

FROM KANSAS.

The Section. Washington, Friday, Jan. 15, 1858.

Various conflicting reports are in circulation from telegraphs said to be in town, respecting Kansas—both parties claiming complete success in the Territory.

I have just seen a gentleman direct from the Territory, and his report is reliable to the best of his information.

The vote on the 4th gave a majority against the Constitution with Slavery. The vote was about 10,000. All the returns were in.

The R.-publicans have carried the Legislature by 2,000.

The Democrats have carried the State ticket by 1,000 to 2,000.

The Legislature has removed its session to Lawrence.

The Territory generally was quiet, although some excitement was occasioned by Gen. Lane, who had made numerous arrests on the ground of fraudulent voting.

Secretary Stanton is on his way to Washington, and will be here in a few days. The cause of his visit is unknown, but as he is unaccompanied by his family his stay will probably be brief.

Encounter with a Panther.

On the 22d ult., Mr. Samuel B. Hart, of Appleton, went out with a neighbor, to look for a stray colt, taking with him, his trusty rifle for the purpose of killing any wild game he might chance to see.

There was no time for deliberation. Retreat might be certain death, and to fire and not kill the huge monster would be attended with even greater hazard.

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The panther was brought to town and exhibited to large crowds, exciting universal surprise at his size and evident age, the more especially as but one of the species had been seen in this section of Wisconsin within a period of eleven years.

The SOUTH AND THE MORMONS.—The ultra Southern men are making common cause with the Mormons. The "win relics of barbarism, Polygamy and Slavery," naturally aid and assist each other.

My sympathies as a States Rights man are with the Mormons. I do not approve of their domestic institutions. No matter; it is their business, not mine; nor am I or any other person answerable for their sins, or liable to suffer for their mistakes.

CHICAGO IN 1857.—The City of Chicago is only 26 years old. The town was laid out in 1830, and the first sales of lots were made in 1831. Its growth is extraordinary.

THE POTATO ROT AND COLD DISEASE.—A friend sends us the following "extract from a German paper," which says that "potatoes were first introduced in Europe in 1563; 59 years after the rot commenced; 80 years after its introduction no good seed was to be had. In 1696 new seed was imported from Peru; 45 years after this the rot again commenced, and in 1779 no good seed was to be had. In 1797 new seed was again imported, and it did not get into general use till 1802 or 1803." If this is a fact, we should have it fully proved, and that would prove the necessity of frequently renewing the seed from the original locality.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE AGITATOR.

Wellsborough, Pa. Thursday Morning, Jan. 21, 1858.

M. H. Cobb, Editor & Publisher.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA. Thursday Morning, Jan. 21, 1858.

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

We cannot publish anonymous communications.

CAUCUS.—Those citizens of Wellsboro in favor of restraining the sale of intoxicating liquors in this borough in violation of law; and those in favor of selecting officers who will jealously guard the laws from infraction, are earnestly requested to meet at the Court House on FRIDAY, 22d instant, at 6 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of making a ticket for borough officers to be voted for at the approaching election. MANY.

Messrs. Benson and Williston will accept thanks for documents.

There is no Harrisburg news worth transcribing. The Washington news is equally barren.

The weather holds delightfully mild. Ground bare and but slightly frozen.

William Comstock murdered his father and mother at Poolville, N. Y., on the 11th inst. He cut out their hearts, roasted and ate them. He was laboring under an attack of delirium tremens.

The communication of "Tyoga" came too late for insertion this week. Again we inform correspondents that their favors must be handed in by Monday noon, to ensure an early insertion.

A southern exchange of the Louisville Journal says that the Administration has resolved to lay the axe at the root of the credit system. Upon this, Prentice drily remarks that it has begun by laying the axe at the root of its own credit.

Mrs. W. R. CUTLER, of Rochester, N. Y., will give a Concert in Corning, Tuesday evening, Jan. 26. Mrs. Cutler has a fine reputation as a vocalist, and goes to Corning upon the formal invitation of the lovers of good music in that place. Tyogans convenient to the Railroad will please take notice.

