

THE AGITATOR

M. H. Cobb, Editor. WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Published by M. H. Cobb, at the office of the Editor in Wellsborough, Pa., on Thursday, November 20, 1856.

Subscription prices: Single copies, 10 cents; 6 months, \$5; 1 year, \$10. In advance.

Advertisements: For one square, first insertion, 10 cents; subsequent insertions, 5 cents.

General correspondence: All communications must be addressed to the Editor.

Proprietor: M. H. Cobb, Wellsborough, Pa.

Printed: M. H. Cobb, Wellsborough, Pa.

Postage: Paid at Wellsborough, Pa.

Acceptance: For mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 26, 1918.

Postmaster: M. H. Cobb, Wellsborough, Pa.

Communications. We quote from the official department of the last School Journal: 'Without a certificate from the County Superintendent, no teacher should be employed...'

We have six invitations to dinner on Christmas, and shall probably accept them all. In that case we must inevitably lose January 1, 1857—turkeys and all.

The Slave-trade during the campaign, insisted upon it that Fremont, if elected, would proceed to set all the slaves at liberty. They even permitted their slaves to listen to such speeches.

There are some things in the Turkhanek Democrat which we shall endeavor to reach next week.

REMEMBER THE POOR.—Many people wonder at the apparent disinterestedness of editors in their annual appeal to the rich and comfortable, to remember in the enjoyment of their abundance, the very many who will shiver winter out, half-cold and half-died.

We intend no plea, no complaint for the profession. Speaking for one, (and in doing so we well know that we speak for hundreds of our fellow-laborers in the country), we labor in this field from a higher motive than mere selfish choice, and neither from necessity.

The life of the laboring man is a struggle from birth to competence, or to death—often the latter. An imprisonment for life, with a scanty pittance for services rendered, is a fair exchange for the life.

Let us remember that wives and children are seldom responsible for the dissipation of the husband and father. If he fail to provide for them, they have committed no crime against society that society should doom them to starve and freeze.

Under the head of "Blasphemous Wretch," a pro-slavery paper before us, says: 'The Reverend B. H. Davis, a professed minister of the Gospel, in the course of a "Bleeding Kansas" speech, said: "Every vote cast for Buchanan and against Fremont, is a vote to inflict a stripe upon the back of Jesus Christ."'

THE SUNDAY EVENING POST.—The publishers of this old and fine literary have made arrangements for the coming year with the following brilliant writers: William Howitt of England, Alice Carey, T. S. Arthur, Mrs. Southworth, Augustine Duganne, Mrs. M. A. Denison, author of "Zillah," &c., and in the first number, in January next will commence "Tallentaha," or the Squatter's Home, by William Howitt.

PUTNAM'S MONTHLY.—Unfortunate book! Let it be understood that though Pierce has not been fit to establish a public censorship over the press of the country, his worshipful tools are ready with the torch and axe for the houses and the necks of the contumacious who may dare to say aught against the powers that be.

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FROM KANSAS.

ASPECTS AND PROSPECTS. Lawrence, Nov. 20, 1856.

This evening I had an interesting conversation with young Bowles, brother to the poor fellow who died among the prisoners. The brothers were Kentuckians by birth, but residents of Missouri. Young Bowles, at Westport, and St. Joseph, had opportunity to hear at some of the meetings of the Pro-Slaveries an expose of their plots as regards testimony to be given before the Investigating Committee. The first proposition was to deny in toto having voted, at all in Kansas. This was voted down as being too hazardous a speculation. The finally concluded to acknowledge the vote, but place it on the record of Bowles's opposition to the Emigrant Aid people. Speaking of this, Bowles observed: 'I know at this time nothing of the principles of either party as to their contentions; but such things as these men were proposing to do, I knew were wrong, and I then made up my mind that if ever a battle came, I would be found on the Free-State side.'

With two friends from Iowa and his brother, he came to Kansas in behalf of Freedom. The details of his brother's death are known. If the poor fellow who died is fairly represented by the survivor, of which I entertain no doubt, he was a noble fellow: He has perished, a martyr to the cause of Liberty. Beside the remains of the gallant Shourbure, in the little graveyard at Lawrence, he sleeps among the gallant dead of Kansas.

