

EDUCATIONAL-VI

With this number we shall discontinue the proposition that Education dissipates the Evils of Intemperance.

The Moon and the Weather furnish a subject of much comment and speculation. Dr. Lardner, the celebrated English philosopher and astronomer, in answer to the question, "Does the moon influence the weather?" says: "It is asserted—first, that at the epochs of new and full moon, and at the quarters, there is generally a change of weather; and, secondly, that the phases of the moon, or in other words, the relative position of the moon and sun in regard to the earth, is the cause of these changes."

In another lecture on the moon and weather, Dr. Lardner expresses the following decisive opinion: "From all that has been stated, it follows then, conclusively, that the popular notions concerning the influence of the lunar phases on the weather, have no foundation in theory, and no correspondence with observed facts."

Other absurd notions are entertained with respect to the influence of the moon. The opinion is entertained by many that timber should be felled only during the decline of the moon; for if it be cut down during its increase, it will not be of a good or durable quality.

M. Duhamel Monceau, a celebrated French agriculturist, has made direct and positive experiments for the purpose of testing this question, and has clearly and conclusively shown that the qualities of timber felled in different parts of the lunar month, are the same.

It is an aphorism received by all gardeners and agriculturists in Europe, that vegetables, plants, and trees, which are expected to flourish and grow with vigor, should be planted, grafted, and pruned during the increase of the moon.

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Sanctorius, whose name is celebrated in physics for the invention of the thermometer, held it as a principle that a healthy man gained two pounds weight at the beginning of every lunar month, which he lost towards its completion.

For all the progress that has been made in this country toward the removal, from the popular mind, of the numerous corrupting and debasing absurdities which have hitherto enveloped it, we are indebted to our enlightened and chastened systems of popular education; and to these, and to these only, may we confidently look for our freedom from the thralldom.

The Southern Congress has confirmed President Davis' Cabinet appointments, as follows: Secretary of State, Mr. Toombs, of Georgia; Secretary of Treasury, Mr. Meminger, of S. C.; Secretary of War, Mr. L. P. Walker, of Ala.

The Congress on Thursday last, drafted a resolution directing the Finance Committee to inquire into the expediency of laying an export duty on cotton.

THE AGITATOR.

HUGH YOUNG, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 27, 1861.

Every step of Mr. Lincoln's progress, from Springfield up to the borders of Maryland, has been attended with the wildest enthusiasm. At every station crowds have greeted him as a statesman was never greeted before.

There is a cool audacity in the arrogant demand that the North shall give additional guaranties for the security and protection of slavery, which is, to say the least, quite amusing.

Now surely these guaranties, if they are faithfully observed, ought to satisfy them; and if they are not, faithfully observed, what good would additional guaranties do?

Has the North been unfaithful in her observance of the Constitution in reference to slavery? Let the history of the past answer.

The first serious struggle on this subject between the North and the South was in 1820, upon the admission of Missouri into the Union.

The next controversy on this subject between the two sections commenced in 1848 and was amicably adjusted in 1850 by the Compromise measures of that year.

In 1854 slavery agitation was re-opened by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise for the purpose of converting territory consecrated to Freedom into slave territory.

To resist this aggression the Republican party was organized. Its object and purpose were and are defensive and not aggressive.

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It is by such infernal lies as these, that the honest men of the South have been hurried into rebellion. It is because the Democratic presses of the North have insidiously if not flagrantly misrepresented us and our principles, that they persist in such rebellion.

God save the Commonwealth! Having thus glanced at the disease, its causes and its history, we shall next seek to show the remedy. Now-a-days every man has his peculiar patent panacea for saving the Union; why then should we not present ours?

FROM WASHINGTON.

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In the House yesterday Mr. Bucock, of Virginia, occupied the morning hour in an elaborate speech in opposition to the bill empowering the President to call out the military forces of the country and accept the service of volunteers.

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"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION AS IT IS, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF ALL THE LAWS." This is the sentiment of the people of the Old Guard.

