

Lecompton—The Army Bill.

Washington, Feb. 18, 1858. The fate of the Kansas admission bill is fixed. It is to be passed by both Houses. I do not learn that the majority of the Senate Committee on Territories have introduced in their bill any qualification or any construction of the cause of the Lecompton constitution, which may prohibit the alteration of the same. Kansas will be admitted, if at all, under that Constitution, without any qualification or condition, or any compromise or understanding by which the Free-State party is to have the State Government.

The majority report and the two minority reports from the Senate Committee on Territories are now before the public, or soon will be. I presume they will appear in the papers to-morrow. One of the minority reports was sent to New-York, in full last night. The Army bill cannot hang much longer in the Senate. It is doubted whether even Mr. Seward can save it. The plan substituting volunteers is now under discussion. Lieut. Gen. Scott favors that plan. The regular army project finds no support in any quarter, in view of the increase of the Army by the addition of four or five regiments. The repugnance of Congress to an increase of the standing Army is unconquerable. There are, no doubt, prevailing political reasons for this, independent of potent financial considerations.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1858.—The demon of discord has apparently been let loose on the metropolis during the last two days. Besides the quarrels between Gen. Harney and Col. Sumner, between Lieut. Rhind and Commander Boutwell, between Mr. James B. Clay and Gen. Cullom, about forty others are pending among the naval officers.

Two Army officers (Captains) had a fight in the barber's shop at Willard's this morning. A cane was broken over the head of one of combatants, and a duel will probably ensue. The city is full of rumors about Messrs. Clay and Cullom. It was even reported that Gen. Cullom had been wounded in a duel, but they are all false. No hostile meeting has yet occurred. There are also abundant rumors about Harney and Sumner, which are equally unfounded. Sumner has gone North and Harney South, to Richmond.—N. Y. Tribune.

ARREST OF A WHOLE CAR LOAD OF COUNTERFEITERS.

An evening or two since a dispatch was received at Cambridge, Ohio, on the Central Ohio Railroad, from Columbus, announcing to the Mayor of the town that there were two counterfeiters upon the train which would pass there in the evening, and directing him to secure their arrest. The dispatch set forth that one of the counterfeiters had whiskers and the other had not. Accordingly, when Captain J. H. Morrow's train came along, the constabulary force of the village, operating upon the explicit and comprehensive dispatch aforesaid, and backed by an army of good citizens stationed upon the platform, boarded the cars and commenced a search for whiskers and smooth faces, and in less than three minutes every stranger on the train was under arrest. One benevolent looking gentleman, indignant at the idea of being thus interfered with, said with great dignity "sir, I am a Senator of Ohio." "That game's been played out," answered the constable, "haven't you got whiskers?" The Senator saw that circumstances were against him and submitted. Another drew a revolver and threatened to send the whole force to their long homes. Some raved, some swore, and in the midst of the general confusion, the engine snorted and the train moved off. The officers were parried to the next station, where they left the train and their prisoners.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE—FIFTEEN PLACES OR BUSINESS BURNED—LOSS \$20,000.

On Tuesday night last about midnight the row of wooden buildings on the south side of Water street, extending from N. W. Gardner's Hat Store to Finch's Saddlery and Harness shop, was discovered to be on fire in the upper part of the building occupied by Chas. Ulrich as a lager beer saloon. The flames made rapid progress, and from the first but little hope was entertained of arresting them short of the brick building on the west. The buildings were all two stories except the block in the centre of the row, occupied by Jones and Gibbons, which was three stories, and the whole row was entirely consumed. The occupants of all the shops in the row applied themselves at once to removing their goods, a large part of which were saved, though the losses of some were severe. Nearly all the losses of merchandise are covered by insurance, and a large proportion also of the loss upon the buildings. It is impossible to estimate the losses by the destruction and damage of goods with any accuracy, without inventories, but we have obtained the rough guesses of the sufferers which may approximate the true loss. Some are doubtless exaggerated.—Elmira Advertiser.