The Oregon Times cautions printers to look out for one Dr. Wm. T. Kerr, who pretends to cure Stammering, and who is himself afflicted with an impediment in paying the printer. We received an order from that same Kerr for sundry little jobs; but as no money accompanied the order we paid no attention to the letter. He wished us to announce his certain arrival in Wellsboro on a certain Wednesday, which we did not do, as the letter reached us the day following that Wednesday and no such arrival occurred. It is a good plan to notice money orders, and none other.

Gov. POLLOCK has appointed as his Aids, with the rank of Lieut. Col., Messrs. A. RITTER, of Charleston, J. B. NILES, of Middlebury and R. W. STRUCK, of Wellsboro. We feel to congratulate our friends upon their promotion, and take this occasion to remind them that "Discretion is the better part of Valor." They have cause to congratulate themselves upon having escaped the perilous duty of guarding the person of our beloved Executive, since their commissions expired in so much at the inauguration of Mr. Packer, on Tuesday. We suspect that they are not thereby released from the duty of wetting their papers, however. Toe the mark.

A correspondent desires us to give Mormonism in general and Brigham Young in particular, a thorough "blowing up." We must beg to be excused from doing anything of the kind. A man has just as good right to profess Mormonism as any other form of religion. Brigham Young is doing just as any sensible man would do under like circumstances, that is, he is determined that Utah shall be organized as a first-fruits of the great democratic doctrine of Popular Sovereignty. By virtue of that doctrine Utah has the right to demand rulers of her own choice—being a peculiar people. Democracy sends pro-slavery Governors to look after the interests of one "domestic institution" in Kansas, and why should it refuse to send a Mormon Governor to look after the interests of that other "domestic institution" in Utah? Brigham is right.

Who is to Blame?

There are a great many foolish and wicked customs, a great deal of unrighteous public opinion and mountains of false pride in this world of Man. There are likewise many sad misfortunes, griefs and losses; a great many wrongs and grievous oppressions; and for the sad prevalence of all these, somebody is responsible. "Who's to blame?" You know it is said of Woman, that when she falls she falls lower, sinks into a state of more utter degradation, is more hopelessly abandoned than man can be. This is true. A woman utterly lost to a sense of shame in wrong doing is the most pitiable of all spectacles. We have heard men endeavor to account for this by attributing it to the exalted position of virtue and high-minded Woman occupies in man's esteem, thus contending that she actually sinks no lower than man, but seems to descend lower in the pit of shame because of her greater exaltation. The best refutation of this argument will be found in carefully noting the abandoned of both sexes. It will then appear that the degradation of a fallen woman is infinitely greater than that of a fallen man; and that her reclamation requires fourfold the labor of his. Since this fact is indisputable, a reason for it exists somewhere in the realm of causes. Who's to blame? First, then, generally, society is blameable; next and particularly, Man is blameable; last, especially, and above all, Woman is herself blameable. Briefly, woman sinks lower because the ban of society falls more heavily upon her. She is taught that there is no return to her first estate after the first false step is taken. Therefor the fountains of sympathy are sealed for her forever. The gates of social equality are forever closed against her. The eye of her brother man is fixed upon her either in Pharisaic and self-righteous condemnation; or in lascivious boldness; he whispers her shame in the streets, and makes a jest of her misfortunes in the bar-room. And he who connived at her disgrace is loudest and boldest in jest and denunciation. Pity her!

The eye of her sister woman is either coldly averting, or fixed upon her in pitiless scorn and proud contempt. Her thoughts recur to the fallen one in loathing; her lips move to condemnation; she avoids that lost one as though her presence were contamination; she never speaks a word in palliation of the offence. The victim beholds the doors that were flung wide to receive her but yesterday, closed against her to-day, closed forever. The lips that yesterday touched hers in a sisterly love greeting, are to-day pursed up with cruel pride and busy in defaming her in that circle from which she is forever exiled. Woman has locked her heart of hearts against her, and hid the key away in the casket of Pride. She awakes, an exile from the realm of womanly sympathy, with no hand to uplift, no counsel to guide and reclaim, no eye to pity.

