

FROM KANSAS.

Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune. LAWRENCE K. T., Feb. 15, 1858. MORE DISCOVERIES.

The Investigating Committee having procured information that required the presence of the Judges of Election at Shawnee and Oxford Precincts, in Johnson County, their Marshal, the fighting preacher, Mr. Stewart, was sent with warrants for their arrest. The Prairie City Rifles acted as a posse, and on Monday morning last started for the scene of action. They came back on Saturday night with three prisoners—a Judge and Clerk of the Shawnee Precinct, and a candidate named Cox. The Judge's name is McFarlane, and the Clerk's, Godfrey.

The Committee held a session the same night, and the result of the proceedings was of an interesting character: A Free-State man, Mr. Brown of Shawnee, stated that he was at the polls all day on the 4th of January, and that a man named Bailey was the last who voted, at nine in the evening. His name on the poll list is numbered one hundred and sixty. The Judge of Election swore that Bailey was the last man that voted, and that he closed the polls at that time. The whole number of votes on the Shawnee returns, as found by the Committee in the candle-box, was over nine hundred! Godfrey, the Clerk, who is a young man, somewhat oblivious of the consequences of tampering with election returns in Kansas, and of a frank and open countenance, was called in and swore that he took the returns to Westport, and that in a room belonging to Col. Boone, in which were that gentleman, Mr. Danforth, a member of the felon Convention, a son of the Rev. Tom Johnson, and one or two others, and that he sat down and wrote, while young Johnson, Danforth, and Boone read from some papers—probably an old poll-book—a number of names, until the list reached the number stated above. The Judges' and Clerk's certificate was written on a blank sheet of paper, and then appended to the forged returns.

The examination of Godfrey was rather interesting. He answered all questions propounded to him with the utmost frankness and willingness. On being asked what was his business, he replied, "a gambler." He stated that he came to Kansas to make it a Slave State, and that the reason why he told these things, was that he was convinced that it must be Free, and he was going to leave. The men implicated by his evidence are among the principal members of the Pro-Slavery party. Danforth is a personal friend of Secretary Cobb; was sent here to work for his and the extreme Propagandists' interest, and is the Kansas correspondent of the Charleston (S. C.) Mercury. He is a man of ability and influence. Boone is well known in Kansas history. Previous evidence possessed by the committee implicate Gen. Calthoun. The report of the Committee will be published in a few days, and will be of an extremely interesting character.

From Washington. Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1858.—The Union raves at the defeat of the Army bill. It insultingly denounces the black Republicans and their neophytes, who have been recently initiated into their mysteries, viz.: Messrs. Douglas, Stuart, and Broderick, whom it elegantly declares, "pig together in the same sty." It snubs the Democrats, Messrs. Pugh, Tombs, Benjamin, &c., who aided them. It also rejoices at the failure of the volunteer amendment, which, it says, sprung from the loving embraces of Douglas, Hale & Company.

The article is significant, because by a recent arrangement the editorial conduct of the Union has been taken from Major Harris and placed in the hands of Mr. Appleton, Assistant Secretary of State and factotum of the President. The Administration does not want volunteers, but regulars, with the official patronage which their organization would furnish. It calculated on getting votes for Lecompton by means of the commissions of new regiments.

The anti-Lecomptonites are full of hope. They claim a gain of two members, and possibly of three more. On the other hand, the Administration claims three accessions.

A MINISTER AND HIS WIFE ARRESTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—The Rev. Samuel Smith, master of the Collegiate School at Clifton, and formerly second master of Bishops' College, England, and his wife, have been arrested for highway robbery and attempted murder. The wife of Mr. Smith was a Miss Mills, and about nine years ago, before her marriage, numbered among her suitors a Mr. Leach, contractor. The match was broken off, and Mr. Leach married another lady, who died some time since. Mrs. Smith, having ascertained that Mr. Leach had become a widower, addressed a letter to him, in which she stated that her husband had recently died, and invited him to renew the intimacy which formerly existed between them.

