

Terms of Publication. THE TOGA COUNTY AGITATOR is published every Thursday Morning, and mailed to subscribers at the very reasonable price of ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM.

# THE AGITATOR.

Devoted to the Extension of the Area of Freedom and the Spread of Healthy Reform.

WHILE THERE SHALL BE A WRONG UNRIGHTED, AND UNTIL "MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN" SHALL CEASE, AGITATION MUST CONTINUE.

VOL. V. WELLSBORO, TOGA COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1859. NO. 32.

For the Agitator. THE LAND OF DREAMS. Bright land of dreams! In gloomy clouds observe the dark-winged shadows around your sunny beauties from my eyes.

Tim Crane and the Widow.

Mr. Crane, by no manner of means, is a munit too soon for you to begin to talk of getting married again. I am amazed you should have ascertained I'd think so. See how Miss Crane has been? Six months!—

what fools old widdiers will make of themselves! Have Melissy! Melissy! Mr. C. "Why, widdier, you surprise me—I'd no idea of being treated in this way after you'd been so polite to me, and made such a fuss over me and the girls."

Mr. C. "Well, I never!" Widow. "Hold yer tongue—you consarned old coot you—I tell you there's your hat, and there's the door—be off with yerself, quick me, or I'll give ye a hyst with the broomstick!"

CAPITAL SERMON.—A writer in the Sierra (Cal.) Citizen, under the title of "Young Men and Tree Frogs," gives a lecture on morality and a better essay on mental philosophy, all in a few lines, than are sometimes found in many volumes of standard authority.

In no class shall we find a greater exuberance of fancy, or more exaggerated ideas of wealth and luxury, than in the thorough bred loafer. A few days ago, a couple of individuals of this genus being seated in a nook near a wharf, at which a California bound vessel was lying, their conversation naturally ran upon gold—as neither of the twain was the possessor of a red cent; and they amused themselves by wishing for the precious metal.

"Wanted, a Young Man of Industry, &c." This meets one's eye daily in the column of "Wants" and it is as true as the Pentateuch. Wanted? Of course they are wanted—always wanted. The market can never be overstocked; they will always be called for, and never quoted "dull," or "no sale."

There is one thing more, young man. You are wanted. A young woman wants you. Don't forget her. No matter if you are poor. Don't wait to be rich. You need a companion while you live, and not after you have done living. Effort is life, and cessation therefrom, a grand and gloomy "has been."

"No Place Like Home." There's no place like home. The poet once sang, and every heart responds to the truth of the beautiful sentiment. What tender emotions, warm feelings, and hallowed recollections cluster around the words "No place like home."

Jerry Diggs remembered his miserly uncle in his will, for he bequeathed "to my mother's brother a gun-dint, and a knife to skin it with."

## Twenty-Four Things.

- In which people render themselves impolite, annoying, or ridiculous: 1. Boisterous laughter. 2. Reading while others are talking. 3. Leaving a stranger without a seat. 4. A want of reverence for superiors. 5. Receiving a present without some manifestation of gratitude. 6. Making yourself the topic of conversation. 7. Laughing at the mistakes of others. 8. Joking others in company. 9. Correcting older persons than yourself especially parents. 10. To commence talking before others are through. 11. Answering questions when put to others. 12. Commencing to eat as soon as you get to the table. 13. Whispering or talking loudly in church, a lecture or concert, or leaving before it is closed. 14. Cutting or biting the finger nails in company, or picking the teeth, or the nose, pulling hairs therefrom. 15. Drumming with the feet or fingers, or leaning back in a chair, or putting the feet upon furniture. 16. Gazing at strangers, or listening to the conversation of others when not addressed to you or intended for your hearing. 17. Reading aloud in company without being asked, or talking, whispering, or doing anything that diverts attention while a person is reading for the edification of the company. 18. Talking of private affairs loudly in cars, ferry boats, stages, or at public table, or questioning an acquaintance about his business or his personal or private affairs anywhere in company, especially in a loud tone. 19. In not listening to what one is saying, in company—unless you desire to show contempt for the speaker. A well bred person will not make an observation while another of the company is addressing himself to it. 20. Breaking in upon or interrupting persons when engaged in business. If they are to be long engaged, or you are known to have come from a distance, they will offer to give you attention at the earliest moment. 21. Peeping from private rooms into the hall when persons are passing, coming in or going out; or looking over the banisters to see who is coming when the door bell rings. 22. When you are in an office or house, or private room of a friend, never handle things, asking their use, price, etc., nor handle nor read any written paper; it is a great impertinence, and most intolerable. 23. Never stand talking with a friend in the middle of the sidewalk, making everybody run around you; and never skulk, along on the left hand side, but "take the right" in all cases. Two persons abreast meeting one person on a narrow walk should not sweep him off into the mud, but one should fall back a step and pass in single file. 24. Mind your own business, and let your friend have time, without annoyance, to attend to his.

