captain Whiskey. This noted Captain has trained many thousands to do gallow duty, and we feel to thank our Judges for not giving him permission to train in this borough, as he earnestly petitioned last Wednesday week.

Some refer to the Mosaic Law in support of the argument for death punishment. But what evidence is that law of present necessity? In its time, and for semi-barbarous Israel, it was doubtless appropriate. But no reasonable man will pretend that a civil law prescribed for a rebellious people ages ago, is therefore a law for the enlightened nations of to-day. The doctrine of Necessity alone, can justify such a barbarous law. Let it be proved that the circumstances of to-day are identical with those that existed then, before urging the binding force of a rule the only province of which is to restrain men who have never been taught the beautiful lessons of humanity.

If Mosaic code is a good one for this age and for this people, then let it be adopted entire. Let the thief make fourfold restitution and go free. Let the diabolical child be stoned. Let the Young America put himself on Israelitish diet—upon the sticklers for the laws of Moses will ordnance more consistency.

"We know of no good reason why the Ladies should be deprived of their right to vote, and on the other hand, many can be added in favor of granting them the privilege. We hope the 'strong-minded women' will continue to agitate the question until the laws of the land shall recognize their equality."—*Corning Journal*.

Our sentiments exactly. If woman is endowed with reason and common sense, she has a right to enjoy all the benefits that accrue to man from the possession of these qualities. If she is as intelligent, generally, as her brother, then grant her the rights and privileges that a false socialism has deprived her of. If intelligence is the guardian of our free institutions, then women are as much entitled to vote as any other reasonable being.

It is objected that the scenes that invariably disgrace the ballot-box on election days, are not such as gender woman should look upon. What! Is man, then, so reckless and forgetful of the sanctity and dignity of the freeman's dearest privilege, as to render the spectacle of his exercise disgusting and shameful for wives and sisters to behold? Perhaps it is so to man's shame let it be said—we believe it is so to man's. Does it follow, therefore, that there can, or should be no reform, no redemption of the ballot-box from the sink of filth into which Rum and bribery have plunged it? A thousand times, No! As woman approaches the polls the violence and disorder that now wrangle there will sink away like guilt at the approach of innocence, ashamed of their mutual hideousness.

The man who has felt the blessed influence of a mother's and a sister's love, will not deny that woman's presence must exert a powerful reforming influence upon the disgraceful doings of election day. The drunken brawl and moist-spirited traffic in principles would speedily disappear, and something like order and honorable independence would take place instead. The objections usually urged against woman's enfranchisement are born of palpable and unmanly prejudice—not of reason. There is not a tithe of the opposition offered to it now, that there was but yesterday, as it were, and all that remains will be withdrawn, probably, in a very few years.

So mote it be.

The Lecturer.—Pursuant to notice, Rev. Jonas Pizzaro read his splendid satire "The Golden Call" before the Institute on Thursday evening last. To speak of this poem as it deserves, would require more space than we can command. To appreciate it, one must hear it from the lips, and in the inimitable style of the author. Mr. Pierpont is a fine specimen of the man of Plymouth Rock, and though the heat of time rests upon his head, his cheek has the freshness of youth, and his heart is not a whit behind. In person, he is full six feet in height, spare, yet not too much so for the delicacy of his organization, and as erect as an Indian Chief. In intellect he is also a giant—not in the animal, but in the coronal region. His head is just such a one as the phrenologist loves to contemplate.

On Friday evening he gave a very interesting scientific lecture on the formation and uses of Snow, which, we are sorry to say, was not exactly appropriate to this latitude—the lecture, not the snow. We heard one young man say that he couldn't see "head or tail" to it. A minute after, he inquired where Boston was! No wonder, he couldn't see head or tail to it!

Owing to the state of the roads the attendance was meager.

"Order Reigns In"—Wellsboro! Not as it reigned in Warsaw, but in the will of the people. Rum did not win, neither did the petty advocates of moderate temperance. Our readers will probably be checked out of some interesting

local items—rowdy demonstrations, thieving and brawling for instance—for another year, if not for ever; but there is never a loss without some small gain, and in this case the gain will not be a small one.