What is there left for her worth striving for? She may perform an angel's labors, but that would not blot out her crime from the memory of man; that would not charm open the gate of social equality; she cannot perform a labor whose wages shall be Woman's forgiveness and sisterhood. Socially, her bark is adrift upon a sea-breeze swept in the glooms of an Arctic night. Hopeless, desperate—no hand beckoning her return to the walks of virtue—where shall this exile go? Where does she go? And who's to blame for it? Who is Responsible? Society! Man! but more than all, Woman, is responsible! She will not forgive; it is idle to put the work of that victim's reclamation upon man. He will not respect whom woman condemns. He will go on, ruining and to ruin, just so long as woman frowns upon his victims. Charity must begin at home. Where is the mortal without frailties? Point to that man or woman who may not fall—who can keep forever without the sphere of Temptation, or, keeping within it, can defy contamination. There is no such man or woman—we care not where they dwell—in palace or in hovel. And if the secrets of high life were once laid bare to public gaze, we might discover that a virtue is not led to crucifixion in shilling calico, alone. All the world over, the most uncharitable some day will need the friendly cover of Charity's mantle. None are sinless and none so securely fixed that they may not stumble in some unguarded hour.

Position of the Mormon Army.

From the Los Angeles Star Extra, Dec. 8. Mr. Bell, with whom we have had a conversation, informs us that he left Salt Lake City on the 8th November, and after two days' traveling, short stages, encamped for a day or two. While encamped an express arrived from the city, which informed them that Col. Johnston had arrived at Ham's Fork and taken the command; that communications, short and expressive, had passed between the Colonel and Gov. Young; the result of which was that Col. Johnston ordered his command to be ready next morning for an advance on Salt Lake City, where he intended to winter. Ham's Fork is about one hundred miles from the city. The Mormons were stationed at Echo Canon, about fifty miles from the city, through which the troops must pass. A collision, therefore, was inevitable, as the Mormons were in great numbers, and were being rapidly reinforced. A march of two or three days would bring the troops in front of their opponent.

The rumor we alluded to in our last, respecting the burning of a number of wagons, has been confirmed by Mr. Bell. The wagons were the property of the Government contractors, and seventy-six of them were burned. A body of armed mounted men came at night to the camp, told the wagon-master what they intended to do, gave him time to awake his men and remove their baggage and bedding, told him to select a wagon to take his party back to the Salt, which he did, and they then set fire to the whole train, burning up seventy-six wagons. The cattle were driven into Salt Lake City.

With regard to the Indians east of Salt Lake, it is more than probable that Col. Johnston has propitiated them, and they will be found, if not on the side of the Government, at least neutral.

In case of resistance to the troops, there is every reason for confidence that Col. Johnston will force the passage of the canon, and make good his advance to the city.

The force of the Mormons has been greatly overestimated; almost every available man has been enrolled. In passing through the settlements, Mr. Bell found that the men generally had been called out to the mountains; and yet the whole force fell far short of 10,000 men.

The Winter has set in with severity. In the city the snow was two inches deep, and in the mountains, where the Mormons were encamped, it must have been from six to twelve inches deep.

The Mormon army was in a very poor condition, badly clothed, poorly armed, and with very little provisions.

The families are represented as being in a suffering condition—wanting in provisions and wood—the Winter already commenced, and the men all called off to the camps.

Mr. Bell's company had passports from Gov. Young, but were only asked for them once. It seemed as if intelligence had been sent ahead of them, and all knew of their journey to California but at one station.

Nevertheless, it was necessary, at each settlement, to call on the Bishop, hire an interpreter, and send them ahead of the company to treat with the Indians for their safe passage. By representing themselves as Mormons, using every precaution, and more particularly by the expenditure of over \$2,000 among Bishops, interpreters and Indians, the company succeeded in making their way in safety.

We have confirmation of the report that was circulated at the time, regarding the company that was massacred some time since, that they suffered at the hands of the Indians in revenge for criminal indiscretions on the part of certain of their members. Small bags containing poison were found in springs, the waters of which caused sickness and death among the Indians. They mustered their forces, followed and massacred the whole party.

The Mormons who recently left San Bernardino for Salt Lake were met by Mr. Bell's company beyond the Mojave. The train was moving along. There was no encampment on the Mojave, as had been reported here the past two or three days.

