

From the Erie Constitution.

Douglas and his New Position.

We are not one of those who give Stephen Arnold Douglas much credit for honesty in his quarrel with the Administration about Kansas matters. We rather rejoice to see the arch conspirator against Freedom placed in a position of antagonism to the party which sustained him in a giant fraud. Coolly, systematically, determinedly, he laid his plans for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and gave shape to his infamous doctrine of Popular Sovereignty. He went down on his knees abjectly to his Southern masters; he trampled upon the Constitution; he spurned and scorned the appeals of the North; he insulted God's ministers who raised their warning voice against his measure of iniquity; and, after days of angry discussion, despite the entreaties alike of friends and opponents, in the dead hour of night the nation's capital was made a scene of confusion and drunkenness, and the Kansas Nebraska Bill was forced upon the country. The man who thus persistently and insolently violated a solemn compact, and in the face of the almost unanimous sentiment of the people, engineered the bitter end of a scheme so full of iniquity—a scheme which has been productive only of evil, and which has been the cause of strife, and agitation, and legalized murder, and oppression, and wrong unparalleled in the history of this Republic—is not the man that can have our sympathies or deserve our commendation. We held him then, and we hold him now, a traitor against the peace and welfare of the country; an enemy to Constitutional Liberty; a dangerous, subtle, unscrupulous foe to Republicanism. The Arnold of the Revolution was not more deserving of the deep and abiding contempt and scorn of the American people, than the Arnold of 1854. The former attempted to betray his country; but failed; the latter conspired against Human Freedom, and succeeded. Is treachery, honorable because successful?—Then is Douglas honorable.

The Kansas Nebraska swindle was perpetrated by its author to propitiate the South, and pave the way for his succession to the Presidency. The Democratic party, while it loved the treason, despised the traitor, and at the Cincinnati Convention he was thrown overboard to make way for Buchanan. The result was a natural one, although unexpected. Buchanan was a supple coward, and the South knew he could be managed; Douglas had betrayed his native North, and although he had done the bidding of the South, they feared to trust him. They knew he had been treacherous once, and feared he might be so again.

From the day the Missouri Compromise was repealed till the present hour, the whole country has been in a constant state of excitement. Outrages which make the blood run cold have been perpetrated in the name of Popular Sovereignty, under the sanction of the National Government. Free citizens of Kansas have been murdered, and their murderers have been promoted to offices of power and profit; towns have been sacked and burned, and the Government troops have aided and encouraged the work of devastation; peaceful settlers have been forced to fly for their lives, and unprotected women have been treated as shamefully as the Sepoys of India treated the English females in the late insurrection; the purity of the ballot box has been invaded, and elections in every territory of the great West have been scenes of violence and outlawry, and the will of the legal voters has been overpowered by armed ruffians. The history of the wrongs, and outrages, and usurpation, which sprang like so many hydra-heads from the monster bill which repealed the Missouri Compromise, would fill many volumes. The operations of the Government from that day to this may well be termed a "reign of terror."

To-day we witness a spectacle of a somewhat different nature. The usurper, ambitious for power and anxious to gain popular favor, makes a new tack. His case is becoming desperate, his time is short, and he must soon get a new lease or retire. Another year closes his career in the Senate, and unless he can conciliate and cheat his constituents, he knows that his hold on that office is out off forever. The remainder of his time he intends to devote faithfully to developing his plans for re-election to the Senate, or his succession to the Presidency. He hopes to cheat the North by a profession of fairness towards the people of Kansas. He expects to ally the South by a recital of his labor of infamy in her behalf, and by promises of renewed efforts to bring in new Slave States. It will be the fault of the republicans if he succeeds. When he talks of the rights of the people of Kansas, freemen must not forget that the author of all the troubles in that ill-fated Territory is Stephen Arnold Douglas. If his party spurn him and tramples him under foot, he should receive no sympathy from Republicans. If he is denounced by the lords of the lash, he should also be repelled by the friends of Freedom. If his fight has been as bold and startling as that of Lucifer, his fall will be as terrible and certain. Humanity stands aghast at the thought of the evil he has accomplished. He has been a heartless, unscrupulous political tyrant, and never can deserve the confidence or favor of true patriots. His party, under his leadership, has been to a great extent invincible. Without him, it will be dashed to ruin. The day that Douglas and Sham Democracy part company, marks the era of the complete triumph of Republicanism.

An Impostor.—A fellow calling himself Julius Aurbuch, who pretends to be a German Doctor has swindled some of the citizens of Elmira out of various amounts of money, and undoubtedly tries to play the same game upon people elsewhere. Look out for him. He is a fleshy Dutchman, wears gold spectacles, and speaks broken English. His appearance, otherwise is respectable. He has been pursued with warrants to Penn Yan, but has not yet been arrested.—Elmira Advertiser.