After several letters had passed, Mr. Leach agreed to meet the lady at Bristol on Sunday, 31st of January. They met at the Bristol station and took tickets for Yate, where they alighted, and Mrs. Smith proposed to cross the common to her residence, instead of taking the high road. The station-master advised against this, on account of the darkness of the night; but finding her strenuous, took a lantern and accompanied them to the point from which they would have to cross the common. In a short time the lady professed to have lost the way, and in a few minutes after Mr. Leach was assaulted by a man. Being a strong man, he, however, got the better of his assailant, and his cries for aid were heard by two of the railroad men, who came up.

The assailant was found to be the Rev. Mr. Smith, the husband of the lady, but he managed to make his escape. The detective force proceeded to the house of Mr. Smith and arrested the parties. On their track were found a widow's cap and a six barrel-revolver pistol, loaded and capped, near the spot where the struggle took place. In searching the house, a parcel containing a shirt, collar, satin scarf and pocket-handkerchief, all marked with Mr. Leach's name, were found.

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. Cobb, Editor & Publisher. WELLSBOROUGH, PA. Thursday Morning, March 4, 1858.

\*All Business, and other Communications must be addressed to the Editor to insure attention. We cannot publish anonymous communications.

Our talk about Congress fails this week, for three reasons: 1st, we are not in humor; 2d want of space; finally, that body has done nothing worth talking about since last issue.

March made his advent with lion-like majesty. Monday and Tuesday were blustering days. The sleighing is slain—bled to death by the sunbeams. The hills are barely frost white with March squalls. Glorious winter! Everybody says so.

BEAT THIS!—We learn that Col. H. S. JOHNSON of Tioga Village, delivered one hundred and forty-three saw logs at the Bayer Mills, on the morning of the 27th ult., before daylight. Some of these logs measured 30 inches at the top end and were brought from the mountain west of the village—a distance of three miles. This is doing business up brown.

FREE-MASONS.—A Lodge of the Ancient Order of Free and Accepted Masons was organized in this borough on Wednesday last. The following named persons were installed, officers:

CHANCELLER PRATT, W. M. W. A. ROE, S. W. W. M. ROBERTS, J. W. JAS. KIMBALL, T. THOR. B. BRYDEN, S. ROBERT ROY, S. D. ANXUS GRIFFIN, J. D. HUBBERT CARPENTER, T.

The Lodge Room is in the 3d story of Roy's new building and is neatly and tastily fitted up. A sad accident occurred in Richmond township on the 11th ult., the particulars of which have but just now imperfectly reached us. Mr. Augustus Cases, the victim, discovering smoke issuing from an upper room of his dwelling, entered the room for the purpose of extinguishing the fire. After groping several minutes in the dense smoke which filled the room he was forced to retire in a half suffocated condition, and survived but a short time thereafter. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. and was buried with the usual ceremonies.

We learn that Mrs. M. C. RECKMAN, of this borough, has lately been tendered a Professorship in the Huntville (Ala.) Female Seminary, as also that she has accepted the same and will soon depart for her new field of labor. The Faculty of that Institution are fortunate in securing the services of a lady, by nature and education, so well fitted to undertake and to creditably discharge the duties of the appointment, and whose reputation as an instructor is so deservedly high in this community. The Select School at present in her charge is, we presume, to be abandoned, much to the regret of its patrons, whose good wishes she will nevertheless bear with her to her new home.

We have received, with a request to publish, a circular from a Committee in behalf of the New York Young Men's Christian Association, to the effect that "A Business Men's Union Prayer Meeting" is held daily, from 12 to 1 o'clock, in the John-st. Methodist Church, 44 John st., New York. It further states that all persons having children or dear friends living in that modern Sodom whom they desire to have interested in these matters, by sending the address, business or residence of such to "E," Box 3841, New York, they will receive a personal invitation to attend these meetings and similar ones in different parts of the city. Those visiting the city are invited to attend. We thus state the material portions of the circular because we have not space for it entire.

The Difference.

