

THE AGITATOR.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, June 4, 1857.

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There is an attempt to make a display of fairness in regard to the coming election of delegates to the Kansas Constitutional Convention. But it is well to remember that there are not a few things in the past history of Kansas legislation that cannot be covered up by any mere display of fairness in present affairs. There are the laws of an usurping legislative body—a Legislature constituted not by the citizens of Kansas, but by force and arms at the hands of non-residents. Is that a legally constituted Legislature? No man of sense pretends it. The Oligarchs deny that such is the fact. We produce in evidence the report of the Congressional Investigating Committee. They deny the authority. And yet, that the present Kansas Legislature is a barefaced fraud, and its every decree therefore null, we have more, and (in law) better evidence than we have that such a man as George Washington ever existed.

With the President the question now is, "which? the Right, or the Left?" If he gives his influence to a submission of the Kansas Constitution that is to be a popular vote, the Southern wing of the party will secede. If he favors the Ruffians and permit the law of the bogus Legislature to force a pre-slavery Constitution upon the people of that Territory, then the honest rank and file of the Northern wing will stampede. Mr. Buchanan and his advisers can get out of this dilemma the best way they can. We don't believe the people can be hoodwinked into the support of an Administration which plays fast and loose—not that the Republic may be rendered glorious, but that the leaders of the Oligarchy may continue to grow fat upon the people's subsistence.

We are permitted to extract the following from a private letter written by Mr. F. A. Root, late a resident of this village, but now residing in Kansas. The writer is well and favorably known to our citizens, and we therefore cheerfully give place to this fresh evidence of the barbarities practiced by the Democracy of Kansas upon men whose greatest offense was that of preferring Freedom before Slavery. The letter is dated—Lawrence, K. T., May 12, 1857. It writes: "When in Wellsboro, I thought the Kansas stories were exaggerations, to a great extent; but I find hundreds and thousands of wrongs have been committed here by the pro-slavery party which have never reached the East. A great many have been found in the woods suspended by the neck, supposed to be Free-State men. In the little time I have been here I have learned more about Kansas than I ever knew before."

Mr. Root goes on to say that he regards the freedom of Kansas as certain. That the Free-State men will resist every attempt to enforce the Territorial laws and the collection of taxes under those laws. We sincerely trust that our friends may stand fast in that good resolution. The men of the Revolution precipitated the country in a long and bloody war for a less oppressive cause. Give this wicked Administration war to the knife and knife to the hilt, rather than submit to the establishment of a dangerous precedent. It is better to strangle the cub than to contend with the full-grown wolf.

The editor of the Lockhaven Watchman was visited last week by a gentleman who legally invited him to take a trip to Philadelphia at the suggestion of Messrs. Sanderson & Flanagan, of the Daily News. The Watchman chanced to publish some information relating to an alleged sale of the American party by the publishers of the News, by which sale the State was given to Buchanan. We can't help thinking that the libel will be hard to establish. But should the News gentlemen recover, the Republican papers in North Pennsylvania have a right smart prospect of litigation ahead; for most of them published the alleged libelous article, if we are not much mistaken. Friend Dunham is selected as a test-witness, to bleed, or not to bleed, as the Court may determine. Should our afflicted cotemporary bleed, then those in a like pickle must toe the mark and fork over. He once said upon the following audaciously inscribed flag: "Devoted to Literature, Fun and Making Money." Perhaps he may be able to trace the visitation of which he humorously makes mention back to this instance of editorial audacity. In any case, we wish him safely out of the clutches of the Philadelphia lawyers.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION.—Such as may have been present at the Lecture upon this theme by Prof. J. L. Edgerton, will not think it too high praise if we pronounce it the best discourse on the Practical that we ever listened to. Fruitful as we knew the theme to be, we were not prepared for the skillful elaboration with which it was wrought out in the thought of the lecturer.

