

The President and the People of Kansas—Proclamation.

The President has at last discovered that he has power to use the forces of the United States to secure peace in Kansas, and protect the rights of its actual residents against armed intervention, against the forays of "border ruffians." Had he put forth this power when the people were called upon to elect their delegates to Congress and to their Legislature, Messrs. Aichison and Stringfellow would have been baffled, and there would have been no need for the following proclamation:

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas indications exist that public tranquility and the supremacy of law in the Territory of Kansas are endangered by the reprehensible acts or purposes of persons, both within and without the same, who propose to direct and control its political organization by force: It appearing that combinations have been formed therein to resist the execution of the territorial laws, and thus, in effect, subvert by violence all present constitutional and legal authority: It also appearing that persons residing without the Territory, but near its borders, contemplate armed intervention in the affairs thereof: It also appearing that other persons, inhabitants of remote States, are collecting money, engaging men, and providing arms for the same purpose: And it further appearing that combinations within the Territory are endeavoring, by the agency of emissaries, and otherwise, to induce individual States of the Union to intervene in the affairs thereof, in violation of the Constitution of the United States:

And whereas all such plans for the determination of the future institutions of the Territory, if carried into action from within the same, will constitute the fact of insurrection, and if from without, that of invasive aggression, and will, in either case, justify and require the forcible interposition of the whole power of the General Government, as well to maintain the laws of the Territory, as those of the Union:

Now, therefore, I, Franklin Pierce, President of the United States, do issue this my Proclamation, to command all persons engaged in unlawful combinations against the constituted authority of the Territory of Kansas, or of the United States, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, and to warn all such persons that any attempt at insurrection in said Territory, or aggressive intrusion into the same, will be resisted not only by the employment of the local militia, but also by that of any available forces of the United States; to the end of assuring immunity from violence, and full protection to the persons, property, and civil rights of all peaceful and law-abiding inhabitants of the Territory.

If, in any part of the Union, the fury of faction or fanaticism, inflamed into disregard of the great principles of popular sovereignty which, under the Constitution, are fundamental in the whole structure of our institutions, is to bring on the country the dire calamity of an armament of arms in that Territory, it shall be between lawless violence on the one side and conservative force on the other, wielded by legal authority of the General Government.

I call on the citizens, both of adjoining and of distant States, to abstain from unauthorized intermeddling in the local concerns of the Territory, admonishing them that its organic law is to be executed with impartial justice; that all individual acts of illegal interference will incur condign punishment; and that any endeavor to intervene by organized force will be firmly withstood.

I invoke all good citizens to promote order by rendering obedience to the law; to seek remedy for temporary evils by peaceful means; to discountenance and repulse the counsels and the instigations of agitators and of disorganizers; and to testify their attachment to their country, their pride in its greatness, their appreciation of the blessings they enjoy, and their determination that Republican institutions shall not fail in their hands, by co-operating to uphold the majesty of the laws, and to vindicate the sanctity of the Constitution.

In testimony whereof, I have herewith set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents.

Done at the city of Washington, the eleventh day of February, in the year of our [SEAL.] Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and of the independence of the United States the eightieth.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.
By the President:
W. L. MARCY, Secretary of State.

Murder of Brown in Kansas.

The Kansas correspondent of the N. Y. Times gives the following harrowing account of that most dastardly act of ruffianism, the murder of Brown, near Leavenworth:

"The sight of blood seemed to arouse the fiendish spirit of the barbarous ruffians, and they swore vengeance upon Brown. They prepared themselves with ropes and other implements for hanging, and after sunset on Friday they arranged to lead him out. Some of their party then proposed to lynch him as a compromise, rather than hang him. This was at once approved, when the ruffian sprang upon him with hatchets, axes, knives and clubs, piercing, chopping, mangling kicking, murdering him by inches. He immediately became senseless from the heavy blows upon his head and fell. He soon recovered in part and attempted to rise and escape, but no friend dared to assist him, and they repeated their beastly outrages till he seemed literally cut to pieces. But he was still alive, and while his blood was flowing freely from the liberty of Kansas soil, they roughly seized him and tumbled him into a wagon standing near, of which he was the owner, and drove ten miles to the house of one of the party. Most of them were shamefully drunk by this time, and finding poor Brown still alive, they commenced the insolent mockery of dressing his wounds. But drunk as they were, their compassion was so much excited by his dying groans, that they concluded to carry him to his own family, which was less than a mile distant. A most amia-