A more than Spartan courage animates the breasts of this people. It is displayed not less in their power of endurance than in their intrepidity in the hour of danger. Said one who had fought at Franklin, Where all are so brave, it is hard making our distinction. And said another, 'It is hard bringing our Yankees, who have all their lives long been accustomed to such different things, to the fighting point; but when you once get them there, they are just four to one of the others.'

One old man from Indiana, over sixty years of age, during the attack on Lawrence, was observed running about the streets begging of every man he met for a gun. Since that time he has been always on hand. In one of the engagements a ball struck the wheel of the carriage beside which he was standing, passing just by him. 'I believe,' said he, very quietly raising his gun, 'those blamed fellows are firing at me,' and with that he blazed away volley after volley, without betraying the slightest emotion of fear. A few nights since forty of the prisoners took the liberty of marching out of quarters through a hole which some mechanical member of the firm had constructed in the wall. They had agreed to pass out in regular succession: the nearest to the hole first, and so on in order as they lay. When the old man's turn came, he positively refused, saying, 'They have put me in legally, and now let them take me out in the same way.'

Mr. Parrot, esq., their counsel, informs me of the twenty convicted ones, thirteen are graduates of colleges; and these men are condemned to four years' hard labor on the highway, with ball and chain attachments to their limbs—the barbarous jewelry of slave propagandism. Do the North mean to submit to this? One of the number, I am also informed, has been an officiating clergyman. Of all the accused histories of crime, this Kansas record is the blackest. It has damned our Administration. Let the next look to its programme, or an indignant and outraged people will dispose of this whole question by a method more direct and pointed than the ballot-box.

It is but just to Governor Geary to say that he seems disposed to act fairly. No man ever had a more difficult part to perform. His course in the matter of David Buffum's murder is worthy of all praise. There were no Free-State witnesses of the act who could identify the murderer. Geary offered \$500 reward immediately; had the man arrested and confined. Lecompte released him. Geary rearrested him. And now it is said Lecompte has again set him free. Geary holds no intercourse with this creature Lecompte; and it is reported he has declared that either his head or Lecompte's must be brought to the block.

With all its sad history, Kansas is still the center of attraction. As fast as the advantages of its soil and climate are discovered, emigrants will turn aside from all other fields for this.

Say to the women of the North that their gifts are the salvation of Kansas. Said one intelligent but poor woman to me to-day: 'I do not know how we should have got along at all this Winter if those things had not come.' It is surprising too, how everything seems to fit,' said another. And in many a cabin blessings are invoked upon the heads of the sympathizing contributors.

A constant stream of applicants besiege the Committee-room for relief. I fear that many of the most deserving will fall through over-much modesty in getting that relief which was intended for them. A world of work yet remains to be done both here and at the East. Among the good things yet to be done for this Territory is the distribution of seeds. I hope the friends of Kansas who wish to advance her material interests in one of the most substantial ways will think of this, and send to my address in New-York packages of all sorts of desirable seeds, 'both useful and ornamental.' Now that our hands are in, let us see what we can do to enhance the natural attraction of this Eden of the continent.

I expect to be in New-York about the 1st of January, and to return about the 1st February, if the friends at the North will place in hands the requisite aid. On again reaching the Territory, I propose a thorough canvass of it. A fine opportunity will thus be presented for distributing the seeds I speak of.

Allow me to suggest that a general subscription for Kansas be taken on New-Year's Day through all the North universally. Let all give, and give with willing hearts. The inhabitants of this Territory are pledged to a man, and I may add to a woman, too, that KANSAS SHALL BE FREE! The battle will be just as eternal as the Slaveries choose to have it. But there is not power sufficient in the whole South, backed by the Government, as it has been, to keep this a Slave

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1856.

Postmaster-General Campbell issued instructions to-day to Postmasters at New-York, Philadelphia and Boston, directing that postage to Panama hereafter shall be paid at ten instead of twenty cents per single letter. This decision is predicated upon the fact that direct communication from New-York via Aspinwall brings Panama within the twenty-five hundred miles named in law, and was so decided, on an application being made by the officers and crew of the ship of war St. Mary's, stationed there.

The joint resolution for ten days' adjournment, under consideration, so as to cover all holidays during which little business is done, will be offered at the beginning of the week if at all.