The lecturer commenced by making a very proper distinction between Knowledge and Education. As he happily expressed it—"The difference is as palpable as that of building a storehouse, or filling a storehouse. To educate is to build a storehouse; to get knowledge is to fill the storehouse." Education is the process of expanding the mind's capacities—the process by which Mind is endowed with the power of comprehending the principles of things, and being endowed with which, it straitway becomes its own teacher. The duty of the teacher, he said, is not to feed the pupil's mind, but to discipline the mind so that it may feed itself; not to relieve it from the necessity of reasoning, but by arousing a spirit of inquiry to compel it to reason.

He animadverted strongly upon the pernicious practice of forcing the minds of children through books to the neglect of the subjects therein treated. We would suggest that parents are more to be blamed for this than teachers. It is generally considered an indication of smartness to keep up with one's classes. The lecturer did not so consider it. Our experience teaches us that his position is the correct one. There is nothing more easy than to keep up with one's classes. It is a mechanical effort and nothing more. To reason one's way up through the realities of the science of Mathematics is no work of a three years' collegiate course, but of a lifetime. In the language of the lecturer—"Men must grow to everything." We cannot educate ourselves outside the realm of reason and investigation any more than we can learn to swim without going into the water.

The lecture upon Religious Education on Sunday evening was likewise excellent, necessarily involving the principles wrought upon in Scientific Education, though applied to a different class of faculties.

"HOW TO BEHAVE." A Pocket Manual of Republican Etiquette and Guide to correct Personal Habits. Price, post paid, paper, 30c., muslin, 50c. New-York: Fowler & Wells, 308 Broadway.

As distinguished from works upon the subject of Manners that we have before met with, this book deals fearlessly and ably with the principles which underlie true Politeness. The author does not undertake to make Manners for men and women, but men and women with Manners imbued. He shows that to be a gentleman, or a lady, is to be a Christian. He bases the formalities of social life upon a Common Sense foundation—rejecting the futilities engraved upon the social code by Snob, Nippy & Co., rejecting everything which tends to build up an aristocracy of Manners upon a rigid observance of dumb forms, and accepting every good suggestion from other authors. This Manual is one of a series

of works in the same style and by the same author. He has published three of the series, respectively entitled "How to Write," "How to Talk," and "How to Behave." These three books may be had post-paid, for \$1.50. Never was such a mass of absolutely necessary information offered to the public for so small a sum of money.

Permit me through the columns of your paper to speak of the skillful manner in which a critical operation was performed in this village, by R. H. Gilchrist, M. D. of Corning, N. Y.

The youngest daughter of Judge Dyer, had, from infancy, been afflicted with a slow and painful disease in one of her limbs, and which baffled the skill of several eminent physicians and surgeons. It resulted in a loss of the use of the limb, rendering an operation necessary, in the opinion of her friends and medical advisers. Dr. Gilbert was summoned to amputate the limb, at which time the usual courtesy was extended to the medical faculty of this place, who were present to witness the skillful manner in which Dr. G. performed the operation which resulted most favorably.

All who know Dr. Gilbert award him the praise truly due his scientific acquirements.

The above communication should have appeared last week, but an accident prevented. (Ed.)

Apportionment Bill. The bill as agreed upon by the Committee of Conference, and passed by the Senate, and House, arranges the district representation in the following manner:

Table with 2 columns: SENATORIAL DISTRICTS and REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS. Lists various counties and their corresponding number of senators and representatives.