An Act passed the last Legislature of this State, providing that whenever legislation is desired, by which the title, style, rents, issues or profits, of real estate may be affected, notice thereof shall be given by advertisement for six weeks in a newspaper of the proper county, the last publication to be at least ten days before the application is presented.—Ex.

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. Cobb, Editor.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, Dec. 24, 1857.

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

We cannot publish anonymous communications.

There is no important Washington news.

This is the 22d of December and yet no snow to speak of. There was a slight flurry of snow last night, but this morning dawned in a drizzle.

Mr. David Broox, of this village, has shown us a hen's egg measuring 7 1/2 inches at its smaller circumference and 8 1/2 inches at its largest. Who has seen a bigger?

Several correspondents will please wait as patiently as may be for the appearance of their articles. We are forced to put by a number of long articles to make room for Gov. Walker's letter.

Subscribers to the weekly Tribune whose subscriptions expire in February next, as well as all others who may desire to procure the Tribune for 1858, are informed that the new February club is now being formed at the Agitator office.

A series of Revival Meetings were commenced at the Presbyterian Church in this village last Saturday evening, under the direction of the resident minister, Rev. J. F. Calkins, assisted by Rev. Mr. Mitchell of Scranton, Pa. We understand that the Meetings will be held nightly for several weeks.

Santa Claus has deposited a back-load of Christmas presents, and knock-knocks at Young's, this year, and our little friends must go early so that they can choose from the unopened pile. To-morrow will be Christmas, little folks, so a merry Christmas to you, and may each succeeding Christmas of your lives find you grown better and happier.

We call attention to the communication of "C." in another place, as well as to the illegal practices of which she makes mention. We bid her "God Speed" in her effort to arouse the Women of Wellsboro to a true estimate of their duty and sphere of action. We cheerfully grant them whatever space they may deem necessary in our columns for the prosecution of their good intentions, and will aid in the correction of their abuses as best we may be able.

Christmas comes to-morrow. The great question that now presents itself for the consideration of all lovers of generous free life, is: "How can we manage to get the greatest possible quantity in shortest period of time?" This is, indeed, a grave question; for what would Christmas amount to were it not made the occasion of a feast of fat things? Has not graybearded Custom proved that men, women and children must glut themselves with grease during the holidays? Were not spare ribs created especially for Christmas Dinners? Are not sausages fried in butter necessary to the proper enjoyment of Christmas? Everybody will answer "yes" to each and every one of these questions. Therefore, as is our wont on the eve of such occasions, we say to all—"Eat! eat all you can and the more pork grease you can manage to worry down, the better." Pork is a marvelous hygienic agent!

Another Victim to the Kansas Epidemic.

ROBERT J. WALKER breathed his last—as Governor of Kansas, on the 15th instant. We publish the interesting passages in his dying declaration elsewhere, and commend the same to the attention of our readers.

The Territory of Kansas has been appropriately named "The Grave of Governors." The Executive annals of Kansas present a grim array of Mortality statistics, unbroken by a single instance of Governorial longevity. Reeder, Shannon, Geary, Walker!—all consigned to untimely political graves, and all in the brief space of three years! A frightful record of mortality indeed.

The climate of Kansas seems especially fatal to high functionaries. Of all the train, Walker alone has escaped out of its borders with his official head firmly upon his shoulders; and he took refuge in the Administration hospital only to die a natural death under the allopathic treatment of no less distinguished a leech than President James Buchanan. He holds political life very cheap—as cheap as did his illustrious predecessor, Mr. Pierce. He has decapitated three Kansas functionaries, which is a gain of one over his predecessor. Verily, he is doing the will of the Oligarchy with a vengeance.

The reasons assigned for his resignation by Gov. Walker, are sufficient and weighty. He accepted the undesirable post with the unqualified assurance of the President and his Cabinet that he would be sustained in the discharge of his duty as he understood it, and as he distinctly defined that understanding to the President before he accepted the appointment. The President has proved false to his faith; he has violated his pledges, and Gov. Walker finds himself face to face with the alternative—either to resign, or to disobey his new instructions and bring on a summary dismissal. He has chosen to resign, whether wisely, or otherwise, it is not necessary to argue. His letter places the whole matter before the people in a light reflecting sharply upon the bad faith of the President. His resignation amounts to a removal. It was the more agreeable of two alternatives leading to the same end.

