



Clearfield, Pa. Wednesday, Dec 13, 1855.

To Correspondents.—We have received a communication from 'somewhere' (the Lord only knows where) and if the author will come and read it for us, we will tell him whether or not it can be published. Our pet Shanghai, could make a better looking scrawl by travelling over a piece of paper after his feet had been dipped in the ink.

L. S.—Letter received and amount credited.

J. N. L.—Can't do it—won't pay—and wouldn't if it did.

J. P.—Perhaps we'll publish. See about it.

R. O.—Made a contract to take effect in about three weeks. Your's too late.

A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.—We call the attention of our mechanics and builders to the advertisement in another column, soliciting proposals for the erection of a School House, at Curwensville. Read it.

READ THEM.—We publish in another column a most excellent article on "Convents," from the "Christian Advocate and Journal," which we hope none of our friends will be deterred from reading on account of its length. Peruse it carefully. We would also call attention to the very witty and able article, from the "St. Louis Intelligencer" on the "Kansas Difficulties." It is well worth a perusal.

HIAWATHA.—Since LONGFELLOW has published his poem of "Hiawatha," every body is cutting it him. Even if we deemed ourselves capable of writing it, the columns of an obscure country paper is not the place for a defence or a criticism of such a Poem, but we can't help saying, that it seems to us if "Hiawatha" had been the production of some cockney Englishman, or other foreigner, it would have been all right. Instead of being derided, it would have been lauded as the very quintessence of poetry. But being the production of an American Author, and exclusively an American poem, of course it is to be cut and slashed, and considered as a very mediocre affair, by the would-be critics, who can see no merit in anything that had its origin on this side of the Atlantic.

The man who says there is no poetry in "Hiawatha," don't know what poetry is—he has not an atom of the element in his poor, narrow, contracted, slab-sided, flippenny-bit soul.

COOL, VERY.—We have heard, or read some where of a gentleman ordering a bottle of wine and glasses for himself and a friend at the dinner table of an eastern hotel, and of a large, strapping individual opposite, coolly reaching across the table, seizing the bottle and helping himself liberally to its contents. "That's cool!" exclaimed the owner of the wine in astonishment. "Yes," said the individual, "there's not in it!" We thought at the time that, as a manifestation of cool independence, this incident could not be surpassed,—but it seems that the Government of Wertenburg are far ahead of anything this side of the Atlantic.—Their protest against the New Yorkers sending back the ship loads of criminals and paupers they annually send to America, is about the "coolest" thing we have heard of in our experience. "It is undesirable," say they, "that those who have been sent to America at the expense of the State or of communes, in case they should not meet with success in America, whether it is owing to their own faults or not, should return to their native country to become a burden upon the State or the communes, which in such cases would have entirely thrown away the cost of transporting them." And the scoundrels, highly indignant, say they are going to "take all proper steps to prevent the landing back of such individuals!" Such unprecedented impudence, to use a common expression, beats the devil.

THE RAILROAD.—We have received a letter from Mr. MONTGOMERY, in answer to our inquiry of last week, and are glad to learn that he is still breathing the pure atmosphere of the "blue Alleghenies," in daily anticipation of the granting of the Letters Patent, for our Railroad, which have been applied for, and in the event of which, a permanent organization of the Company will be effected, an election held for President and Directors, &c.

We are truly glad to learn that the enterprise is so far advanced, and we can now have some hope that work will be actually commenced on the road, in the coming Spring. We can well believe that the brightest page in the history of our town and county, will be that which records the completion of the iron-link, that will connect us in one unbroken chain with the markets of the East.

Mr. MONTGOMERY truly observes that our sister States of the West, which have but recently come into the confederacy, by the rapidity with which they are constructing railroad communications between their remote towns and villages, are setting us a glorious example of enterprise, and true "American Progress."