DANGERS OF EARLY RISING.

On Saturday morning says the Bangor Union, a curious incident occurred in a small domicile on Newbury street. A young man struck by the splendor of the full moon arose from his bed at half past one o'clock, supposing it was morning, and proceeded to a store in West Mareet Square in which he was a clerk, built a fire, swept out and waited for custom.—Seeing that there was no stir in the streets, he stepped out and got a view of the town clock, which revealed his error, whereupon he shut up store and retraced his steps home. Meantime the young ladies of the family, hearing him go out and supposing it was morning got up also, but finding their error fastened the door and retired again, getting snug into the arms of Morpheus before the early bird arrived. Not being able to get in at the door and not wishing to discover his premature adventure to the family, he got a ladder and by it obtained access to his chamber, the noise of which however aroused the young ladies, who rushed down stairs to their parents, with the cry that a burglar was breaking into the house. He met the whole family in dishabille, armed with pokers &c., but made himself known before serious consequences ensued.

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. Cobb, Editor & Publisher.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, Feb. 25, 1858.

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

We cannot publish anonymous communications.

Messrs. WILCOX & SEARS have removed their Provision and Shoe Store to the stand lately occupied by John Danaux.

L. P. WILLISTON, Esq., was in town last week on a visit to his family. He returned to his post at Harrisburg on Saturday.

We are enjoying a spell of wholesome, winter weather. The sleighing is excellent. On Monday night the mercury sunk to 6 deg. below zero at ten o'clock. At half past six Tuesday morning, it stood 8 above. Tuesday was a bright day.

We do not suppose that every individual sending us anonymous letters necessarily acts in bad faith; but such letters convey no authority and therefore have come to be considered evidences of bad faith. We therefore ask those who see fit to entrust information touching any public matter to us, to write a responsible name at the bottom of their letters.

Some people think that they purchase the editor of this paper for one dollar and fifty cents, instead of the paper. We think they will soon learn differently, if they have not already done so.—Lock-haven Watchman.

Hit 'em again, DUNHAM. You are hitting a class that exists wherever civilization extends.

A friend, writing us from Knox county, Ill., asks: "How goes the battle in Pennsylvania? I see that the powers of darkness still prevail, but live in hope, for truth is mighty. I have not felt so much like getting up on my chair and hurrahing, for an age, as I did when I read the despatch containing the account of Grov's prompt return of the blows of the Ruffian Keitt. We expect at our coming election to elect a legislature that will send a man to the U. S. Senate in the place of 'Little Dog,' who will be actuated by some higher motives than place or preference."

N. T. C. is credited with \$1, "good and lawful money," which entitles him to The Agitator one year from March 6, ensuing. We trust his hopes for the regeneration of Illinois are well founded.

Moral Law vs. Laws of Trade.

It will be seen from the communication of our friend, "I," in another place, that he is by no means satisfied with our answers to his interrogatories of two weeks ago. Nor are we disappointed at this; we did not intend to deal with the moral question as regards business transactions, in replying to those interrogatories, nor did those interrogatories, on their face, strictly construed under the rules of colloquial debate, demand any such treatment at our hands. We plead guilty to an avoidance of the moral question—the question mentally put by "I." We did so, because, as he well knew, we do not at any time undertake to defend the laws of trade on moral grounds, and because we consider those laws so loathsome in construction that they cannot be otherwise than immoral in their ordinary operation.