As one of many, we undertake to tender the Honorable Bench of this county, the sincere thanks of the order-loving citizens of Wellsboro and vicinity for their prompt refusal to grant licenses in our midst. The disappointed petitioners will thank them too, before another year comes round, perhaps, when the increasing respectability of this village shall become still more apparent under the continued rule of Temperance and Order. True, the seller in prospective will have fewer coppers and what is better, fewer curses. And then, our neighbors who take a social "nip" now and then, will have more money to spend, for papers and books, the contents of which will, unlike those in decanters, clove and strengthen, instead of casting down into the gutter-filth of inebriation.

Only five licenses, we understand, were granted in this whole county—with a population of nearly 30,000! This makes but one for every 6000 souls.

Now give us the next county on the list, somebody. Tioga doesn't want all the glory.

CLAIRVOYANCE.—We would call attention to the bills of Messrs. Teed & Hampton, now stopping in this village. We are somewhat acquainted with these gentlemen, and have no hesitation in pronouncing Mr. T., the most powerful psychological and mesmeric operator we have ever met. Dr. Hampton is one of the best physiological and descriptive clairvoyants in the country, describing diseases and prescribing remedies with extraordinary accuracy and effect. They wish to get up a class of twenty or thirty, or even a smaller one, at a merely nominal fee, in order to prepare for a public exhibition sometime next week. Dr. Hampton may be consulted at all reasonable hours at Claver's Hotel.

Position of the Know-Nothings.

The earlier movements of the Know-Nothing organization were of a character to command respect if they did not command approbation. They discarded the machinery of caucuses, and set up no claims as a political organization. If among the candidates in the field, they could find a man of undoubted qualifications for the office he aspired; who was American in feeling and despised the miserable habit of counting the foreign vote, they gave him their suffrages, without regard to his party allegiance. If there were no such candidate in the field they silently put up and elected one of that stamp, from their own number.

Later—as in New York and Massachusetts—a different policy has been adopted. Not satisfied with success won thus unobtrusively; aspiring to measure their strength with existing organizations, and having in a measure fallen under the management of some of those hungry seekers after office, who infest every party, they essay to take the field as a political organization, and refuse to sustain any but their own nominees, no matter what measure of qualification embodied in the candidates already before the public. This is a fatal step. It opens the way and invites the designing to work their own selfish purposes through the organization. Thus, what was objectionable merely on account of its intolerance and anti-republican character at first, has become infinitely more so, by reason of its insolent, dictatorial spirit, and its insufferable corruption. Worse still; if the expositions of the National organs of the Order are to be taken as authoritative, it has fallen into the hands of the South, and is to be used as an engine to drive from the Councils of the Nation the antagonists of Slavery, and to crush out the love of Freedom in the hearts of the people. Surely it cannot be that the honest masses who were led by hatred of Popish bigotry and oppression into the order, will lend themselves to a bigotry and despotism infinitely more perilous to free institutions.—*Summit (O.) Beacon*.

An Extraordinary Balloon Ascent—by a Woman.

At Easton, Northampton county, last week, Miss Louisa Bradley ascended in a balloon.

She knew very little about the business she had undertaken, or of the efforts likely to be produced upon the balloon when it reached the rarified atmosphere. The balloon was an old one, and the silk had become rotten. When she reached this height she states that the balloon, which was not entirely filled when it left the earth, expanded, when the gas began to escape at the seams, and became very offensive to her. This alarmed her, and she pulled the valve rope, but permitted but little gas to escape, as she was afraid she would fall into the Delaware. In a few moments after this the balloon collapsed, and fell for the distance of six hundred or seven hundred feet. It seems that when the balloon burst it was torn into ribbands, except the lower part or the neck of the balloon. So completely was the upper part torn to pieces, that large pieces of silk blew away, and the remainder hung down even below the car. When she had fallen this distance the neck of the balloon suddenly blew up, turning inside out and catching against the net work, formed a parachute, which bore her safely to the ground. She came down in an open field, and so lightly did the car strike the earth that she says there was not the slightest jar. Her presence of mind was extraordinary. After this fearful fall, and when the balloon was still descending with terrific velocity, she threw out her sand bags and anchor, and then with the utmost calmness commenced singing a hymn. She alighted about four miles from this place. The trip must be considered a quick one, as at a quarter past 12 she rode into town safe and in fine spirits.

