

FROM KANSAS.

Movement of Troops. Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune. LAWRENCE, K. T., Dec. 23, 1857.—Again the rebellious City of Lawrence is greeted by a guard of honor (!) in the shape of several companies of United States troops, artillery and infantry. Our Democratic friends at Washington and Leocompton are certainly very considerate, and we are now to have troops to protect our polls. Great God! to protect the polls at Lawrence! Do our Missouri neighbors intend to pay us a visit and want United States soldiers to enable them to do it in safety? At early sunrise this morning the artillery commenced crossing, and they were followed by the infantry. Eight cannon have crossed the Kaw and seven companies of the line, in all ten companies. We understand that there are fifteen companies ordered out in all. Three companies and two pieces of artillery to Topeka, two to Leocompton, and five to remain in Lawrence. The remaining five companies are ordered to Fort Scott to crush out and arrest the Free-State men, and enable Bates Co. Mo., to come over and vote on the 4th, undisturbed and without molestation. Some are sent to Doniphan, where the Free-State men are determined to repel any invasion. That portion of the army remaining at Fort Leavenworth will keep the city in order. What a mockery to talk of the soldiers protecting the ballot-boxes, when all the points where danger is to be apprehended are left unguarded. Why is it that three companies and four guns are sent to Topeka? It does not seem possible that the troops can be required for any other purpose at Topeka than to attempt the dispersion of the Free-State Legislature, which is to assemble there on Monday next. The proof is every day accumulating of the determination of the Administration to fasten the Leocompton swindle upon us. One thing the North may rest assured of, and that is, that forcible resistance will be still while all that is dear to freemen is forced from us? Will we be supported if we force this contest to a bloody issue? These are questions that must be answered, and that quickly.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Territorial Legislature assembles at Leocompton on Monday next, but will probably adjourn immediately to Lawrence. The Free-State Legislature is to meet at Topeka on the same day. The election will probably prevent a quorum being present till Wednesday, when they will commence their session and enact a code of laws, if allowed to proceed by Gov. Denver. The Free-State men of Delaware City are determined, troops or no troops, to prevent Missourians from voting on Monday next, and they will do it, though they fight the Federal army. The Free-State companies are drilling every night, as is the one Pro-Slavery company likewise. There is fight in the Leavenworth men, and should the troops interfere on Monday next, there will be a bloody time.

Senator Douglas.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Courier & Enquirer speculating in a recent letter upon the fate of Douglas in his side movement against the administration, says: "His immediate object is to be re-elected to the Senate. The Legislature which will return or reject him will be elected next November. The tendency of the public mind in Illinois is towards disgust and contempt for that kind of Democracy which breaks compacts, breeds civil wars, and crushes out liberty by mobs and the bayonets of standing armies. It is turning against the Democracy of Mr. Buchanan's Administration. Mr. Douglas perceives this, and wishes to show them that his patent invention, 'popular sovereignty,' is a vital principle and not a paltry pretence, galvanized into life in order to keep the party on its legs through the election of 1856. But can he do it? It is impossible. The Administration all the time stands behind and over him, assuring the honest and simple electors of Illinois that their Senator is in error, that 'squatter sovereignty' was a juggler's cheat, and that it has been played out. We have seen the result of just such a contest between the central power and a rebellious vassal in a hundred instances. The insurrection may, in the end prevail so far as to ruin the party against which it is excited, but the chief rebel is always crushed. Can Senator Douglas lead off more Democrats in Illinois than Mr. Van Buren and Gen. Dix did in New York in 1843?—Certainly not; and suppose he took off three-fourths, how would that help him? It would simply open a lane through which the Republicans would march to an easier victory. Whatever, then, be the issue of the contention now raging between Mr. Douglas and the Northern and Southern leaders, it is scarcely possible that he should escape death by compression. He will be ground to powder between the upper and the nether millstones.

