

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Harrisburg Wednesday March 25, 1855

public works. The House proceeded to the consideration of the special order, the bill for the sale of the main line of the "public" works, in committee of the whole (Mr. Wright in the chair.)

The question pending, was on the amendment offered by Mr. Strong, as a substitute for the original bill.

Mr. Strong moved to amend the first section of the bill, by striking out "ninety days" and inserting "sixty days" as the time, after the passage of this bill, within which the works should be exposed for sale.

Mr. M'Calmont was opposed to the amendment. He could not see the design of reducing the period for notice, unless to prevent outside competition. He hoped a good reason would be given for the amendment, if any existed.

Mr. Strong said, he did not care particularly for the amendment. It had been thought best by a large number of gentlemen who had called upon him, as it would be likely to bring about a sale sooner. The amendment did not affect the principle of the bill; but, if adopted, it would permit the offering of the main line for sale six times a year, instead of only four times if the notice required was ninety days.

Mr. M'Calmont thought more time should be given, that no injustice might be done to any interested. The adoption of the amendment would benefit certain parties, but would disadvantage others.

Mr. Frailey thought it better to retain the notice at ninety days. It did not affect the merits of the bill; but the longer the notice, with reasonable limits, the better for the State.

Mr. M'Combs said, the question, though comparatively unimportant, yet might affect the Commonwealth to the amount of a few hundred thousand dollars. The longer the works were retained, the heavier the drafts upon the Treasury.

Mr. Johnson said, but one party could be benefited by the diminished notice, and that was the Pennsylvania railroad company. The amendment would accrue solely to the benefit of that company.

Mr. Strong then withdrew his amendment. Mr. Holcomb moved to amend the first section, by inserting after the word "that" in the fourth line, the words "so much of," and in the same line after the words "public works" the words "as hereinafter mentioned," so that the line would read "advertise a notice, that so much of the main line of the public works as hereinafter mentioned, will be exposed to public sale, &c."

Mr. Holcomb said, his object in offering the amendment was to shape the bill so that it would protect the interests of the upper division of the canal. He thought those interests would be endangered, if the canal, from Duncan's Island to Columbia, fell into the hands of a tyrannical company. The North Branch division was now about completed, and deserved the protection of the State.

Mr. Strong objected to the proviso of another member from Bradford, (Mr. Holcomb.) He doubted the policy of holding the part of the canal name.

The amendment was not agreed to. Mr. Johnson moved to amend the first section, by inserting after the word "advertise," in the second line, the words "daily, until the day of sale," and inserting after "newspaper," the words "of extensive circulation;" which was agreed to.

The first section of the amendment was then adopted. Mr. Strong moved to amend the third section, by striking out all after the word "that," in the twelfth line, and insert "that the Governor is hereby authorized to grant letters patent, incorporating a company under this act, under the name of the Main Line railroad and canal company, subject to all the privileges and restrictions of the general railroad law: Provided, That no bid shall be accepted, unless the bidders deposit with the Governor, or some person appointed by him for that purpose, the sum of \$100,000 in cash, or bonds of the State, to be forfeited if the terms of sale are not complied with."

Mr. Strong said, \$100,000 might not be so easily raised; and few persons would wish to lose the \$50,000 which are required to be deposited. It was not a matter of much consequence, and he cared little about it.

Mr. Thorn thought \$50,000 sufficient, as a forfeit.

Mr. M'Calmont wished to give all bidders a fair chance—big and little—and was disposed to think the sum originally named, sufficient.

Mr. Dunning thought the deposit of \$100,000, a liberal offer on the part of the Commonwealth; and if bidders can't afford to raise that sum for a deposit, they can't afford to buy the works.

After some further informal remarks from various members, the amendment was accepted.

Mr. M'Calmont moved to amend the third section by striking out in the first line the words "any railroad, canal or other," so that the line would read, "that it shall be lawful for any person or persons, or railroad or canal company, &c.," which was agreed to.

Mr. M'Calmont moved to amend in the fourth line by striking out seven millions as the minimum price of the main line, and inserting ten Millions.