## The "Try" Company.

A gentleman who was riding in the cars noticed a bright little fellow, between five and six years of age, sitting with his father and mother, and engaged in the attempt to loosen the knot in the string that bound a small parcel. The knot had become well compacted, and the child's tiny fingers seemed to make no impression thereon. The patient earnestness of the little fellow was contrasted with the apparent indifference of his parents, who looked on, but made no attempt to assist him. At last the gentleman, whose sympathies with children were warm, could bear the sight no longer; so, partly to help the child, and partly to rebuke the parents, he took out his knife, and handing it to the boy, said: "Here, my little fellow, try the virtue of a sharp blade. You can't untie the knot."

Something to his surprise, the knife was not taken, but instead, the child answered with a smile: "Please sir, father don't allow me to say I can't; I belong to the Try Company." "Indeed," said the gentleman, as he drew back his hand, "I never heard of that company before."

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### What is Life?

"It is not all of life to live." Truly, as beautifully has the poet written thus. We may not measure life by the number of years that we have breathed the atmosphere of earth and wandered up and down this "mundane sphere," but by the growth of the mind, by the high and holy aspirations that animate the soul by the amount of happiness or sorrow that has been experienced in that time. To rejoice, to feel the soul expand with the inward life, to soar with the towering eagle, or to contemplate with pleasure the flight of the ephemeral butterfly; to feel one's heart swell with the roaring of the mighty ocean, or in its deep calmness sink to repose; to appreciate the pure and beautiful; to distinguish between the good and evil—this is life. To arrive at conclusions free from prejudice; to expand thus universally; exulting with the powerful, softening with the subdued and gentle; to understand the mechanism of the human mind; to comprehend the lordly feeling that impels the conqueror to extend his dominions and the prince to grasp for absolute power; but withal to sympathize with the soul-thrilling patriotism that prompts the real hero to shed his blood for his country, and to acknowledge and experience the mighty sacrifice of that universal philanthropy that would sacrifice itself for the good of others: Is not this life?

But is this the life portrayed in the light and words of worthless literature that unbaptized floods our land? In works of fiction are we not taught to look upon life as a few years to be spent for our gratification and in the indulgence of sensual and worldly passions? Besides, if their tendency is not absolutely pernicious, might not the brief space allotted us for the improvement of the mind and the expansion of its powers be more usefully employed? Does not their perusal unfit us for the active duties of life and lead us to dream away hours that might more profitably be spent in the exercise of those duties that belong to every one? The tears that are shed over the untoward fate of some imaginary individual if dropped at sight of the sufferings of one of earth's sorrowing children might win for us the love and gratitude of a real living human heart, and lighten the cares and sorrows of some brother or sister whose heart is yearning for sympathy.

Young man, lay aside that novel! There is work to be done. The works of fiction may amuse for a moment; but we want something that will impart strength. Sinew and muscle is what we need to enable us to battle with the storms and temptations of life, to contend successfully against adverse circumstances and to win for ourselves a high name in the annals of life's history.

### Is there no God?

How can the infidel say there is no God? Who, after walking out and surveying the Heavens, can say there is no God? If any can, let him gaze upward; the whole firmament will rebuke him; the stars seem to twinkle more brightly as if angry at so false a statement. Let him gaze at the Queen of Night as she rides along, majestically shedding forth her beneficent light, and can he there, gazing upward, earnestly say in his heart, there is no God? Or let him walk through the grove at mid-day, when the king of day has ascended his throne; the birds are pouring forth their sweetest songs, and the tall trees dressed in gaudy colors, and sweet flowers blooming on every side, send forth sweet perfume; can he then say there is no God? But will he not ask himself who formed these things? and can he answer, "I was not a God?"

### At School.

These ever-recurring lessons, driving on and on without rest or pause, remind me of the retreating of Washington and his army through New Jersey—the victorious army sometimes in flight, pushing on all day long—the Americans, weary and disheartened, fleeing on their own proper territory. Every Friday night, I imagine I know how the soldiers felt when the Delaware lay between them and the enemy. When two whole days, and better, two long, dark nights are between me and another recitation, I breathe more freely, albeit, I know the river will freeze over and form a firm bridge for the pursuers, instead of rising with a sudden rain, as did the Pedee and Dan between Cornwallis and General Morgan. But the two days give fresh strength and the battle is turned, and for a few days the pursuers become the pursued. Victory as yet seems doubtful, but we have strong faith that the lessons shall yet prove the vanquished party. The ground contested inch by inch shall all be gained and become subject to the lawful owner, and the kingdom of the mind be firmly ruled by its rightful sovereign.

