

THE AGITATOR

HUGH YOUNG, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR: WELLSBOROUGH, PA. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 20, 1862

HIS EARLY LIFE

The class of 1829, in Yale College, two years in advance of mine, was the finest body of young men that I ever saw in College. Prominent in it were Elijah H. Mills (son of Daniel Webster's immediate predecessor in the United States Senate), promising but dying young, Henry A. Boardman, D. D., Joseph Eldridge, D. D., Edwin R. Gilbert, D. D., James Y. McLane, D. D., Daniel Ullman, Francis Gillette, (late Senator in Congress), T. Adam Spence; (late Representative in Congress), and many other men of rank.

DISUNION

The Crittenden proposal is not one of compromise, but of surrender. It dictates to the North such terms as only victors can hope to impose upon the vanquished. Had Douglas or Breckinridge been elected instead of Lincoln, the North could not have been insulted by proposals more intolerable; for they not only incorporate slavery with the Constitution, but charge upon the North the cost of every negro from the South. Yet these are the conditions of peace offered by a moderate Democrat—a Kentucky Senator, honestly devoted to the preservation of the Union as a paramount consideration! The hot bloods of the Cotton States know that their ultimate acceptance is hopeless, and would scarcely suspend the secession movement even should the news telegraphed to the Paris be correct.

THE STRENGTH OF THE FREE STATES

A N. Y. paper says:—"Some of our contemporaries, who use figures rather loosely, speak of the free States as having 13,000,000 of people, and the slave States as having 13,000,000. The latter have only 12,323,508, while the former, exclusive of Kansas and all the territories, have 18,802,823. But Kansas is now a State, and the census gives her 144,645 inhabitants, in which are included the people of Colorado, sure to be a free State. Nebraska, Decatur, and Washington also belong to us, and these bring the total up to 18,881,124. Utah, with 50,600 people, is all north of the Missouri compromise line, and half of its total is due to Nevada, a free colony. This latter item makes our aggregate over nineteen millions. According to our usual ratio of growth, the aggregate must now be nearly or quite twenty millions. There is no exaggeration about these calculations. We have not included a single foot of territorial area which is not either now in a free State or sure to be so. It is, therefore, underrating us to speak of the free States as having eighteen.—If to the aggregate of the latter we add New Mexico, which is not and will not be a slave State except in name, they have but 12,526,532. The course of events for the last six months has by no means tended to attract emigration to the south, and in the last ten years its whole increase was only 2,820,539."

The prudent poor of Charleston are just now in a bad plight. The Savings Bank of that city has over two millions of their money, and they can't get a cent of it! The Directors say it is invested in mortgages on city property and in city State Stocks—which can only be turned into cash at ruinous sacrifices! Thus these chivalric rebels start out by plundering the rich and robbing the poor.

LINCOLN ON COERCION

If anybody has for a moment believed that Mr. Lincoln would abandon the principles of the Chicago Platform in his line of policy as President of the United States, they will be much disappointed by the perusal of his short reception speeches made at different points on his journey from Springfield to the National Capitol. The allies of the Southern traitors who furtively give them aid and comfort by the cry of "no civil war" and "no coercion," will be painfully disappointed at Mr. Lincoln's definition of these terms, and will have to cast about them for some other catch-words which may answer their purpose as well. The remnants of the Democracy in Northern Pennsylvania would be glad to see the consummation of one of two things, viz. the dissolution of the Union or the backing down and the consequent demoralization of the Republican party. This we consider a fair inference of their position, so long as their newspapers and politicians keep harping upon such clap-trap phrases as "peaceable secession," "no coercion," "two confederacies" and "compromise for the sake of peace."

FROM WASHINGTON

Summary of the News of the Week. (Specially prepared for The Agitator.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1862. BRECKINRIDGE DECLARES LINCOLN ELECTED. Owing to the rumors about an attack on the Capitol in order to prevent the counting of the votes, unusual precautions were taken to keep suspicious characters out of the galleries and to preserve order. At an early hour the galleries were filled with ladies and at one o'clock the Senate came into the House, and the tellers commenced counting the votes. The spectacle was quite imposing. In the Diplomatic Gallery I noticed Lord Lyons and other foreign ministers, and on the floor were several of the Peace Commissioners, among them Hon. David Wilmot. The counting occupied about one hour, when Breckinridge, in a clear and firm voice, announced that Abraham Lincoln had been duly elected President, and Hannibal Hamlin Vice President, for four years from the fourth of March next. The announcement was received with a decorous silence on the part of the galleries, and the Senators went back to their Chamber.