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.—We believe this to be an excellent preparation, and shall therefore not hesitate to recommend it to our readers. It has been tested in numerous instances in this city, and in several which have come under our own observation, it has accomplished what other popular medicines and some of our most skillful physicians had failed to accomplish—a perfect cure, in case of (apparently) confirmed consumption. It is the only medicine for this disease which we can heartily recommend.—*Temperance Advocate, Prov. R. I.*

A GRAPHIC SMILE.—Henry Ward Beecher says that an honest man inside of a Know-Nothing lodge has "the peculiar advantage that flies have in a spider's web—the privilege of losing their legs, or buzzing without flying, and being eaten at leisure by big-bellied spiders.

Freedom Loses Either Way.

The citizens of Ray County, Missouri, in the resolutions adopted at their County Court House, on the 1st instant, denounce the sending of emigrants into Kansas by New England Societies, as a movement calculated to "thwart the natural and legitimate operation of the Kansas Law," and as an attempt to "overpower those who are attracted to Kansas from Missouri, and other States, by the ordinary and proper inducements of emigration."

Kansas is bounded on the south and east, that is to say, on the two sides from which alone it can receive emigration, by slaveholding communities. The "natural and legitimate operation" of this state of things, is to introduce Slavery into Kansas, just as the same state of things introduced Slavery into Arkansas. Nothing can be more "unnatural" more "illegitimate," or we may add, unless exertions be made by the North of a more energetic character than any we have yet witnessed, more inevitable. Among "the ordinary and proper inducements to emigration," none being more obvious or more powerful than proximity, it must be confessed to be clear that the natural destiny of Kansas under Douglas's bill was to become a slaveholding Territory.

In this condition of things, certain societies in New England, and elsewhere, undertook to keep Slavery out of Kansas by sending free emigrants there. Their doing so is made the pretext in Missouri, for sending in a horde of interlopers to control the election of a delegate to Congress, and the same thing may be repeated, in the election of the Territorial Legislature. Gen. Stringfellow, of Missouri, tauntingly informs us that "Missouri is nearer to Kansas than Boston is."

It costs less to send ten bullocks from Missouri to flood the ballot-boxes with spurious votes, than it does to transport one emigrant from New England to settle in Kansas.

On the whole, it would seem to be the present opinion of the slave-drivers that Freedom must lose this battle either way. If we leave the character of Kansas to be determined by the character of the emigration naturally to be expected from its position and neighborhood, it will fall without resistance into the arms of slavery. If we attempt to contest the ground, we discover that Boston is a long distance off, while Missouri is close at hand; that even in a fair struggle to throw in honest emigrants and settlers, Missouri has prodigious advantages over New England; while in the game of throwing a pro tempore voters to control elections, Missouri has the field wholly to herself.

We did not create, and are not responsible for, the facts which make up this picture, but only describe them. If it has an unenviable and disagreeable aspect, it is our duty to look at it, nevertheless, just as it is. We never doubted, and no intelligent man ever doubted, that the sole object of repealing the Missouri Compromise was to extend Slavery into Kansas. The stupidity, which could be gulled by the assertion that the South was contending merely for a principle, and not for practical results, is too deplorable to be reasoned with. The dominant politicians of the South never had, never can have, any principle, save and except that of spreading Slavery wherever they can force it by fair means or foul.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

The Doctrine of Instructions.

The instructions of the Michigan Legislature to her Senators relative to the Missouri Compromise and the Nebraska act, give them a great deal of trouble. They not only speak in terms of disapproval of its past course upon the question involved in the latter measure, but they direct him to bring in a bill for the re-formation of the compromise and to urge its adoption by his vote and vote.

