

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, WELLSBOROUGH, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1863.

STATE CONVENTION.

The Union State Committee have issued the following call for a State Convention:

The loyal citizens of Pennsylvania, without distinction of party, who desire cordially to unite in establishing the National and State Administrations in their patriotic efforts to suppress a sectional and unwholesome rebellion against the authority of the Government...

TIME brings its revenges. The tables are turned. Under the new order of things it becomes our duty, as it is a privilege, to publish the speeches of such lifelong democrats as Gen. Butler, Gov. Wright and Johnson...

THE FALL.

When a great man loses his foothold on the solid ground of virtue and moral excellence, and plunges into dissipation and the practice of universally condemned vices; when a man whose daily walk and conversation among his neighbors and friends has been exemplary...

It is wisely ordered that crime shall be rendered more hateful in contrast with right and virtuous living. At the same time, the descent into hell is made easy, that men and women may be morally perfected through close circumspection...

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led, by what manner of men? By Fernando Wood, a convicted swindler, and Ben Wood, a notorious lottery gambler; by Wm. B. Reed, who was purchased by Buchanan with the China mission; by C. C. Burr, who has run the gamut through, from gaited vice to that which has not shame enough to hide from the light...

But scarcely less humiliating is the spectacle presented by the leaders of this fallen party in their secret conference with Lord Lyons last fall, soon after the election of Horatio Seymour. In that conference they deliberately proposed to procure foreign interference, to further embarrass the operations of the government...

Be it remembered, however, that these infamous chiefs do not represent the masses of that once great party. The democratic masses are generally sound in their patriotism; and when the villainies of the men who assume to lead them become apparent, they will shake them off as scorpions.

The last Bradford Argus has an extended call for a "Union Convention, without distinction of party." Our old friend will pardon us when we inquire what that call means? Is it the post-obit proclamation of that ephemeral party which blossomed into a sickly existence and perished from milk-and-water on the brain in this county, last year?

CONNECTICUT

Following the lead of New Hampshire and Rhode Island, on Monday week proved her devotion to the sacred cause of Right, in the election of the entire Republican Union War State ticket, a Republican legislature, and three Republican Congressmen.

If there is a loyal man in this county who thinks it too early to get to work for the summer and fall campaign, we ask him to look about him and beyond, and mark the sleepless activity of the enemy.

The next Congress, as classified by the New-York papers, will stand as follows: Administration—85; Democrats—74. To this majority Vermont will add 3, West Virginia 3, California 3, and Missouri 1—to fill a vacancy—thus carrying the majority up to 21.

We are forced to defer several interesting letters from the army until next week owing to the crowded condition of our column. The letters are of that quality that will 'keep,' however.

GENERAL NEWS.

Since our last issue the attack upon the forts in Charleston harbor has been made by our iron-clad fleet, and proved the grandest artillery fight the eyes of man ever witnessed. The iron-clad, night in number, approached to a point within 500 yards of Fort Sumter...

So, Charleston is not taken, as so many loyal men and women hoped to hear. But they have no cause for despair. The attack has shown that our vessels can pass any batteries yet invented, and but for chance obstructions could have bombarded Charleston ere this.

The attack on Vicksburg has been temporarily abandoned. The health of the army there is improving. We neglected to mention in its proper place that our loss in the Charleston fight was but twelve.

The Republicans and war democrats have nearly swept the Copperheads out of existence in the charter elections held in the Western cities last week. A great reaction is going on in the North in favor of the government.

LETTER FROM J. EMEY, ESQ.

CAMP OF THE BUCCITALES, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA., April 5, 1863. DEAR AGITATOR: If you have had such a snow storm up in Tioga county as we had here last night and this morning I fear you will stay away from church. I do not think any of you had as much trouble in holding your guests over your heads as Major Niles and his guests had yesterday...

The country here is a good deal like most of the rest of Virginia near the Potomac, a very poor soil. There were but few inhabitants before the commencement of the war and fewer now. There is, however, a church within sight of our encampment...

This regiment is now looking exceedingly well and is, I should think, under excellent discipline. Col. Taylor appears to be well qualified for his position and to be exercising a very healthy influence over his men.

Adjourned to meet in the Presbyterian Church at 7 o'clock, evening. Evening Session.—Calling the roll, and members responding with sentiments. Not many responses. Answering questions taken from the "item box."

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that the next fifty days will give to the world important results. We are on the winning side just now. We have whipped the traitors in Rhode Island, shall most certainly annihilate them to-morrow in Connecticut and in all the West where we have a chance at them...

We must expect to lose some of our best men, for generally the triumph of the best cause is sanctified by blood. I fear one apparent drawback, however. It may be necessary in the workings of divine Providence to let the enemy get possession of Kentucky and Tennessee in order that the President may find an excuse for abolishing slavery there...

Either way, slavery will end "in the end," or God is powerless to do justice. Every thing if equalized in the long run. There is a system of compensation in God's Government, and it will yet be seen that all the oppressions and degradations of the black race will be made by God to subserve their advancement...

Yours truly, J. E.

PROCEEDINGS

of the Tioga County Teachers' Institute.

The Tioga County Teachers' Institute met at the School House in Tioga, on Tuesday, the 7th of April, instant, at 11 o'clock A. M. The session was opened with an introductory address, by the President F. W. Clarke...