Mr. M'Connell hoped the amendment would prevail. The works were much out of repair, and would require a large investment to place them in good working order. He thought they would bring about nine millions, with the repeal of the tonnage tax of the Pennsylvania railroad. He believed the people would as soon see that company buy them as any other parties. The people were anxious to have these works sold. They had worked them so long as to grow tired of their ownership; and he wished to gratify their wishes.

Mr. Smith, of Philadelphia, said this proposition would prevent a sale.

After some further remarks the Committee rose to sit again on Friday, 30th, the Committee sat on that day and adjourned one week.

The Green Bay Advocate says that an Indian was found dead, from the effect of whiskey freezing in his stomach.

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. C. G. B. E. D. S. T. O.

All Business and other Communications must be addressed to the Editor at Wellsborough.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, April 20, 1855.

REDUCTION IN TERMS.

The Publishers of the AGITATOR respectfully inform the Citizens of Tioga County, that they will furnish the paper hereafter, to those who pay ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE, at ONE DOLLAR.

See V. Case's new advertisements on 3d page.

Mrs. Rubyn and daughter sing to-night at the Court House. Give them a paying audience.

The Legislative Liquor Law has passed both branches of the Legislature in New York. Hurra, for Prohibition.

Sci. Fa. has a very interesting chapter on the Natural History of Politicians this week. Hope to hear from him again on the same subject.

Winter still lingers in the lap of Spring.

We hope Spring will "spunk" the loiterer and set him down, before many days.

Connecticut has gone "Sam" all over. There was no Governor elected by the people, but the Legislature is, K. N.

The venerable fathers of this borough have decided that plank walks shall be the "understanding" in these diggings hereafter. That's the talk. Their names will go down to posterity 340—"on the plank." Make up your minds to get abused gentlemen, but we know somebody who will stand by you.

We cannot accept our neighbor's proposition to show up the wireworkers of the democratic party in this county, just now. A friend says it looks like a black mail operation. Why can't you let the troubled ghost of the departed democracy rest, Colonel? Do rest satisfied with that double ration of government pay, and forbear touching the bank pockets of disappointed politicians. We'll hold our breath while the EAGLE screams, though, if you are anxious, friend.

The Conflict of Beliefs.

Perhaps we are about to tread on dangerous ground, yet not dangerous so much from its nature as from the danger of the timid thinkers, who conclude without reason that it is wrong to investigate the laws that enter into and govern mental manifestations.

It is evident that the world is just entering upon its ismatic age. Theories are as plenty as blackberries in the most prolific season, though not generally so luscious and tempting. The religious world is especially distracted with isms, nor is the social and political far behind.

In common with thousands, we believe that the law of ism is the world's great saving ordinance—that through its operation the world of Intelligence is kept in equilibrium. Not that we believe in every theory or ism, but because in those times least marked by them we search in vain for the signs, every step forward thus far, has been gained through what was to the established doctrine of its time, heresy and schism. So Christianity, which has conferred such signal blessings upon mankind, in its infancy was frowned upon by the self-righteous Pharisee and pronounced unclean by the meanness of the tribe of Judah. It was the first and greatest ism that ever came to frighten the powerful and wickedly ambitious children of men.

After the civil and political greatness of Rome had passed away, and the mightiest despotism that the world ever saw sat in her courts with kings and princes for mentals, dispensing empires and principalities as men dispense bubbles to children—there was an age wherein there was no threat for isms. The Christian world had but one altar; that was at Rome. Thither, urged on by the most absurd and dangerous superstition, the world went up to worship. The social world was swallowed up in the whirlpool of fanaticism. The cement of society was dissolved; the learned preyed upon the ignorant, the strong upon the weak—all without hope of redress to the victims. Humanity led a fabled life and hugged its chains in the filth of its filthy dungeon.

We ask the timid thinkers who tremble at the prevalence of isms in this Present, to turn back and look at an age when there was no appreciable conflict of belief, and the civil and religious systems stretched downward toward the gulf of Absolutism. When Rome was the central sun, around which the mightiest empires, as satellites, revolved continually. When she alone broke Christian bread, and pursued with a terrible vengeance whomsoever should presume to question her authority. When there was no outspoken difference of opinion, and Rome sat and waxed more and more despotic. And when a schismatic spark caught in the mountain fastnesses of Switzerland, blazed in southern France, in Germany and England, mark what a torrent of Anathemas leaped from the lips of Rome against the new ism! From working to establish Christianity upon a firm basis, she came at last to torture, and put to death with the most unrefined cruelty, those who dared to think outside of prescribed bounds. And this power was accumulated in an age the most barren of isms of any since the dawn of the Christian Era. That was the deep night preceding the dawn of the ismatic day.