ble and devoted wife met him at the door as he was thrown in upon the floor, but human nature was dropping its last hands. She tried to learn of him the cause of so distressing a death, but he only had the strength to say, "They murdered me like cows!" These were his last words. Oh, the chilling reflection that one more precious life has been sacrificed by the most abandoned and malicious band of marauders the earth affords, to preserve Kansas to freedom. The fire of an orthodox hell is too tolerable for those thrice-damned beings whose hearts are callous to all that is hopeful or redeeming in man. How long shall we be left alone to defend our precious rights when the demons at our doors threaten us with devastation and death? They have descended to lower depths of infamy than any civilized people of which history bears us record. For never before do I remember of an instance where a people professing to enjoy the blessings of a Republic government have cut into inch pieces and tortured to death their prisoners taken in war! It is without a parallel. So glaring an event will do more than all that occurred heretofore, to win the sympathies of our friends and expose the calumny of our enemies. Until eternity begins, may history adorn the name of Brown the martyr.

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, : : : EDITOR.

All Business, and other Communications must be addressed to the Editor to insure attention.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.
Thursday Morning, Feb. 21, 1856.
Republican Nominations.

For President in 1856:

Hon. SALMON P. CHASE, of Ohio.

For Vice-President:

Hon. DAVID WILMOT, of Penn'a.

We have delayed the publication of this number of the Agitator in expectation of the return of the Editor, but up to the time of going to press we have received no word from him, and have accordingly been compelled to let it edit itself. The 'stamp act' which was to have gone into effect upon the 14th inst., owing to the fact of there being no paper published from this office upon that day has been postponed one week. Delinquent subscribers will find themselves in consequence of this arrangement, entitled to another week's grace.

Religious.

A series of religious meetings are now being held in this village. Prayer and conference every afternoon, and preaching every evening of the week at the Presbyterian Church. There is much need of a religious revival in this vicinity, and we suggest that it is never too early to turn attention to things concerning the welfare of the soul. These meetings are constantly increasing in interest, are composed of members of all the religious denominations, and it is to be hoped they will be productive of much good. Let all attend them who possibly can.

Ho! for Kansas!

The Republic is in a sad strait. With an inefficient Administration, and the cloud of civil war threatening our western border, never was government so storm-beaten and disturbed, and yet so apparently weatherwise and secure. There is something mysterious in the workings of self-government—something so subtly original and grand that the dawn of open outbreak and the warlike grouping of hellish antagonisms, disturbs scarcely more than the daybreak of profound peace.

But however secure our institutions may be, or seem to be, the signs of the times are unmistakable. The present is the time for action. It is unwise to sleep when great interests are at stake. However much men may wear their heads and smile innocently, Freedom was never in greater peril. The Union is not in danger, for that, except in name, has ceased to be. The Union breathed its last when the Fugitive Slave Law breathed its first. That measure converted the dividing line between the North and South into an impassable gulf. There is no Clay to bridge that gulf with an unwise compromise now. The tree of liberty strikes its roots northward and westward. They will never reach out and bridge that gulf. As the tender shoot seeks the light, so those roots seek for nourishment in a more genial soil. There is room enough for their growth in the valleys and in the clefts of our rocky and somewhat inhospitable clime. The Union! let it pass, but like true men, like the sons of noble sires, let us keep watch over the interests of Freedom.

"We are opposed to slavery in the abstract," say the indomitable leaders of the Democratic party. "We are opposed to slavery in the abstract." Ay, abstractly but not really. What do they mean by "slavery in the abstract?" In what does abstract slavery differ from slavery as it exists? Is a theoretical abstraction to which they are hostile? Will some of these political metaphysicians explain?