Messrs. Kincaid & Co., and Gilbert & Greish, sold out their entire stock of goods to the Mormons at the prices offered by the authorities. They were told the people wanted them, and they had better take what they could get, or abide the result.

Mr. Bell was enrolled in the army of defense, but, on being informed of it, declined, of course, the intended honor. He, therefore, left the Territory. The company arrived in good health.

The Editor of the Wayne Co. Herald, in alluding to the legal murder of Donnelly, has the following just remarks:

"Oh, what a sad administration of criminal justice. What a certain penalty for uncertain guilt. How fearfully painful and responsible is the penalty of death, when the guilt of the condemned is only based upon the testimony of erring man—a penalty irrevocable and in defiance of the laws of God and humanity. How much more civil and humane, it is, to imprison the alleged murderer for life—where he can never prey upon fellow mortals and where he can be restored to society and friends in the event of his innocence coming to light. The terrible offence of possibly hanging an innocent person, should be placed beyond the committee of any officer of the law. The old saying is true, 'that ninety and nine guilty ones had better escape than to punish one who is innocent.'"

The old fable of the viper, who, being warmed to life, turned and bit his benefactor, has had its counterpart in Connecticut. Mr. Matthew Griswold of Old Lyme saw a man in the sound, on the bottom of a boat, in a perilous condition, a few days since, and rescued him from drowning; took him to his house, warmed, fed and cared for him—took him to the cars and gave him three dollars to reach Norwalk, where he said he lived. The next Saturday night the ungrateful scamp entered the house of his benefactor, stole about \$1,300 worth of property, but was caught at the Essex ferry with the property upon him, and has been bound over for trial. The New Haven Register moves that the fellow be put back into the Sound, where he was picked up, and "anchored."

The Tribune Almanac for 1858 has reached us. Our patrons are so well acquainted with the character of this valuable Annual as a register of current political events, that comment on our part is unnecessary. Those residing at a distance from book-stores may obtain it by enclosing 13 cents in postage stamps, directed to Horace Greeley & Co., Tribune Office, New York. 13 persons may procure 13 copies, post-paid, by sending \$1.13 as directed above. Those residing near Wellsboro will be able to get copies at Young's Bookstore in a few days.

Our Correspondence.

QUINDARO, K. T., Jan. 1, 1858.

FRIEND COBB: Weeks have passed since I last wrote you, and now to redeem some of my old pledges, of course I must write you a few lines. Thousands of rumors have been put in circulation of late, but I have not deemed it necessary to write until I could ascertain the facts; and now the news is so old that I doubt not you have received it long ere this.

I was absent the past week at Lawrence, and there attended the first Mass Free State Convention I ever attended in Kansas. Hundreds were present from all parts of the Territory, and I listened to many able and eloquent speeches. On my arrival there on Tuesday night, I found the Free State boys well rejoining over their return from Leecompton, bringing all the muskets and sabres in the possession of Gen. Denver and the authorities there—250 of the former and 75 of the latter. These arms were stolen from Col. Eldridge's emigrant party while entering the Territory in 1856.

On Thursday evening the members of the "Free State Fire Engine Co. No. 1," held their first annual Ball in Babcock & Lykins' Hall, and on Thursday evening next there is to be a Grand Legislative Ball at the same place, in honor of the members of the first legally elected Territorial Legislature in Kansas. Lawrence is growing very fast, but there is some dispute about the title of the town site, which is claimed by a Wyandott Indian. The large and magnificent Free State Hotel is nearly completed, and is a great ornament to the place.

I left there on Saturday morning and rode as far as the Delaware Baptist Mission, twelve miles distant from this place, then came on foot. When I got about three miles into the timber, I took the wrong road and traveled about six miles which brought me to the water's edge of the Kaw. I there met a Kentuckian and found I was on the old Military road leading from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Scott in the Southern part of the Territory. We soon got into conversation in reference to Kansas affairs. He said he was a Pro-Slavery man by G.—D., and that Kansas would have been a Slave State long ere this, had not the d—d Northerners poured in so fast for the past few years. He had always lived in Kentucky till the last three years which he had spent in Kansas, and was so fortunate or unfortunate as to get a Delaware squaw for a wife.