A goodly portion of the Letter is devoted to an exposition of the principles of Popular Sovereignty as he understands them, and this portion we omit for want of room. His views, in the main, are just and endorsed by all parties in the country, with the important exception that Republicans hold that the people of no State or dependency have the right to legalize a wrong. Gov. Walker holds the contrary, that is to say, that the people may establish Liberty whenever the majority demand it. We have no time to discuss this portion of the Letter at this opportunity, nor would it be proper since it is omitted in our abstract.

Should any of our readers chance to read Gov. Walker's opinion of the Lecompton Convention in connection with that portion of the President's Message relating to the same, they will no doubt be not a little surprised to find that what the President assumes to be true, Gov. Walker proves to be utterly false. For example, Mr. Buchanan affects to consider the Lecompton Convention a majority Convention. Gov. Walker declares just the contrary to be true. He states that nineteen out of the thirty-four counties in Kansas, were not represented at all in that Convention; and further, that in fifteen of the nineteen unrepresented counties, no census was taken and no registry of names of voters made. These fifteen counties contained large majorities of Free State men, says Gov. Walker; and further, that the registry of names in those counties was omitted on particular considerations. Yet this fraudulent Convention framed a Constitution for Kansas, and Mr. Buchanan says that it is a good one and should be adopted whether the majority there, are, or are not in favor of its general provisions. This is Popular Sovereignty as elucidated in the President's Mes-

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WASHINGTON, CITY, Dec. 15, 1857.

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The grounds assumed by the President in his late Message to Congress, and in recent instructions in connection with the events now transpiring here and in Kansas, admonish me that as Governor of that Territory, it will no longer be in my power to preserve the peace or promote the public welfare.

At the earnest solicitation of the President after repeated refusals, the last being in writing, I finally accepted this office, upon his letter showing the dangers and difficulties of the Kansas question, and the necessity of my undertaking the task of adjustment. Under these circumstances, notwithstanding the great sacrifices to me, personal, political and pecuniary, I felt that I could no more refuse such a call from my country through her Chief Magistrate, than a soldier in battle who is ordered to the command of a forlorn hope.

I accepted, however, on the express condition that I should advocate the submission of the Constitution to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection. These views were clearly understood by the President and all his Cabinet. They were distinctly set forth in my letter, on the acceptance of this office, on the 20th March last, and reiterated in my inaugural address of the 27th of May last; as follows: "Indeed, I cannot doubt that the Convention, after having framed a State Constitution, will submit it for ratification or rejection by a majority of the then actual bona fide resident settlers of Kansas."

By that inaugural and a subsequent address, I was pledged to the people of Kansas to oppose, by all lawful means, the adoption of any Constitution which was not fairly and fully submitted to their vote for ratification or rejection. These pledges I cannot recall or violate without personal dishonor and the abandonment of fundamental principles; and, therefore, it is impossible for me to support what is called the Lecompton Constitution, because it is not submitted to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection.

As all free government, as stated by Mr. Jefferson, depends upon "the consent of the governed," how can it be known whether the people would assent to the Constitution, unless it be submitted to their vote for ratification or rejection? But if acquiescence can be presumed in any case, surely it cannot be in that of Kansas, where so many of the delegates violated their pledge to submit the Constitution itself to a vote of the people; where the delegates who signed the Constitution represented scarcely one-tenth of the people, and where nearly one-half of the counties of the Territory were disfranchised, and that by no fault of theirs, and did not and could not give a single vote at the election of delegates to the Convention. I have, therefore, discussed the subject mainly on the question that conventions are not sovereign, and cannot rightfully make a State Constitution without its submission to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection. Yet, surely, even those who differ with me on this point must concede, especially under the Kansas-Nebraska act, it is only such Conventions can be called sovereign as have been truly elected by the people, and represent them well. On reference, however, to my address of the 16th of September last, on the day of qualification question, a copy of which was immediately transmitted to you for the information of the President and Cabinet, it is evident that the Lecompton Convention was not such a body. That Convention had vital, not technical, defects in the very substance of its organization under the Territorial law, which could only be cured, in my judgment, as set forth in my inaugural and other addresses, by submission of the Constitution for the ratification of the people. On reference to the Territorial law, under which the Convention was assembled, thirty-four regularly organized counties were named as election districts for delegates to the Convention. In each and all of these counties it was required by law that a census be taken, also the voters registered, and when this was completed the delegates to the Convention should be appointed accordingly. In nineteen of these counties there was no census, and therefore there could be no such apportionment there of delegates upon such census. And in fifteen of these counties there was no registry of voters. These fifteen counties, including many of the oldest organized counties in the Territory, were entirely disfranchised, and did not give (by no fault of their own) and could not give a solitary vote for the delegates to the Convention. This result was superinduced by the act that the Territorial Legislature appointed all the Sheriffs and Probate Judges in all these counties, to whom was assigned the duty by law of making this census and registry. These officers were political partisans, dissenting from the views and opinions of the people of these counties, as was proved by the election in October last. These officers, from want of funds, as they alleged, neglected or refused to take any census, or make any registry in these counties, and therefore they were entirely disfranchised, and could not and did not give a single vote at the election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention. And here I wish to call attention to a distinction which will appear in my inaugural address in reference to those counties where the voters were fairly registered, and did not vote. In such counties where full and free opportunity was given to register and vote, and they did not choose to exercise such a privilege, the question is very different from these counties where there was no census or registry, and no vote was given, or could be given, however anxious the people might be to participate in the election of delegates to the Convention. Nor could it be said these counties acquiesced, for, wherever they endeavored, by a subsequent census or registry of their own, to supply this defect, occasioned by previous neglect of the Territorial officers, the delegates thus chosen were rejected by the Con-