"We are opposed to murder 'in the abstract,'" that is, we are opposed to the violent taking away of human life. It is wrong, therefore we are opposed to it. Those who framed the *lex talionis* were clearly opposed to mangleing "in the abstract;" they were so much opposed to it that they agitated the subject and enacted laws to prevent murder by punishing the murderer. Their opposition to man slaying was real, not feigned. They did not wait to see if legislation would offend homicides, but drove straight at the wrong and put their opposition on record.

We are opposed to stealing in the abstract. It is wrong; therefore we oppose it. But those who enacted penal laws to punish and prevent theft did not stop to inquire whether action would offend thieves! No! they saw that theft was wrong—that it endangered the peace of society—that it destroyed the security of property. They were opposed to theft "in the abstract."

It is wrong to deprive man of any of his inalienable rights without just cause. Slavery does so. Slavery is a wrong, and just rights. Hence, slavery is wrong. This may be discussing the abstract question.

But it is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

It is the duty of mankind to pursue evil and drive it out from the land. All wrongs are evils; slavery is a wrong and hence, an evil. Therefore,

THE TIoga COUNTY AGITATOR.

We think it is our duty to maintain the imperative duty of agitation of this subject of slavery, on such ground. If it is proper to legislate for moral reform in one direction, it is proper in all. God was the first law-giver—being the sweep of universes, and their constituent worlds there and forever. He created man and engrained on his nature the principle of resistance to evil in every form. But man is frail. Tempted to stray from the path indicated by his better judgment, he wanders from his course. Yet it falls out that some choose virtue rather than vice; the majority of enlightened men choose, and so they it is given to restrain the vicious and so protect society. And so, man may not draw a line between this and that wrong; and say, "this wrong-doer shall offend against justice and humanity with impunity, but that, shall in no wise go free. There are no exceptions to Heaven's rules."

He, then, who professes to be opposed to slavery in the abstract, denounces it as a wrong, and is morally bound to hunt it down. "Suffer evil that good may come," was annihilated centuries ago. To suffer it to fortify itself and to extend its hateful sway without opposition—is to do wrong.

Slavery being wrong, what freeman will tamely stand by while Aichison and his minions plant it upon the free soil of Kansas?

Suicide.—We have been furnished with the particulars of a suicide committed in Deerfield township of this Co., on Monday the 11th inst. The unfortunate victim was a laborer by the name of Seth Bronson. About 3 o'clock in the morning he was discovered to be absent from bed where he had retired as usual; after some search he was found suspended by the neck with a rope fastened to the joists overhead. He was dead when found, having from all appearances been in that position for several hours. He had made a previous effort to destroy himself, but only succeeded in inflicting a dangerous wound upon his arm with a knife.

Accident.—A serious accident occurred a few days since at Stony Fork, resulting in the death of Mr. McNett. The deceased was engaged with others in running logs down a slide; while freeing some logs that had become fastened, the workmen above started a log which striking him in its descent mangled his leg in such a manner as to render amputation necessary, during which operation of shortly afterward he died.

Another.—On Tuesday last, Mr. Henry Sherwood Esq. of this Borough, while taking a sleigh ride, his horse became frightened and ran away. Mr. S. was thrown violently to the ground and had his leg broken in the fall. He was conveyed to his residence and medical attendance called.

North Western Land Agency.—The Directors elected in accordance with the provisions of the Association, by the four towns which had sold the greatest number of Shares up to the 1st of January, 1856, having met at Chicago, report the affairs of the Association to be in a high degree satisfactory.

Owing to an unforeseen difficulty the drawing has been postponed. The closing of several Land Offices by the Government, has prevented the location of Land Warrants, in consequence of which the Directors have delayed the distribution till about the first of May next.