I left him about 4 o'clock and traveled hard all the afternoon, and at dark dark came out on the Lawrence road, just a mile and a half from where I started, and in consequence, had to stay at the house of the chief of the Delaware tribe all night. The manners and customs of the Indians are far different from any people I ever saw. They seldom work any, but always have good horses to ride, being too lazy to walk. The Delawares are supposed to be the richest Nation in the world.

The Missouri is not yet closed by ice, but navigation is suspended. We are having beautiful weather; have only had about four inches of snow this season, which fell several weeks ago, and melted in a few hours afterwards.

The Free State men will vote for State officers under the Leecompton Constitution next Monday, and as soon as I find out the result you will hear from me again. Till then, believe me, Yours &c., F. A. Root.

Letter from Michigan.

MR. COBB: While rambling about the other day I chanced to pick up a couple of papers. To my surprise, I found the Agitator enclosed in that mulatto-colored, slaveocratic, Leecompton-eyed Journal—the Pennsylvanian. I was somewhat surprised at the close communion existing between two such antagonistic papers. In looking over both papers, I find the Pennsylvanian loaded to the muzzle with the doctrine of the Union, clanking with the teachings of the new-fangled sovereignty of the mulatto tinge. While the Agitator breathes forth the teachings of Jefferson—restriction to the "peculiar institution."

I notice in the Pennsylvanian an article somewhat Topeka-eyed in its argument. It quotes from the Union to prove the consistency of Mr. Platform, his identity with his (Buchanan's) position in 1836 when application was made by Arkansas and Michigan for admission into the Union as States without enabling acts. He said:

"The first objection he should consider was the one suggested, rather than insisted on, by the Senator from Delaware, [Mr. Clayton,] and that was, that no act had been passed by Congress for the purpose of enabling the people of Michigan to form a State Constitution, in obedience to what had been supposed to be the custom in regard to other States that have been admitted into the Union. Now, was there, he would ask, any reason for passing such an act? Was it required by principle, or was it required by former practice? He utterly denied that it was required either by one or the other before a new State may be admitted into the Union; and whether it was given previously or subsequently to the application of a State for admission into the Union was of no earthly importance."

If I am not mistaken, this is exactly the position of the Republicans in '56—to establish their "precedents" for the admission of Kansas into the Union with the Topeka Constitution. But no! the shamocracy were all for "enabling" in those days. They repealed the Missouri Compromise to "enable" the South to domesticate her institutions in the Territories. It was all to "enable." The shamocracy allowed the Border Ruffians to vote, to "enable" the South to establish the primary principles of "domestication." Such a thing as precedents were entirely foreign to the admission of Kansas with the Topeka Constitution. But lo! the shamocracy within the past few weeks have applied their political spy glass to their "Platform." They discover so many precedents by which the unable have got into the Union, that the Leecompton Constitution should become one of the stepping stones for future territories, especially if they have not been "enabled."

When the touch-stone of "slaveryocracy" is applied to the Leecompton Constitution; it becomes the vital principle of sovereignty;

leaving Douglas stripped of his foster child.

I should not be surprised if the next time I fall in with another Pennsylvanian that would be in the same fix as your amiable friend of Wayne Co. The mulatto journals of this State to some extent are like your friend of the Luzerne Union they are keeping "dark," occasionally rejoicing at the prospects of subduing the Black Republicans. The tax growers are very busy at present. By the way, of "growlers," one of the growlers in Detroit, an alderman, called his brother democrats, bull dogs. Taking this hypothesis we can expect growling. They seem to be growling at one another all over the Union. Forney is growling. Mr. Platform ought to send him out of the reach of growlers. He deserves a foreign mission for his Union-saving propensities.

The weather has been Octoberish all winter, up to the present time. Hard times in the wheatward, with wheat at 70 cts, butter 11 cts, pork 4.50 and 4.75, and no end to potatoes at 16 cts, and whiskey the same.

Yours occasionally, MICHIGAN.

Communications.

For the Agitator.