But, preliminarily, be it understood by our friend and all others, that Fourier set out with a protest against these very laws of trade, concerning the morality of which there is no controversy between our correspondent and ourselves. We join him in his hearty protest against those laws, and will endeavor to follow, as far as we may be able in one article, this protest to its legitimate results. But first let us perfect some of "I's" definitions. For instance, the intrinsic value of anything is simply its inherent, essential value. Thus, there is not by any means the value of 25 cents, of silver, in an American quarter dollar coin; therefore, it is not, intrinsically, worth twenty-five cents. But by the laws of the currency it is made to assume the fictitious value of that sum. Again, \$100 is intrinsically worth perhaps \$36. Yet, would our friend loan us \$100 for one year, without a note from us declaring our indebtedness to him in the sum of \$100? Such a transaction would not offend against any law of the land. \$100 is worth \$100 because it will bring so much. Again, our friend thinks that because publishers hold payment for work done, or to be done, a guaranty of good faith, the printer of Walker's proclamations must have believed Walker to be around President de facto of Nicaragua. This looks very like a non sequitur. So long as a man deals honestly with us we are bound to say so; but it does not therefore follow that we believe him to be Julius Cæsar, or the model man of a hemisphere. Our friend inquires how we know that a patron, whom we have never seen, exists? We reply, he performs his promises made to us, and we therefore presume him to exist and to possess ordinary honesty. We do not pronounce him a paragon of virtue and propriety, any more than we do hundreds of our patrons who deal honestly with us, but of whose general characters we know nothing. We do not regard habitual suspicion of motives a virtue.

To the subject: The laws of Trade are necessarily immoral; because they spring from the lust of riches, place and power. There are many strictly business transactions which savor strongly of larceny. The rule is, that no man can get rich, as the world understands the term, and sin not, flagrantly, against the Moral Law. Rich men become gainful by means of fictitious values placed upon commodities. You will be troubled to produce a man who has accumulated wealth except through a most liberal construction of the laws of trade; and we gravely question if ten men can be found in any community, who would be deemed respectable by popular consent, who do not daily contravene the moral law in the prosecution of their business. As society is organized, such contravention is inevitable without such sacrifice on the part of him who should repudiate the laws of trade, as would incarcerate him in a lunatic Asylum. A system of Equitable Exchange, based upon the intrinsic values of things as 'I' hints at, would subject its advocates to the scorn and contempt of any Christian community. Our friend is not ready to dare martyrdom in that field. More than one man has suffered the penalty of being wiser than his time, and suffered nobly; but we do not feel competent to the advocacy of the moral law, against the laws of trade. We see the evils adverted to and many more, resulting from the laws of trade. For example: The man who appeals to the cupidity of his fellow-men through the Credit system, violates the moral law. The purchaser plays to win time, and the seller to win an illegal use for his money, disguised under the name, profit. Every man who buys under this system, in a strictly moral point of view, is party in a game of chance—a gambler. The man who buys of a Flour speculator, aids and encourages him in his nefarious business. Nor does our friend fairly state the moral question in this case. We cite him to the high moral stand taken by the men and women of '76 upon the Tea question. They knew how to argue moral questions with a regal wrong-doer. They not only protested against British Speculation in Tea, but they would neither buy nor use the article. That was a grand moral lesson. We are all forgetting that lesson—saying

and except a little band of Garrisonian Abolitionists—better known to fame as infidels! Infidels! To what? To these immoral laws of trade! To the indulgence sold by a false society to those who, for convenience and profit, countenance speculative risk by adding to its profits. We plead guilty to such wrong countenance.