"But as Colchib buried himself beneath the ruins of Dagon's Temple, slaying three thousand of the Philistines, so will the despair of this magnificent demagogue bring destruction upon the heads of his present enemies that were his late confederates."

THIS VIRTUOUS HARD MONEY ADMINISTRATION DESCENDING TO RAGS.—The most passionate and the most elaborate point argued to Congress by the President, in his message, was the mischievousness of paper money—the unconstitutionality of bank notes—and the virtues of a currency of gold and silver. Leaning against the Sub-Treasury, the President complacently declared that the Government would "continue to discharge its liabilities to the people in coin." At that very moment, a scheme was matured to issue Treasury notes for at least twenty millions of dollars!

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. Cobb, Editor & Publisher.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA. Thursday Morning, Jan. 14, 1858.

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

We cannot publish anonymous communications.

We publish an exceedingly pleasant poem by our esteemed contributor, VIRGINIA, on the 1st page.

REMOVED—COLE'S Barber Shop. You will find it two doors above Roy's Drug Store—until further notice.

We were unable to procure copies of Juror and Trial Lists in time for publication this week. They will appear next week.

Those desiring to join the February Club for the Tribune will greatly oblige us by handing in their dollars within the space of one week from date. Subscriptions \$1.

Our thanks are due Messrs. WILLISTON and DENSON for State documents.

Also to Gov. POLLOCK for an early copy of his Annual Message.

At this present writing (Tuesday) the ground is bare, the skies are April-like, the air has just the slightest chill. This is a wonderful winter indeed. Should it hold out warm there is a fine prospect of the removal of the great isothermal line, discovered by Gov. Walker, some 4 deg. northward so as to include Tioga County. In that event our democratic friends, in obedience to Nature's great "isothermal Law," can import a few chateaus and practically demonstrate the incomparable excellences of popular sovereignty.

A communication from a correspondent at Oscola will appear next week, together with several others. We must enjoin upon correspondents a liberal exercise of patience. You are all welcome. Remember, however, that to accommodate all, each must be brief. Hereafter, we shall be obliged to reject communications upon ordinary subjects which exceed a column, else all cannot be heard. Three pages of open-written foolscap will generally contain the thoughts of most writers at a single sitting. Try to accommodate each other.

CRIMINALS may be of two kinds: The one commits the overt act; the other connives at his escape from the legal consequences of that overt act. It is not easy to decide which is the greater moral culprit. The law makes no distinction in felonies we believe, but in misdemeanors, the case seems to be different. From certain manifestations of this character in this borough during the past week, we are led to conclude that such complicity with crime is not only not illegal, but highly praiseworthy. Now we are not certain that good citizens can possibly be mixed up in such proceedings; nor are we at all certain that such complicity with crime is moral and praiseworthy. We shall see.

The Legislature organized on the 5th inst. WM. H. WELSH, of York, was elected President of the Senate, and A. B. LONGAKER, of Montgomery, Speaker of the House. Both are Democrats.

The House stands—Democrats, 63, Republicans, 30, Independent, 2.

The Senate stands—Democrats, 21, Republicans 12. The Democracy have their own way this winter.

Gov. Packer's Cabinet is made up as follows: Wm. M. Hiestor, Secretary of State. Dep. H. L. Dieffenbach. Hon. John C. Knox, Attorney General. It is understood that the Judge will accept.

Will anybody longer doubt that Judge Knox is an orthodox Milatto, after this?

We publish an abstract of Gov. Pollock's Annual Message in another place. It is undoubtedly the ablest State paper that has emanated from the Executive Chamber during the last nine years. It exhibits the gratifying fact that, financially, the Commonwealth has improved under his Administration; that the public indebtedness has been reduced \$1,816,657.52, during his term, without resorting to temporary loans. \$820,097 of this reduction has been accomplished within the fiscal year just closed. Considering the general financial embarrassment of the past year, this reduction of the State indebtedness is highly creditable to the retiring Governor.