Of course the General will not obey, for the democratic doctrines of substance to instructions apply only to cases in which democratic Legislatures instruct opposition Senators in which contingency the latter are in duty bound to obey or resign. But when the contrary of this happens, as the Democrats has to do to assert that the majority who give the instructions are Abolitionists, or higher or lower law men, that they are too tall or too short, loose constructionists or misconstructionists, anything, so that they represent opinions and feelings of the persons instructed. Senator Wall commenced the game of quibbling and evasion. He would neither obey nor resign, because the Whig Legislature which gave the instructions did not believe in the duty of obedience. Cass was instructed in 1850 to go for the Wilmot Proviso. He repudiated because it was not convenient to obey. Polk, of Ct. was last year instructed to resist the re-formation of the Missouri Compromise. He repudiated because the Legislature, though just elected on that very question, was composed of factions. And so they go, quibbling, prevaricating, and at last breaking through the meshes of the nets which they have set to catch their opponents.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD COLLISION IN A SNOW STORM.—A MAN'S HEAD CUT OFF BY THE LOCOMOTIVE.—A serious collision between the freight train and the night express train from Hornellsville took place on Saturday morning, between Atica and Londen, on the New York City road. The engine of the freight train had been stopped in consequence of the fire-pan filling with snow, and extruding the steam. The train standing on a partial curve, and the wind and snow blowing a gale, it was not discovered by the express train until nearly upon it. The engine blew a terrific blast from its whistle, but the alarm was of no avail; they ran into the freight train, breaking up its passenger car, killing a man by the name of Quigley, and breaking the arm of another man. No other injury.

When the whistle was sounded, Quigley ran to the door, and was in the act of looking out upon the coming train, when the locomotive caught him as it swept forward, cutting his head off, and casting it some distance on the other side of the track. He was in the employ of the road as trackman. The broken car was removed from the track, the boiler supplied with water, and both trains were soon under way. The conductor of the freight train had sent back his flagmen, but the air being so full of snow they were not seen.—*Buffalo Republic, Jan. 20.*

Evil Consequences of Free Trade.

Our Yankee nation imported, in 1853, very nearly \$288,000,000 worth of goods. Of these \$31,000,000 were for goods free of duty, and presumed to be of a character that could not be produced at home. But how many millions remain that were paid for articles that American soil might have been the better for producing, and American hands are idle for the lack of labor on? Why should not Americans have the privilege of growing such products as no country can surpass her in, and American hands have the job of moulding them to the shape of our wants!—Why is this? Because it is easier to trade than to work—to handle the yard stick than the spade—the pen than the rake. If there is anything characteristic of our nation it is the propensity to trade. To dig and plough, to sow and reap are slow methods of making money; yet the earth is the source of wealth, and the tilling the earth the process to obtain it. The farm or the dairy do not make such quick and large returns as the factory or the machine shop; and who cares for health or moral purity when money can be made—without which there can be no show? We shall never cease to be a dependent and debtor nation till we are driven back to the soil as the treasure-house of true national wealth. Let us have agricultural schools, and set all our idle boys and youth to felling the forest, turning the furrow, putting in the seed, and gathering the fruits, and nations that now come to us as domineering creditors, will come as dependent customers. The enormous frauds which disgrace our lands—the insatiable desire of office, and the corruption which is so unblushingly acknowledged by those who hold it—the general laxity in the tone of moral sentiment, and the obligation of virtue, and the recklessness with which life and property are sacrificed, all have their source directly or remotely in the hot haste of men to be rich. We are quite sure that to overcome the prevailing aversion to agricultural labor is a most important and philanthropic object, and that to this end schools for scientific and practical husbandry should be numerous, cheap and attractive to the young.—*N. Y. Courier & Enquirer*.