The man who, by advertisement or otherwise, appeals to the cupidity of the public, commits no offence against the laws of trade, because those laws are based upon man's cupidity. All men put their wares above those of their neighbors, or promise better bargains, or offer wares at a slight advance upon cost; why? To work upon human cupidity; to make money. Shall we denounce those individuals as 'humbugs'? No; not the men, but the laws of trade. For, to denounce all guilty of like moral offences would reach every member of community. The truth seems to be pretty nearly here: Society has decreed that wealth shall, in some sort, constitute a patent of respectability to its possessor. Doors open to admit him into the "first circles," every path to preferment is cleared at his approach. Now, where should condemnation fall with greatest effect—upon the man and his money, or upon the rotten-hearted social system which says to the ambition of every man as old Simon Smirk said to his laudful son: "Don't forget this dying advice of your father, my son: if you want to be respected by the great ones, get money; if you want to cover up some small sins, get money; and, my son (here the old gentleman gasped) remember to get—money—get it somehow!" This is the doctrine of society as at present constituted, and upon its shoulders the blame for the evils assailed by our friend, primarily and properly rests. Will he—will any other man in this community, turn coldly from a wealthy citizen, ignore him socially, because the fact that his wealth was gained by constant contravention of the moral law, is notorious? Send the prince of speculators—George Law—into any community as a resident, how many would inquire as to the manner of the accumulation of his princely fortune? Not one of the "privileged," we presume to say; nor do we just now perceive any man who could be depended upon to cast the first stone at Mr. George Law, after a strict investigation. All men hasten to advantage themselves by the fictitious valuation of property. All invest their funds in that which promises the most profitable return, as a rule. No branch of business is wholly exempt. The intrinsic value of a bushel of potatoes—by which we mean the nutritive value—is about one-fourth that of a bushel of beans. Yet potatoes very often sell at \$1 while beans hold at \$1.50 and \$2. Circumstances combine to place a fictitious, or fictitious value upon potatoes; and the happy owner of a nice crop rushes them into market and makes a "fine spec!" Did those potatoes cost him more than in ordinary years? Usually, no. He was "lucky!"

But space will permit of nothing like a just notice of the evils alluded to by our correspondent. We shall not defend "Gift Enterprises," or Land speculations, or speculations in any commodity of trade whatever, or horse-jockeying, or monopolies of any kind. Nor did our correspondent expect any such defence from us, probably. Every wrong he complains of can be justified under the laws of traffic; but the moral law condemns them.

CONGRESS.—This honorable body of public servants has deported itself quite properly for the past week—as properly as a spelling school in the rural districts. The Union, which trembled like a man with the ague only ten days ago, is now calm and contented as a sucking babe. Our pater familias, Uncle Samuel, has periodical attacks of hypochondria and his little eccentricities must be humored. If he indulges in extravagant conceits about his dignity and destiny, why, humor him there, too.

Messrs. Seward and Cameron have found one feature of the institution which they like well enough to vote for. They perceive that a standing army is the first resort of men who meditate treason against the liberties of a people and they vote for the considerable augmentation of the army. Louis Napoleon secured the army ere he proclaimed the Empire. What particular objects these Republican Senators had in view we do not pretend to guess. It would not much surprise us to learn that either, or both had voted for Lecompton. Stranger things have come to pass—Forney and Douglas opposing Lecompton, for example.

It will surprise some people to learn that Uncle Samuel is desirous of extending his fatherly arms around Mexico and Central America, not to absorb those countries, by any means, but to establish a protectorate over them, and thus secure to them the blessing of a Republican form of Government! Senator Houston offers a preamble and resolution to this effect, in the Senate. We respectfully advise Congress to take into consideration the condition of some four or five millions of people within its jurisdiction who have not yet enjoyed the blessedness of Freedom. The United States established a sort of protectorate over Texas, at that time but a revolted province of Mexico. It discovered, however, that absorption was the true policy and so Texas was swallowed up, debt, boundary line and all. That is the kind of protectorate Mr. Houston proposes to establish over Mexico and Central America.

Mr. Toombs advocated the protectorate. He considered the time for action not far distant and that it best for this Government to take instant action. Mr. Hale came to the rescue with an amendment setting forth that, as a state of colonial dependence is unfavorable to the practice of Popular Sovereignty, therefore the Committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire as to Canada and other British possessions in America. This humorous turn of the matter disconcerted the Oligarchs; and so the resolution of Mr. Houston was tabled.

The special Committee to which the Lecompton Message was referred, refuse to institute a rigid investigation of Kansas affairs. The Administration seems determined to put Lecompton through. We prophesy its success.