We have been constrained to dissent from the Governor's views of political policy during the major part of his term, and for good and sufficient reasons. His Administration had many good qualities, but they were negative in kind. He has been too un-demonstrative for the furtherance of the cause of Freedom. He lacks those energetic traits of mind which constitute a leader. But his integrity and purity of motive can not be questioned. May Pennsylvania never have a worse Executive.

Another Legal Murder.

On Friday last, was to be executed and doubtless was executed, at Freehold, Monmouth co., N. J., JAMES P. DONNELLY, convicted of killing ALBERT S. MOSES, sometime last summer. As we have never published any relation of the affair, it may not be out of place to give a brief history of the case, now that the crowning catastrophe of legal murder has dropped its red curtain on the last scene of the sad drama.

Donnelly was a young man of good connections, liberal education and fair talents. Sometime in July last he engaged with the proprietor of the Sea View House, Navesink Highlands, N. J., as bookkeeper and Clerk, for the season. Moses was employed in the same House in the capacity of barkeeper. Both were considered respectable young men, and there is no evidence that they were on other than friendly terms, one with the other. The reporter of the N. Y. Tribune, in a recent despatch to that paper, and while on a visit to the prisoner, states that they sat up the most part of the last night in July playing cards, probably for money. He also supposes, as was supposed on the trial, that Donnelly and Moses had gambled together before and that Donnelly had lost large sums to Moses. It is further conjectured (without any very competent evidence, as we conceive) that on the night in question Donnelly lost a large sum of gold, supposed to have been abstracted from certain moneys placed in his custody by visitors, for safe keeping. Next morning, the proprietor of the house met Donnelly running from the house in a state of great excitement, and being interrogated as to the cause of his perturbation, he replied, "He is dead! he is dead!" Being asked who was dead he replied that he did not know. The proprietor passed on, up the stairs and discovered Moses lying on his bed with his throat cut. Donnelly soon entered, and going up to the bed asked what he could do. Moses repulsed him with an oath, declaring with his latest breath that Donnelly had killed him, notwithstanding Donnelly and others implored him to consider well the weight that would be attached to his dying declarations. He died, Donnelly gave himself up to the authorities as tried by an impartial jury, if such a thing be possible in New Jersey, was convicted and sentenced to die for the willful murder of Albert S. Moses.

What was the evidence upon which this verdict

was rendered? The theory of the prosecution rests—let us upon the victim's dying declaration. 2d.—The gambling money missed from the safe and \$160 in torn bank notes found in the privy, his perturbation and a blood-stain on the sill of his bedroom door. These are stated as the principal points upon which the theory of the prosecution rested, and upon this evidence verdict was rendered. The theory of the prosecution was briefly as follows: That Donnelly was driven to desperation by his losses that he took money from the safe the night preceding the murder, hoping to retrieve his fortunes. That, instead of repaying what he had lost on previous occasions he left the game, a heavy loser. That he had his balance sheet to make out the next day, when the deficit would ruin his reputation. That he then determined to get possession of the money which Moses had won from him and which the latter kept concealed in his mattress. That Donnelly went cautiously into the room where his victim lay sleeping, and succeeded in abstracting \$160 in notes from the mattress on which Moses lay. That the sleeper awoke and a scuffle ensued, in the course of which Moses received a fatal stab in the throat. Such is the very plausible hypothesis of the District Attorney, and we cannot say that it is not a probable one also.

On the other hand, the defence denies that Donnelly ever took money from the safe of his employer, or the prosecution the fact that no blood-stains were found on Donnelly's person, or on his clothes, the latter being white, and therefore that Donnelly could have had no scuffle with the murdered man, bleeding as the latter was, from a severed artery. In explanation of the blood on the door-sill of Donnelly's bedroom, they cite the fact that he went from the bedside of the dying man to his own bedroom in the presence of many witnesses, and presume that the track was made at that time. To balance the dying declaration of Moses, we have the declaration of Donnelly made thirty-six hours before his execution in the following strong language:

"Sir, as I stand on the brink of eternity, with Heaven on the one hand and Hell on the other, and as I believe that the latter will receive me if I die with a lie upon my lips, I do most solemnly declare that I am innocent of that man's blood."