PEACE CONGRESS

The Committee appointed by the Peace Conference are expected to report to-day. The propositions will be but little else than the obnoxious Crittenden-Breckinridge Democratic Platform-Resolutions slightly modified. They will not be accepted by the Republicans in Congress, although there is no doubt of their passage in the Conference. David Wilmot and W. M. Meredith are the only men opposed to compromise in the Pennsylvania delegation, the other five having gone under the pro-slavery well. I was in hopes that at least a majority of the seven Republicans appointed by Gov. Curtin, would be able to retain their manhood long enough while here to save Pennsylvania from the disgrace which awaits her and the rest of the North by the passage of a humiliating compromise. But so it goes. Friday, Feb. 15.—The committee of the Peace Convention to whom was entrusted the task of devising an adjustment of the troubles of the nation were busy at their work yesterday.

such accommodation or benefit, we assure them that neither Mr. Lincoln nor the Republican party will ever interfere to compel them to accept either. No hostile demonstration will ever be made against seceding States by the Federal Government, nor will national troops over march through such States except to recover or protect Federal property within their limits."

In regard to the course of the new administration towards the South, nothing could be more plainly expressed as the views of the Republican party all over the nation than Mr. Lincoln's speech at Cincinnati. At the risk of making this article too long, we will incorporate that speech here, with the single remark that his general policy is now before the country, and that we believe his policy will be approved by every Republican who voted for him, and by the great mass of Union loving citizens of all parties: "I have spoken but once before this in Cincinnati. That was a year previous to the late Presidential election. On that occasion, in a playful manner, but with sincere words, I addressed much of what I said to the Kentuckians. I gave my opinion that we, as Republicans, would ultimately beat them as Democrats, but that they could postpone that result longer by nominating Senator Douglas for the Presidency than they could in any other way. They did not, in any true sense of the word, nominate Mr. Douglas, and the result has come certainly as soon as ever I expected. I also told them how I expected they would be treated after they should have been beaten; and I now wish to call their attention to what I then said upon that subject. I then said, 'When we do as we say, beat you, you perhaps want to know what we will do with you. I will tell you as far as I am authorized to speak for the Opposition, what we mean to do with you. We mean to treat you, as near as we possibly can, as Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, treated you. We mean to leave you alone, and in no way to interfere with your institutions; to abide by all and every compromise of the Constitution, and, in a word, coming back to the original proposition, to treat you so far as degenerate men, if we have degenerated, may, according to the example of those noble fathers, Washington, Jefferson, and Madison.' 'We mean to remember that you are as good as we; that there is no difference between us, other than the difference of circumstances. We mean to recognize and bear in mind always that you have as good hearts in your bosoms as other people, or as we claim to have, and treat you accordingly.' 'Fellow-citizens of Kentucky! Friends and brethren! may I call you in my new position, I see no occasion and feel no inclination to retract a word of this. If it shall not be made good, be assured the fault shall not be mine.'"