We should have stated last week that Mr. Keitt publicly apologized to the House for his bad conduct toward Mr. Grow, and stated that the blame of the affair properly rested with him. He also stated that he was not conscious of having been knocked down. He is entitled to the benefit of the doubt.

A WESTERN VIEW.—"We do not approve of these disgraceful personal assaults, which are becoming so frequent in deliberative assemblies, and think that gentlemen would find other modes and other places for redressing their grievances. When assaulted, self-defence is an impromptu of nature, and all the fault we find with Mr. Grow is that he was not more emphatic in his punishment. When Charles O'Malley had gotten into a muss, and was relating it to his veteran monitor, Considine, the latter lectured him very severely for throwing a wine glass at his antagonist, saying that it was foolish and unwise, but thoughtfully added a 'cut glass decanter, seized by the neck, well aimed, and forcibly thrown, I have known to do good at a short distance.' In like manner we may suggest to Mr. Grow, that a few bruisers about the head have been known to follow up a knock down very advantageously.—St. Louis Democrat.

Our Correspondence.

QUINDARO, K. T., Feb. 3, 1858.

City organization—Election of officers—A years progress—Frauds on the 4th of January—Jack Henderson arrested and tried—Mormon Expedition—Opening of Navigation, &c. &c.

FRIEND COBB: The great topic in this place for the past few days has been the organization of a municipal government. The election for officers came off yesterday, and Alfred Gray, one of our distinguished and enterprising citizens, was chosen Mayor by a handsome majority. One hundred and eighty-three votes were polled, and several of the officers were elected almost unanimously.

One would imagine this to be a large place, and surely, if they come here they would not be disappointed, for the original town site covers about 700 acres, and now the city extends 2 1/2 miles up and down the Missouri river, and two miles back towards the Kaw. This takes in a great deal of land owned by heartless speculators. But very few persons dream that we are living in a vast wilderness—not one third of the site yet being cleared; and that we are visited nightly by wolves and wild cats which prowl around our doors and disturb many people by their howls.

It is just one year since Quindaro was "staked out," and at this day there are no less than 800 inhabitants here, and over one hundred buildings, a great many of which are built of stone and are from three to five stories high. The business men say that there will be no less than two hundred buildings erected here this year. They are making arrangements to bridge the Kaw river, and as soon as this is done the whole trade from Southern Kansas will all come to this place instead of going to Kansas City, Mo. I heard a short time ago, from a gentleman who lives on the Neosho river, that the people in that valley had paid over \$50,000 the past year to Kansas City. In this place now, there are two excellent hotels, seven stores, three groceries, and several shops which I have not time to mention. The amount of money expended in buildings the past year is about \$125,000.

Since I last wrote you I have learned but very little in regard to the Election on the 4th of January. The latest rumor is, that Calhoun has declared it in favor of the Pro-Slavery party and the latter have their certificates. This (Leavenworth) county went Free-State by a majority of 154; but owing to some hocus pocus at Delaware Crossing on the Kaw river, it has gone 500 majority Pro-Slavery. The original vote was 43, but some one is charged with placing a figure 5 at the left hand, making it read 543. J. D. Henderson, late editor of the Leavenworth Journal, carried the returns to Leavenworth, and has been charged with committing the fraud. He has had a trial in Lawrence and Leavenworth, but of course knows nothing about it. The Lecompton Constitution was voted down by an overwhelming majority.

I wrote you that Calhoun had fled to Illinois, but I learned a few days after that he was on his way to Lecompton, escorted by two companies of U. S. Dragoons. The Mormon expedition is now attracting the attention of a large number of citizens of Kansas. Wm. A. Russell of Leavenworth has the contract for taking Government stores across the plains, and is now getting three thousand ox yokes made. Nearly all the teamsters who went across last year are now there, and probably will be called on to fight Brigham Young and Mormonism. There will be a great deal of excitement in Utah the coming summer, and no doubt will be some tall fighting, for the Mormons are making preparations to resist the U. S. Government. Hundreds in Missouri have offered their services and should there not be troops enough "Uncle Sam" will have no difficulty in getting volunteers. The trains will leave Fort Leavenworth about the middle of May, or first of June. It is expected that the Troops will leave here early, and reach Salt Lake City sometime in June or July.