Cosmopolitan Art Association.—The drawing of the prizes has been postponed until the 28th of February. It is stated that the snow storms in January so delayed the returns from the Secretaries, that the drawing has been deferred to the date above mentioned, at which time it will positively take place.

Major Jones's Courtship.—We have received from the Publisher a copy of the above work, and after a careful perusal, pronounce it to be the dullest book of the season. The Major in his letters, holds up men and things in a style entirely original, and verifies the truth of the old adage relating to the course of true love never running smooth. It is just the book to have a good laugh over, besides imparting a little wholesome instruction in the art of courtship. Buy it. Price 50 cents a copy. Published by T. B. Peterson, 102 Chestnut Street Philadelphia.

Godey's Lady's Book.—The March number of this excellent Magazine is on our table, as usual we find it in every particular, fulfilling the design of the publishers, to make it the first Ladies' Magazine in the country. The steel engravings contained in each number amply repay the cost of the whole. Back numbers can at any time be supplied, also numbers for the previous year. Three dollars per single copy. L. A. Godey, publisher, 113 Chestnut St. Philadelphia.

Peterson's Magazine, for March has been received. It is filled as usual with choice reading matter, engravings, patterns, embroidery, &c. We see no excuse for any lady being behind the times and fashion, when for two dollars can be obtained all the latest improvements. Send and get it.

The Last Call!

After the 15th of February, 1856, the AGITATOR will be published on the pay-down system. The system will be rigidly adhered to.

A number of considerations have contributed to the adoption of this system at the present time. It is incumbent upon every individual to pay his honest debts. The well-being of society imperatively demands this; and, with proper economy, every man ordinarily can do this, provided always, that he receives for his labor, value received.

City papers have adopted the pay-down system almost universally, and with the happiest results. It always proves two things: how many of the patrons of a paper are really in favor of holding the laborer as "worthy of his hire," and how many wish to aid in the support of their county paper. It will, in this case, show how many friends the AGITATOR has among its 1000 patrons. We have no anxieties concerning the result. Many men have expressed themselves warmly in favor of the project—in fact, we have heard but one man with the face to oppose it.

What farmer will sell his produce and wait for his pay until the produce is consumed? What tailor will make garments to order with the understanding that he shall be paid for them when the garments shall be worn out? Yet how many farmers and tailors are required to pay for their county paper in advance? Is it cheaper to pay at the end of the year? Or the contrary, it is not so cheap; for, if payment is delayed three months, even, the subscriber is required to pay 50 cents additional. In the use of one dollar for three months worth 50 cents? All know better than that. Then why do some men prefer to pay \$1.50 for their paper, when three or six months previously they might have had it for one dollar?

The pay-down system is just to both patron and printer. There is no profit in a large subscription list, nearly one-half of which consists of non-paying subscribers. On the contrary, it is a damage to all parties and especially to the publisher. At one dollar per year, the profits on one copy of this paper amount to about one shilling. Therefore, on every non-paying subscriber, we lose 87 cents. The question is now, whether it is better to send the paper and lose 87 cents, or to retain the paper and save a like sum? Upon due consideration we have concluded to save the 87 cents.

Within the last six months, the publishers have paid a debt of more than \$400, which was not in contemplation when the paper was established. To do this, has required great effort. Had our subscribers paid promptly for their paper, this sum would have been paid without much effort. Though established on a firm basis, the paper labors under embarrassments which the pay-down system will probably remove.

We do not expect to retain all our old subscribers, but anticipate a great falling off. It is believed that the paper has many more friends in this county, who will not be so ready to let it fall off. In the best of feelings we shall endeavor to put forth the paper which it has been paid for, and which we have no doubt will receive its full value. When a subscriber fails to receive his paper, he may find that his subscription has expired, if he wishes to continue it, let him remit the money to our address. Those who are in arrears will much oblige us by sending us the amount at the earliest opportunity.