The search for the man "who struck Billy Patterson" has not been more thorough than that for the difference between "tweedledum and tweedledee;" and both investigations are still in progress. A friend writes us of the matter in dispute between Douglas and Buchanan—affirming that the *casus belli* in that case seems not more important, in his judgment, than that in the case of Tweedledum & Tweedledee. As we do not agree with him, and as he winds up with the question—"How would you define the difference?"—we feel constrained to reply, jocularly first, soberly at last.

We regard the species of Democracy of which Mr. Buchanan is the acknowledged head and exponent, as a kind of political *mollop* of the confluent type. On the other hand, Douglas Democracy would seem to be a kind of political *varioloïd*—not so dangerous, and less difficult of treatment. To illustrate further, Buchananism is the milk of the pro-slavery cocoon; Douglasism is that milk highly diluted with water. As we should prefer the varioloïd before the small-pox, so do we prefer Douglasism before Buchananism; and so with the acid milk of the pro-slavery cocoon—we should prefer it in a homoeopathic state of dilution. Thus we prefer Douglas Democracy to Buchanan Democracy. But the difference between these two factions of the modern democratic party is a difference in degree, not in principle. The difference of opinion between Douglas and Buchanan, though distinct, is yet far from radical. In truth, Douglas has taken his position just where he stood in 1854—upon the Nebraska bill. He has neither advanced nor receded an inch, but stands ready to risk every foot of the common domain upon the popular sovereignty principle, even as he did then. He is ready to admit two, or twenty slave States, whenever they may ask admission. Mr. Buchanan is willing to do the same and more. He is willing to admit any State with Slavery even though a majority of the people be opposed to Slavery. Mr. Douglas insists that the majority should rule. Buchanan insists that the minority should rule when they desire to establish the institution of Slavery anywhere. Both hold that Slavery exists in the territories by virtue of the constitution of the United States; therefore both hold that Slavery exists everywhere it is not forbidden by positive enactment.

Are either of these positions democratic? We say that neither is democratic. Both proceed upon the assumption that men have a right to do wrong; that which is crime in one man or three men, becomes laudable when practiced by twenty thousand men. Larceny is a crime, morally as well as by enactment. It would be a moral crime though the Legislatures of all the States should declare it legal, and we contend that no body of men, whether in a majority or minority, possess the shadow of a right to do wrong, or to legislate for the purpose of legalizing anything declared criminal by the moral law. Slavery is a moral crime. If it exist under the Constitution it is wrong and should be ripped up. Slavery being a moral crime, then, no amount of human legislation can make it right; and therefore the only true and tenable ground for any party to take upon this question is "No more Slave States!" Less than this would be folly, would be treason to principle.

The position of Mr. Douglas is simply consistent with that which he occupied in 1854, and that held by the entire so-called democratic party from that time down to the framing and adoption of the Lecompton Constitution. That instrument was seen to be an imposition, and Mr. Douglas is entitled to

the credit of repudiating it from the first. Mr. F. Pierce might have done the same, had he been President, for with all his truckling he is totally eclipsed by Mr. J. Buchanan. The same objection applies to Douglas Democracy today that applied to Pierce Democracy in '53-4-5 and '6. They are precisely alike. The one made no objection to the absorption of the entire territorial domain by the Oligarchy; nor does the other, provided, only, that the Oligarchy acquire and hold under the will of the majority.

But many say that Douglas and Forney must at last take refuge with the Republicans. They may do so, but by no means follows that they must do so, from their present position. We have shown that they have not materially changed their position since 1854; it is, therefore, just as far from them to the Republican party now as it was then. The same mountain of principle towers above them. How can any such "must" be predicated of their opposition to the Administration? We do not believe that either meditates a union with Republicanism. It is not for us to impeach the motives of either. They may be acting disinterestedly and in good faith. They may believe that the principle of the Nebraska infamy is right and that the majority have the right to legalize wrong without any reference to the moral question, but we hold to the right of doubting that. They were cognizant of the unparalleled outrages which have blotted its record for three years, and yet were dumb except in contradiction. What is the just inference?