NO CHANGE IN THE CABINET.—The Washington Union of a late date, has the following authoritative notice:

It is well known that we do not attempt to contradict the numberless falsehoods daily sent, or which purport to be sent by telegram or otherwise, from this city in relation to the President and the different members of his cabinet; but the intention of Mr. Guthrie to resign is announced with such an assurance of reliable authority, that we deem it proper to say that it is without the slightest foundation in truth. Such an idea was never entertained for one moment either by the President or the Secretary, and we may as well add, that the rumors which have gained circulation within the last eighteen months with regard to contemplated changes in the cabinet, and all rumors of dismissions between its different members, or between any one of them and the President, are each and all absolutely and entirely groundless.

INNOCENT AS A CHILD.—A New Orleans paper makes the following statement:—

"During the last year there were expended something near \$30,000,000 for intoxicating drinks in this State; \$20,000,000 of this was expended in New Orleans alone.—There were made about 16,000 arrests, directly and indirectly, or struck down in the city and State; about 100 deaths by chlorine bromine, about 75 murders, besides a host of other crimes. Over 1,000 have been reduced to vagrancy and pauperism; no resources of the State have been crimped; thousands have been kept out of employment; society at large has been seriously and deeply damaged in all its relations; the wealth and energies of some of our best citizens have been destroyed and ruined in life. All this has been done, and more, and yet we have men who tell us that 'the rumster is an innocent as a child.'

Anti-Slavery Resolutions.

Mr. Lott, of Warren county, has introduced into the House, anti resolutions, instructing our Senators and requesting our representatives in Congress to vote against the admission into the Union of every State whose constitution permits slavery, and to join every constitutional effort to check the advance of this national evil. These are important resolutions, and will likely lead to an interesting discussion. We believe they embody the sentiments of a large majority of the members of the Legislature, and however bitterly they may be opposed by a few "dough-faces," they will no doubt pass. The verdict of the people at the late election was so unequivocal and emphatic against the further extension of slavery, that the Legislature will only be acting in accordance with the popular will in adopting Mr. Lott's resolutions.—*Warrensburg Herald*.

Well done, Mr. Lott. Now bring the members to a vote and let us see whether anything was settled by the late election.—*We are the Herald* in its belief that these resolutions are in accordance with the popular will, and we rejoice most heartily that Mr. Lott has so promptly proposed the remedy for a very profligate sin. No more slave States. Let the free States adopt this position and they will prevent the further extension of slavery, and it is the only thing that will do it.

Under-report Journal.

THE SAD RESULT OF IGNORANCE.—The Detroit Advertiser relates an instance of an ox being killed and a sled broken to pieces by a railroad car, and all because the ox could not understand French. The team, consisting of one English and one French ox, drawing a heavy load of wood, and driven by a French driver, was crossing the track when the express train of cars made its appearance. The driver, in great excitement, immediately ordered his oxen to "chuck" (the French for "haw.") The French ox understood him, and turning off the track saved himself from injury; but the English ox, having never studied the languages, pressed further on, and was instantly killed.—This case should be a warning to farmers to save their oxen properly educated.

A YANKEE HAS INVENTED A MACHINE FOR extracting the lies from quack advertisements. Some of them are never seen after entering the machine, as only the truth comes out.

Case of Booth and Rycraft.

From The Milwaukee Free Democrat, Feb. 3.

On Saturday, the 3d inst., the Supreme Court in session at Madison, on the petition of John Rycraft and Sherman M. Booth, unanimously discharged them from custody under sentence from Judge Miller, on a charge of violating the Fugitive Slave Act. The Judges delivered separate opinions. Justice Crawford, while adhering to his opinion of last summer, in favor of the constitutionality of the Fugitive Act of 1850, gave an able opinion, affirming the insufficiency of an indictment to warrant an imprisonment, because it charged us with no offense known to the laws of any State, or of the United States; that as the allegation in the indictment did not aver that Joshua Glover was a fugitive slave, it was the same as if it was alleged that we had aided the rescue of Joshua Glover, a free citizen of Wisconsin, and that the sentence of Judge Miller, under that indictment, was as truly a nullity as if he had sentenced us arbitrarily, without conviction, without a trial, and without even notifying us that we were charged with any offense. And in this opinion of Justice Crawford, all the members of the Court concurred.