And this man has declared his innocence with the fatal noose about his neck. Such is his dying declaration—worth precisely the same, and just as weighty as that of the murdered man's. Here is, the strange spectacle of the hanging of a good Christian man, his dying profession may be believed, upon the dying declarations of a man who displayed a most intensely revengeful spirit in his last moments. A strange spectacle indeed!

Consider: Albert S. Moses is aroused from a profound sleep and discovers a man in the act of robbing him of a roll of notes. A scuffle ensues, he is stabbed, the robber flies; he follows a little way, then tatters back to his bed. Donnelly enters the room and the murdered man repulses him with an oath of vengeance. Donnelly firmly denies perpetrating the deed, and insists that Moses shall give his testimony under oath. He swears positively that Donnelly struck the fatal blow. Now this took place in a public house—a house frequented by all sorts of people, men with character and without. Waking out of a deep sleep, under the excitement of the moment, his conscience quickened by a sense of wrong doing the night preceding, would it be impossible that he should mistake any other man for the man whom he had ruined so lately? To us this seems very possible; but however that may be, the evidence upon which this man was convicted and sentenced to an ignominious death was strictly circumstantial, and vague, withal. It should not have consigned him to the gallows even under our version of the code framed by the Draco of barbarous Israel. But he has suffered the penalty of the highest transgression. If the injustice of the *lex talionis* has been vindicated, the higher law of Common Sense and Humanity was grievously insulted and trampled upon in that vindication. It was unjust, because objectless. It was useless shedding of blood and therefore cruel. It was decreed upon insufficient evidence and therefore rash and reckless. Turn this legal killing which you will, it is a cool, calm determination to take life, and therefore it is murder—cool-blooded murder! When a man forgets that human life is beyond his bestowal and therefore sacred, does it follow that legislators, in view of that man's transgression, should essay to teach mankind sacredly to respect human life by deliberately imbruing their hands in the blood of that transgressor? Does it follow?

We again urge the importance of selecting our borough officers from the ranks of our most active as well as best citizens. Let us have men who will do their whole duty without fear, favor or bias toward any or ought but justice. We have no patience with this timid and hesitating policy which fears to strike between the eyes of Wrong. There is no way to put down illegal practices except by rendering the line of demarcation between Virtue and Vice sternly plain. If you see a wrong, beat it down—beat it down with the deadliest weapon you can possess yourself of. Do men fear that Vice will triumph? Let it triumph openly, then, and not in the shameful deterioration of public officers. We do not fear defeat in a good cause. We crushed the life out of that fear years ago. Do you desire to put down wrong? Then grip the monster by the throat and never let go. If the monster drag you down to political death, so be it; it is better to die a thousand political deaths than one moral death under the fierce stabs of conscience. For one we neither ask nor give quarter in the strife with Wrong. And now that the law arms our citizens, if they refuse to protect themselves, then let them suffer. Friends of good order, if you do not draw the lines between right and wrong in the coming borough election, and draw them distinctly, too, say not one word about your Christianity in future. For, if Religion means anything, it means love to your neighbor! and you may know who is your neighbor when you may justly claim to be a Christian.

Dr. A. M. Loop, P. M. at Nelson in this county has sent us an excellently well preserved number of *The Ulster County Gazette*, published at Kingston, N. Y., and bearing date, Saturday, January 4, 1850. The number contains the announcement of the death of Gen. WASHINGTON, speeches in Congress in honor of the illustrious dead, the Message of the President and the funeral ceremonies on that occasion. The paper is draped in mourning.