The Missouri river is not yet closed by ice, and the "Union Line" of first class boats which will run daily between St. Louis and St. Joseph, have advertised to commence their regular trips the 15th of this month. The business men in St. Louis are making preparations for the largest immigration that ever came to Kansas, and from what I can learn there will be at least 200,000 persons here this year. Real estate is advancing very fast, and by the first of April will be held at a high figure.

Yours Truly,  
P. A. Root.

"SAMUEL! BEWARE OF VIDDERS."—The Schenectady Reflector is responsible for the following: Quite a mistake lately occurred in a love affair at Danesburg. A couple of young ones agreed to elope together, and by some mistake in the preliminary arrangements, the gentleman put his ladder up to the window of the room next to the one in which his sweetheart slept, and which proved to be that in which her anxious mamma, a handsome widow, resided. She turned the mistake to her own advantage; got into his arms; returned his affectionate embraces; was borne by him to the carriage, and by preserving becoming silence until daylight, kept him blind of his error, and by the potent power of her blandishments, actually charmed him into matrimony with herself. We give these facts on the authority of a responsible correspondent.

STOLEN HORSES RECOVERED.—On the 2d inst., Officer Robinson of Hornellsville in company with Sheriff Cummings of La Grange county, Indiana, succeeded in recovering a span of valuable horses, stolen in said County last month. The horses were found in the possession of John Woodard and Charles P. Drake in the town of Jasper. One of the principal robbers, Payne by name, is now in jail in La Grange county for stealing these horses. He told the Sheriff where the horses could be found. Messrs. Woodard & Drake kept a Hotel in La Grange county two or three years ago. From La Grange they moved to Ohio, and last October they returned to Jasper where they had previously resided. Drake fainted away when the officers made known their business.—Corning Democrat.

Communications.

Letter from Wisconsin.