The Legislature of Kansas has postponed the election of two United States Senators until April.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Special Correspondence of The Agitator.

Of course you will excuse my absence from your columns last week, because you couldn't help it. Neither could I. It is very hard to write what is going on in a place if you happen to be absent and do not know.

The two great measures before the Legislature of which mention has heretofore been made in this correspondence, have finally passed the House. I gave you in former letter a full summary of the provisions of the Sunbury and Erie Bill from which your readers could form a correct opinion of its merits, or rather its demerits.

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FROM THE PEOPLE.

Editor of The Agitator:

Permit me through your columns to draw the attention of the friends of education of this county to the above named Seminary. The institution is, from this time henceforth, to be a fixed fact, a powerful institution for good, in the hands of skillful and experienced educators, to mould the minds of the youth of Northern Pennsylvania.

Again the sound of the hammer and the saw is heard to resound through its spacious and numerous apartments, which is not to cease till the finishing blow is struck. When this is done there is no institution of learning in all Northern Pennsylvania, that can afford as good accommodations for students as this.

The trustees regard themselves particularly fortunate in securing the services of Prof. Wildman at a time when the Seminary so much needs a principal who possesses in an eminent degree those powers that are his peculiar characteristics, viz., energy, perseverance, and experience.

Prof. Wildman has been a successful teacher for several years. His faculty to please, his easy familiarity with his pupils, and to still possess the power to impress them with a superiority, and his aptness to instruct, place him among the first educators of the State.

THE NEW REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS.

We publish the census of 1860 in another part of this paper. The ratio of representation is 127,216. This will give the several States of the Union the following number of representatives in Congress:

Table with columns: STATES, Congress 37th, Congress 38th, Loss, Gain. Lists states and their respective representation numbers.

Thus it will be seen that the Slave States will have but Eighty-four Members in the House, while the Free States will have One Hundred and Eighty-nine—a majority of seventy-five.

A PRINTER DRIVEN FROM ARKANSAS.—A young man by the name of Cressey, son of Dr. Cressey, until recently a resident of Michigan, but now living in Maine, was requested by the Vigilance Committee of Little Rock, Ark., to leave the town and the State, for having expressed the opinion, in answer to a question, that "the secessionists were a pack of fools."

Quiet an amusing episode occurred in the trip of the President elect between Cleveland and Buffalo. At Northeast station Mr. Lincoln took occasion to state that during the campaign he had received a letter from a young girl of this place, in which he was kindly admonished to do certain things, and among others to let his whisks grow, and that, as he had acted upon that piece of advice, he would now be glad to welcome his fair correspondent, if she was among the crowd.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A young man, who, two years ago, had lost \$70,000, is now posting bills at Chicago. Highly talented, and a first class accountant, he has ruined himself.

The value of foreign exports at the Charleston, S. C., in 1859 was \$3,000,000. In 1860 it fell to \$900,000; secession will reduce it this year to nothing.

Prentice says: "The Secession party will not possibly get along in unity. It will be like the ragged fellow's shirt, which will be washed by the dozen because it was a dozen pieces."

The English papers say that India has 654,000,000 acres of cotton-growing country, while the United States has about 600,000,000. Great efforts are being made to stimulate the culture of cotton in India.

At dinner at Erie, some gentleman of Mr. Lincoln some wine, and rather forced upon him. Mr. Lincoln replied: "I have fifty years without the use of any liquor, and do not think it worth while to change my ways now."

The London Times, in another editorial on the American crisis, is very bitter on President Buchanan. It says few men who have been called upon to play so important a part have been found more utterly unequal to their situation.

Herbert Bowen, of Norwich, Conn., nine years of age, was drowned in the river. He was skating with other boys and fell through the ice as long as possible, but in his hold he sank, crying—"Good bye, Lord bless me. Tell my mother—!" He is an only son.

A Springfield correspondent of the Evening Post says that a vigorous growth of whiskers has entirely changed Mr. Lincoln's facial appearance. The improvement is remarkable. The gaunt, hollow cheeks, and the hawk jaw-bones are so enveloped as to give him a rounded and rounded to the entire face, and it escapes the barbers, Mr. Lincoln will go to Washington an exceedingly presentable man.