The great progress of journalism since 1800 may be well comprehended with this paper and any one of the great Dailies of 1858 lying side by side. *The Gazette* is not quite one-half the size of the *Agitator*, but well printed. We take the following advertisement from its columns, as a chapter in the history of an age departed—from the North, at least:

FOR SALE.—The one-half of a SAW MILL with a convenient place for building, lying in the town of Rochester. By the Mill is an inexhaustible quantity of Fine Wood. And also

A stout, healthy, active NEGRO WENCH. Any person inclined to purchase may know the particulars by applying to John Schoonmaker, jr., at Rochester. [Nov. 23, 1793.]

Dr. L. will please accept thanks for this interesting ref.

The Tribune says the total amount of taxes for New York city for 1858, will reach \$100 for every voter, according to the number of votes for the Mayor. There is something "rotten in Denmark" to require such enormous taxation.—*Herald's Herald*.

Yes, sir, Mr. Herald; there has been a great deal too much rotten wood used in the government of New York city for the last four years. You should have thought of that before you set up that sorrowful wail over Fernando's defeat.

A mulatto exchange, in speaking of the refusal of the Free State men to vote upon the Leocompton constitution, asks—"What is the good of popular sovereignty to those who refuse to vote?" We reply by asking—"What is the good of that kind of popular sovereignty which returns 1600 votes polled in a precinct where there are not 100 inhabitants of all ages and conditions?"

ABSTRACT OF GOV. POLLOCK'S MESSAGE.

The finances of the Commonwealth are in a very satisfactory condition. During the past year every demand upon the Treasury has been promptly paid, from the revenues derived from the ordinary sources. The operations of this Department will be presented to you, in detail, in the report of the State Treasurer.

For the fiscal year ending November 30th, 1857, the receipts at the Treasury, including balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1856, of 1,244,795 32 were \$5,935,353 26. The aggregate expenditures for the same period, were 5,407,270 79. Balance in the Treasury December 1, 1857, \$528,106 47. Excluding the balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1856, the receipts from all sources were \$4,690,587 84. The ordinary expenditures for the same period were \$3,992,370 29; exhibiting an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$698,217 55. The extraordinary payments for the year, were \$1,414,906 50, as follows, to wit: To the completion of the Potage Railroad, \$40,061 92; to the North Branch extension \$138,798 85; to relay the South-Track of the Columbia Railroad, \$91,405 46; to enlarge the Delaware Division, \$46,263 00; for motive power in 1856, \$81,604 24; for repair in 1855 and 1856, \$49,564 78; for the redemption of loans, \$820,097 03; damages on the Public Works, \$46,552 65; old claims on the Main Line adjusted under the several Acts of Assembly, \$46,548 57, and for the new State Arsenal and Farmers High School, \$45,000 00.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, report the sum of \$114,920 20 as now in the Treasury to the credit of that fund.—This amount will be applied to the redemption of Relief Notes yet in circulation, and to the payment of the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

The Commissioners of this fund, on the 7th day of September last, reported to me that the sum \$1,042,857 64 of the debt of the Commonwealth, was held by them.

As required by law, I directed the certificates and evidences of this indebtedness to be cancelled; and on the 19th of September, 1857, issued my proclamation declaring the payment, extinguishment and final discharge, of \$1,042,857 64 of the public debt.