Philadelphia City, 17 Delaware County, 1 Chester, 1 Montgomery, 1 Berks, 1 Lehigh and Northampton, 1 Berks, 1 Schuylkill, 1 Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne, 1 Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wyoming, 1 Luzerne, 1 Tioga, Potter, McKean and Warren, 1 Clinton, Lycoming, Centre and Union, 1 Snyder, Northumb'g, Montour and Columbia, 1 Cumberland, Perry, Juniata and Mifflin, 1 Dauphin and Lebanon, 1 Lancaster, 2 York, 1 Adams, Franklin and Fulton, 1 Somerset, Bedford and Huntingdon, 1 Blair, Cambria and Clearfield, 1 Indiana and Armstrong, 1 Westmoreland and Fayette, 1 Washington and Greene, 1 Allegheny, 2 Beaver and Butler, 1 Lawrence, Mercer and Venango, 1 Erie and Crawford, 1 Clarion, Jefferson, Forest and Elk, 1 Whole number of Senators, 38 REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS. Philadelphia City, 17 Delaware County, 1 Chester, 1 Montgomery, 1 Berks, 1 Lehigh and Northampton, 1 Berks, 1 Schuylkill, 1 Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne, 1 Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wyoming, 1 Luzerne, 1 Tioga, Potter, McKean and Warren, 1 Clinton, Lycoming, Centre and Union, 1 Snyder, Northumb'g, Montour and Columbia, 1 Cumberland, Perry, Juniata and Mifflin, 1 Dauphin, 1 Lebanon, 1 Lancaster, 2 York, 1 Adams, Franklin and Fulton, 1 Somerset, Bedford and Huntingdon, 1 Blair, Cambria and Clearfield, 1 Indiana, 1 Armstrong and Westmoreland, 1 Fayette, 1 Greene, 1 Washington, 1 Allegheny, 5 Beaver and Lawrence, 2 Butler, 2 Mercer and Venango, 2 Jefferson, Clearfield, Elk and McKean, 2 Crawford and Warren, 2 Erie, 2 Potter and Tioga, 2 Whole number of Representatives, 100 Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune. CINCINNATI, Friday, May 29, 1857. EXCITEMENT IN OHIO.—Fight between State and Federal Officers.—Deputy United States Marshal Churchill and eleven assistants left this city last Tuesday, to arrest four persons in Mechanicsburg, Chambersburg County, this State, charged with harboring fugitive slaves nine months ago. The arrests were made on Wednesday, when a writ of habeas corpus was taken out; but before it could be served, the United States officers, with their prisoners, were beyond the bounds of the county. Another writ was taken out in Green County and served by the Sheriff, assisted by a large crowd of citizens. The United States officers resisted, and several shots were exchanged, but finally the United States officers were overpowered, taken prisoners, and brought to Springfield for trial for resisting the Sheriff in the discharge of his duty. The greatest excitement prevailed.—The United States Marshal telegraphed the Secretary of the Interior for instructions, but the nature of the instructions received in reply has not yet transpired. Judge Levitt U. S. District Judge, issued a writ of habeas corpus to day, and the Marshal has gone to Springfield to serve it. In case resistance is offered, it is reported that the United States officers will be called out.

RUNAWAY NEGROES.—On Saturday night last a regular stampede took place among the negroes in this neighborhood. We learn that two negroes belonging to Mr. Wm. Heysler, near town, one of Mr. Joseph Rensch's, and one of Mr. John Booth's, in town, and it is supposed a number of others of whom we have not yet heard, started for the land where negroes have the privilege of keeping themselves. They took with them a horse belonging to Dr. E. Weis, and one of Mr. H. K. Tice's, together with a carriage of Mr. F. J. Posey, and Mr. Jos. P. Mong's buggy. They were pursued, however, and arrested at Chambersburg, Pa., on Monday.—Hagerstown Chronicle. A fire occurred at Addison N. Y. on Wednesday last, which consumed 39 dwellings and places of business. Estimated loss, \$30,000. Partially covered by insurance.

Our Correspondence.

Letter From Kansas.

QUINDARO, K. T., May 24, 1857.