Luther, Melancthon, Zwingli, Wickliffe and a goodly host of fearless, earnest spirits, dissipated Rome's dream of supreme rule. They planted the tree of Schism, and to-day it overshadows our aged places and stretches its sheltering arms to the world's extreme. This is the tree of free thought. Luther was a free thinker in the best sense of the term: "Had he been a slave thinker he would have accepted the dogmas of Rome without daring to question their infallibility. It is so in this age—those who 'prove all things and hold fast that which is good,' and the advocates of liberty of thought and action. Had Luther's lot been cast in this age, he would have been a reformer, and as obnoxious to the 'powers that be,' as he was to the powers that were.

Experience (history) teaches that a conflict of opinions is essential to the healthy progress of the race. After the first fever-dust of the Reformation had subsided and the Anglican Church was organized, the Puritans began to be considered as heretics and schismatics. But Puritanism saved the Anglican Church from the excesses that disgraced and worked the ruin of Rome. And the stern Puritan became in his turn the minister of Cruelty, and Persecution. He banished Roger Williams and hung the peacable Quaker, all for opinion's sake. He became intolerant because he had a season of supremacy; and every sect or party in Christendom would ultimately erect itself into a despotism, only give it an undisciplined supremacy.

We regard the multiplication of sects and parties as providential. No new time comes upon us that does not bear about it the unmistakable evidence of thought in some new direction. New sects and new

parties generally have an independent thinker or thinkers—those who do a little thinking by the "cut and try" rule, as well as by the "saguro rule," now and then, as a student. Moralism is the most applicable of all that this prolific age has produced. Probably, but it was no sluggish mind that measured the public credulity so admirably as did the founder of that singular sect.

As a general thing new parties and sects spring out of the excess and luxury of the old. This is a beneficent order in the chain of providences that excess in every shape shall bridle itself or work its own ruin by calling into action opposite forces. This is true of sects, parties and governments—everywhere differing in degree and duration only. Even gross Paganism has its factions, which, though not differing so widely because not so intelligently, as Christendom, serve to mitigate the rigors of superstitious barbarism. It is not a little gratifying to observe that the ratio of increase in sects and parties corresponds exactly with the degree of culture attained, in every community. In pagan lands, seldom more than two factions exist. Mohammedanism presents more strongly marked divisions, and Christendom is an aggregation of factions. The Catholic portion of Christendom, which is by far the least intelligent, presents a remarkable oneness of opinion. But the Protestant portion, to which the world is indebted for its wonderful progress in all that present distinguishes it, is made up of an almost innumerable host of sects, which is daily being added to. Thus, progress and schism ever go hand in hand.

The paltry truckling of politicians for the foreign vote, gave birth to the Know-Nothing movement. Prospective and rigid as its tenets were, they were no more than the abut that called them into existence. Like nearly all reformatory movements it went to an extreme equal and opposite to that it was ordained to combat. It will continue to combat that evil until a modified form, until it is entirely rooted out. When the Know-Nothing platform was found unjustly proscriptive in some of its features, that platform was remodeled and presented in a modified and less objectionable form, and christened anew. Thus arose the latest born order—Know-Somethings.

The subservency of the North to the South gave birth to the Garrisonian school of Abolitionists. Ultra as that school is, it was the legitimate offspring of the slavishness of the North. And that little band of ultraists have stood like patriots and martyrs, a fearless advance guard of the great army of freedom. They have sacrificed everything but Truth and Honor to maintain the cause of the weak against the injustice of the mighty; and though the masses will scarcely reach the extreme position that Spartan band has chosen, they will assuredly reach that middle ground where the last great battle for freedom must be fought.