In addition to the amount reported to be in the Treasury to the credit of the sinking fund, and applicable to the payment of the public debt, the Commissioners of the fund now hold the sum of \$7,500,000 00 bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, pledged by law to the payment of the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

The funded and unfunded debt of the State, including temporary loans, on the first day of December, 1856, as per Reports of Auditor General and State Treasurer, was as follows, viz:

Funded Debt, . . . . . \$39,806,975 50  
Unfunded Debt, . . . . . 834,859 75

Total, . . . . . \$40,701,835 25

The funded and unfunded debt, at the close of the last fiscal year, December 1, 1857, was as follows, viz:

Funded Debt, . . . . . \$39,706,592 52  
Unfunded Debt, . . . . . 175,145 70

Total debt Dec. 1, 1857, . . . . . \$39,881,738 22  
Total debt Dec. 1, 1856, . . . . . \$40,701,835 25  
" " " " 1, 1857, . . . . . 39,881,738 22

Decrease during late fiscal year, . . . . . \$820,097 55

These statements exhibit the gratifying fact, that during the past fiscal year, the public debt has been reduced eight hundred and twenty thousand, ninety-seven dollars and fifty five cents. During the same period large appropriations and payments were made on account of our public improvements, for old and unsettled claims adjusted under the act of last session, and for other extraordinary purposes.

Notwithstanding, then, the present embarrassment and gloomy condition of the country, after a careful consideration of the present and prospective condition of the finances and resources of the Commonwealth, I cannot hesitate to reaffirm my belief, "that the time is not far distant when Pennsylvania will stand redeemed from the oppression of her public debt, and her people be relieved from a taxation imposed to meet its accruing interest and maintain the faith and credit of the Commonwealth," and that "by practicing strict economy in all departments of the Government—avoiding extravagant expenditure—refusing to undertake any new schemes of internal improvement, and holding to a rigid accountability the receiving and disbursing agents of the State, the realization of these views may be anticipated with confidence."

In my first annual message to the Legislature the fact was stated, that during the three years intervening between December 1, 1851, and December 1, 1854, the public debt had been increased one million, five hundred and eighty-four thousand, three hundred and fifty-nine dollars and thirty four cents; and that the total debt at the close of the fiscal year, December 1, 1854, was \$41,698,595 74. At the close of the late fiscal year, December 1, 1857, three years later, the funded and unfunded debt, as before shown, was \$39,881,738 22; decrease in three years \$1,816,857 52.

Thus in three years the public debt has been decreased, by actual payment and without resorting to the expedient of temporary loans, one million, eight hundred and sixteen

thousand, eight hundred and fifty seven dollars and fifty-two cents. If to this be added the sum of \$14,920 20 now in the sinking fund, and applicable to the payment of the funded debt, the reduction will be \$2,231,777 81.

These facts are not only gratifying, but encouraging. It has already been stated that there is in the Sinking Fund the sum of seven millions five hundred thousand dollars—bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, bearing interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, and pledged to the payment of the funded debt. If this sum be added to the reduction before stated, we have presented to us a virtual, if not an actual decrease, of the State debt of \$9,731,777 81; showing the total funded and unfunded debt of the State on the first day of December, 1857, to have been \$31,966,818 41.

The receipts from the Delaware Division are less than those of the previous year. The net revenue, at the Treasury, was \$174,001 87, a decrease of \$90,092 53, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. In addition to the ordinary expenditures, the sum of \$46,263 was paid for the enlargement and improvement of this division.

The sale of the Main Line has directed public attention to the importance and necessity of disposing of the remaining divisions of the public improvements. The reasons and policy that required and justified the sale of the one, apply with equal force to the sale of the other. The propriety of separating the State from the care and control of the public works, is not only evident to all who have given the subject a candid and impartial consideration, but the necessity is clearly established, by the history of their construction and management. They have failed to be a source of revenue to the Commonwealth, and if retained by the State, will require an expenditure in their repair and management, largely exceeding any revenue, that under the most favorable circumstances, can be derived from them. In any phase of the question, this separation is desirable, but in connection with the payment of the public debt, and the reduction of State taxation, it becomes an object of more than ordinary interest. A sale, at the earliest practicable period, of the whole of our public works, for a fair consideration, upon terms just and liberal to the purchasers, and at the same time amply protective of the rights and interests of the people, should be authorized by the Legislature. Such sale, with the application of the proceeds to the payment of the public debt, would secure its still more rapid extinguishment. The subject is recommended to your unbiased consideration.