It is desirable that all subscriptions to this paper should expire on the 1st of January of each year. Thus every man will have a set time to pay for his paper. The approaching 'Gold week' will afford an excellent opportunity to settle up old dues and subscribe for another year. We urge upon our friends the necessity of assisting us by their active cooperation. Our list should not be suffered to fall off. An exciting Presidential Campaign is at hand, and through the agency of the press alone, can the cause of Freedom be pleaded before the people. As to the stand which the AGITATOR has taken in the battle for Liberty and Good Order, its present and past bear witness. Its future course may be calculated by its past. It has steadily opposed man and slavery always; it will ever be found the champion of the oppressed and the fearless advocate of every thing New, that promises to benefit MAN.

GOBB, STURROCK & CO.,

Publishers of the Agitator.

The following named gentlemen are authorized to collect dues and receive subscriptions for the Agitator. Their receipts will be regarded as payments.

- WM. GARRETTSON.....Tioga.
- J. B. POTTER.....Middlebury Center.
- G. W. STANTON.....Lawrenceville.
- DR. J. C. WHITTAKER.....Elkland.
- JOHN SERRINO.....Liberty.
- O. F. TAYLOR.....Covington.
- VICTOR CASE.....Knoxville.
- W. W. McDUGALL.....Shippen.
- ISAAC FLANK.....Brookfield.
- J. W. JAMES.....Bozsburg.
- C. H. CULVER.....Ocoala.
- O. H. BLANCHARD.....Nelson.
- E. A. FISKE.....Mainsburg.
- SAMUEL PHILLIPS Jr.....Westfield.
- WM. M. JOHNSON.....Daggett's Mills.
- A. BARKER.....Ogdensburg.
- J. M. STEADEN.....Crooked Creek.
- ISAAC SPENCER.....Maple Ridge.

Snow on the Northern Railroads.

The editor of the *Binghamton Daily Republican* states the incidents of a trip to Northern New-York, and the condition of its railroads, as follows:

"After passing a very quiet night at Stanwix Hall, in Rome, we repaired in good season to the depot, where we found a powerful team of four engines attached to the train, preceded by a noble-sized snow-plow, occupied by some half-dozen men, with shovels, &c., ready for a start. We were soon underway, most gallantly pushing through the piles of snow which had accumulated upon the track during the previous forty-eight hours, our plow indignantly tossing the drifts aside to the right and left, until we entered a bank so high that it could not be thrown aside, when she would toss it over her head, and compressing it on either hand, would open a passage for the following train. It was a noble sight, and a scene of great excitement to many. Some of our passengers amused themselves by going out and riding from one station to another in the plow, which was constructed in the form of a caboose, and would hold a dozen or more. At one time it seemed almost as if we were to be buried, for the snow was so high on either side of the cars as to make it quite dark—as if we were passing into a tunnel. However, thanks to Providence and the power of steam, we were not stalled. But such piles of snow! We never have seen their like before, and hope not to see such again. In Rome, Adams, and some parts of Watertown, we found the sidewalks beaten on a level with the tops of the fences; while, in many instances, the front yards of the houses were filled up to the same height, forming a complete barricade to the front door; and the prospect is fair for more to come. Such a winter as this has not been experienced in these parts for many years past.

"The Rome and Watertown Railroad, as all other roads, especially north and south roads, has been completely blockaded for days together. The Sacketts Harbor road has been under cover for six weeks or more, and we learned last evening that they did not intend to open it till spring, as they lost far less money to have it idle than to run it during this winter. We have not heard very recently from the Ogdensburg Railroad, but our last information, two weeks ago, was that it had been shut up for two weeks, with no prospect of its being open very soon.—It has been a hard winter on railroads everywhere."

DESPERATE AFFRAY IN A SCHOOL HOUSE.