In all this we intend no especial onslaught upon Democracy of the Douglas-Forney type, but only to show that their Democracy is identical with that which the entire party professed four years ago. To that type of Democracy we stood opposed then and stand opposed now, shall ever stand opposed while our heart beats true to humanity. We hold that no community, whether in a State or Territory, has a right to so choose their institutions as that the constant contravention of the moral law shall be inevitable. We deny that a people have any right to establish Slavery, money stealing, or manstealing and to exact laws for the protection and perpetuation of such outrageous practices. Therefore do we denounce the doctrine of Popular Sovereignty as promulgated by the Douglas-Forney Democracy, and as exemplified in the annals of Kansas and Utah. If that doctrine be true then the course of the Administration toward Utah is shamefully tyrannical.

ENVY—MALICE—SPITE.—A disgraceful exhibition of the foregoing triplets is just now being made through the Mulatto-democracy of Bradford and Susquehanna counties. The distinguished object of their wrath is DAVID WILMOT. His offence, that he is an honest man, an upright and impartial Judge. It is hardly necessary to state that either and all these estimable virtues are, and doubtless will ever be unknown, practically, to the Mulatto leaders of those counties. We had supposed that since valorous Ebenezer, whilom of Montrose, but now of the Luzerne gut—beg pardon—Bar, had meekly swallowed his dirty and slanderous paragraphs touching Judge Wilmot,—we had concluded, we say, that thenceforward Judge Wilmot would be quit of the gang of political curs that have snapped at his heels for half-a-dozen years. We were mistaken. Recent developments prove that a county may harbor things in human shape infinitely meaner than E. B. Chase. When that individual left Montrose, for the good of Montrose, we concluded that he was kicked out. That was a mistake. The truth is, Chase had this ambition—to stand first of his class. He found himself second to none for meanness in Susquehanna, and had he kept out of Towanda might still have bested Montrose with his presence; but in an evil hour he came in conjunction with his fellow mulattoes of Towanda and suffered a total eclipse. Ebenezer never recovered his equanimity thereafter, and the last we heard of him he was reading the Marriage service at the wedding of Mulatto Democracy and Fillmore Know-nothingism, down in Scranton, Luzerne county. *Requiescat, et cetera.*

It appears that the worthies who made Chase fly his orbit and take up his abode in the space above noted, have set themselves about petitioning the legislature to break up Judge Wilmot's Judicial district and thus accomplish his removal beyond the sufferings of his constituents. Whether the Legislature will lend itself to the aid of that contemptible clique of men, or not, we cannot say; that it is capable of doing so is no question; but that Gov. Packer will permit it to be done we do not for a moment believe.

But suppose that they succeed; do these little-soiled aristocrats expect to root up the good seed already sown in that district? Do they expect to escape the ban laid upon them and their like by the freemen of that district in '54-5-6-7? Do they hope to win forgiveness of their past knavery in the success of this last and most contemptible of spite actions? Little ones sometimes hatch out little meannesses like this at school. Men never wage such warfare. Show us a man and we will show you a being who would part with his right arm before he would be caught in such dirty business. Show us a man and we will show you a being infinitely higher in the scale of being than the best among the creatures party to this spite action against DAVID WILMOT. Brethren of the *Argus* and *Register*, do those little plotters walk upright? We ask in all candor, have they arrived to the dignity of long-tailed coats and standing collars?

Judge Wilmot might have avoided these malicious attacks had he elected to root in the mire of subserviency with their authors. But he was incapable of purchasing peace at so ruinous a price. He made a nobler choice and became the object of the most bitter and unrelenting persecution. He is experienced what every man must experience who builds his life upon honest convictions of duty. For such, says Mackay—

"The hemlock shall distil,  
For him the axe be bared,  
For him the gallows shall be reared,  
For him the stake prepared;  
Him shall the scorn and wrath of some  
Pursue with deadly aim,  
And envy, malice, spite and lies  
Shall desecrate his name;  
But truth shall triumph at the last,  
For truth and 'round we run,  
And ever the right comes uppermost  
And ever is justice done!"