Rates of Advertising. Advertisements will be charged \$1 per square of 14 lines, one or three insertions, and 25 cents for every subsequent insertion. Advertisements of less than 14 lines considered as a square. The combined rates will be charged for Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Yearly advertisements:

| Square   | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 column | \$2.50   | \$4.50   | \$8.00    |
| 2 do.    | 4.00     | 6.00     | 8.00      |
| 3 do.    | 6.00     | 8.00     | 10.00     |
| 4 do.    | 10.00    | 15.00    | 20.00     |
| 5 do.    | 15.00    | 20.00    | 30.00     |

### The Homestead Bill.

This bill of Mr. Grow's which passed the House, embodies a principle which the Republican party endorsed by their votes and to which we wish in few words to direct the attention of free men and of those who have faith in free labor. It provides that every head of a family, who is a citizen, or who has declared his intention of becoming such, may enter upon any vacant and unappropriated quarter section of Government land that is subject to private entry at \$1.25 per acre, and receive a patent therefor, after occupying and actually residing on said land for five years, free of cost, except a fee of \$10 on receiving his patent. This fee is merely intended to cover the cost of survey and transfer. Such quarter section is protected as a homestead, and "shall in no event become liable to the satisfaction of any debt or debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent therefor." In case of the death of the party so entering upon Government lands, the claim shall descend to the wife or children, and enure to their benefit.

It has thus thrown open to intelligent labor vast domains that at present fall for the most part into the hands of demagogues and speculators. It would in effect prove a revenue measure by making wide regions, now unproductive, tributary to the national treasury through the various channels of industry and enterprise.

How stands the vote on this beneficent measure? Every Republican member present when the bill passed, with the exception of Mr. Nichols, of Ohio, voted in favor of it. Every member from Slave States with the exception of Craig, of Mo., Jewett, of Ky., and Jones, of Tenn., voted against it. Six Northern Democrats—to wit, Messrs. English, Hughes, and Niblack, of Ind., Ann Shaw, and S. S. Marshall, of Ill., and Leidy of Penn.—voted against the bill. Of the 76 negative votes, 62 were cast by "National Democrats."

From nothing has the West suffered more than from the greed of speculators; and by nothing would the newly organized Territories be more benefitted than by some such prohibition as is embodied in this amendment of Mr. Grow.

The land speculator follows close upon the heels of the Government Surveyor, and is too often in league with him. Few actual settlers ever find their way to a Land Office until months after it has been opened. They are, with very rare exceptions always preceded by the vultures who intend to feed upon them. To obtain homesteads to their liking, they must pay exorbitant tribute to those whose only interest in the soil or in the locality is to make it minister to their avarice.

The operations of these eagle-eyed and swift-footed gentlemen have within twenty years, cost settlers more than many millions.

Although their greed has sometimes worked their ruin, and left upon their hands vast tracts of land to meet the taxes upon which involved them in bankruptcy, the exceptional successful cases have been so brilliant that their ranks are kept full; and there are to-day about as many of the tribe in the field as during the palmiest days of "corner lots" and quarter section sites for towns and cities.

The pernicious effects of the present system—which makes no discrimination in favor of the actual settler—is most strikingly apparent in such States as Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. Every town is afflicted with some one or more uncultivated section, held by non-resident speculators, standing in the way of local progress and improvement. It is probably no exaggeration to say that one-eighth of Michigan, one-quarter of Iowa and Wisconsin is thus afflicted. And no one acquainted with the history of the West—with the ravenous characters of the land cormorants—with the drawbacks which these uncultivated lands are to the neighborhoods in which they are situated, or with the millions which, to compensate the speculator, have been abstracted from the pockets of the actual settler in search of a home, can doubt the wisdom of what Mr. Grow proposes, and for which, we are glad to see, every Republican voted.

But the defeat of the bill, now that clause has been placed in it, is threatened! The Democracy, whose love for the "hard-fisted glory" is painted in such glowing colors through every canvass, holds back from a measure which is designed to prevent Democratic Recorders and Registers from sharing with Democratic Senators and Representatives in the first pickings in the newly opened Land Districts! The People will watch the fate of this bill with interest.

Thursday, January 20th, was a day of the most absorbing excitement in the House, the occasion of it being Mr. Grow's proposition to amend a preemption bill, so as to prohibit the sale of public lands at auction, until the expiration of ten years after the surveys; being, in fact, a proposition to confine the sales of public lands to actual settlers. The proposition was carried, the Republicans voting solid for it. Then followed a contest to kill the bill as amended. The Democratic opposition being able to rally some votes against the bill as a whole, from men who did not dare to oppose the amendment as a proposition by itself. A motion to lay the bill on the table was negatived but it was killed at last upon its passage to be engrossed.