Amid all this apparent confusion, the fierce contention of factions and the angry jarring in Church and State, there is a broad field of celestial blue futureward. To the hopeful there is abundant evidence of "THE GOOD TIME COMING."

THE BOND FREE—The latest slave case, and an important one, as the claimant is a Christian (?) minister, has been decided in favor of Freedom. The alleged fugitive was a girl of sixteen years, a chattel of the very Rev. Henry M. Dennison. She was taken into Ohio by him, and the Probate Court declared her free. Two weeks subsequently she was arrested by the U. S. Marshal at the instance of the Rev. master, and carried before the U. S. Commissioner who confirmed the previous decision and set her free once more.

As the prosecutor in this case is a Gospel minister—an "unworthy servant of the Lord," as he would express it, (and no sane man will dispute him) we are bound to believe that Christianity south of Mason & Dixon, and the doctrine promulgated by the humble Nazarene, have nothing in common. We read that he commanded his disciples to wash one another's feet; whereas, the Southern Clergy understand it to have been commanded that each should chastise an immortal soul to perform such menial service. No wonder Slavery is considered a divine institution at the South, since men claiming to be God's ministers by precept and example teach men so. So long as they put the Bible to the bad use of bolstering up Slavery they need not deplore the progress of infidelity. The Mormon can justify polygamy by the same authority, but the slaveholding minister abhors (open) polygamy. Of course he does.

Ministers must be careful. If they prostitute the Bible to aid in the perpetration of this country's greatest crime, they will be responsible for the reaction that must inevitably come, when the masses will cut loose from the bible and its false expounders at one and the same time, and the latter will sink down to their true level.

Our neighbor is informed that we are not permitted to give the name of his hunker friend. He would object to being exposed to the glare of the Colonel's "foot-lights." Would prefer the subdued light of the other extremity.

Our neighbor is getting quite moderate. But he says that our claims to consistency must appear very peculiar to those who know the contrary by association. Now we do not think so meanly of any gentleman with whom we have been associated, as to believe he would confide the story of his grievances, if he has any, to our neighbor. Moreover, we have always in our dealings with men, dealt honorably and fairly. And in proof of this, we invite any gentlemen with whom we have been associated to come forward like a man and accuse us face to face; if he has suffered wrong at our hands. We court investigation, rather than shrink from it. For we know how contemptibly unjust is the insinuation of our neighbor.

Our neighbor uses a column to prove that our course last fall was very inconsistent. We thank him for it. He has proved nothing except that, like all angry men, he has wasted a little passion in a great many words. We reply briefly:

One principal reason why we placed the names of Darius and Smyser at our masthead, was because we were requested to do so. It was expected at that time that a Fusion Convention would be had and a ticket outside of the old party lines, so far as the two offices referred to were concerned, at least, be got before the people. We were requested to give the free-soil ticket a place, sometime afterward, and had it all set out in "bold face" per request; but its withdrawal occurred before publication day. Had that ticket been in the field we must have been doubly guilty in our neighbor's estimation, for we should have opposed no man on it except Mr. Potts.

We never required any candidate to pledge his vote for Pollock and his associates on the ticket, unconditionally; but in preference to Bigler and his associates. Our neighbor admits this. What a laudible neighbor! We rank no better evidence of our consistency than he gives in the admission, Messrs. Darius and Smyser were not out chiefs, but we preferred them before their opponents and frankly avowed that preference. We never advocated either except as preferring them before their opponents. And never, as our neighbor falsely asserts, opposed them in any way, shape, or manner of place, with tongue or pen; and we certainly did not vote for their opponents on the democratic ticket.

Our neighbor does not deny our charges

COMMUNICATIONS.

Common Schools—Examination of Teachers.

The County Superintendent of Tioga Co., would announce the following appointments for the week commencing Monday the 16th inst. He will be glad to see the Directors of the several Districts and all the Teachers in the vicinities of these Districts at these appointments.

Farmington—Monday April 16th, at the school house near Wm. Butlers, at 1 o'clock P. M. Elkland—Tuesday April 17th, 1 o'clock P. M. Lawrenceville—Wednesday—April 18th, 1 o'clock P. M.—Tioga—Thursday April 19th, 1 o'clock P. M.—Middlebury—Friday April 20th, at the school house in Keeneyville, at 1 o'clock P. M. Wellsboro, for Charleston, Delmar and Wellsboro, Saturday April 21st, at 1 o'clock P. M.