RELIGIOUS MANIA.—The *Kingston News* (Canada) states that revival meetings have lately been held in the country back of that place, attended with unfavorable results. The unsophisticated yeomen of both sexes attended these meetings under the influence of that kind of excitement usually taken for spiritual regeneration or "change of heart." The furor of the participants in the religious exercises was of so extravagant a character at times that some of them actually shrieked, others stamped, and one is reported to have fairly jumped over a stove in the paroxysm of holy feeling. Among the enthusiasts was a farmer, past the middle age, who was previously remarkable for his quiet demeanor, but who, by frequenting the meetings, became at last a confirmed maniac. Last week the poor man was submitted to an examination by physicians of Kingston, who pronounced his case hopeless. In consequence of the result the meetings were discontinued.—*Rochester Union.*

Melancholy Accident.

By a *Gazette-Extra*, from Tamaqua, says the *Pittston Gazette*, we learn the particulars of a melancholy accident, which occurred there last week, through which two esteemed citizens, Mr. J. Edward Barnes, the general Superintendent of the Little Schuyl. Nav. R. R. & Coal Co., and Mr. Duncan Wier, their Mining Agent, lost their lives.

The account of this accident is thus given: The fire originated by some of them kindling a fire against the coal, whilst so engaged, and leaving it to progress at its leisure. Efforts had been made to extinguish the fire, and it was thought it had been accomplished, but the return of winter and strong winds, carried a draft through the large vacant places where the coal had been mined and removed thus partially igniting the fire again. The Company desiring to cut off the fire, and thus prevent its further spread, it became necessary for their Mining Agent to make some explorations in order to determine the proper point to commence operations. Mr. Barnes being willing, at all times, to share the dangers of his subordinates, determined to accompany Mr. Wier in his examination.

Having donned their mining dress, they left the office in Tamaqua, on Monday, February 15th, 1858, about 3 o'clock, p. m. They proceeded to Slope No. 4, descended the ladder about one hundred and sixty yards, and between 4 and 5 o'clock, entered the fatal gangway, traveling westwardly. After passing along about 400 yards, they encountered, what the miners term, a brattis. This is an air-tight partition, erected in this case, for the purpose of confining the gas injected into the mines, when the effort was made to extinguish the fire. They passed through the brattis—passed along about 200 yards further, and found a second one. They passed through the second brattis, but how far they travelled will never be known, but probably no great distance. About 15 yards East of the second brattis, a stream of gas from the vast fire above, descended through the brattis, and moves westwardly, in the same direction they were going. Passing with the current, and it being likely not very strong at the time, they could not notice their extreme danger. But soon observing the fatal symptoms, they turned to retrace their steps and escape. They were, no doubt, soon overpowered—the force of the current and their own exertions in the opposite direction, every moment filling their lungs with the fatal gas—they dropped, in the full glow of life, into the arms of almost instant death. Mr. Barnes lay on his face, about 20 yards within the brattis. Mr. Wier had made an effort to escape—probably ran against the brattis, and fell also on his face, so near the brattis that one could reach through and grasp his feet.

Mr. Barnes was 39 to 40 years of age, and leaves a widow and three fine little boys to mourn his loss. He began life young, in the office of the Lehigh Company at Mauch Chunk serving them faithfully many years. He was engaged on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, under a contract for the transportation of coal. After a short residence in New York City, and we think in Amboy, he came in 1854, to Tamaqua, to assume the responsible position which he so worthily filled to the hour of his death. He was ever ready to engage in anything for the benefit of his fellow-men; and had he been spared, would have met his fellow-citizens, on the very evening of his demise, to discuss a plan of his own suggestion, for the relief of the poor of our Borough. His loss will be deeply felt by many an aching heart.