Many years ago, a small number of silver medals of Henry Clay were distributed among personal friends, and died broken. One of these was laid aside by Daniel Ullman, to be presented to the statesman representing Clay's principles should attain to the Presidency, and was week received by Mr. Lincoln through express.

Mr. Edward Payson, of Boston, prior to the late election, wagged that if Mr. Lincoln was elected, he would walk from Boston to Washington inside of ten consecutive days, to be present at the inauguration. A time of his journey has been published, by which it appears that he was to start from Boston on the 22d inst. The distance is 453 miles, which will average over 45 miles a day for the days. The longest day's travel in the programme is 55 miles, and the shortest 22. He will make 40 miles on Sunday and attend at noon service at Hartford, Ct. He will be accompanied by two friends, who will ride a distance behind him. He anticipated seeing much delight from the varied scenery all the route, and indulges the hopes that the clouds will withhold their snow and rain during his journey.

The Albany Knickerbocker says the South Carolinians are preparing a raft with which to invade and demolish Fort Sumpter. Whether the charge of the ladies cabin is not stated. It is expected big things from this raft. It will be launched early next week, on which occasion the mounted bucculars of Charleston are to turn out "three abreast." Having launched the raft and fitted up the lower cabin as staterooms for the officers, the first piece of South Carolina naval architecture will be thrown open to the inspection of the public. The ladies are invited to be present to inspect the patriarchal sleeping arrangements. The raft is to be manned with seventy-three Major Generals, eighty-seven Colonels, two hundred and thirty-five Captains, and captain cannon stolen from the Government. Having got the raft in order, it will be towed towards the fort by means of four or five skiffs and a horse-boat. If they all pull in the same direction, it is believed that the Fort will be reached "after a time," if not earlier. Having reached the Fort, the seventy-three Major Generals will roll back their sleeves, double their fists and "double dare" Major Anderson to come out and knock a chip from Gen. Pickens's shoulder. Should Anderson refuse, the eighty-seven Colonels are to "double dare" him. If Anderson refuses to face the Colonels, the two hundred and thirty-five captains are authorized to "make faces" at his wife and children. Having done all this, the raft is to open on the Fort, while the Fort will return the compliment by opening on the city of Charleston. The commanders of the raft, after discovering that it won't pay to shell their own houses, will withdraw the raft, to talk over matters and partake of B-honour cocktails.

SCOTT AND THE SECESSIONISTS.

A Washington correspondent of the Springfield Republican says:

"In all the seceding States there is no man so unpopular at the present moment as General Scott. Not even Ab Lincoln or Mr. Seward is the object of so much criticism and abuse as Gen. Scott. He is hated by every secessionist in the country, and for one reason only—because he is for enforcing the laws and defending the property of the United States. The nation owes an immense debt of gratitude to Scott, for in the darkest days of the republic, when President and Cabinet were in the slough of secession, he stood erect. With the entire administration against him he was firm. He did not fear to say plain and bold things to Mr. Buchanan. Said he, 'Mr. Buchanan, Major Anderson has saved the country's honor, and your's with it.' At one time Mr. Buchanan intended to ordering Anderson back to Fort Moultrie. Gen. Scott declared his purpose in such a contingency to resign his commission. Such an act as the President well know would rouse the people of the Free States to the fighting pitch. It was the additional cause which called down the union weight. Since then the President has been tolerably firm. The appointment of Mr. Stanton, of Pittsburg, to the Cabinet was an era in our history. The moment he was inside the council of the President, he and Holt combined at once their power and their influence to save the country from the miserable doctrine of secession. Before Gen. Holt, who was a true Union man, had been entirely unobserved in the Cabinet by Floyd, Thompson, Toucey and Company. Now he joined hands with Stanton, and both supported the views of Gen. Scott in the Cabinet. These gentlemen, Holt, Stanton, and Scott, are the most popular men in the country, unless I except Anderson."