J. F. CALKINS, County Superintendent.

For the Agitator. ERRATA.

My last article in print varies, in several particulars, from the manuscript, as I understand it; but, seeing that you printers have a hard time of it, at best, I will presume the fault to be mine. One variation needs correction: For, "the specks of freedom"—read "that speaks for."

IGNAVIA. Those Doth hearted Dough Faces, whose knees smote together in the days of Union saving,—are they extant now? Shall we fear from them again soon? We ought not to leave them out of our estimates; for, one of their votes counts as much as the best man's, and their hearts are not very wrong when the terror is out.

There is (intended) to be another grand "caving in" before long; and the creatures, treated of under the next two heads, are snoring round among the people, with onions in their pockets, and with unnatural longitudes of face. Of course they are trying to organize something, and do contemplate the Doc-heated as a part of the material. We shall see the thing placed in marching order soon, if they meet with sufficient encouragement. But will they? Have not our timorous folks been learning a thing or two in the last few years? Have they not seen the Ass in a Lion's skins, and heard him roar, and seen his ears stick out? Will the same men, either forget that it is an Ass, or elect to be frightened in that sort a second time?

Again: the counterfeit can not have the field to itself this time, or ever again. There is a real lion in the field, a real danger at our doors; to wit, subordination to the most hideous tyranny that disgraces the civilized world; that only asks a reasonable time to appropriate to itself all the power of the State, and all the free agency of the citizens. One would think this danger a competent stimulus to any timorous man. Just consider. This great danger—this tyranny, threatens that, if we don't submit to it,—What then?—that it will take itself out of our way. And it is the "taking itself away," which our Onon mongers think to scare us with. Well, let them work at it; and may they have a pleasant time of it; so long as hope can make it so. But the thing won't work twice. It has been used up, and has lost its power over the most timid. If you catch a man seeming to be "under conviction" of this terror, set him down as a stoit-pigeon.

Private letters frequently let us behind the curtain better than those written for the public eye, and so we make the following extract from one lately received by a friend of ours, which contains encouraging information as to the heart of the people everywhere.

The Ohio people are enforcing their law, which is some better than ours, and not much either, but I hear cheering accounts every where of its good effects. Yesterday at the hotel table I heard two men talking. Said one to the other, who had just come to town, "has stopped drinking." "For how long?" asked the other. "Ever since they have been enforcing the law he can't get it, as he is known to be a drunkard, so he has been sober for six weeks." They would do well by the Maine Law, if they had it here, since they do so well with the half way affair they have got. They are trying for a Maine Law for next year.

The antislavery feeling is very strong here, much stronger than ever before. I shall rejoice henceforth in every perpetration of Congressional rascality; since it seems to mead the people wonderfully. I vote a vote of thanks to S. Douglas, for his great missionary work, in dosing the people with broken contracts until they are cured of much of their old foggyism. There are a perfect flood of anti-slavery emigrants from this region about to start for Kansas on the first of April. Preachers preach, and everybody talks about it. Two furiously anti-slavery ministers go with them to evangelize the heathen there. One of them said to me the other day, "We are going to settle along the Missouri frontier, so as to be strong enough to protect the polls against Missouri innovators." Ministerial that isn't it! That is a specimen of the Church militant—glad of it, though. —Coudersport Journal.

Among the appointments of Harbor masters for New York, we observe the name of C. C. BORLEIGH, a abolition lecturer, a smart, eccentric individual, whose long, flowing lock, brusque beard and blue yarn stockings appearing above his Oxford ties, would mark him anywhere as a "genius." There was a hearty guffaw over his appointment in New York, and the Express says that even "Bullhead" himself, "must have laughed; on being thus turned, from the vicinities of the Abolition Sisters' Home Harbor, to the rough, rowdy, roystering Harbor of New York." —Empire Reg.

A STEAMER FOR THE GREAT SALT LAKE.—The Mormons have built a steamer to ply upon the Great Salt Lake. She is daily waiting for her machinery, which is to be taken out by the first train from St. Louis in the spring. Utah Territory now has a population of 40,000, and that of the Salt Lake City is 12,000.