Mr. Wier was about ten years the senior of Mr. Barnes, leaves a widow and six children, one of whom is married. He was a native of Scotland, but has been in this country many years. The whole of his useful life was spent in mining operations, and he was esteemed a prudent competent man. He had held the position he filled at the time of his death about five years.

FREAKS OF A PLANK.—We recently published a "queer freak of a horse," (and it is going round pretty extensively,) which there is reason to believe should have been called "a queer freak of a night-mare." But the following, from a sketch of a storm at Detroit, in the *Free Press*, appears to have no hoax about it—in the eloquent words of the *N. Y. Herald*, "there's no nigger in that wood pile!"

"A two-inch plank, about twenty feet in length, was detached from the top of a pile of lumber, carried across the street, and driven, butt-end first, through the panel of the front door of a small house. Not satisfied with this, the eccentric plank continued its course, and penetrated a thin partition about five feet further on, entering a bed room. The occupants, a phlegmatic old Dutchman and his wife, were awakened by the crash and flying of splinters, and were highly astonished to see the 'stub shot' of the plank protruding through the wall nearly over their heads. Having accomplished this feat, the peregrinating lumber rested, as though taking a survey of the room and its occupants, while the tail-end, sticking out of the door about fourteen feet, gently wagged to and fro in the wind, seemingly highly tickled at the consternation it had caused."

ST. LOUIS, Saturday, Feb. 20, 1858.

BURNING OF THE PACIFIC HOTEL.—Twenty-nine Persons Killed.—The Pacific Hotel in this place was burned at three o'clock this morning. About 100 persons were in the house when the fire broke out, 40 or 50 of them are missing. The fire caught in the drug store under the hotel, and spread so rapidly that the stairways were enveloped in flames before the inmates could be roused. All egress was thus cut off except through the windows. Many leaped from the third story and were horribly mangled or instantly killed, and many more were unable even to reach the windows, and were burned to death in their own rooms.—Several more bodies are supposed to be in the ruins, and hundreds of excited men are energetically engaged in removing the rubbish and searching for them.

The wounded were promptly taken charge of by their friends or sent to the hospital, where their injuries were immediately attended to. Several of the wounded cannot possibly recover. The loss of property is estimated at \$50,000.

A Threatened Outrage Upon the Rights of the People of this Judicial District.

It will astonish and alarm the people of this Judicial District to learn that a plan is on foot to blot out the 13th Judicial District, composed of the counties of Bradford and Susquehanna, by Legislative action, so as to prevent the people from choosing this fall, who they will have as President Judge. The nefarious plan, as far as it has been developed, is to annex Susquehanna to an adjoining district, and to attach Bradford to the district South of us, presided over by Judge Woodward. This scheme, if successfully consummated, would prevent an election for President Judge, in October. To effect its accomplishment men are now secretly at work, promulgating the most shameful misrepresentations and propagating the most infamous falsehoods.

This contemplated outrage upon the rights of the people of this Judicial District, we need hardly inform our readers, is planned to prevent the election of Judge Wilmot in October next. It is a blow aimed at him personally, which it is expected to accomplish by depriving the people of their Constitutional rights, preventing them from saying who they will have to pass in judgment upon their most sacred rights of property, of liberty, and of life. It is quite as unnecessary for us to say, that the movement originates, and its consummation is urged on, by the same unprincipled men who have for years pursued Judge Wilmot with the most blood-thirsty ferocity; following his every step with unscrupulous falsehood and misrepresentations, dealing in open lies, or covert innuendoes, as they thought best calculated to effect their despicable purposes.

The election of a Democratic Governor and Legislature, has enkindled anew the malice and hatred of these men, and given another direction to their efforts. They now seek to inspire the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government with the malignant passions of their own hearts. They hope to enlist in a miserable personal warfare a whole party—to make a partizan question of their private griefs, and trample upon the sacred rights of the people to gratify their spirit of personal hatred and revenge.