With the advantages which are now within their reach, the friends of our enterprise should seize the golden opportunity, and with one united, hearty, and determined effort, place the project beyond the possibility of a failure. The Letters Patent will of course be granted, an election will be held, and active operations commenced. We regard the making of the road as a fixed fact, and believe that in three years from this date, we can breakfast in Clearfield and dine (at the fashionable hour) in Philadelphia, and in view of the usual condition of the roads between this and Tyrone, it is certainly "a consummation most devoutly to be wished."

IRISH CONVENTION.—An Irish "National" Convention assembled recently at the Astor House in New York, and after a somewhat protracted, and certainly not harmonious session, they adjourned, having issued an Address to the "Irish race," in which, among other things, they say that under what ever flag they find shelter, their "natural home is among the sweet valleys of Old Ireland, beside her historic rivers, and under the shadow of her ancient pillars, towers, and chathedrals!" Beautiful American citizens, ain't they?

It seems that their proceedings, as we might suppose, were decidedly rowdyish. Col. Doherty is reported to have said that he represented on that floor at least two thousand armed men, but if Mr. M'Clennan (editor of the Citizen) was permitted to take a seat, he (Doherty) would take up his hat and walk out. Mr. M'Clennan informed Doherty, in a loud voice, that he would be held responsible for that language. Doherty, amid loud cries for order, insisted upon Mr. M'Clennan's leaving the Convention, pronouncing him a "traitor," and declaring that, within two hours, he would be closeted with the British Consul, making that individual acquainted with all the proceedings. A delegate from Rhode Island, hoped that the members would conduct themselves as men and as gentlemen, and not as ruffians. O'Mahony, of New York city, wanted to know what the gentleman from Rhode Island meant, and to whom he applied the epithet "ruffian." A satisfactory explanation followed. Another delegate said that if Mr. M'Clennan sat in that room, no New Yorker would sit with him, as he was a mean man. M'P. said he lied.—The delegate—shaking his fist in M'P.'s face, "I'll hold you responsible for that remark when I get you out of doors." Another delegate said if any reporters were present, they had better retire. After this breeze was over, a delegate from Ohio rebuked the disposition to disunion, visible in the Convention. After awhile, when the army was ready to march, he said, they would all be squabbling as to who should be general, he supposed. For his own part, he was ready to serve in the ranks.

Thus we have had an "Irish National Convention," and we see by a circular published in the Pennsylvania, and other "Democratic" papers, that Irish political clubs, are being formed, all over the State! What next?

CONGRESS.—The twenty fourth Congress met at Washington on Monday last week.—The Senate simply organized and adjourned. The House of Representatives was called to order at noon, and was occupied until the hour of adjournment in unsuccessful attempts to elect a Speaker.

On Tuesday, the Senate elected a Chaplain, and swore in a few members. The House had four more unsuccessful ballots for Speaker, and adjourned without a choice.

On Wednesday, in the Senate, Mr. Hale offered a resolution asking the President for information relative to the disturbance in Kansas. Mr. Adams gave notice of a bill to amend the naturalization laws. The House after six more ballots, without effecting an election adjourned.

On Thursday, in the Senate, Mr. Hale's resolution in relation to Kansas was laid over until the organization of the House. The House had three more ballots for speaker without a choice.

On Friday, in the Senate, Mr. Miller gave notice that he intended to bring in a bill authorizing and facilitating the construction of a Railroad and Telegraph to the Pacific. The House resumed the balloting for Speaker. On the 23d ballot, Mr. Campbell, the Republican Candidate withdrew. After the 27th ballot the House adjourned.

The Representative from this District, Mr. Barclay, voted for Richardson, the Democratic candidate, on every ballot. We will attend to Mr. Barclay's case hereafter.

MOST EXCELLENT ADVICE.—The editor of the Irish American, in New York, is most strenuous in furthering the efforts now being made by the Irish in America to rescue and redeem their native land, forgetful of the manifest wrong of any movements made in this country towards an invasion or revolution in Ireland. The New York Times rebukes the editor, and offers him excellent advice by saying—"the people of Ireland have a perfect right to rebel against the Government which they think oppresses them, and to overthrow it if they are able. But the Irish in America are not the people of Ireland. They have no right to a voice in the government now as they suffer from its oppression. If they desired to reform, it should be done in Ireland. As subjects of the British rule in Ireland, they would have had a right to rebel against it; but, as American citizens, they have simply nothing at all to do with it. If a revolution should be started in Ireland, they would have a right to sympathize with it, and divesting themselves of their American citizenship, to go there and take part in it; but if they did so, they would forfeit all claims to American protection, and would subject themselves to all the hazards of the enterprise. But the Irish who come to live in America, who become citizens of the United States, and thus clothe with the power of self-government which all American citizens possess, are bound to discharge all the duties, and conform to all the obligations of American citizenship; and as they have no recourse to rebellion to overthrow their government, they have no more right to interfere with any other than have the native citizens of the United States. Every citizen has the right of expatriation; but while the Irish remain in America, they have no right to set on foot hostile operations against any government with which they are at peace. Their duty is to become Americans—to study the institutions of the country—to fit themselves for the discharge of the duties which American citizenship imposes. If they had done this more generally; if they had acted here more uniformly as Americans, and not as Irishmen; if they had been less clamorous, less anxious to perpetrate here their foreign habits and feelings, and more ready to adapt their conduct to their new relations, they would have given no occasion for the political movements which are now so rife and so strong against them.—We submit to Mr. LEXER that he would do his countrymen in America a much better service, by urging them to become more thorough Americans in spirit and in conduct, than by inciting their resentments against the Government from whose authority they have escaped, and perpetuating the passions which make them so wretched and so helpless at home."

CONVENTS.—In a former article we incidentally alluded to the anomalous condition of the female inmates of these places of ostensible religious seclusion. The matter is of such very serious importance that we think proper formally to call the attention of our readers to it. In so doing we are well aware that we are venturing upon ground commonly considered dangerous; but we have been walking over dangerous ground all our lives, and are now not very susceptible to fear, unless the threatening evil present itself in the form of sin. Of that we are afraid. Our acquaintance and observation of it have only increased our confidence of it; but of all other things considered formidable, experience has lessened our apprehensions. We feel that we owe a duty to the unhappy women confined in the so called religious houses of Roman priests. The proverb "out of sight out of mind" has been too true in application to them. Buried alive, we see that their souls, and feel that kind of inoperative pity which we give to the dead. We feel sad and do nothing. The time has come when we may do much. Our pity should swell into indignation now that action is possible.

The recent elections have placed in the legislatures of several of our States a majority of men who have been elected in defiance of the rights of the people. The only way for the people to act according to their judgment, without reference to the will of the Roman priests. Heretofore it was useless to attempt any legislative protection of the conventual inmates. Both of the great parties of the country were courting Roman votes, and these were well known to be cast by the Hierarchy whenever occasion offered them to their authority.

The Catholics themselves, who so often profess to be a many a character, restrained the legislators of the country from considering this subject. Happily many of the recently elected legislators, having nothing to hope from the Catholics, have nothing to fear, and they may be mentioned with impunity. It remains to be seen whether they will prove so.

The people of this country are well satisfied that young females induced to enter convents at a time of life when their judgment is feeble and their imagination strong, are compelled to remain in those strongly built places against their will. That few of them would remain if permitted to exercise free volition, is a certainty founded on all we know of human nature. It is useless to argue about it. The situation of these women is utterly unnatural, and must be intolerably irksome until the enfeebled mind loses its power to struggle against misery. Moreover a number of nuns have from time to time escaped. Alas! that this world should in this country be the only one applicable to the departure of a woman from a house where she has been kept without legal authority. The story has become dignified with the name of fact; they all have been eagerly desirous of departure; they all have been carefully watched by their keepers; and they all declare that many, unable to escape, are pining miserably in their cloisters. Supposing that the real purpose of these houses is religious instruction, that the priests would have no objection to their own superannuated nuns, yet it is horrible that women should be kept in these places, after they have found their mistake in going into them. Why should a young woman be compelled to be religious after this unwomanly fashion? What ground can the priests have for retaining them when they have no other nuns in their houses? Why keep hypocrites in these chambers of the world, if it is not apparent that if all was right in these places the priests would expel every woman whom they found apostate in soul? Is it reasonable to suppose that they would detain by force as a bride of the Deity, a young woman whose heart was utterly unfaithful to her vows? Is it not enough that the priests have other than religious views and maxims in relation to convents?

But again: Much has been revealed of the abominations practiced in these places. It has been proclaimed to the world, upon the authority of Catholics themselves, that houses of religion where young women are under the control of Catholic priests are liable to be perverted into places for teaching licentiousness and the most unmitigated despotism over the minds and persons of the nuns. In Catholic countries again and again ecclesiastical authorities have searched into these matters, and proclaimed the horrible wickedness of nunneries. In our own country no authority has ventured to search the secrets of these places; but now and then a wretched woman has been tried to make known to the American people the fact that in the streets of their beautiful country, foreign ecclesiastics are repeating in the convents the conduct charged upon them in Europe. An American, a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, who recently went over to Rome, and became a priest, while his wife went into a convent, was so shocked by the filthy conduct of the nuns, that he has attempted to make his distress, and by the attempts made upon his wife, and by the fact that he withdrew from the church, and has published an appeal to the world against its wickedness. It is not at all necessary to adduce facts to confirm our readers in their suspicions of the wrong done to American women in convents. No body of men could have restrained or over women without abusing it, and of all men, the Catholic priests, from the nature of their relation to society, are the least likely to be blameless under these circumstances. "Opportunity is the most powerful temptation." When opportunity is continued, restraint unfeeling, secured, exposure fully guarded against, it needs no record to inform us of the consequence.

When our legislatures meet they will find a great number of houses large and commodious, walled and barred, where a large number of women are known to be confined, in the charge of a priesthood of unmarried men. These women are not under the protection of the law. The law has no knowledge of them; they have no access to it, except at the will of those who keep the keys of their prisons. The law provides that a wife shall have protection against her husband. Close as is the relationship by law established, it is not as close as the relationship of the woman to the law. She may at any time go before a magistrate, and make complaint against her husband, and the magistrate will do her justice, even though he should send the husband to prison. The father has not uncontrolled authority over the daughter. The law claims a nearer interest in her, and interposes to shield her against harshness, and to protect her from the law. If his wife is locked up, or a father his daughter, an officer of the law would soon inquire into the cause of the detention. The woman should have leave to speak, and to speak to those able and ready to redress her wrongs.

The State itself is not at liberty to keep a female prison without permitting inspection by the Grand Jury, that great vigilance committee which always watches over personal liberty and right. But what a husband may not do, what a father may not do, what the State may not do, is freely accorded to foreign priests that we know not of, except that in the land whence they came men's hearts are sick, and their souls weary because of them. The priests may keep the nuns locked up, nobody interferes; they may offer them the grossest and the most unfeeling indignities, and the poor victims cannot make complaint. No Grand Jury enters these portals, which

once closed upon the nuns, shut them in from all the devices of society for the protection of person. When a nun is removed nobody knows it; when she dies nobody necessarily knows it; there are no coroners' inquests in nunneries.

We believe that in all Catholic countries the civil power does keep the nuns under its protection. Even where the spiritual power of the priests is strongest, the governments exercise discipline over the convents. They do not permit priests to take in whom they please and to do with them as they please. Yet if a word is said here about putting these places under control of law, even similar control to that which exercised in countries professing Roman Catholicism, a cry is raised as bitter and imprecatory as though we proposed to abolish religious privileges.

We are convinced that the only thing necessary to be done, in order to procure the protection of the law for inmates of convents, is to obtain the consent of the Legislatures to consider whether such protection is now afforded. If it is—if females in convents are equally safe from abuse as wives and daughters in the houses of our citizens—well; if not they should be made so. This is not a religious question, but a question of personal liberty.

There is not a Catholic in the land whose record is kept for to be received into a convent who has not a paternal interest in the enactment of such laws as will be operative within the walls of the seclusion house, to protect that child no longer protected by him. There is not a Catholic in the land but has an interest in preventing houses of religious retirement from being made places of immorality.

We do not wish legal impediments to be thrown in the way of women who may choose to enter convents. It is a free country. If they are unfortunate enough to make choice of a life so unnatural, unphilosophical, and irreligious, the law may not properly interfere. But the law should provide that none but the willing shall enter these gloomy abodes, and it should take care that none but the willing shall remain in them. All that is to be accomplished without trampling at all upon any religious right. We would suggest—

1. That a woman resolved to enter a convent shall give notice in person of such intention to the Orphans' Court, (or court whatever be the name,) which is charged with the care of orphans. If it be found that such an applicant is of sound mind, and legally of adult age, the court shall enter her name upon a record kept for that purpose.

2. Should the woman have property, the court should take charge of it, paying the income to her or her order. But the property should not be bestowed upon the convent in such a manner as to prevent the resumption, at the option of the donor.

3. It should be the duty of the Judges of the Court to see that convents with their ward and board, should be visited several times during the year, to watch over her person, and see that no injury be done her. Of course they would see that she did not remain a moment longer than she might desire.

4. At the expiration of every year, from the time of retirement, the nun should personally appear before the court, and renew her declaration of intention to remain in the convent.

5. In case of a desire to remove to another convent, provision must be made that the ward be placed under the protection of law wherever she might go.

6. In case of death of the ward, immediate notice should be given to the Court.

7. Nuns have no other countries to go to but the Court and place themselves under its protection, as in the case of those professing religion.

Now, we ask any Catholic whether there is any thing in these provisions to interfere with religious rights? Is there anything in them which the priests themselves might not desire, if convents are what they assert them to be? Such laws as these would remove all suspicion from the public mind as to the character of convent life, and consequently would be the surest defence of convents from violence. They would give peace to the unquiet mind of many a sincere Catholic whose sister or daughter has gone from under his protection, and is now in the hands of those whom he does not know, and liable at any time to be removed to some other place. What possible objection can be made to these regulations? We can imagine but one, and that one is powerful. The priests would consider the usefulness of convents at an end if the law could enter at will. They would rather have no convents at all, and therefore they will everywhere raise the cry of persecution, as though to protect women from them as they are protected in Catholic countries, were an outrage upon their prescriptive rights. Sooner or later something of the kind will be done, or worse will be done. The next cry of "Help! help!" from a convent in Baltimore, will find a response very different from the last. The Catholics may now secure all the religious rights involved in the convent system, and secure them forever. Should they foolishly continue to fight against the humanity law, or religion—the right to separate a woman at once from the protection of family and law, and keep her in subjection without accountability or restraint—they may have occasion to regret the outrage they are daily committing, and continually multiplying against the understanding and heart of the American people. The American mind floats over the convent of the priest, as well as over the house of the citizen. We would have it float every where in peace: the emblem of law, the assurance of protection.—"Christian Advocate and Journal."

THE KANSAS DIFFICULTY.—It appears from our despatches, that we are having a hot political stir in Kansas at last. The story, as it comes to us, is this.—That three free soilers went to a settler's house, named Coleman, who is a pro-slavery man, and ordered him off.—They were armed, and gave the man only ten minutes to leave. He left for a short time, three men who, moreover, had threats, and attempted to shoot Coleman, but his gun misfired. Coleman then shot his assailant, who died immediately. Coleman gave himself up for trial.

A mob of abolitionists, armed with Sharpe's rifles, repaired to Coleman's house, driving his wife and children off, burned his house, and ordered other pro-slavery men to leave, and burned their houses. Deputy Marshal Jones arrested the leader of the mob, and obtained the names of twenty others. Jones is now at Leecompton, with two prisoners and fifteen or twenty assistants. The abolitionists are gathering at Leecompton, demanding the release of their comrades and the surrender of Coleman. The Governor has issued a proclamation calling the militia to the assistance of the officers.

Now, we have a few remarks to offer on one feature of this case only. We shall attempt no surmise as to the full truth of the story as it comes to us. There are, however, it is well to remember, always two sides to a story, and one will do very well till the other comes.

But we will take it for granted, for the present, that we have received the full and correct account of the origin of the violence and bloodshed that have just disgraced the soil of Kansas, and that will, from the peculiar state of the public feeling at this time, send a thrill of apprehension and horror throughout the country. The feature of the case that we wish to comment on is this.—The first news of the affair that reached Jefferson City,

where the Missouri Legislature is in session, was by a despatch from Mr. Boone, a citizen of Jackson county, Missouri, to Mr. McCarthy, a member of the Missouri Legislature. That despatch contained the following sentence:—"We want help. Communicate this to the friends."

Now, in the devil's name, who is it that "wants help?" And what do they want "help" for? Do the citizens of Missouri want "help?" Who or what is putting the citizens of Missouri in peril so great that the legislators and the "friends" at Jefferson must "help?"

Is it not the so-called government of Kansas that wants help? And what do they want "help" for? Pierce for assistance. Kansas is under the care of the federal government. Missouri has no duty to perform in the premises. If the national government cannot take care of its own pets and appointees, its Readers and Wilson Shannons, why let Pierce resign, and a new government come in. The people of Missouri are not the ones to be called on to back up the miserable political puppets that Frank Pierce shall send out from the Eastern States, to play the fool and introduce bloodshed and anarchy in Kansas.

If the poor imbecile of the White House had possessed the good sense or the justice to put over Kansas, at the beginning, a Western man, of high character, courage and experience, there never would have been a particle of trouble in forming the community there into a quiet and thrifty State. But instead of that, we had Reeder and his free soilers, then Shannon and his pro-slaveryism—all wretched, time-serving, place-seeking demagogues, who have played out their reckless game for political aggrandisement and drawn upon poor Kansas the curse of lawlessness and blood.

Now, let Pierce reap the fruits of his imbecility. Let not the people of Missouri, by any urgent appeal or cunning device, be drawn into the internal feuds of Kansas. It looks very much as if there were a preconcerted effort to do this very thing. Our despatches from the West say that parties have already proceeded from Independence into Kansas, and that "meetings have been held" at Weston and St. Joseph's, and companies formed to go to Kansas."

There it is! Now, is not this conduct most fatal to Missouri interests and honor? In heaven's name, let Pierce and his political pets—his Kansas officials—take care of themselves. Have we not been told, time and again, that the pro-slavery party were the people of Kansas, that four fifths of the actual settlers of Kansas were supporter of the Territorial officers and the Territorial Legislature, and that the free soilers were an insignificant squad out from Lawrence, who were devoid of courage and fit only to be laughed at?

And now, forsooth, the United States officials in Kansas, and the all-prevailing pro-slavery people of Kansas, are in deadly peril, and "despatches from Weston and St. Joseph state that large meetings of the citizens have been held, and companies formed to go to Kansas—all to protect that country from the "paupers and hirelings" lately shipped to Kansas, like so many cattle, that we were informed, at the expense of Emigrant Aid Societies, and "despatches from Weston and St. Joseph state that large meetings of the citizens have been held, and companies formed to go to Kansas—all to protect that country from the "paupers and hirelings" lately shipped to Kansas, like so many cattle, that we were informed, at the expense of Emigrant Aid Societies, and

It does seem to us that one of the devil's own choicest humbugs is exploding in this call on Missouri for "help."—St. Louis Intelligencer, Dec. 1.

THE KANSAS DIFFICULTY.—It seems that President Pierce has taken no positive steps as to the requisition of Governor Shannon for United States troops. When Shannon's despatch was first received in Washington its authenticity was doubted by the President and his Cabinet, but when the fact that the thing was not a hoax appeared to be satisfactorily established, the President telegraphed Shannon to employ all the authority at his command to suppress the outbreak, and when a full and formal statement of the facts in the case should reach Washington, the government would act as the exigency of the case should seem to demand. It is regarded by the President as a question requiring in every aspect very delicate treatment, particularly as the County Sheriff and not the United States Marshal appears to have been the executive officer. In this state of the case a summons by him to the government troops at Fort Leavenworth would hardly meet with a friendly response, as such troops are entirely beyond his jurisdiction, and not subject to the posse comitatus call. If the President finally concludes in accordance with the requirements of Governor Shannon, he must first issue his Proclamation of Warning, unless there be indeed open positive rebellion. So the imminent danger of grave consequence at present is not seemingly impending, and as far as the armed interference of the Government is concerned.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says Governor Shannon may have acted upon false or exaggerated complaints, and there is also reason to believe that it was intended to create a row just at the moment of the organization of Congress. Governor Shannon being named by the United States, may use his authority as to quiet the agitation, if any prevails, or to increase or aggravate it. It is not stated in the despatch of Governor Shannon what particular laws have been resisted by the inhabitants but it is known that a portion of them regulate all the laws of the Territorial Government, though they do not resist their execution by violence. They do not sue for certain before the Justices, nor resort to the Courts of Probate. But it is understood that they intended to resist the actual execution of the 12th section of the sedition law, which provides for the punishment of any person with fine and imprisonment, who may, in words spoken, deny that Slavery exists legally in Kansas. A person was convicted under this act, and the Free State people determined not to resist the law until sentence should be passed, when they would interfere to prevent its execution. So it is possible that this is the cause of the present disturbance.

The steamship Atlantic arrived on Friday evening, with European advices to the 17th, one week later than those previously received. The news is interesting, but not important. Financial matters were in a very flourishing and unsettled state. "Weak at 88," is the latest report of the price of consols. Cotton continued firm, and an improvement in breadstuff is noticed. From the Crimea there is scarcely a word of the least importance.—Omer Pasha has gained a victory over the Russians in Georgia. In the absence of any imposing achievements this has been loudly extolled by a portion of the press. The Paris Exhibition closed on the 15th inst., with great pomp.

PSALMS vs. HUSBAND.—A maiden lady, suspecting that her female servant was regularly harboring upon the cold mutton of the larder, called Betty, and inquired whether she did not hear some one speaking with her down stairs. "Oh no ma'am," replied the girl, "it was only me singing a psalm." "You may amuse yourself, Betty," replied the maiden, "with Psalms, but let us have no nuns, Betty. I have a great objection to him."

The merry holidays are approaching; the days that are so fondly anticipated by children. Parents, make your children as happy as possible, at these times—as age and knowledge comes on, their joys break away, and vexation occupies their minds.

PENCIL NOTES.

Blustery—the weather.

Commences—Court on Monday next.

Settled—the railroad question. We're bound to have it.

Removed—that we have sold the Journal Papers so.

Unorganized—the House of Representatives, up to last advice.

Local news.—Read the Sheriff's sales, which are to take place next week.

In state quo—the war and the state of politics in Europe. No news of importance.

Wanted badly—a town clock. We ought to have something to keep us straight.

Going fast—1855, and the "three fives" we got last week. We'll soon be "strapped."

Wanted—potatoes, at the highest market price, at this office. Who has any for sale?

Getting plenty—fresh butter, and marketing generally. Prices still keep up the street.

A nuisance—the stables on the street opposite our office. They are a disgrace to the town.

Returned—the Rev. Mr. Cooper, from his trip to the South. He looks much improved in health.

Colapsed—our pocket book, and the individual that tried to steal our Shanghai. Got hurt, did it you?

Didn't come—our daily papers last night. Got no mail, consequently we are a day behind the news.

An ism.—We've got a—of a cold—the best apology we can make for want of interest in our pencil notes.

Out on a hunt—the African Senator. Would't we like to be in seeing distance, when he'd get the first sight of a deer?

To our readers.—If we issue a paper next week at all, it will be later than our usual day of publication. We can't help it.

To be hoped—that our subscribers will provide us with a little of "the needful" at the coming court. We're "hard up," and must have it, some how.

A comet—the Jefferson Star. It makes periodical visits, but there's a mighty long time between them. Do you issue quarterly or Semi-annually, Mac?

Perhaps—Somebody's rejoicing that we've sold out. Take care, my buck, you're not out of the woods yet. Don't be too sure of your "good news."

Creditable—the efforts of the Proprietors of the Stage line to accommodate. The drivers all make excellent time now. There is a decided improvement lately.

Interesting—the conversation among the ladies, the other night, and the reason assigned for the "slow coach." Stir up the animals with a "young pole," and they'll move faster.

Good idea.—The signatures to the petitions for the repeal of the Restraining Liquor Law, will be published in pamphlet form as soon as they are presented to the Legislature.

Possible—that no paper will be issued during court. If so, our readers may attribute it to the making of negotiations which will probably cause an entire change in the establishment.

A fast man—the boy that plays the fiddle, and does some other things two at a time. Go it, Ed, and you'll soon supply Barnum "with specimens" which we'll guarantee, will take the prize.

New article.—At Davenport, Iowa, recently, when some lots of ground were to be sold at auction for non-payment of taxes, the sale, by the direction of the authorities, was opened with prayer.

Not received yet—the President's Message.—Don't suppose it will amount to much, when we do get it. If it does, it will create more surprise than anything that has ever yet emanated from the same source.

Query—why don't the Presbyterian Congregation, get a bell for their church? It is rather singular that we have not a church bell in town.—The "things" on the Court House and Academy sound like cracked tea kettles.

Agitated—the question of whether or not the Commissioners should build a new Court House, or make some addition to the present building. It's entirely too small, and ought either to be enlarged or torn down, and a new one erected.

Orful—the preparations made by our sportsmen on Monday for one grand hunt. The way the knapsacks, "pocket pistols," etc., flew round, led us to think they were about to storm Sebastopol. We suppose there will be an awful slaughter on the commons.

State Convention.—The Locofocos have fixed upon the 4th of March next as the time for holding their State Convention, to nominate candidates for Surveyor General, Auditor General, and Canal Commissioner, and for electing delegates to the National Convention.

Notice—Our devil has notified us that he wants "a quarter on Christmas. In view of this important fact, we hope some of our subscribers will club together and try if they can raise us that amount by that time. If not, we'll have to pawn our boots, and let rather cold to go bare-foot.

American Prospects in Arkansas.—The Arkansas Shillery says that the American party will have the ascendancy in Arkansas at the next election, there can be scarce the shadow of a doubt. The party already numbers about 17,000 men, good and true, and is increasing rapidly.

Keen—the reply of the girl who was solicited to form a matrimonial alliance with an exceedingly small specimen of the "genus homo." Said she, "Oh no, I can't think of it, for the fact is, John, you are a little too big to put in a cradle, and a little too small to put in a bed."

Departed—our "frenchie"—the immortal "Nealey"—for parts unknown. Sorry he's gone, for he was a clever fellow, and deserves to be immortalized for the feats of daring he performed on "Old Segno's" gray, at the Harvest Home, last fall.—Wherever you are "Nealey," take care that you don't "fire up" once too often.

Singular—that boys, and men who for years have been going to the devil, like a train of cars down hill on a greased track, can get together whenever they want it, and yet we have not a fenced house in town? Where does it come from? Why do not the officers see to this matter? Somebody will get themselves into a "pucker-snatch" shortly.

A question.—Suppose some of the wooden buildings of which our town is principally composed, should take fire on a windy day or night, how would we pretend to arrest the progress of the flames, without an engine, or any other mode of extinguishing them except with buckets? Would't nearly the entire town be laid in ashes? Why does not the town Council procure a fire engine?