So called, because of their lack of moral and intellectual development; and their great ambition to have credit for but their advantages, not that they care much about either, except as means of gaining a position to gratify their own jealousy and vanity. I refer to a certain caste of politicians who are not without their samples in Tioga county. They seem not to have advanced, in facts of judgment beyond the coarsest egotism of flunkety; nor, in morals, to any higher virtue or holier duty, than the dog-service of politicians.

ST. SPEAKER Chase of the Montrose Democrat, is proving very satisfactory to the public, what a dishonest par, he has acted heretofore in assisting to elevate such a bad man as David Wilnot to high and responsible stations. —Luxure Union.

Such a combination have we now among us. There is no need of naming them—they are known. Their secret work is of no consequence to expose just now. Their open work is an attempt to besime the character of the Hon. David Wilnot and certain other men who have done good service against their master. I am glad to see such evidence of their folly. Hardly greater infamy could befall David Wilnot than to rise into favor with these creatures. It seems evident that a good providence, is still putting them to a good use.

Reader, if you hear any body complain of the foregoing, please to set him down as either a Boohoo or Yahoo. SCIRE FACIAS.

THE WAR. Storming of the Malakoff Redoubt. Describing the recent storming of a Russian redoubt by the French, The London Times says, editorially: "It appears by the last accounts, that the purpose of the allied Generals is still fixed on the prosecution of the siege by means of a bombardment, followed by an assault. "Two experimental attacks have been made by the French in two different ways, which serve to show that it is not easy to gain an advantage over our indefatigable antagonist. It appears from both the Russian and French reports, that in the night of the 21st of February, the Russians succeeded in throwing up with great rapidity a new redoubt on the right bank of the careening harbor.

Within forty-eight hours Gen. Canrobert resolved to force the new position, and the attack was made before this work had been completed. A large body of French troops, under Gen. Monet, advanced in the night of the 23d, against this redoubt. The Zouaves rushed upon the intrenchments with the utmost bravery, & a sanguinary contest ensued, which cost nearly 500 of these admirable soldiers. The Russian infantry regiments of Selinghinski and Volhynia, under Gen. Kroustchoff, defended the work with great steadiness; and, after a severe combat, the French column was compelled to retreat. This unfortunate result has been attributed to several causes—the disclosure by spies of the French plan of attack; the fire of the Russian vessels in the harbor, and from the surrounding forts; and a want of steadiness on the part of one portion of the assailants, who are said to have left the Zouaves to bear the brunt of the engagement. We are unable to determine with certainty what amount of truth there may be in these statements, but it is undoubtedly true that the Russians appear to have expected the attack, and had occupied the position with a small army rather than with a detachment in proportion to its extent. On the side of the French the forces consisted of only half a brigade of Zouaves, 1,600 strong; two battalions of Mariners, 2,300 strong, and 400 Volunteers, in all less than 4,500 men. The Russians were 10,000 strong, and the unfortunate Zouaves fell into a regular ambuscade. Nevertheless, such was the dauntless vigor of these troops, that they stormed the redoubt and held one-half of it against fearful odds, when the Russians succeeded in outflanking the column; the mariners were separated from the Zouaves, and driven back in all directions, and the latter were completely surrounded by the enemy. A second time they succeeded, by sheer hand to hand fighting, in completing the capture of the redoubt; but no sooner had the Russian infantry fallen back, than the batteries and ships opened a terrific fire upon the work, and rendered it completely untenable. It was not till then that Gen. Monet, who was twice severely wounded, ordered a retreat, and, though the night was disastrous from the loss of many hundred lives, and the failure of the chief object, the gallantry displayed by the Zouaves was such that this repulse may well be ranked with their most brilliant achievements."

A NEW BASIS OF ARRANGEMENT.—According to conversational rumor, the following arrangement, if its details could be adjusted, would meet the view of all parties. Russia would not object to concede the entire freedom of the Black Sea, and the opening of the Danube, as also the permission to erect Turkish forts on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, and would consent to receive Consuls within Sevastopol.