It is not however the personal bearing of this threatened outrage which should claim the attention and excite the indignation of our people, any further than investigation into its conception shows that it has its origin in mean and malignant petty, personal hatred. It is not whether Judge Wilmot, of some other Judge shall preside over the Courts of the District, which demands attention. The solution of that question, we take it, whatever might be the result, if obtained in a proper manner, would leave no permanent feelings of dissatisfaction, but would be cheerfully acquiesced in by the people. But it is the fact that an attempt is being made to deprive the people of their Constitutional rights—to prevent them from electing their Judge—a right enjoyed by the people of other parts of the Commonwealth—which should alarm every citizen residing in the bounds of the threatened District. More than this, it should awaken the interest of citizens of other judicial districts, whose rights would be in equal danger should this gross outrage be perpetrated, whenever the gratification of personal revenge or partizan feeling might stimulate reckless and unprincipled men to imitate such a dangerous precedent.

FEARFUL.—On Tuesday afternoon last, three little boys, between eight and nine years of age, ran away from school, and "caught a ride" to Horseheads. They there begged something to eat, and returned to Elmira on foot during the evening, arriving about ten o'clock. It was a bitter cold night, by some called the coldest of the season, but, conscious of guilt, and it being late at night they probably feared to encounter the displeasure of their parents, and two of them camped out for the night in Mr. Viall's lumber shed! The third boy, the son of a widow, went home and gave information to his mother of the whereabouts of the others; They were found about eleven o'clock by the father of one of them and taken home! Had the third boy remained with the two, the whole three would have been stiffened corpses long ere morning. All of these boys have comfortable and pleasant homes. Surely the way of the transgressor is hard, and we hope these boys have not only learned this truth thoroughly themselves by this adventure, but that other boys on learning their fearful situation may be taught by it also; [This incident demonstrates also that it is no kindness to allow truant boys in the street to "catch a ride." The whip lash, well laid on, would be the greater kindness, especially if given every time without favor to any.—*Elmira Ad.*]

BURNING OF THE ASHTABULA POOR HOUSE.—Six Persons Burned to Death.—The Incendiary a Woman.—On Tuesday morning between 4 and 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in the Ashtabula Poor House, about half a mile this side of Kingsville. A high wind prevailed at the time, and the entire building was speedily wrapped in flames. Six paupers were burned to death. Two are missing, and it is feared they also perished in the flames. All efforts to save the building were of no avail, and it burned, with the most of its furniture, quickly to the ground. The fire was set by a woman named Morrison, an inmate of the poor house. Her little boy slept near her room or cell. On the morning in question she awoke him and told him to light a splinter at the stove (she having threatened on several occasions to burn the house; no fire or lights were allowed in her cell), and bring it to her, as she wanted to light her pipe. The boy obeyed the mother's request, and she applied the lighted splinter to the straw in the cell. She escaped from the building unharmed by the fire, but was shortly after captured and confined. It is a matter of doubt whether the woman be insane or not. Mr. W. E. Preston of Lewis' Banking House, was at Kingsville yesterday, and informs us that the excitement was intense. There had been considerable talk about lynching the woman.

She is about forty years old and is a widow. Her husband used to keep an eating house at Ashtabula Station. The Poor House was a large and well furnished wooden building, and was valued at \$4000. It was insured for \$1000.—*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

The Kansas Bill.

Three Reports were submitted on Thursday to the U. S. Senate by the Territorial Committee on the Kansas Question. Mr. Green, of Missouri, made the majority report, which reflects the views and intentions of the Administration. It asserts that the Lecompton Convention fairly represented the sentiment of the people of Kansas; that its action is binding on them, and urges the adoption of the Constitution. It denounces the Free State Men as an "Abolition mob," charges them with "violence" and unwarrantable "threats." It concludes with a Bill reciting that the people of Kansas have framed for themselves a Constitution and State Government, Republican in form, and that the Lecompton Convention has, in their name and behalf, asked Congress to admit her. Therefore, it is declared, that Kansas be admitted into the Union with the Lecompton Constitution, and gives Kansas, for the present, one representative in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Douglas brings in a second report, pronouncing the Lecompton Convention a violation of the principles of popular sovereignty and the Nebraska Bill, and an unjust and fraudulent attempt to force the majority to submit to the will of the minority.