FRIEND COBB: Although a stranger to you I take the liberty of thus addressing you, thinking that some might be pleased to hear from me through the medium of your paper. I do not profess to be an able writer, but this being my first I hope that I may claim a share of your indulgence. I have been a resident of your county six years and have become acquainted with many there and have scraped acquaintance with a few in your place. I have, while a resident of Tioga Co., known of many going to the west and have often wished that I might be one of the number as I have seen them take their departure to try the realities of a western life. I have often read sketches penned by those residing in and traveling through the western country, some extolling it and others decrying it and have as often thought which might be the true representation of it. Of this I have only to say, while the one is entirely overcome by the beautiful scenery and the richness of the soil, sits down and writes his views which in an excited moment tend to exaggeration; the other on getting here expects to find every convenience within his reach—the very staff of life growing spontaneously with nothing to do but pluck the golden grain—getting rich in a moments time; is thus disappointed and can find no words to tell his dislike of the west. I trust, therefore, that what I may say in regard to the west will come from an unbiased mind. As a matter of fact, the west has her inconveniences on the one hand, which are fast being overcome; while on the other, there are privileges here that the east can never have. The west is yet in its infancy; not many years ago the red faxes wandered here and there and were the sole occupants save the wild beasts; but they are gone; they have given way to the sure and rapid progress of the white man, and now, where once the wigwam stood and the war whoop was sounded may be seen villages and cities, and the merry song of the plough boy is heard as he bids his team speed onward. It would not be surprising to many to tell them of the progress of this country, still there are a few who know that there is such a place as the west and that many are going there, but are not aware of the advancement of arts and sciences being made there. To such I would only say, that if they do not believe the west, or this portion of it where I reside to be what I represent it to be, then just come and see for yourselves. The west can boast of having as true, noble, and generous hearted people as can any other country; to be sure there are exceptions in all cases, but there are men here who are willing to help those who are willing to help themselves, and nowhere can you find men who have the bump of go-aheadiveness more fully developed than here. Before I finish my correspondence I shall allude to one who is every way worthy of the name of a never tiring, public spirited man; one who, though defeated in making this town what it might have been, has still that go-ahead principle about him that he has sought out a splendid location on the west side of the Mississippi and is bound to build it up, of which I shall give full details at some future time. Here we have the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, the physician for both soul and body, and each moves harmoniously in his sphere. There are men here for the different branches of business, and plenty of work for men of different trades. We are blessed with a most worthy minister of the gospel, the Rev. Mr. CARD of La Cross, who labors incessantly for the salvation of the ungodly, the reclaiming of the backslider, and the continuance of those who love Christ to love him still. I believe that he has the assurance every day of the good of his labors by the conversion of many. We have schools in nearly every village and district, thus depriving none of educating their children. We are having a good school in this place the present winter, the whole number of scholars being about ninety. Wisconsin can, I believe, boast of having as good a system for schools as any of her sister states. As for the advantages in Wisconsin there need be but little said, as every one that knows anything about it knows they are many. Wheat and corn are raised in abundance, as well as oats, potatoes &c. Garden sauce can be grown here with but little trouble. As yet there is but little fruit grown in this section, but farmers are seeing the need of it and are preparing to meet that deficiency by setting out orchards; thus in a few years there will be plenty and to spare. As far as growing cattle is concerned, I see no reason why they cannot be raised with little expense, as the range for them is large, and the privilege for cutting hay for their winter use, great. Wood is plenty, and for aught I know the prospect for having wood at a future day is as good as at the east where they are putting it down, and burning it by the acre and tens of acres. Lumber commands a high price, still there is plenty of it, and you would judge of the free use of it in the erecting of buildings that the cost was but little. Lumbermen pay their workmen high prices, consequently they must demand a high price for their lumber.

There are many men employed here in that business, there being no less than ten steam saw mills within a few miles of this town. Could some of those hard working men whom I used to know at the east who can barely get a living from hand to mouth, from the fact that they are obliged to work for small wages, and most of them are compelled to trade it out at the store and compelled to pay more for goods than we are here at the west, I do not say this, meaning that it applies to all, but there are those by whom these few lines will be read who will sustain me in saying what I have said. Could they, or at least would they come here, they might find a remedy for living as they now live. To be sure, butter, eggs, and sometimes pork, demand a high price (though I believe pork can be brought in the time of year for buying it from \$6 to \$9 per hundred) still that is not saying that a man cannot keep a cow to make his own butter, hens to lay his eggs, and a pig to make his pork, which a frugal man who can will always be sure to have, and once got, the expense of keeping them is but slight.

Mechanics of nearly all kinds can find ready employ here, and as I have said before, at a fair remuneration. I think I am

justified in saying that a few mechanics, especially stone masons, could do no better than by coming here in the spring. The school master or mistress who is capable of teaching a good school, can find plenty here to do and fair wages given. The district school in this place is paying forty dollars per month.

As for farmers, there is a good chance; there being plenty of land to be had and that which is "A. No. 1." There is, as a general thing, a ready market for all kinds of produce a farmer may have to sell, which invariably brings the cash, or that which is as good to him as the cash.

One word more and I will weary your patience no longer; and that is to those who intend to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow; you will ever be welcome to the hospitality of those that have preceded you in the west, should you ever desire to come to this country. In my next I shall try and give you a description of this place, La Cross, and the new city on the opposite side of the Mississippi in Minnesota territory. We have had very mild weather this winter so far with but little snow.

L. G. WRIGHT.  
Onalaska, La Cross Co. Wis. Feb. 8 '58.

Mr. COBB: I have considered your replies to my interrogatories in your last issue, and must acknowledge that notwithstanding the best intentions I have been unable to change my view of the subject.