MR. EDITOR: As Wellsboro is not the only place where the "Serpent of the Still" is worshipped, and as your columns seem to be open for goose quill castigations on this subject, please accept a few lines from another quarter. The time has been when our little town was noted for its quietness and thrift, Drunkenness, fighting and profanity were hardly known amongst us. But now, alas! we have them all in their worst phases.—What has wrought this change. Let each resident of Osceola answer for himself. We still have many good citizens who are staunch temperance men, but they allow the rum-sellers and drinkers to go on in their own way, regardless of the ruin and misery they are causing. Our temperance men did indeed have spirit enough to sign a remonstrance against a licensed tavern, but after this particular feat of giantship, left the field entirely to the liquor party, contenting themselves with drawing long sighs, and saying (when they saw their fellow citizens reeling through the streets.) Well, I have not given my sanction to such wicked proceedings, and again relapsed into their former apathy. What is it that temperance men are afraid of? They surely have law, justice and humanity on their side, with plenty of cases for the enforcing of that law that need no further proof except what they themselves furnish. We do indeed have once in a while a little pettifogging for our lawyers when there is a collision between the vendors and drinkers themselves. Drinker prosecutes Vendor for selling liquor, and Vendor prosecutes Drinker for getting drunk. Finally upon the second sober thought of Vendor and the first sober thought of Drinker the suit is withdrawn; for Vendor is in danger of losing his sixpences, and Drinker in danger of losing his dram. So all becomes quiet again in that quarter. Our temperance men all deplore the dreadful state of things, but who shall have stamina enough to move first? You say Mr. Editor, that we have peace officers, whose business it is to report all disorders; if so, would it not be a good plan for temperance men to see that they perform their duty, or have them replaced by those who will. If our laws are good for anything, why not have them enforced? If they are not, repeal them, and make those that are. 'Kate' says in her communication of last week, that our temperance men or officials rather, dare not enter a complaint against our liquor vendors. This is a grave charge, and we hope it is not so. We do not give over our good deacons and pious officials so easily. We not only call upon them for good advice, but we demand of them as our right, that they perform their hitherto neglected duties, and that they look to it that they love the peace and quietness of their own firesides, the salvation of their own children, and the good of their fellow men, that this cursed traffic is put a stop to. We do not hurt all our anathemas at the poor inebriate, guilty as he may be; but we do say that a curse cannot fail to follow him who deliberately deals out the liquid poison to his weak and erring brother, regardless of the entreaties of the wife and mother. If woman is out of her sphere when she speaks against the wrongs which most immediately concern her, we would like to ask Mr. Drumseller what sphere she occupies when her infuriated husband comes home, a raving maniac, by the poison you have dealt out to him. If we are in the wrong please enlighten us, for at present we only speak the honest convictions of our heart. But we are waiting for "the good time coming." We hope that "one man" in Wellsboro will not forget his promise, as we bid him God speed in his good resolutions. Osceola, Jan. 6th, 1858. E.

It will be well for the people of this county to refuse the notes of the Tioga County Bank, as most of our merchants or brokers will not receive them.—Meadville Spirit of the Age.

The above named bank is one of those chartered last winter. We have not before heard that its notes were discredited, and cannot see why the Meadville shavers will not take it. Peterson's Detector for January quotes it at 1 1/2 per cent. discount, while the Crawford County Bank is marked doubtful. Meadville shavers should make their money good before they discredit the Bank of other communities. Though we are not directly interested in the welfare of the Tioga Bank, as a neighbor we feel under obligation to say that its notes are so far as we know, as good as those of any country bank in the State, very few of them being circulated—and from our knowledge of those who have its affairs in their hands, we think there is reason to suppose that its notes will be current while those of any country bank are.—Potter Journal.

D-I-E-D.

In Little Falls, Morrison Co., Minnesota, Oct. 1, of Typhoid fever, S. M. PUTNAM, in the 24th year of his age.

The subject of this brief notice, was born in Coalington, Tioga county, Pa., where he remained about two years since, when, with a mind well stored with knowledge, or great attainments in addition to his superior natural powers, he left the home of his nativity, and a large circle of friends for the purpose of gaining a more extensive knowledge by becoming acquainted with a wider range of objects.