Messrs. Collamer and Wade bring in the third Report, which takes the Republican ground, that the treatment Kansas has received at the hands of the Government has consisted of fraud and oppression from the beginning, culminating in the final outrage of forcing a Pro-Slavery Constitution on the people, in defiance of their expressed will.—It opposes the Bill.

These Reports probably open the most important and exciting Debate of the Session; The Administration it is rumored, think of trying to stifle debate by the "previous question," and to "rush the Bill through," in hot haste, without permitting its opponents to be heard. Whether they will dare to adopt this high-handed course, remains to be seen.—*Albany Journal.*

ARREST OF A SUSPECTED VILLAIN.—The arrest of a man named D. H. Rosenkrans at Elmira is announced. He is suspected of having placed obstructions upon the track of the Central Railroad a year ago, when John Snell, an engineer of this city, was killed. All our citizens remember with sorrow the death of Snell, and the indignation which prevailed when the details of the diabolical act of placing rails across the track, were published. The citizens of Ontario County held an inquest and the jury were some days employed in the inquisition. The result was never published, we believe, and the conclusion here was that some information was obtained, but not enough to warrant an arrest at that time. We trust that the person arrested is the guilty one, for it is essential to public security that a wretch of such propensities as actuated the perpetrator of this act, should be speedily placed where he can do no more harm.

At the time of the accident the Railroad Company offered a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest of the villain or villain, who placed the obstruction on the track. We hope the Company will not stop at any point short of the conviction of the guilty for reason of expense. It is a good investment for a railroad company to follow this class of offenders until they get their deserts. The course of J. W. Brooks, Superintendent of the Michigan Central Railroad, when that road was beset by villains who had resolved to slaughter innocent passengers, was not only successful in its results, but gave the management character and confidence all over the country.

The arrest of Rosenkrans was made by Deputy United States Marshal Palmer, says the *Elmira Advertiser*. What disposition was made of the prisoner is not stated, but we presume that he was taken to Canandaigua for examination.—*Rochester Union.*

We need hardly to call attention to the interesting dispatches from our special correspondent with the Army in Utah, which fill so large a portion of our pages this morning. The news they communicate is of great interest, especially the Message of Brigham Young to the Territorial Legislature—a document now first published in the States. The Army is in excellent condition, and, thanks to the wise arrangements of Col. Johnston, does not suffer from its confinement in Winter quarters. The proceedings before the Court of Chief Justice Eckels are also unusually important. An indictment for high treason has been found against Brigham Young and a number of the subordinate Mormon leaders and one of them—now a prisoner with the Army—has been put upon his trial: the case was adjourned, however, in order to give him time to procure witnesses. To judge by the evidence which now reaches us, the Mormons are resolved to fight, and will do it with energy and earnestness.—Some striking indications as to their military resources are given by our correspondent. He also gives a copy of a letter by Dr. Hurt, which charges upon the authorities of the Mormon Church a variety of outrages of almost inconceivable atrocity.—*New York Tribune, March 1st.*

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF GAS.—A dispatch to the *N. Y. Daily Times*, dated Feb. 20, states that, about 7 o'clock last evening, the Methodist Protestant Church, on Sixth street, near Race Cincinnati, was partly destroyed by the explosion of defective gas pipes. At the hour mentioned some fifteen persons were assembled in the basement for meetings, when a strong odor was perceived, and an effort made to discover the leakage. A light was applied to the metre when a blaze burst forth, but was extinguished by a bucket of water. Quiet was almost restored when an explosion took place, tearing up the floor, shattering the walls, and making a wreck of the basement. More than half of the pews in the church were torn up, and portions of the floor blown to the ceiling. Doors were forced from their hinges and blown into the street. The explosion was heard at a distance of a half a mile. The windows of many buildings in the vicinity were destroyed, eight or ten persons were severely wounded, and two or three of them are not expected to survive.