JAMES POLLOCK.  
HARRISBURG, January 6, 1858.

A WIFE'S PRACTICAL JOKE.—Last Saturday evening a gentleman, residing at Jamaica Plains was sitting with his wife and some friends at their parlor fire, when the door bell was violently rung. The lady arose, but then suggested to her husband that as the girl was out, he had better go to the front door. Accordingly, he opened it, and found no one there; but there was a nicely done up basket covered with white linen, at his feet, and he thought he heard the rustle of a female dress departing. After looking vainly up and down the street and around the portal he took the basket into the parlor. On the covering being removed, a beautiful little child appeared, some five months old. The lady screamed. One of the lady visitors took up the baby and found a note pinned to its dress, which charged the gentleman of the house with being the father and implored him to support it.

A rich scene ensued between the injured wife and the indignant husband, the latter utterly denying any knowledge of the little one and asserting his innocence. The friends interfered, and at last the wife was induced to forgive the husband, although he stood to it like a Trojan that he had always been a faithful husband. Finally the lady very roguishly told her husband that it was strange that he did not know his own offspring, which had just been taken from its cradle upstairs by the nurse, for the purpose of playing the joke; and the surprised husband finally joined in the laugh which was raised by his exposure.—*Boston Traveller*.

READING ALOUD.—There is no treat so great as to hear good reading of any kind.—Not one gentleman or lady in a hundred can read so as to please the ear, and send the words with gentle force to the heart and understanding. Indistinct utterance, whines, drones, nasal twinges, guttural notes, hesitations, and other vices of elocution are almost universal. Why it is, no one can say, unless that it be that either the pulpit, or the Sunday school, gives the style in these days. Many a lady can sing Italian songs with considerable execution, but cannot read English passably. Yet reading is by far the most valuable accomplishment of the two. In most drawing rooms, if a thing is to be read, it is discovered that nobody can read.

One has weak lungs, another gets hoarse, chokes, another has an abominable sing-song, evidently a tradition of the way in which he said Watt's hymns when he was too young to understand them; another trembling like a broad-wheeled wagon; and another has a way of reading, which seems to proclaim that what is read is of no sort of consequence, and had better not be listened to.

THE NATIONAL ERA.—We heartily endorse the following from the *Ohio State Journal*, and hope that the reminder it contains will stir up the friends of the *Era*, to make an effort in its behalf.

The National Era, it is well known, has been for eleven years the champion of the freedom of the press in the District of Columbia. Though legally entitled to the official advertisements of the Departments, these bits of patronage are reserved for such pro-slavery luminaries as the Star and other organs of the Administration, while anti-slavery presses are required to subsist solely from the patronage of the people. The list of the *Era* has heretofore been adequate to its support, but the wide-spread monetary troubles compel the editor, Dr. Bailey, to invoke the friends of the *Era* to put forth extra efforts to sustain it. The *Era* is a good newspaper, and deserves the support of all who desire a reliable anti-slavery journal from the seat of Government.

Communications.