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I accepted, however, on the express condition that I should advocate the submission of the Constitution to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection. These views were clearly understood by the President and all his Cabinet. They were distinctly set forth in my letter, on the acceptance of this office, on the 20th March last, and reiterated in my inaugural address of the 27th of May last; as follows: "Indeed, I cannot doubt that the Convention, after having framed a State Constitution, will submit it for ratification or rejection by a majority of the then actual bona fide resident settlers of Kansas."

By that inaugural and a subsequent address, I was pledged to the people of Kansas to oppose, by all lawful means, the adoption of any Constitution which was not fairly and fully submitted to their vote for ratification or rejection. These pledges I cannot recall or violate without personal dishonor and the abandonment of fundamental principles; and, therefore, it is impossible for me to support what is called the Lecompton Constitution, because it is not submitted to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection.

As all free government, as stated by Mr. Jefferson, depends upon "the consent of the governed," how can it be known whether the people would assent to the Constitution, unless it be submitted to their vote for ratification or rejection? But if acquiescence can be presumed in any case, surely it cannot be in that of Kansas, where so many of the delegates violated their pledge to submit the Constitution itself to a vote of the people; where the delegates who signed the Constitution represented scarcely one-tenth of the people, and where nearly one-half of the counties of the Territory were disfranchised, and that by no fault of theirs, and did not and could not give a single vote at the election of delegates to the Convention. I have, therefore, discussed the subject mainly on the question that conventions are not sovereign, and cannot rightfully make a State Constitution without its submission to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection. Yet, surely, even those who differ with me on this point must concede, especially under the Kansas-Nebraska act, it is only such Conventions can be called sovereign as have been truly elected by the people, and represent them well. On reference, however, to my address of the 16th of September last, on the day of qualification question, a copy of which was immediately transmitted to you for the information of the President and Cabinet, it is evident that the Lecompton Convention was not such a body. That Convention had vital, not technical, defects in the very substance of its organization under the Territorial law, which could only be cured, in my judgment, as set forth in my inaugural and other addresses, by submission of the Constitution for the ratification of the people. On reference to the Territorial law, under which the Convention was assembled, thirty-four regularly organized counties were named as election districts for delegates to the Convention. In each and all of these counties it was required by law that a census be taken, also the voters registered, and when this was completed the delegates to the Convention should be appointed accordingly. In nineteen of these counties there was no census, and therefore there could be no such apportionment there of delegates upon such census. And in fifteen of these counties there was no registry of voters. These fifteen counties, including many of the oldest organized counties in the Territory, were entirely disfranchised, and did not give (by no fault of their own) and could not give a solitary vote for the delegates to the Convention. This result was superinduced by the act that the Territorial Legislature appointed all the Sheriffs and Probate Judges in all these counties, to whom was assigned the duty by law of making this census and registry. These officers were political partisans, dissenting from the views and opinions of the people of these counties, as was proved by the election in October last. These officers, from want of funds, as they alleged, neglected or refused to take any census, or make any registry in these counties, and therefore they were entirely disfranchised, and could not and did not give a single vote at the election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention. And here I wish to call attention to a distinction which will appear in my inaugural address in reference to those counties where the voters were fairly registered, and did not vote. In such counties where full and free opportunity was given to register and vote, and they did not choose to exercise such a privilege, the question is very different from these counties where there was no census or registry, and no vote was given, or could be given, however anxious the people might be to participate in the election of delegates to the Convention. Nor could it be said these counties acquiesced, for, wherever they endeavored, by a subsequent census or registry of their own, to supply this defect, occasioned by previous neglect of the Territorial officers, the delegates thus chosen were rejected by the Con-