Cul. Forney, who had withdrawn as the Senatorial candidate in Pennsylvania a fortnight ago, is again revived, and, as now under consideration, under direct countenance of Mr. Buchanan. It is doubtful, however, if the party can be brought up to a harmonious nomination. Mr. Broadhead is discarded by universal consent.

Mr. Buchanan assured his friends in Philadelphia, during the last few days, that his mind had undergone some change in regard to points considered settled in the program; that he was yet uncommitted as to the personnel of the Cabinet, and meant to keep himself open to conviction until it became necessary to communicate directly with the parties to be invited to the seats.

Howell Cobb is pressed with much zeal for Secretary of State, but not especially from the South, where extreme interest is adverse to his appointment. Some effort too has been expended for Mr. Dix in the same position; but as yet without producing any decided impression. New-York is not in favor at Wheatland.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1856.

The Senate was occupied to-day wholly with the speech of Senator Wilson. He spoke two hours and a half, and never made a speech better adapted to the place and the times. It was bold, manly and eloquent. He referred to the ungenerous reference made by Gen. Cass in his recent speech to Senator Sumner, and remarked that soon his colleague would be returned to the seat (which was now vacant) by the almost unanimous verdict of the people of Massachusetts, while the Senator from Michigan, in obedience to the voice of the sovereign people of his adopted State, will be obliged to retire, and the seat which now knows him will know him no more forever. Then, said Mr. Wilson, when my colleague shall have occasion to make known his views to the Senate and the country, I know he will not be so unfair and uncomplaisant as to speak an unkind word of its former occupant. This sharp and deserved reference to the venerable Senator from Michigan fixed all eyes upon him, but he sat unmoved like a dumb statue. Mr. Brown of Mississippi obtained the floor, and the Senate adjourned till Monday.

The House was engaged all day on private bills. The new bill for railroad and telegraphic communication to the Pacific, notice of which has been given by Mr. Wood of Maine, provides for the payment for constructing the same out of the proceeds of the public lands, and the appointment of a commission to locate the line. An attempt will be made to adjourn over ten days from Tuesday next on account of the holidays, but there is considerable opposition to it.

The Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads have fixed Tuesday next for the disposal of all open steam mail service.

BOSTON.

A New Governor for Kansas.

In the last Argus, we find an article suggesting the name of D. R. Aitchison, as Governor for Kansas Territory. We presume that Gov. Geary will resign if Judge Lecompte is not removed; at least we understood that to be his position. That is, that the laws of Kansas must be administered to suit him, making the judiciary his creatures, or else he will resign. We apprehend that President Pierce would hardly remove Judge Lecompte upon the representation of a man who has proven himself utterly unfit to rule a free people, not even able to rule his own temper; for surely he is not so stupid as to imagine that he had any legal right to hold, as prisoner, a person discharged on bail by the Judge. Hence, as there is no probability of Judge Lecompte's removal, we inter the resignation of the Governor as a matter of consequence. That being settled, then, the question of a successor comes up. Surely it is time that the experiment of Sending Eastern men here, to act as Governor of a frontier Territory, should be abandoned, and the more rational one of appointing a Western man, one acquainted with the character and habits of the pioneer should be tried.

Furthermore, now that the election is over, the wishes of the people of Kansas should be regarded in this matter. It is nonsense for any one longer to pretend that there is anything like as large a number of Free-State men in this Territory, as there are of the Slave States; even the New-York Tribune, and other kindred sheets, acknowledged that Kansas must inevitably come in as a Slave State; this being so, surely a Western man, a pro-Slavery man should be appointed Governor. Gen. Atchison would be to-day, the choice of three-fourths of all the voters of the Territory for that office. We predict, that should be appointed, there would be no more "Raids from Missouri," heard of, and no more outrages in Kansas. Nothing but having Governors who would sympathize with the law breakers has kept up a continuous fire for so long a time. Common sense and humanity demands the change of policy. A Western man for Governor, at all events, and D. R. Aitchison that man, if possible. What say our brethren of the press.

A Northern Member of Congress said to Henry A. Wise, "How does it happen that you Southern gentlemen are so much enraged at what the abolitionists say about you? Why not pass it over in silent contempt?" "Ah!" replied Wise, shrugging his shoulders, "I'll tell you why it is; because what they say is so damned true!"

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Editorial: A. A. Murray, having been elected Librarian of the Wellsboro Library, requests the stockholders to forward the books which they now hold. Office 24 door from the Post-Office.