For The Agitator

That Proposition. MR. AGITATOR: A proposition from the Mansfield Classical Seminary, contained in your issue of the 17th ult., must, under all circumstances, claim the attention of all the taxable inhabitants of the county. Much might be said pro et con Normal Schools; but as you only admit suggestions relative to the feasibility of carrying out the proposition; The following—from this wild-wood out of the way corner of the county, are offered as the first off-hand impressions elicited by the said proposition. I confess to you, that its first perusal made me (in Sam Slick phrase) "start like a stuck pig!" It requires that a tax, to the amount of ten thousand five hundred dollars (\$10,500), be collected from the already tax-oppressed people of this county by the 1st of June next, and virtually donated to the said company. It must be so considered by a majority of those, whose money the company now want; for no good financier would recommend his friends (under such circumstances as now rule) to provide a sinking-fund, by tax, to pay a debt which did not exist. Now I hear that the predecessor of said company had its buildings destroyed by fire; and the company as such—virtually ruined. I see nothing in the "proposition" calculated to indemnify the county for loss, in case of a repetition of this or other disaster, and please remark that the proposed mortgage has a parallel continuance with said company. Hence we must conclude, that in case of the company's dissolution, the tuition of Normal Scholars will not only cease; but that the people's money will be also gone. But if the inhabitants of the several towns in the county—in view of the fact that two new bridges must be built across the Cowanesque river during the year; as also the other facts that their farming—mechanical and lumbering products are a drug in market at any living price; I say if the people think they can pay all their necessary taxes under the collectors cry of "state," "military," "poor," "road," "school," "trade," "building," "store-license," and every other pretext to squeeze money from this tax-oppressed and slightly benefited people, and they have still a surplus of cash on hand to advance the "Mansfield Classical Seminary" a noble sum for the promised tuition of one scholar from their respective town "perpetually" (how often?) then we say pay out on that proposition; and we, who rough it in the bush out here, will contribute of our leanness to satisfy the very modest requisition of said Institute. CHATHAM.

Dec. 25, 1857.

P. S. Since writing the above, and before sending it to the office; your last paper came to hand containing an article upon said proposition, from the pen of "a tax-payer of Tioga County" highly commendatory of the same. Now, when we see one swallow a "critter" with such horns, we may question the motive. It is also hard to repel the rising question of the mind, Is not said taxpayer also a stockholder in said company? Jan. 4, 1858. CHATHAM.

Common Schools.

Since my last communication, I have visited the schools of Farmington and Brookfield. The best in Farmington, is without doubt, taught by Mortimer C. Potter. It is difficult to tell which is the best in Brookfield. One has good government and poor education, another has good education and poor government, another has too small a school for a fair trial of skill, another has too much of the rowdy, but in other respects, teaches one of the best schools in town. I have visited no other district where there is so little difference in the schools. I take from my note book, some of the faults of teachers, in the various districts.

1st. Want of ventilation. When I open the door of some of our warm and tight school houses, I am reminded of an emigrant car, I am regaled with foul air and disagreeable odors. Teachers ought to teach in log houses till they learn the worth of pure air. Storing the mind with the seeds of knowledge, they are filling the body with the seeds of consumption. The room may be cold yet filled with poisonous air. Keeping the school room at proper temperature is highly necessary, but this by no means, ventilates it. Open windows, and hot fires is my motto. The windows should be let down from the top, and if necessary, the door kept partly open. Great care should be taken however, not to let a current of air strike directly upon any pupil. In some houses, there is a window near the desk, this window I would keep for a ventilator, in both cold and warm weather. The good sense of the teacher, however, must arrange this.

2d. Writing books all over the house, torn, blotted and scribbled. Pupils in this county are doing but little to learn to write. Teachers, this ought not to be,—the fault is yours. First learn the principles of penmanship yourselves. Have some system and order about your writing exercises. Have a particular place for your books, and let no pupil interfere with them till the regular hour of writing arrives. When I call at your schools I do not wish you to spend the time to run about the school house, for this girl, or that boy's writing book, and finally give it up as lost. When the pupils are done writing, put pen, ink and paper in their proper places, and there let them remain, till the next exercise. Write the names of each at the back of his book, and then you can tell them apart. I shall continue to enumerate some of the faults of teachers from time to time, and after a little, specify the schools where these are most prominent.

N. L. REYNOLDS,  
Co. Supt.

At a debating society in Schenectady the other day, the subject was:—"Which is the most beautiful production, a girl or a strawberry?" After continuing the argument for two nights the meeting finally adjourned, not coming to a conclusion—the old ones giving for the strawberries, and the young ones for the girls.

The Government of Sweden has lent \$5,000,000 francs to the Directors of the Bank to sustain their credit.