Without intending to impute to you a design to dodge the question I am yet compelled to say that your replies appear to be mainly irrelevant, or that they fail to meet the question at issue. You argue as if a decision was to be made under the laws of trade, the customs of the country or the statutes of the State, whereas, although I did not so state it, yet you could not well fail to see that it is a simple question of morals; consequently I cannot allow you to say "we shall not decide whether these gift associations give value in goods for money received, or whether they can afford to make any gift whatever, or whether they do as they propose or no," and "content yourself with the assurance that their propositions accord with legitimate business transactions."

The man who having it in his power to do so, forestalls the market and compels a starving people to purchase flour at an exorbitant price, does it in accordance with the laws of trade, it is a "legitimate business transaction," still you condemn it; yet here is but one criminal, while in the matter under consideration, thousands are made participants criminally if there is wrong in it at all.

You assert that "a thing is worth what it will sell for," by the laws of trade; a gold watch which retails for \$50 may be intrinsically worth \$35, or less, and yet be a good watch for the price at \$50. The law of trade referred to I suppose to be that defined by Shakespeare, thus: "Get money lago, honestly if you can, but get money."

"Intrinsically; really, truly."—Webster. Can the watch that is really, truly worth less than \$25, be a good one for the price at \$50? But Todd & Co. convinced you of their genuineness by paying you in advance, and you say, "printers consider this a sufficient evidence of the genuineness of their patrons, a-humbugs invariably cheat the printer." My dear sir, if you make this declaration seriously and truly, then you and the rest of your fraternity have my most sincere sympathy, for you are the worst cheated of mortals.—But you could not have meant it, as every child knows that the press is the great lever by which is foisted upon community every arrant humbug, in this humbugging age; from the great political humbug at the "White house," down through all the long line to the last and lowest vender of "all healing balsams" or wooden nutmegs; and they pay the printer.

You say also "it is a rule with publishers, to hold the payment of such matters a guarantee of good faith"; if this has any applicability to the question it must mean that those who pay are truly what they profess to be; by this rule the printer who struck off Gen. Walker's proclamations fully believed that the great Fillmore was truly and really the President of Nicaragua; provided he paid for the printing.

I cannot agree with you that "in gambling there is no value received, all is risk," let us see: A plate of oysters properly consists of one dozen and "fixins," sold cooked, at two shillings. Mr. B. sells oysters, and wishes to increase his gains by increasing his customers; he must attract them by some other than the ordinary "value received" inducement.—No man counts his oysters when eating them, and Mr. B. now gives nine for a plate, or he purchases an inferior article at a lower price and he now makes a moderate profit and six cents over on each plate; he advertises that he will sell oysters at two shillings and give to each customer a sum varying from six cents to sixty dollars, the precise amount to be determined by lot, a cast of the dice or pitch of a penny, (no matter which) the customer would by the "laws of trade" get "value received" in oysters for his money, yet what law but that of the gaming table would govern the "gift"?

Your supposition in relation to Mr. Young and his sugar gift is irrelevant as you state it, inasmuch as the pound of sugar is a fast quantity; but "I thank thee Jew" for so fairly stating what would be an honest business transaction, and thus enabling us to compare it with its bastard brother of the gambling "gift scheme" as above.

In your example of the man and his bass you again avoid the question at issue; no man disputes the moral right of any man to give away the profits of an honest business, provided he avoids doing harm by the distribution, but we are to remember even here that wrong giving is no more justifiable than wrong getting; and the man has no right in such distribution so to appeal to the inordinant cupidity of his fellow men as to induce them often to purchase what they do not want, and always at a high price, by trusting them with an accidental chance of grasping unearned gain.

Finally, that these "gift schemes" do appeal to the same feelings and passions as do gambling, is evidenced not only by the fact that they are a "catch penny" inducement thrown out upon the world when the just motive of value received has failed to secure customers, but also by their effect upon the actions of those who swallow the bait. We see