—The Lebanon (Tenn) Herald, of the 12th inst., gives the following account of a terrible and fatal fight in a school room, Wilson County, in that State:

The most distressing homicide we ever heard of, occurred in this county, about seven miles northeast of Lebanon, on last Monday morning, a week ago, between Rufus Watson and his three sons on the one side, and two sons of John New on the other.—The unfortunate difficulty occurred in a school room. Young New, aged about 19 years, was shot through the breast and expired immediately; and his little brother, some 13 or 14 years of age, was almost literally cut to pieces—receiving no less, we learn, than seventeen dangerous wounds, every one of them penetrating to the hollow. Strange as it may appear, he is still living, and hopes are entertained of his recovery.—Rufus Watson received the contents of a pistol loaded with bird-shot, in the breast, but was not materially injured. The difficulty grew out of an old grudge that has existed between the heads of the respective families.

Watson and his sons were tried at Taylorsville on Friday last. On hearing the evidence the Court held them to bail in the sum of \$4,000. One of the boys was bailed out, but the other two and the father failing to give bail, were committed to jail to await their trial at the next term of the Circuit Court.

FROM EUROPE.

HALIFAX, February 17, 1856.

The Royal mail steamship Canada, Capt. Lang, from Liverpool on the afternoon of February 2d, arrived here at 4 o'clock this morning.

She brings no intelligence of the Pacific. The Collins steamship Atlantic arrived out at Liverpool at 6: 15 a. m. on Thursday, the 31st January.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION.

The *London Morning Advertiser* has the following announcement:—"We regret to hear that at an interview which Lord Clarendon and Mr. Buchanan had together at the Foreign Office on Tuesday very angry words passed between them relative to the Central American question."

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

The dispatches of the Russian Government, completing and confirming the telegraphic announcement of the unconditional acceptance of Austria's propositions, were received at Vienna on the 23d ult., and a courier immediately conveyed them to Paris and London.

A memorandum embodying the propositions had been signed at Vienna, and sent to Paris and London.

It is reported that the Congress will meet at Paris on February 17th; that very little time will be lost in the discussion of the subject, and that the whole matter will be brought to a conclusion by February, 25th.

The signing of the preliminaries prior to the opening of the Conference now only awaits the arrival of the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

It is stated that Prussia refuses to agree to the conditions exacted by the Allies preliminary to her admission into the Peace Conference, and that consequently she will be excluded from the Conference, but be invited to sign the final deed of settlement.

Baron Brunow and Count Orloff are the Russian Plenipotentiaries, assisted by Messrs. Tioff and Fenton. Lord Clarendon represents England; Marquis D'Azeglio, Sardinia; Count Buol, Austria; M. Walewski, France; Derwish Pasha, Turkey.

A short armistice, it is thought, will be forthwith agreed upon.

The British Parliament had assembled. The Queen's speech is quite meager, and does not mention American affairs.

Presence of Mind.

A gentleman who reached Dayton by the Tuesday evening train over the Indiana Central and Dayton and Western Railroads, related to us a little incident of the night's trip, which showed extraordinary presence of mind on the part of the conductor, who was his hero. Both the night trains the eastern and western, were out of time, and were obliged to keep a look out for each other, but the locomotive of the train bound east was unprovided with a lantern, and hence on the part of its officers, more than ordinary precautions were necessary. In this dilemma the conductor took his own lantern and went ahead, the train followed slow behind.—The conductor was some distance in advance, when by some accident, his lantern went out, just as his ear was struck by the noise of the Western train rapidly approaching.

In this dilemma, what was to be done? The night was so dark that he could not be seen, and he was certain that he should not be able to raise his voice above the howling wind and the noise of the passing train so as to attract the attention of the engineer. His first resort was a club. He seized one and threw it at the locomotive, now closed off from the iron of the engine, without making a noise perceptible even to himself. The train was flashing past. Even while he drew his next breath, the lives of hundreds might be put in peril. But one thing could be done, and the thought of it occurred to him. Taking his own lantern, he hurled it at the lantern of the passing locomotive just as it came opposite to him. The crashing glass and the extinguishment of the light startled the engineer. A sharp whistle was heard—the brakes were shut down—the train stopped. Everybody was safe when, but for the throwing of that lucky lantern, scores might have been killed and wounded.—*Dayton Gazette.*

The Cold Weather and the Peach Tree.