In order to meet the demands of Christmas, we go to press a few hours earlier than usual, this week. Several valued contributors will be heard from next week.

Mr. J. G. Putnam is carrying this weekly with a number of valuable contributions of the most attractive of which is "Reflections of a Lifetime," by Peter Parley. This work is pronounced by the critics to be the best book published for the last fifty years. We take pleasure in recommending Mr. Putnam to such as they wish to purchase books.

To Republicans: We are at all times receiving subscriptions for the Daily, Semi-Weekly and Weekly Tribune and forming Clubs for the same, by joining which, the two latter editions may be had at reduced prices.

By reference to the Tribune's advertisement on third page, it will be seen that an effort is being made by the party in power to proscribble the Tribune and other influential Republican papers. No true Republican will permit this thing to be done in so far as his influence is concerned. Let us all aid in increasing the circulation of such papers as the Tribune and Post.

"Bull and Babe": The political caldron is still seething hot, the waters therein are wildly troubled. The living lamb, Religion, muddies the waters that flow down to the fabled wofulch, Politics. The Pulpit looks down upon the bustlings, and the bustlings howl and threaten. Altogether, these are stirring times—memorable times.

"The flesh will quiver when the pincers tear, The blood will follow where the knife is driven." And this accounts for the spasmodic fury of such papers as the Washington Union, Pennsylvania, North Branch Democrat, Lycoming Gazette and Wayne County Herald. Political dyspeptics, they are subject to frightful dreams and prone to relate them. They cannot pass a church-service but they seem an enemy to the "institution," as it is becoming the rule that wherever is found a preacher, is found a water of wrong and oppression. Like the giant in the nursery tale, they sniff every passing breeze and growl incessantly—

Fee, faw, fo, fum! I smell the blood of a preacher man, Dead or alive I must have some!

And desperate attempts do they make to draw a little blood from the veins of their natural enemies, the preachers. No blood flows yet, however—owing to the use of Liblipation arrows.

Each of the papers referred to waxes indignant at the degeneracy of the modern pulpit; but the last mentioned paper treats the subject in a style of originality peculiarly its own. We therefore select it as the basis of a "little talk." It speaks with the least concealment of its trepidation and the hysterical motor which urges it onward. Its tremors are painfully apparent; and when it hints at a minister "near home," its modesty whispers audibly—"the audacious man at whom we thundered three columns of diluted juice of a species of cabbage," and who withdrew from the contest, we understand, moved by the same considerations that moved the venerable Beecher on a similar occasion.

Discouraged, the editor is contented.

One person's political opinions are as sacred as another's; and whenever a minister of the Gospel takes advantage of his ex-parte position in the pulpit to denounce the principles or candidates of a part of his hearers, who have assembled upon the Sabbath in the temple dedicated to the worship of a living God, they have good cause of offence.

The editor's premise is a bare assumption, unsupported by either adduced evidence or apparent fact. A moderately endowed individual, even, knows that observation completely annihilates the foundation of his argument. To suppose that one opinion is as sacred as another, is to first assume that all opinions possess equal endowment of virtue and intelligence. The acknowledged rule is, that that opinion which, being the product of intelligent thought, conforms to the universally recognized standard of right, is entitled to the greatest consideration among civilized men. Nor does this rule interfere with freedom of opinion; as, under its operation, every man is left to enjoy and promulgate his opinions with just the degree of success which merit entitles them to. Were the world to recognize no difference in opinions—to treat them with equal consideration—man could not advance one step. Progress would die the death. Then, the political opinions of a Nero and a Caligula should receive equal consideration and challenge equal respect with those of the Athenian economist and Cincinnatus. The policy of Draco with that of England and America, the economy of Sardanapalus with that of Cromwell and the autocracy of a Nicholas with the democracy of a Washington. The assumption is as ridiculous as the brain that planned it.

It is a minister's duty to denounce all opinions which do violence to law, civil and divine. He has no right to look at the holders of those opinions to learn whether they wear broadcloth or homespun, silk or Merriam prints, or if they sit in high or low places. His duty lies with the wrong, to denounce and expose it. No matter who is hit and trots out of church in a pet. Religion is benefited by every such desertion of the sanctuary. Bad men alone, fear the clerical lash. Liars will denounce a homily drawn from the fate that overlook Ananias and his mendacious spouse. Pro-slavery men prefer arguments upon doctrinal points; and in truth it is getting rather dangerous to preach against any of the pet crimes of society, lest some self-righteous donkey consider himself personally outraged.