FRIEND COBB: I hasten to write you again. I arrived here from Lawrence on Friday afternoon, 15th inst. Quindaro is situated on the Missouri River, about six miles above the mouth of the Kansas, and about 30 miles below Leavenworth. The town was surveyed in December last, and the first building put up in January. Now it contains about 500 inhabitants, and is fast increasing. It has a superior rock landing for a mile and a quarter. About forty or fifty hands are at work grading the Levee. The place has two excellent hotels, two dry goods stores, two commission houses, an apothecary shop, a saw mill, stone yard, carpenter shops, several land agencies, a surveyor's office, &c. There are also sixteen business houses in course of erection, most of which are being built of stone. Two stone churches are now under progress, and will be finished this season. Back of the town for twelve miles is a dense forest of huge walnut, hickory, ash and oak. The Chindowan, a Free State paper at this place was commenced on the 14th inst. The Squatter Sovereign, published at Atchison, the organ of the notorious J. B. Stringfellow, has been purchased by the Free-State men, and will be continued at the former place.

There was considerable excitement in town this evening. The steamer "New Lucy" came up, and had on board Gov. Walker and Senator Wilson. Mr. Walker was introduced by Gov. Robinson, and made a brief but stirring speech. On board the boat was a Brass Band, which played several tunes while lying at the wharf. There is a great emigration to Kansas this spring. Every boat that arrives is filled with passengers. A majority of the people are locating in the Neosho Valley. There are plenty of claims in that Valley, at present, but will not be after a while. The people are swarming in there like bees. Emporia will be the great trading point in that valley. There are new towns starting up all the while, some of which will not amount to much. New Free State papers are being started everywhere in the Territory, some of which will "fail," I think, after the first number. I am very anxious to see the Agitator; have not seen a copy since I have been in the Territory. I will write you again soon. Respectfully yours, F. A. Root.

Afraid of School Books. Slavery like the snail, is a slow moulded creature, but always draws in its head at the first approach of imagined danger. What an acknowledgment is contained in the article below, which we copy from the New Orleans Delta. Reader this is the 19th century, past the middle of the Christian Era. This is the United States of America, the freest nation on the globe. Yet read the following and see the system of robbery and outrage upon 4,000,000 of men, women and children, which is so great that they dare not let their children read the ordinary school books of the country.—Chicago Ledger.

WHAT THE MORNING PAPERS SAY.—The Bulletin refers to the meeting of the committee appointed by the Commercial Convention, which is to meet at Columbia, S. C., on the 15th May, to select and prepare a series of school books adapted to the Southern institutions of learning, in every department of study. It says:

"A thorough and searching investigation into the character of our school books is demanded from every consideration of public policy, and its necessity exists to a greater degree in Louisiana than in any other Southern State, and simply from the fact, that from the lenient nature of our laws, and from usage and custom, the colored population in this State enjoy a larger share of legal, personal and social privileges, than in any other Slave State. The public schools are not accessible to this class of population, but there is no scarcity of private schools for the education of colored children, and there are abundant instances at hand, of not only well-educated quadroons of both sexes, but of those whose minds have been highly cultivated with all the advantages of a thorough education, in the ornamental as well as substantial branches enjoyed and improved. The importance of instituting a critical inquiry into the character of the text-books used in our schools in such a community as our own, is too obvious to require any urgency in the way of argument or example. The desired revision of Northern class books, and the expurgation of all objectionable matter in them, can only be accomplished in the way recommended, by the action of a general and competent committee, acting for all the Slave States.

The Kansas treason prisoners, after four months' close confinement in miserable tents and shanties, with a detachment of troops to guard them, and being kept for eight months longer under heavy bonds—and in the case of several of them, an arrest while on their way to the East, and a forcible reconveyance to Kansas to the great damage and interruption of their business—have at last, been discharged on a nolle prosequi.

Who is to recompense these gentlemen for having been made, through the agency of the United States Government, and by the contrivance, if not the direct procurement, of the Administration at Washington, the victims of what this nolle prosequi admits to have been a miserable Pro-Slavery political trick? In fact, Mr. Buchanan's Administration, by continuing in office Chief Justice Lecompte, whom even Pierce had the decency to supersede, may be considered as having assumed the responsibility of this wretched and disgraceful political maneuver. Nor has the nolle prosequi been entered for nothing. Not only a great credit to be taken for the Border Ruffians in not trying and hanging, as well as arresting and imprisoning these parties, but their discharge is to be made a pretext for the discontinuance of all the indictments for murder, robbery and arson hanging over Buchanan's chief office-holders in Kansas.—N. Y. Tribune.