A wide difference of opinion exists in the country as to the effects of the late cold weather on fruit trees, and semi-tender shrubbery. The Louisville Courier says that in Kentucky "the injuries to young fruit trees and nurseries is beyond calculation. Nearly, or quite all the fruit trees budded last fall, for this season's growth, have been destroyed, and the losses in some nurseries near the city will amount to several thousand dollars. In one nursery, from which we have heard, some seven thousand dwarf peaches have been killed, and thousands on thousands of young peach trees ruined. The loss in ornamental trees and shrubbery has also been quite severe. The few fruit buds that escaped the former severe weather, have been effectually killed, and it is now rendered certain that in this vicinity at least we are to have none of the finer and more delicate fruits next summer. It is feared also that many well grown and bearing trees have been greatly damaged, if not entirely killed."

We trust this melancholy view may prove to be erroneous.

THE SPEAKER.

—NATHANIEL P. BANKS, Jr., is a native of Alstead, New Hampshire. He was bred to the trade of a blacksmith, and worked at that, and in a machine shop until he was more than thirty years old. He then commenced the study of law, and before his admission to the Bar was elected a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In 1851 he was reelected to the House, and was chosen Speaker of that body, which station he filled with distinguished ability for two years. In 1852, he presided over the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, the largest and ablest deliberative body assembled in that State for twenty-five years. He is about 40 years of age, of slender, but erect and muscular figure, with dark hair, inclining to gray, decided aspect and quick motion.

Indian troubles in Florida.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Since the attack upon Lieut. Hartuff's party, that portion of Florida along the Indian River and in the vicinity of Fort Myers has become very unsafe for whites. Stragglers from the Fort, or adventurers in pursuit of game in those wild, but hitherto peaceful hunting districts, are fired upon by yellow miscreants concealed behind trees and in the chaparral.

We have just received authentic information of another attack equal in atrocity to that committed upon Lieut. Hartuff's squad. It is a letter from an officer dated:

Fort Myers, Saturday Jan. 19, 1856.

An express has just arrived from Fort Donaud with news of another Indian outbreak. A party of woodcutters, consisting of a corporal and five men, were fired at by twenty Indians, four miles from the post. One man only escaped (he slightly wounded), the rest were massacred, and twelve mules killed.—Lieut. Larned, Second Artillery, recently went in search of the savages, but though he scoured the country around a sign or trace of them could be found, and strangely enough the dead bodies of the men were also missing, nor was there any trace of blood, but the country is so much under water that blood could easily be washed away. On his return Lieut. Webb, Second Artillery, and a party went out. They, too, explored every place, but without success; so the case remains a mystery. The Indians were supposed to be headed by an old chief named Okchah.

Repeated scouts have been sent in every direction through the country from Fort Donaud since the affair with Lieut. Hartuff, and though they have frequently seen Indian dogs, they never have seen any trace of the Indians themselves."

RIFLES AND BIBLES.—Henry Ward Beecher replies very successfully to the V. Y. Observer's objections to his celebrated remark about the superiority of Sharp's rifles over Bibles. "Where timber is to be felled," says Mr. Beecher, an axe is better than a Bible. Nor is it detracting from the merit of the Books to say so. If a child is learning its figures, an Arithmetic is better than a Bible. At sea, for purposes of navigation, a book of logarithms is better than a Bible. Or would the reverend editor of the Observer tell the sailor, bewildered by storm, and now about to take an observation in the first bright day, by looking at the sun and using a sextant or quadrant, that the Bible and the sun of righteousness would be far better for finding his latitude and longitude? This would not be a whit more absurd than the pious sentence in the Observer about the sword of the Spirit being better for the defense of Lawrence against armed Missourians than is any rifle!

If the walls of the Observer office were tumbling down, would the editor be shocked to hear his mechanic say that brick and mortar were better than Bibles for repairing them! In times of a riot in a city, will not the knowledge that a company of soldiers is marching down upon them, with Mayor Wood at their head have a more salutary moral effect upon them than to