EDUCATIONAL

It has been remarked in the preceding communications, that the whole history of the world justifies the statement that ignorant and uncultivated mind is prone to sensuality and cruelty. Spain and Hungary have been referred to in illustration. We are prepared to state now what is still more lamentable. Where such superstitious notions as we have been considering are held, even by persons who are some what educated, they almost invariably lead to the perpetration of deeds of cruelty and injustice. Many of the barbarities committed in pagan countries, both in their religious worship and civil polity, and most of the cruelties on the victims of the Romish Inquisition, have flowed from this source. In the Duchy of Lorraine, nine hundred females were delivered over to the flames for being witches, by one inquisitor alone. Under this accusation, it is reckoned that upward of thirty thousand women have perished by the hand of the Inquisition. Nor are the annals of Great Britain and the United States deficient in examples of this kind.—About the commencement of the last century, the belief in witchcraft, which was almost universal throughout Christendom, was held in both these countries. The laws of England, which admitted its existence and punished it with death, were adopted by the Puritans of New England, and in less than twenty years from the founding of the colony, one individual was tried and executed for the supposed crime. Half a century later, the delusion broke out in Salem. A minister, whose daughter and niece were subject to convulsions accompanied by extraordinary symptoms, supposing they were bewitched, cast his suspicions on an Indian woman who lived in the house, and who was whipped until she confessed herself a witch; and the truth of the confession, although obtained in this way, was not doubted. During the same year, more than fifty persons were terrified into the confession of witchcraft, twenty of whom were put to death. Neither age, sex, nor station afforded any safeguard against a charge for this supposed crime. Women and children not only were its victims, but magistrates were condemned, and a clergyman of the highest respectability was among the executed. So late as 1722 a woman was burned for witchcraft in Scotland, which was among the last executions in that country.

But education, as has been remarked, will dissipate all these evils. It is possible for superstitious notions to coexist with a knowledge of a number of dead languages, Roman and Grecian antiquities, the subtleties of metaphysics, pagan mythology, politics and poetry; yet the testimony of the wisest men of every age, is contradictory of it. But a more effectual antidote to superstitious notions is found in the study of the material universe. There we learn to contemplate the various appearances of the world presents, as uniform results of invariable laws, that govern it. Much light, and consequently inestimable blessings, have been bestowed upon the race by the discoveries in the different departments of nature and art during the last two centuries. The study of astronomy, natural history, philosophy,—the atmosphere, the waters, the earth, and animated beings, has a happy tendency to eradicate from the mind superstitious and false notions; and at the same time to present to view objects of delightful contemplation. Let a person be once thoroughly convinced that nature is uniform in her operations, and governed by regular laws impressed by an all-wise and benevolent Being, and he will soon be inspired with confidence, and will not easily be alarmed at any occasional phenomena which at first sight might appear as exceptions to the general rule. Let persons be taught that eclipses are occasioned, merely by the shadow of one opaque body falling upon another; that comets are regular planets belonging to our solar system, which perform their revolutions and appear and disappear in stated periods of time; that the northern lights are frequent in regions of the North, and probably have a relation to the magnetic and electric fluids while they supply

the inhabitants with light in the absence of the sun; that the times fatal are harmless lights, formed by the ignition of a certain species of gas produced in the soil above which they hover; and that the notes of the death-watch, so far from being presages of death, are ascertained to be the notes of love and presages of hymeneal intercourse among these little insects.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