Our delectable friend of the Wayne Co. Herald is in a mighty tight place. He would really like to know which is likely to come out of the squabble the worst whipped man—Douglas, or Buchanan. If Douglas, he would like to support Buchanan; but if Buchanan is to get the drubbing, why then he would like to support Douglas. We gather so much from his last leader. Ours is naturally a sympathetic heart, and though we cannot appreciate exactly the distress of his position, we deeply feel for him. It is just now impossible to say who will whip, we rather reckon Old Buck will, however. It will be safe enough to continue patting both combatants on the shoulder a while yet, as he did last week, for it is "monstrous uncertain" into whose service our friend will eventually go.

The Little Pilgrim, edited by GRACE GREENWOOD and published monthly at Philadelphia, is the prettiest and best little paper for little folks that was ever published anywhere in the wide world. Grace Greenwood is thoroughly acquainted with the good desires of children and therefore she makes her paper just what it should be for their instruction. It is 50 cents a year, single copies, but if 14 of our little friends can raise \$5, they can have a copy for one year. Will they not try to do so?

TURKEYTALK.

FRIEND COBB.—I send you herewith a specimen of National History—a biped—not a human, yet possessing many of the characteristics of a human. He is very fashionable, dresses in the latest style, and is naturally somewhat proud and vain; struts and swells a good deal, sometimes, but many a dandy does the same; is kind and peaceable and never quarrels with those who keep out of his way; is charitable—giving to others all that he cannot take from them; is not hypocritical—believes that might makes right; and preaches in strict accordance with his belief; he covers his under parts in blue. He has little of the filibuster in him though he does sometimes wag his tongue with the British (creoles) and the Chinese (Shanghai). He has few fillings in common with the "rest of mankind." He will drink and delights in being "corned"; but he does not smoke or chew. As to whiskers, he wears a goatee but cannot raise a moustache. Altogether, he is more human than any bird I have ever known form.

By the way—are not his qualifications (bearing the monstache) such as to entitle him to an entrance to the editorial profession? He is a great talker, a gabbler (gobbler) by profession, and I think if he had some "meum" to drive his quills he might write. Suppose you adopt him as junior editor, or give him the chair for a few weeks and see if your patrons will notice the difference between turkey gobble and human gabble.

P. S. See by the Agitator that you are out on Turkey ahead of me. Strange that you are so far in dining propensities should lead you to so low a view of them. Suppose some one occupying a higher sphere should consider you fit only for the spit or his glutinous stomach—how would you feel while trying on the gridiron? and how would you relish such a meal going down the gizzard's throat to satisfy his insatiable appetite?

I claim the Agitator for one year. This turkey will live to laugh at spits and Dutch Ovens and to gobble at you for your cowardice.

Good gracious, dear people and mortal, what seas of "sass" you send along with the Turkey! One would think the disciples of the healing art are never to forgive us the flagellation we gave them just about two years ago. Very well, lay it on as thick as you please, just so long as you season the "sass" with such unctuous gobbles as accompanied this. We are inclined to think he might be a proper candidate for literary honors; he appears to very well read and displays considerable talent, though not of the highest order. Add to this the fact that he has enjoyed our friend, the Doctor's society from his youth up, and we cannot harbor a doubt of his fitness to drive his own quills. And then, he would always "talk turkey," to his readers, which is one of the finest of editorial accomplishments. Yes, dear Doctor, he will do but he can hold a candle to the old Connecticut gobbler last week. Gallopato reditvius.

Abstract of Gov. Walker's Letter of Resignation.

WASHINGTON, CITY, Dec. 15, 1857.

Sir: I resign the office of Governor of the Territory of Kansas. I have been most reluctantly forced to this conclusion, after anxious and careful consideration of my duty to my country, to the people of Kansas, to the President of the United States, and to myself.

The grounds assumed by the President in his late Message to Congress, and in recent instructions in connection with the events now transpiring here and in Kansas, admonish me that as Governor of that Territory, it will no longer be in my power to preserve the peace or promote the public welfare.

At the earnest solicitation of the President after repeated refusals, the last being in writing, I finally accepted this office, upon his letter showing the dangers and difficulties of the Kansas question, and the necessity of my undertaking the task of adjustment. Under these circumstances, notwithstanding the great sacrifices to me, personal, political and pecuniary, I felt that I could no more refuse such a call from my country through her Chief Magistrate, than a soldier in battle who is ordered to the command of a forlorn hope.

I accepted, however, on the express condition that I should advocate the submission of the Constitution to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection.