

From the Covenant

ODD-FELLOWSHIP AND RELIGION.

We are often interrogated upon the subject of relation between Odd-Fellowship and the institutions of religion. We have been asked, and we doubt in perfect sincerity whether our Order is a religious society. Our reply to these queries is, that our answer must depend entirely on the sense in which the terms 'religious' is employed. We are taught on the threshold of our Institution to reverence God, and never to mention his holy name but with such feelings as are due from the creature to the Creator—to be industrious, sober and temperate—to act upon the golden rule, which requires they do unto others as we would wish that others should do unto us—to love our fellow-members, do them justice in all things, and to be contented while they are in distress and it is in our power to relieve them. These teachings are illustrated and enforced upon our mind in every step of our progress; through the different degrees of our Order. Thus much for the theoretical teachings of the Order. In practice its funds are devoted to the relief of human suffering in various forms; its proper officers are, from week to week, and from day to day, engaged in visiting the sick, and ministering to the comfort, closing the eyes of the dying, burying the dead, relieving the widow, and protecting and educating the fatherless children. If this is religion, or any part of it, then so far as those things go, ours is a religious institution. But if the inquirer includes in his idea of a 'religious society' one that is devoted to the dissemination of certain doctrines, embodies and carries on in detail, so as to form any stem of ethics, or a complete body of divinity, then evidently to his mind our institution lacks some of the elements of religion, and cannot be called a religious teaching and practice; but these are merely the great truths and duties which form the basis of all religion and morality rather than a complete system of religion. Our great object is to unite men in the performance of these great duties and the recognition of these great principles, leaving them, without molestation, to believe, propagate and practice, whatever more their understandings and consciences may approve. For this reason, all religious disputes and sectarian discussions and sentiments are strictly prohibited in our Lodges. In the world, a man may attach himself to whatever church he chooses, and believe what peculiar doctrines may appear to him just and true, but in our Lodges he must be an Odd-Fellow and a brother, and nothing more or less.

The conclusion at which we arrive, then, is this. In the ordinary and strict sense of the term, our Order is not a religious society. At the same time, it would be grossly improper to call it an irreligious institution, because it recognizes the first principles of religion, morality, practices some important duties, and forbids all that is opposed to the duties we owe to God, our neighbors, or ourselves. So far, then, as it goes in these matters, it may be called religious, but it stops short of what is necessary to make it, strictly speaking, a religious society. In fact it never was designed to supply the place now occupied by the religious institutions of the day. They have their missions and we ours, and though some of our objects are identical, yet there should be no union or strife between them, except it be the union of mutual charity, and the strife upon the question which shall do most to relieve the wants of the poor and distressed.

THE MEDORA.

The man who professes to be a believer in dreams and other extraordinary arguings of coming events, says the Norfolk Herald, is sure to be regarded by nine tenths of mankind as a simpleton, if not a stark idiot; yet that the most calamitous events have often been indicated by such premonitions, is an indisputable fact, and it is equally certain that such events have in some cases been controlled by strict attention to the warnings thus mysteriously given. It is unnecessary for us to specify instances of warnings, as they must be familiar to most readers of historical records.—But there is one connected with the recent melancholy event of the blowing up of the Medora which remains to be recorded, and which we class among the most remarkable which have fallen within our notice. Three weeks before it occurred, the sad catastrophe was distinctly represented in a dream to the mate of Jewess, one of the line of steamers for which the Medora was intended. He saw her making trial of her machinery—saw her blow up—saw the hapless victims of the explosion in the water round her, struggling for life—saw the boat sink, and identified Captain Sutton (her commander) clad in a white dress. He told his dream afterwards—and was laughed at! The Jewess, it will be remembered, left here for Baltimore on Thursday night (after the explosion) and passed in the bay, the next morning, the steamer Georgia, on her way down to Norfolk; and when perceiving the G's flag half-mast, he exclaimed in a tone of grief: 'There! my dream is out—the Medora—blown up!' The boats passed each other too far asunder to hail, and it was not known to those on board the Jewess until her arrival at Baltimore, that such was indeed the melancholy fact.

That Maryland College Riot, turns out to be a hoax.

Anecdote of the Last War.—It will be recollected that the U.S. frigate Constitution, Captain Stewart, having eluded the British squadron in the bay, was chased into Marblehead by two frigates. The approach of the enemy was so near, that it was at first supposed they would follow her into the harbor, and when they hauled off to the eastward, it was supposed to be with a view to call to their aid the Bulwark, (74,) then near, in order to render the destruction of Old Ironsides the more easy and certain. Thus threatened with an attack, the people of Marblehead sent to Salem to the Major General of the militia of that division, for assistance in repelling it. It was Sabbath morning, and nearly all the people of Salem were at church, when the messengers arrived. One of the officers of the Salem regiment of infantry, a member of Mr. Bentley's church, was sent for at church in the midst of the sermon, and he immediately went up to the pulpit and told the preacher the news. As little disconcerted as though a child, at his call, had been brought up for baptism, Mr. Bentley announced the purport of the message to his congregation; 'Brethren,' said he, 'the country is invaded; the Constitution, Captain Stewart, has been chased into Marblehead. Our brethren have sent for troops to help them defend her and the town! We can preach and hear the gospel another time.—and thus dismissed the assembly.

How to ascertain the age of a Horse.—In purchasing a horse, not the least important matter is to be able to tell his age. In transfers of ordinary farm and saddle horses great imposition are often practiced upon the credulous and untutored purchaser. To prevent this, to as great extent as possible for the future, is the object of this communication to the public. The most certain means of ascertaining the age of a horse is to examine the changes which take place with the teeth. The twelve front teeth begin to show about two weeks after the colt is foaled. These are called colt teeth and are shed at different periods, and replaced by others. When the colt is about two years and a half old, the four middle ones drop out, and about another year, or when the horse is four and a half year old the four last are shed. These last are replaced by what are called corner teeth. They are hollow and have a black mark in their cavity. They are scarcely visible and the cavity deep, when the horse is four and a half years old; they begin to fill when he is six and a half, and the mark continually diminishes & contracts till the horse is seven or eight years old; obliterated. The horse acquires his canine teeth or tusks, about his fifth year. The two in the lower jaw begin to appear when he is between three and four years old, and these in the upper jaw five or six months after. They continue very sharp-pointed till six. At ten the upper ones blunted, worn out and long the gum leaving them gradually;—the bearers they are older the horse; from ten to fourteen, it is difficult to tell the age of the horse. It is sufficient to know that he is old, and under the hard treatment which is given to horses generally, the conclusion will be a safe one that he is worth but little.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION.

The Liberator, a very ably conducted abolition paper, published by William Lloyd Garrison, at Boston, is out strongly in favor of dissolving the North from the South, and says that will be the leading question before the Anti-Slavery Convention which is to assemble in New York, the 11th of May. It is greatly to be regretted that such men as Garrison, Adams, Giddings, Whittier, Burleigh, and others of our most talented countrymen, allow their fanatical opinions to lead them so far from duty to their country, and to the poor slaves, themselves. They can never effect the liberation of the southern slaves by such attempt serves to fasten more strongly the fetters of the oppressed. It is question which, like every other reforms of the kind, must be reached—if it can be reached at all—by sober reason and common sense, and not by inflammatory appeals and incendiary publications.

'Be Kind to Your Father and Lend Me Your Coat!'—In a familiar conversation with Ex-President Van Buren the other day, one of our jocos citizens made some inquiries as to General Jackson, and Mr. Van Buren asked if the gentleman knew personally the General?

'Certainly,' was the reply; 'bless his old snow top, have shaken the old hero's hand both before and after he was made President.'

'He would, perhaps, now have satisfaction in receiving a word from you then,' responded the polite ex-statesman; 'I will gladly bear a message from you. Is there anything that you would ask him for?'

Nothing but one of his old coats,' was the reply.

'One of his old coats?' said Van Buren, with a bland and quiet smile, which showed that he anticipated something droll.

'Yes—one of the General's old military coats.'

'Why, what would you do with it?'

'I'll tell you what I'd do with it, Martin Van Buren,' said the facetious gentlemen, 'I'd stick it upon a pole on a flat boat, float it down to the Balize, and anchor it there, to frighten away those d—d British steamers!'

—N. O. Picayune.

Serving Apprenticeship for a Wife.—The reader may remember that the Dowager Countess of Westmoreland was one of the titled personages who visited the United States last summer. A curious anecdote is related of her marriage. She was the only daughter of the eminent and immensely wealthy banker Child, who flourished in London about the time of the French Revolution. When he died, he made a will, leaving all the property to his daughter on condition that she should marry a mechanic, (no commenced life, himself as a brewer,) who had served a regular apprenticeship of seven years at his trade. If she married any other person, the whole estate was to alienate from her and her heirs. The then Earl of Westmoreland met her by chance at a ball given on some public occasion by the Lord Mayor. He received, if she was willing to marry her, and on her consenting to wait seven years, he bound himself apprentice to a Mr. Pollock, a highly respectable saddler in Piccadilly; and actually learned the trade. He served his seven years and exhibited a saddle which he had made, to the entire satisfaction of the executors under the will, and gave title for fortune; Miss Child became a Duchess and the mechanic's apprentice one of the wealthiest Earls of England. After all, he served only half as long as poor Jacob—who gave seven years of servitude for Rachael and seven more Leah—and did not get so much cash as his Lordship by pretty considerable difference.