This decision of the Court was peculiarly soothing to the vanity of E. G. Ryan, Esq., who boasted, after the conviction of Rycraft, that he had drawn the indictments, and claimed that the conviction under it was owing to his legal skill in framing it.

Chief Justice Whiton affirmed his former opinion, that the Act was unconstitutional, because it annulled the writ of habeas corpus and the right of trial by jury. He also took the ground that a law might be unconstitutional in some parts and constitutional in other parts, so that a conviction might legally take place under it, but whether this was such a case he would not inquire. It was sufficient to rest the discharge on the grounds affirmed by Justice Crawford.

Justice Smith gave a long and very able opinion, affirming all he had said in his first opinion, denying the power of Congress to legislate on the subject, reviewing the whole question of State Sovereignty and State Rights, affirming the power of the State Courts to enforce the writ of habeas corpus upon United States officers, and to inquire into the legality of the proceedings of the Federal Courts, as freely as into the proceedings of any other Court. The prisoners were ordered to be discharged from custody.

Office-Seeking in Pennsylvania.

The Leisings Chronicle, contains a letter from H. Hirsprung, written, we presume, by Mr. Hiecock, the now Deputy Superintendent of Common Schools, from which we make the following extract, in relation to the doings of the office-seekers and the Governor:

"Gov. Pollock has been closely besieged by throngs of applicants for office. They have been as persistent and pertinacious as gophers in the dog-days, but have thinned off within a day or two. There are over 1,000 applicants for the 20 offices at his disposal.—Some of them have discovered, by this time, that he possesses firmness and independence of character, as well as honesty of purpose, and warm-hearted cordiality, and that he is not disposed to shrink from the responsibility thrown upon him, or suffer the helm to escape from his own control. Circumstances have also developed the fact, that he will not knowingly appoint any imbecile, or profligate swearer, or person of otherwise ignominious character, to any office in his gift.—One individual destroyed his prospects at once by presenting his application in person, while intoxicated. Another used his own appointment in language of more strength than politeness, and had his name stricken from the list, as soon as he left. Still another had made a favorable judgment in the executive mansion, when the rejection of a quatuor Mormal arrangements suddenly settled the point adverse. Others who have attempted to dictate and coerce, have not found him quite so wax-nose-impressible as his benign countenance had led them to suppose.—These casual indications of what may be expected, I presume, will not be distasteful to the public generally, however unexpected and unpalatable to smaller circles."

Popular Sovereignty.

Congress has just given an evidence of the little value it puts upon the doctrine of "popular sovereignty," as witness this item from the proceedings of the House:

"Mr. Cutting, from the Judiciary committee, introduces a resolution annulling the action of the Minnesota Legislature, in chartering the Minnesota and Northwestern Railway and Transit Co., was accompanied. In the debate on this bill, it was said that the Governor and Secretary were to be largely benefited by these grants. In further, that the District Attorney had already been removed for his action in the matter. The resolution passed."

The passage of this resolution—there were but 16 votes against it—strikes down completely the doctrine of the last session of Congress, that the people of the territories have the only exclusive right to make their laws and as the character of their institutions. These were the arguments used to force through Congress that notorious act, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and by which it was attempted to be sustained before the people; and it is pertinent to inquire why, if the people of the territories are sovereign, and have the right to do their own legislation, they cannot be permitted to charter their own railroad companies. The present Congress, which is the putative father of the popular sovereignty doctrine, could undertake to annul the action of the Minnesota legislature, as if its power to do so was unquestioned and unquestionable!

We think Congress did right in this particular instance. We have always contended that it has power not only to legislate for the territories, but to annul whatever territorial legislation may meet its disapproval. We are glad, therefore, to see Congress come back to the exercise of its legitimate functions; and if the Kansas legislature should undertake to legislate slavery into that territory, we shall expect the next Congress to annul its action with that freedom and unanimity with which the present Congress has visited the territorial action of the Minnesota legislature.—*Pittsburg Gazette*.

RAVENS SOBER UNDER FOOT, JUST NOW.