A great poet says that "the mountains stand fixed forever." We know, however, that it is no uncommon thing for them to slope. The semi-annual interest on the State Debt, amounting to \$873,000, was paid off in Philadelphia, on the 1st instant, in specie or its equivalent. A dispatch from Atchison, Kansas, brings news of the fearful destitution of the people in that State. It is reported that 50,000 people are face to face with actual want. When the Senators from Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, retired from the Senate the other day, Mr. Seward took a pinch of snuff and called up the bill for the admission of Kansas. Lieut. Slemmer, in command at Fort Pickens, and his lady are natives of Norfolk, Virginia. A salute of thirty-four guns were fired in their honor at that place on Thursday week. Mr. Mallory, of Florida, in withdrawing from the Senate, was kind enough to say: "We do not seek to conquer you." Let the Northern States be comforted. We are not to be invaded by Florida. It is said that not a day passes that Senator Bigler is not called upon by some of his constituents, who desire letters from him which will serve as "passports" during their proposed journeys through the Southern States. The cost per pupil of public school education in different cities is as follows: St. Louis \$16.34; Cincinnati, \$15.96; Boston, \$15.91; New York, \$15.33; Buffalo, \$13.93; Chicago, \$12.93; Baltimore, \$10.82; Philadelphia, \$9. A first-rate horse was sold at auction in Hartford on Saturday, for two dollars and fifty cents. There's more of the bitter fruits, says The Courant. Thirty years ago that same horse was sold for nine dollars, and was considered cheap at that. Whoo!—A communication to the Charleston Mercury states that a lady who visited Fort Sumpter a few days ago, carried under her hoops a box of candles and some other articles which she supposed might be useful in the garrison. The yield of Carbon Oil from the wells and springs in Pennsylvania, since the first discovery, about a year ago, amount to 22,119 barrels, found principally in Venango and adjacent counties. There has been a steady increase each month. "Doesn't she," tired of hearing nothing but "secession, coercion and blood," has proposed a sycamore compromise which will double her profits, if tried, as potent as half the patent medicines of the day. It is entitled "The Dentist's Compromise," and is as follows: Take a glass of Beer and drop the subject. The Cattaraugus Republican tells the following:—"A member of the Ellicottville Military Company, was the other day, talking about going to the wars. He said if he went he would take his child with him. 'How will you carry it?' asked the wife and mother. 'O, strap it on my back,' said he. 'Oh, don't,' exclaimed the wife, 'for he will be the first to be shot.' The 'Democrat's' State Committee met at Harrisburg, on Thursday, January 31st, and called a State Convention, to be held at Harrisburg on the 21st of February. Resolutions were adopted declaring that the Constitution is dissolved, and that it must be reconstructed on 'Democratic' principles! The call for the Convention denounces the Republicans, but expresses no condemnation of the Seceding States. Norman Cole, residing near Centerville, Schoharie county, N. Y., died very suddenly from the effect of intoxicating drink mixed with tobacco. He had been drinking all day, and in the evening entered a tavern in which were several of his associates, who, for the fun of the thing, as they called it, mixed a quantity of tobacco with some liquor and gave it to him to drink. He drank freely of it and almost instantly expired. Senator Hale is proverbially good at a reply. In the Senate on Monday week, he told Joe Lane that if civil war came, the first thing that would be done would be to suppress all Northern traitors. To Clingman of North Carolina who had compared the secession of the South to the going out of the ten tribes of Israel, Hale replied that the ten tribes had left the ark of the covenant behind them when they seceded, and went to destruction so complete that nobody but God knew what had become of them. In a late issue of the Knoxville Weekly Patriot Brownlow says: We are informed that Mr. — of the Ninth Civil District of Kan. has proposed to join a company at any time, to come to Knoxville to hang the editor of this paper. We propose next Monday as a suitable day; and we invite our Union friends to attend and witness the execution! We propose to make a speech under the gallows, and to relate our political experience. There will be a mass meeting of the party here on that day and the hanging of that notorious Brownlow will greatly add to the interest of the occasion! The present fashion of wearing cockades to the South is the revival of a custom much in vogue in the country when John Adams was President. The friends of Mr. Adams adopted the black cockade as the distinguished badge, and men by an unconscious impulse looked in the hat of every one they met, rather than at his face, to see whether or not he wore the partisan badge, that they might determine whether to regard him as a friend or an enemy. Party spirit ran very high in those times; friendships were broken by political differences between intimate friends, and men who had been acquaintances all their lives crossed the street to avoid meeting each other. LIST OF LETTERS remaining in the Post Office at Wellsboro, Pa., Feb. 20, 1862. Barbee H W, Hughes Miss Louisa, Balon J, Hower Miss Fannie, Beaman Amasa, 2, Jacobs Davis, Burlington E Preston 2, Jones Nathan, Boyce C, Kelsey David D, Bigelow A, Kimble Henry S, Brigham D W, McDaniel Niles 2, Barnum Wm H, Mehan Owen, Bobb Mrs Deborah, Reed Mrs H, Clark P V, Mabe Michael, Covert Daniel, Nayle Jacob B, Cogdon Gaylet, Ricker L W, DeLange Amos, Ribble Mrs Elizabeth, Dieffenbacher & Co, Shaw T S, Deuel Mrs Elizabeth, Sena Mrs Maria, Evans Evan, Sena Miss Amelia, Fowler H A, Williams James, Froyer Benjamin, Wheeler N J, Gordon William 2, Wheeler Roxana A, Hockett Jacob, Webster Abner A, Hall Wm B, Wetmore Mrs Maria, Persons calling for any of the above letters please say they are advertised. A. S. BREWSTER, P. O.