H. C. Johns and Misses Tyler, Mann and Prutsman were appointed a committee to obtain boarding places for members from a distance.

Drill in Orthography by H. C. Johns. Adjourning to meet at same place at 10 o'clock P. M. Met at 10 P. M. Rev. T. K. Beecher of Elmira commenced a series of lectures on the art and science of teaching...

Adjourned to meet at the Presbyterian Church at 8 o'clock, evening.

Evening Session.—Opened with music by the Tioga Band, led by G. Humphrey, Esq., who at this and the two succeeding evening sessions treated the audience to excellent music...

Adjourned to meet in the Presbyterian Church at 9 o'clock A. M. Opened with singing by a select choir. Lecture by Mr. Beecher.

Drilling in Mental Arithmetic, by Mr. Allen, Principal of Wellsboro Academy. Mr. Allen insisted upon exercising, always, logical demonstrations of solutions.

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The resolution on fixation of Teachers' certificates was discussed and postponed. Lecture on Newspapers, by Mr. Beecher. He declared them to be the most influential for good or evil of any power in the country.

Morning Session—4th day.—Met at the Schoolhouse. The discussion of the resolution to exempt certificates from taxation was resumed by Messrs. Johns, Elliott, Beecher, Garretson, and others, when it was amended by giving it the negative form, and so passed.

It was urged in favor of the original resolution that the spirit of the State law was in favor making the burden of the School system as light as possible. The negative held that the teachers would be glad to contribute so much to the support of the government; and that the business averaged as profitable as any other kind of business, and could as well bear taxation.

President of the Institute—R. B. Wenz, of Wellsboro. Vice-Presidents—Luther E. Elliott, Amanda Mann, Lydia Howe, Benjamin Vandusen, Lucy H. Pitts, S. Augusta Owens.

Secretary—Corresponding Secretary—A. R. Wightman, of Osceola.

All of whom were elected by acclamation. The following named Councilors were elected for the districts represented, viz:

Bloss, D. Cameron; Charleston, V. A. Elliott; Chatham, B. Vandusen; Covington, Mrs. Miss Ross; Covington, Miss Youmans; Delmar, Martha Peet; Farmington, Miss M. J. Mulford; Jackson, Mary Updike; Lawrenceville, Mary Baldwin; Lawrence, Miss H. J. Insoho; Liberty, Miss L. W. Canfield; Mansfield, H. C. Johns; Mansfield, Carrie Gaylord; Middlebury, Oscar Cole; Nelson, Sophia Tremaine; Osceola, A. R. Wightman; Richmond, Squire Clark; Rutland, Miss A. Simpson; Sullivan, Augusta Owens; Tioga, Wm. Humphrey; Tioga twp., Frances Baldwin; Ward, Lucinda Pitts; Wellsboro, M. N. Allen.

The Council reported Wellsboro as the place of holding the next meeting of the Institute, subject to the call of the County Superintendent.

The following Committee on Resolutions was appointed: D. Cameron, V. A. Elliott, Dianthe Drew.

Prof. Allen suggested that the title of "Professor" be omitted in the minutes. Capt. Elliott requested that military titles might share a like fate.

Orders were directed to be drawn for certain items of contingent expenses, and it was resolved that the balance in the treasury, including the evening's collection, be paid to Mr. Beecher.

Messrs. Allen, Wightman, and V. A. Elliott were appointed a Committee to audit accounts. Adjourning to meet at 10 P. M.

Afternoon Session—Drill in Arithmetic, by V. A. Elliott. Also, demonstration of the rule of division by fractions by Miss Drew. Geometrical Progression explained, algebraically, by Mr. Beecher; the same arithmetically, by V. A. Elliott.

Repetend decimal fractions explained by M. N. Allen. Mr. Beecher gave his concluding lecture. Votes of thanks were tendered to the people of Tioga for their kindness and hospitality, to the Tioga Band for their musical entertainment, and to Rev. Thos. K. Beecher for his excellent lectures.

On motion, the Institute adjourned sine die. At 7 o'clock, evening, the teachers and citizens assembled at the Presbyterian Church, which was filled to overflowing, and listened to an impressive and interesting sermon on the character of Christ, by Mr. Beecher.

Such as heard his lectures on education will understand how possible it is to give the reader even the substance in such form as to be justly appreciated. I have promised to explain some of the principal points.

The theme was treated under these heads: Government, Teaching, and Recitation. He said: "The least possible amount of government, consistent with order, is best. Government, by force or authority, ought to be as sparingly used as possible."

Teachers who acquire a reputation for quiet and orderly schools, are not, in all cases, the best. In case the school becomes restless and noisy or dull, the cause may be foul air; and the room should be ventilated; or it may be fatigued by attention to regular studies, and these may be intermitted, and familiar "object lessons" introduced, or a short recess conceded.

Penmanship and spelling should be taught, first in connexion with each other, afterward in connexion with other studies and recitations. Beginners should commence by copying spelling and reading lessons, in the type characters—imitated from their text-books. The script characters may be introduced afterward. When somewhat advanced, the pupil should be exercised in writing and directing letters, drafting notes of hand, &c., taking care in all cases to observe the rules of symmetry and neatness.