One of the city missionaries of Boston, a few days since, witnessed a singular scene in that city. In a miserable hovel of a house which he entered, he found a man lying dead, with some of the family drunk about him. In the same room with the corpse a couple were being married—the bridegroom wearing the very clothes which the dead man had just cast off, and every thing was going very merrily as though it was a jovial time.—Pennsylvanian.

EMIGRATION.

The Cincinnati Gazette says.—The number of emigrants who had left this city for the Northern part of Illinois, and Iowa Territory, by the way of St. Louis, as we are informed by officers of the boats, has been unusually large this season. Boats leave our landing almost daily, crowded with substantial emigrants from the back country, with their live stock and farming apparatus, bent upon seeking their fortunes in the distant wilderness. The principle number seems to pitch upon the territory of Iowa, as their place of settlement.

John Quincy Adams is now seventy years of age, and has been in public life 48 years. In 1794 he was appointed minister to Portugal. In 1797 minister to Prussia. In 1803 he was elected U. S. Senator, and remained in that body until 1809, at which time he was sent to Russia as minister. On his return in 1811, he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1813 he was sent as one of the Associate Ministers at the treaty of Ghent. In 1815 he received the appointment of Minister to England, and while abroad in 1817 was selected by Mr. Monroe as the Secretary of State, in which office he continued until the time of his elevation to the Presidency in 1825. In 1832 he took his seat in the lower House of Congress, where he has been a prominent member continuously from then to the present day.

THE HANDY CASE.

This case was heard before Judge Barton, of the Court of general Session of Philadelphia county, acting in his capacity of Justice of the Peace, on Thursday last. The testimony exhibits no new facts, but there is one feature with which we were forcibly impressed, as going to place the slanders of Gov. Porter in a most unenviable position. Two federal editors were among the witnesses examined—Montgomery, of the Harrisburg Chronicle, and Richards, of the Reading Journal—both notorious for their debasing unscrupulousness, the former as being the first to repeat the \$92,000 slanders against the governor.—The result of their examination by the Attorney General, while it shows how little it takes to ruin a good man's character, is a proud testimonial in favor of Governor Porter. It is as follows:

Richards said: 'All the knowledge I got was from others—KNEW NOTHING MYSELF.'

Montgomery said: 'I have published articles in relation to the so called \$99,000 affair—but have no knowledge of it.'

And yet these men charged the Governor indefinitely with the worst of crimes! They are mightily brave while brandishing their venom pointed pens but their valor never stands the test.

The Washington-correspondent of the N. Y. Herald says:

'They tell an anecdote of Mr. Clay at his boarding house; that a few mornings since, after breakfasting and writing a few letters, and giving some directions to his servant, he came down from his room about 11 o'clock stepped into a hack, and drove to the Capital; and it was only when entering the gateway towards the Senate, that he suddenly recollected he had resigned. Such had been his habit for so many years that no wonder forgot himself for a moment.'

DEMOCRAT. "TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR" BLOOMSBURG: SATURDAY, MAY 7 1849. FOR PRESIDENT, JAMES BUCHANAN. (Subject to the decision of the National Convention.)

The following toast was given by Valentine Best, at Harrisburg, January 8th, 1842.

V. Best.—Hon. James Buchanan, the rising star, not of Pennsylvania, but of the Union—the "Star of the North" and the whole north will report in favor of his nomination for the Presidency, and in the event of their report being adopted by a national convention, the north will confirm it by its jorities worth counting.

We have received notices from our subscribers in Sugarloaf township, of the irregularity in their receipt of our paper. We can assure them that they are mailed every Friday afternoon, and forwarded by the way of Berwick and Cambria. Will the Post Masters at these two offices look to it, and see them regularly forwarded.

At an Election held at Gettysburg on the 2d inst. for officers of the Gettysburg Bridge Company, for the ensuing year, the following persons were duly elected:—

President—George H. Williams. Managers—William McKelvy, Stephen Baldy, Joseph Brobst, Joseph Paxton, Peter Schmick, O. D. Leib. Secretary and Treasurer—Ezra S. Hayhurst.

The Virginia election as far as heretofore is decidedly in favor of the democratic party. Forty five counties have been heard from, and the result of the election for members of the House of Representatives, is 29 democrats to 24 whigs—being a gain of ten members since last session.

In the case of Nicholas Biddle, Copperhead and Co. for conspiracy to defraud the United States Bank, the proceedings have been quashed by the Court.

BUCHANAN ABROAD.

