

RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.



S. B. ROW, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CLEARFIELD, PA., FEB. 11, 1857.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT PARTIES.

As the time is rapidly approaching when an important political contest will come off in this State, it may not be inappropriate to glance briefly at the condition of parties as they now stand.

But let us see how matters stand with that Opposition—with those who are arrayed against Locofocoism. The result of last fall's elections, proved conclusively that, as parties then stood, the Democrats had little, if any, strength to boast of, in a numerical point of view.

SCARCITY OF PRINTING PAPER.—At present the printers are "hard up" for paper. Scarcely an exchange comes to hand that does not contain an excuse for delay in its issue, or for issuing only a half sheet, attributing it to inability to procure paper.

of paper consumed in the United States amount to 867,000,000 pounds—one and a quarter of rags being required to make one pound of paper.

FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

Ma. Row.—A short sojourner at the capital has induced me to comply with your request of writing a letter to you during my stay.

Committees in each House have been appointed to apportion the State, but so far as I have ascertained no bill has yet been prepared.

Mr. Penrose has read in his place a bill for the sale of the Main line of the Public Works to the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., for \$9,000,000.

As the smoke of the Senatorial battle clears away, some very curious developments are coming to light with regard to the course pursued by a certain man—the late Mr. Forney—who figured some in the contest.

THE RIVER at this point broke up this morning and done considerable damage to the Rail Road Bridge at this place.

A MARRIAGE IN THE CARS.—In the cars between Bangor and Portland, an incident occurred recently a little out of the usual course.

FACTS ABOUT RAIL ROADS.

PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 6, 1857. S. B. Row, Esq.—My Dear Sir:—Believing that your readers generally are anticipating with great eagerness the appearance of the first Locomotive upon the summit of the Allegheny, and are consequently more or less interested in the important subject of Railroads, and will not object to any information relating to improvements in the same; I have taken the liberty to enclose to your address, a short description of the Railroad crossing the "Blue Ridge" mountain in Virginia, which has been in successful operation for two years past.

The Summit is at "Rock Fish" Gap, which is 1885 ft. above tide. The crest of the mountain at this summit is so narrow, that an engine has scarcely room to stand on a level.

On the West side, the track descends 450 feet. The average grade on this side is 225 and one-tenth feet per mile, and the maximum grade is 5 and three-tenths feet per 100, or 279 and 84-100 feet per mile.

On the Eastern side, the line descends 610 feet in 2 and 87-100 miles, which is equivalent to 1 foot in 20 1/2 ft. The average grade on the eastern side is 257 and 4-10 feet per mile, and the maximum grade 295 and 68-100 feet per mile.

The ruling curves on both sides are traced upon a radius of 300 feet and are located on gradients of 237 and 6-10 feet per mile.

In crossing a ravine on the eastern side there is one curve with a radius of only 234 feet (28 1/2 deg.) with a gradient of 237 and 6-10 feet per mile.

On the above line, a locomotive of 25 tons weight hauls two passenger cars at 8, 10 and 12 miles per hour with perfect ease and safety.

I do not think that there has been a solitary accident upon it since it has been in operation.

From the foregoing statement, some idea may be formed of the effective power of a locomotive in overcoming steep gradients.

Should such gleanings as the above, prove agreeable and afford an interest, I shall be happy to furnish you from time to time with similar experiments from the Railroad world.

Very respectfully yours, JAMES E. MONTGOMERY, Ch. Eng. T. & C. R. R.

TWO NEW STATES.

The U. S. House of Representatives passed two bills for the admission of Territories as States into the Union at an early day. The bill for the admission of Oregon provides that the people of that Territory are to vote for delegates to a convention on the first Monday in July, and the convention is to assemble at the capital of the Territory on the second Monday in August next, to determine the wishes of the people, and, if favorable, to form a Constitution and State Government.

The Minnesota bill provides for taking a vote of the inhabitants on the 1st Monday in June, to elect delegates to a Convention, to be assembled on the 2nd Monday in July next. If it be the wish of the people to be admitted into the Union, the Convention is to proceed to form a Constitution, and take all necessary steps for a State Government.

INDIANA U. S. SENATORS.—The Democrats of the Indiana Legislature held a joint Convention on the 4th inst., for the election of U. S. Senators, and without the concurrence and in opposition to the Senate, elected Graham N. Fitch for the short term, and Jesse D. Bright for the long term.

A young lady engaged to be married, and getting sick of her bargain, applied to a friend to help her untie the knot before it was too late. "Oh, certainly," he replied, "It's very easy to untie it now, while its only a bean knot."

Abstract of the Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools for 1856.