We love a good, fearless sermon, in which the sins of society are handled without gloves. We expect to get hit whenever the preacher does his duty; if he is afraid to speak out, we wouldn't give a copper for a thousand of his sermons. St. Paul cut right down to the quick, in his sermons: The wise men of Greece were no more to him than the blindest artisan. Even the lofty Felix, under his reasoning, shook like a conscience-smitten cotton lord under the preaching of a Beecher, a Tyng or a Conway. A man forgets half his faults under a fashionable sermon.—No progress without mortification; no mortification without a scapable dishing up of the faults and foibles of humanity, now and then.

And as for those who trot out of church under such treatment, let them commit to memory the following crumb of comfort:

No rogue ever felt the latter draw With good opinion of the law.

Saith our professor of pulpit ethics, further: "If a 'sermon' of the Lord wishes to have change of masters, then he should first surrender his

editorial robe, pure and unadorned." Hold! there, my sir! What do you mean by change of masters? The ser inference, that sermons are a servant of the Lord, and a politician sermons are a servant of the Devil? No, under no kind of the Herald's sermons at such conclaves, working in the ranks with such men as—Pierce, Atchison and Daily Brooks, as he does. We believe with him that the Devil has the Devil for their Master, and that our friends, from observation of the evil of corrupt associations upon himself and comrades, is half right in uttering some word of warning to the clergy when they even meddle with politics enough to denounce them. Change matters, indeed! As if ministers should be considered serving the devil while they sermonly thronging the Senate from a bench of judges.

The editor proceeds to set before the Orthodox every example of a certain minister, with whom he says he had the pleasure of a profitable acquaintance. The Herald says that this preacher was solicited many times to declare himself politically, but that he invariably refused, until at length, wearied out, he consented to do so, provided he should be permitted to select a week-day, so that he should not deprecate the holy Sabbath! Now Beware! know as well as anybody acquainted with the minister to whom he refers, that G—, never refused to preach a political sermon, as he calls it, through fear of deprecating the Sabbath; and G—, would thank him for holding him up to the Wayne pulpits in a scorchingly inopportune light. We don't pretend to say what Mr. G's political sentiments now are; but we have heard him deliver more than one abolition sermon on the Sabbath, and there never was a greater champion of the Freedom of the Pulpit, or one who more used the boundless latitude he contended for. We have a letter from him, not a year old, if we mistake not, in which he warmly commends the Republican cause. If he now condems it as sectional and dangerous, we respectfully invite him to use these columns in explaining the wherefore of the sectional and dangerous character of the Republican party, pledging to him all the liberties of Free Discussion, and retaining the same for ourself. It would give us great pleasure to break a lance with one who used to fight the battles of Freedom.

There are some things in the Turkhanek Democrat which we shall endeavor to reach next week.

REMEMBER THE POOR.—Many people wonder at the apparent disinterestedness of editors in their annual appeal to the rich and comfortable, to remember in the enjoyment of their abundance, the very many who will shiver winter out, half-cold and half-died. We apprehend that no act is disinterested, selfishness is of two kinds, however, noble and mean. One pleads for the wounded soul, one for the pampered, luxury-loving body. No class of men are more alive to human suffering than the conductors of newspapers. And because the lives of such are unremittingly struggles from the moment they enter the ranks until they leave them, or lie down in their winding sheets.

We intend no plea, no complaint for the profession. Speaking for one, (and in doing so we well know that we speak for hundreds of our fellow-laborers in the country), we labor in this field from a higher motive than mere selfish choice, and neither from necessity. There are other fields which promise a tenfold richer harvest pecuniarily, and with far smaller outlay of labor. The honors are of precisely the same intrinsic value as those won by the Senator and by the day-laborer—the meed of duty performed. No more and no less; and it needs no prophet's eye to discover the moment in every one's life when he or she will recognize this certain and inevitable equality.

The life of the laboring man is a struggle from birth to competence, or to death—often the latter. An imprisonment for life, with a scanty pittance for services rendered, is a fair exchange for the life.