A fund of \$96,000 has been subscribed in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to purchase a plantation to be presented to Ex-President Pierce, \$4,000 more are wanted, the sum required for the estate in view being \$100,000.

RETRIBUTIVE.—A man residing in Moravia somewhat distinguished for severity, and known as rather a hard man, in order to gratify his penchant for blood, braided a wire into the lash of his whip with which to cut his horses. His little boy besought his father again and again not to do it, but he was inexorable. He finished his cruel instrument, but at the very first stroke at his horse he hit a buckle or some hard substance, breaking off a small fragment of the wire, which flew back and struck the eye of the cruel man, and put it out. We withhold his name.—Auburn Advertiser.

ON THEIR WINDING WAY.—We learn that a number of escaped slaves (how many we do not know) arrived in this place, on Sunday night last, from Washington county, Md., in a buggy and carriage, which, together with the horses, were found in the yard of the hotel of Mr. J. Bland, on Monday morning. It appears they succeeded in getting on the 5 o'clock train of cars, and are now on their "winding way" to the land of freedom, somewhere in Queen Victoria's dominions.—Chambersburg (Pa.) Repository.

Gov. Pollock reached home a few days since, and looks quite well considering the arduous duties he had to perform during the recent session of the Legislature. He has examined and approved of more bills than any of his predecessors, and is doubtless rejoiced to breathe our pure mountain air once more, in the midst of his family and friends.—Millonian.

Another Starting-Tragedy.

ELDER PRATT, THE MORMON, KILLED.

We have received to-day another painful narrative of Mormon iniquity, seduction and villainy, followed up in this instance, however, as it will be seen, by a summary vengeance from the injured husband. The account which we publish below is taken from The Van Buren (Ark.) Intelligencer, and gives in brief the facts of the case pretty much as they have occurred. From The Fort Smith Herald and The New Orleans Bulletin we also have confirmation, of the whole story, up to the last act in the drama; the tragic death of Elder Pratt, the Mormon Apostle. Thus it will be seen what a virtuous and devastating has been wrought in a virtuous family by the designing arts of a saintly scoundrel and the lures of a false and licentious faith. Here is what The Van Buren Intelligencer records of the termination of this affair:

"TRAGICAL.

"It is with regret that we have to chronicle the homicide, committed in our vicinity on Wednesday last, by Mr. Hector H. McLean, late of San Francisco, California, upon the person of a Mormon preacher. More than all do we deplore the melancholy affair that led to its commission. The deceased, whose name was Parley Parker Pratt, was a man of note among the Mormons, and judging from his diary and his letter to Mrs. McLean, he was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and ability. He had been a preacher and missionary of the Mormons at San Francisco, California, where he made the acquaintance Mrs. McLean, whom he induced to embrace the Mormon faith.

"She was at that time living with her husband, Hector H. McLean; they were happy and prosperous until she made the acquaintance of Pratt and embraced the Mormon faith. She is the mother of three children by McLean, two boys and a girl, and seems to be an intelligent and interesting lady; converses fluently, and with more grace and ease than most ladies. About two years ago, and soon after she became a convert to Mormonism, she made an attempt to abduct two of her children to Utah, but was detected and prevented by her brother, who was then in California and residing with his brother-in-law, Mr. McLean. She soon after, however, found means to elope with said Pratt to Salt Lake, where, it is said, she became his ninth wife.