We take the following extract from the 'Flag of the Union,' a leading democratic paper published at Tuscaloosa, Alabama: 'Mr. Buchanan, the distinguished Pennsylvania Senator, has been nominated for the Presidency by very numerous meetings of the Democracy both at Harrisburg and Pittsburg. They seem to be in earnest in the Keystone State, in pressing Mr. Buchanan's claims for this office. He is certainly well qualified both in moral and political character, and has more than sufficient talents for the high station.

'Will not the Keystone of the Arch speak forth and proclaim throughout the breadth of this land, that she has a son, in the name of Governor Porter, worthy and every way qualified for the second office in this Republic?'

'Western (Indiana) Democrat. No, the 'Keystone of the arch' will do no such things. She has already proclaimed throughout the breadth of this land, that she has a son, in the name of JAMES BUCHANAN, worthy and every way qualified for the first office in this Republic.

The democracy of Pennsylvania have not asked that any of her sons should receive the honor of the second office in the gift of the people; nor do they intend to.

THE BIDDLE CASE.

Judge Barton delivered the opinion of the Court of Criminal session in the conspiracy cases against Nicholas Biddle and others, on Saturday last.

The learned Judge thus closes his argument:—'That no 'probable cause' has been shown to bind over these parties for having criminally conspired to cheat and defraud the stockholders, and that they are entitled to be discharged from the custody in which they have been detained.'

The New Hope Delaware Bridge Company has blown up, at last.

Me. Webb—Having a few leisure moments, I have placed on paper, a few of the many reasons, that crowd themselves upon my mind, why a new county should not be formed out of parts of Columbia and Luzerne, and should you think proper, you may publish them.

MY REASONS ARE,

1. That Columbia county is now small in territory, and requires heavy taxation to keep up her courts, and pay other necessary expenses, none of which would be decreased were the county divided. We now seldom have a full week's court at a session, and the same expense, or nearly, for the attendance of jurors, constables, &c. would be required if there were but two days. The same commissioners, and county officers, and all other expenses of the county would be the same, while there would be but two thirds of the present population to pay it. In addition, the present county buildings must be rebuilt at the county expense within a few years, if they remain at Danville, which, should the removal take place, would be entirely avoided, as citizens of the county offer to put up public buildings free of expense to the county.

2. The inhabitants of Fishingcreek, Sugarloaf, Orange, Paxton, and that part of Bloom included, would not be accommodated, taking all things into consideration, any better than they now are. They have little or no intercourse with Berwick, their trade being at Bloomsburg and below which is the natural market for their lumber and produce.

3. Knob mountain, which divides Brier creek from Fishingcreek, presents an almost impassable barrier to any direct communication between the two, so that they would remain, as they now are, strangers to the eastern and centre of the new county, with interests and associations entirely disconnected, living as it were, 'strangers in a strange land.'

4. The inhabitants of the Creek townships taking into consideration the circuitous route they must travel to Berwick, in consequence of the mountainous character of the country they must pass, would be but little nearer that place than Danville, yet, they would have to bear the burthen of the increased expense that would inevitably follow the organization of a new county, thinly populated, and from the nature of its territory, having a large share of mountains and broken lands within its limits, must remain at least, for years to come.

5. The same remarks will apply to Paxton district. To go to Berwick, they must cross Middle mountains, therefore between Berwick and Paxton there is now little or no communication.

6. Columbia county has now but one Representative, and should the proposed division take place, she would not have sufficient population left to entitle her to one under the new apportionment. No county ought certainly to be divided when it will leave her without a representation. This of itself, is a sufficient objection, were there no other.

7. As seven eighths of the population of Columbia county that are included with in the new county project, are opposed both from interest and convenience to the scheme what reasons are the those they should be made the scape goats to advance the interest of a few property holders at Berwick and Danville? and why should the many be made to suffer that the few may riot upon the spoils wrung from their hard earnings? There is no justice in it, nor will any non sensible man either admit or ask it.

8. Salem and Nescopeck are the only townships in Luzerne county that would be benefited by the new county, and they have no farther to travel to Wilkesbarre than Fishingcreek and Sugarloaf would be compelled to should the division take place.

These are a few among the many reasons that induce me to oppose a division of this county. I may hereafter refer to others, after planting, should I have time.

A FARMER.

The following named members have died since the commencement of the 23th Congress: From Massachusetts—James C. Alford. From New York—Amos Brown. From Pennsylvania—William W. Potter, Enos Hook, Charles Ogle, William S. Ramsey, Henry Black, Davis Dimick, jr., and Joseph Lawrence. From North Carolina—Lewis Williams. From Kentucky—Simon H. Anderson. From Missouri—Albert G. Harrison.