"After the elopement of Mrs. McLean, her parents who reside near New-Orleans, wrote to Mr. McLean, in California, to send the children to them. He did so. Several months after this, Mr. McLean received news that his wife had been to her father in New Orleans, and eloped with the two youngest children. He immediately left San Francisco for New-Orleans, and on arriving at the house of his father-in-law, he learned from them that Mrs. McLean had been there, and after an ineffectual effort to convert her father and mother to Mormonism, she pretended to abandon it herself, and so far obtained the confidence of her parents, as to induce them to entrust her in the City of New-Orleans with the children; but they soon found she had betrayed their confidence and eloped with the children.

"They then wrote to McLean in San Francisco, who, upon the receipt of their letter, went to New-Orleans, and, learning from them the above facts in relation to the affair, immediately started in pursuit of his children. He went to New-York and then to St. Louis. While in St. Louis he learned that the woman and children were in Houston, Texas. On his arrival in Houston, he found that his wife had left some time before his arrival, to join a large party of Mormons en route for Utah. He then returned to New-Orleans and from there to Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee Nation, with the expectation of intercepting his wife and children at that point.

"On arriving at Fort Gibson, and while there, he found letters in the Post-Office to his wife from Pratt, some of which were mailed at St. Louis, and others at Flint Post-Office, Cherokee Nation. We are unable to give the contents of these letters with particularity, but they contained the fact that McLean was on the lookout for her and the children, and that they were betrayed by the apostates and gentiles, and advising her to be cautious in her movements; and not to let herself be known only to a few of the saints and elders. McLean then, upon affidavit made by himself, obtained a writ from the United States Commissioner at this place for their arrest, and succeeded in getting them arrested by the United States Marshal. They were brought to this place for trial, and, after an examination before the Commissioner, were discharged.

"Pratt, as soon as released, mounted his horse and left the city. McLean soon after obtained a horse and started in pursuit, and overtook Pratt about eight miles from the city and shot him. Pratt died in about two hours after receiving the wound. This is a plain narrative of the facts, as we heard them from the most reliable resources, which we give to our readers without comment, as we feel that we are unable to do so with justice to all parties. But deeply do we sympathize with McLean in the unfortunate condition in which Mormon villainy and fanaticism has placed him."

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.—On Saturday evening last, one of the freight trains on the Central, while crossing the iron bridge opposite Cambria City, came upon an Irishman, who was about the centre of the bridge, unexpectedly and unobserved. The Irishman instantly realized his perilous position, and knowing that he must either "clear the track" or suffer the fearful consequences of being run over, preferred the former, regardless of the danger that he incurred in doing so. He left himself drop between the crevices of the bridge, and grasping the pier with all the tenacity of a person to whom death seems inevitable, retained his hold until the cars passed over him, and also until some laborers, who fortunately discovered his critical condition, rescued him from the jaws of death.—Johnstown Echo.

A woman in one of the towns of New Hampshire, who had been ill used by her husband, on finding him asleep one day, quietly sewed him up in the bed clothes, and then gave him a tremendous thrashing.

There are those conscientious democrats who denounced the removal of Geary as an outrage? And those who denounced the Taney Opinion as being glaringly anti-democratic? We distrust such short-lived indignation. If the Taney Opinion was wrong one month ago it is infamous now and forever. A decision in contempt of principles to-day so blots the statutes of this nation everlastingly. Do those democrats stand like quarry-slaves under the scourge, waiting for the coming bolt, hoping against hope that the next stroke shall be lighter, or the last? They confide in dust and ashes. Men who applaud such monsters as Lecompte never dreamed of mercy. Better appeal to the hyena that it may not disturb the repose of the dead. The end is plainly revealed. There is an effort on the part of the leaders of the Oligarchy to so indurate the consciences of the masses that they may be led down the declivity of political crime, step by step, unconscious of any downward progress. It treats with the masses whether they will submit to be led downward; or obedient to the dictates of conscience, arise to the lofty dignity of an independent freemanship.

The distinctive existence of the pro-slavery party as a national organization, in an important degree depends upon the Kansas policy of the Administration.

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