During the school year the aggregate number of public schools in the State, outside of Philadelphia, was 19,697, being an increase of 228 over the previous year, and an increase of 1190 over the total of the year just prior to the enactment of the school law of May 8th, 1854.

The whole number of scholars in the public schools, exclusive of Philadelphia, was 631,729, and including Philadelphia, 586,743.—The former aggregate shows a decrease of 7297 since last year, and an increase of 67,171 over the year 1855. The decrease since last year was occasioned by the almost unprecedented severity of last winter, which compelled many pupils to remain at home, and, on account of the snow drifts, stopped some schools entirely.

The average cost of teaching each scholar per month is 61 cents, exclusive of the building expenditure, or 62 1/2 cents including it. The amount expended during the year for purchasing ground, building school houses, repairs, &c., was \$322,125 27, being an increase over last year of \$65,926 61, and over the year 1855 of \$184,998 61, and an increase of \$36,674 98 over the highest amount in any former year in the history of the school system.

In forty-three counties, the number of school houses reported as sufficiently well adapted to the purpose or grade of school for which they are intended, is 1494; those which are not, in their present condition, so adapted, but are so susceptible of alteration and improvement as to become so, 3262; those which are, in all respects, or in any essential particular, unfit to be the training places of youth, 2252.

Twenty-one counties report the number of school houses with furniture in the first class at 545; number in the second class at 1938; in the third class at 1832. Twenty-seven counties report the number of graded schools at 500; number of schools in which any successful attempt at classification has been made, 2265; those in which there is neither grading of the schools nor classification of the pupils, 1614.

Thirty-four counties report the number of teachers who have taught less than one year, 1793; who have taught between one and three years, 2055; who have taught between three and six years, 1968; who have taught between six and ten years, 612; who have taught between ten and twenty years, 389; who have taught over twenty years, 129.

In November, 1855, the President of the United States writes to Secretary Davis, saying, in substance, "Gen. Scott states two grounds on which he has learned that I hesitate to allow the 5 per cent. commission. It is proper to remark that he has been misinformed or has misapprehended my position. He, himself, fixed 3 1/2 per cent., which he might properly have received for his disbursements in Mexico, and a balance struck upon that basis was the subject of conversation between us."

This balance the President thought the Secretary of War authorized Gen. Scott to retain. Gen. Scott, in a letter dated at New York, December, 1855, writes that there are two items, making \$11,885, against him as not admitted or disallowed by the President, on account of 5 per cent. charged by him on all moneys disbursed. He says it was entirely within the competency of the President to allow that charge, and asks that suit be brought against him by the Government, to recover the amount claimed to be due by him, nearly \$5,000.

TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK.

On the 1st of February, Harvey Burdell, a dentist, who resided at No. 31 Bond street, New York, was found dead in his room by his servant boy who went to make the fire. When discovered the body was cold and stiff. There were fifteen stabs and also marks of strangulation discovered. A dirk was found in Burdell's room, said to belong to a Mr. Eckel, who boarded at Mrs. Cunningham's, where Dr. Burdell also boarded and lodged.

"We are bound to say up to this moment the burden of the testimony taken is frightfully against John J. Eckel and Emma Augusta Cunningham."

They may be innocent, and heaven knows we hope they are. But it is, to say the least, an unfortunate thing that Mr. Eckel should have gone out before breakfast that morning, and should have deposited in his private desk a paper which would seem to have been purloined from Dr. Burdell. It is unfortunate that he should have been on such terms with the woman Cunningham as to lead the housemaid to regard her as an indiscreet mother to grown up daughters.

As for the unhappy female over whom the public wrath impends, every circumstance connected with her is unfortunate. She had a husband, who died, suddenly, in his chair, leaving a policy of insurance for \$10,000 in favor of his wife. Was he poisoned? We must dig his body up. She led a life after his death which is described in the evidence of the witness Hildreth; a life evidently calculated to harden her heart and steel her nerves.

Burdell, an angry, but not a persevering hater, capitulates, on certain conditions, among which is the one that he shall "extend to Mrs. Cunningham and her family his friendship through life," and another that he shall rent her his rooms at half their value, she withdraws the suit. Burdell confesses that from the woman to whom he has avowed friendship through life he stands in terror of his own life. He declares he has caught her at his wife's side. The servant indiscreetly waxes at an untoward noise. Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham leer at each other across the table as they speculate on the happy consequences of "a handy blow" on the doctor's head.

Yet all these people go on living under the same roof, until one night one neighbor smells burning woolen or flannel, another hears a stifled cry of murder, and next morning poor Dr. Burdell is found by Dr. Main and the boy Burdell dead in his room. We see that some organs of opinion abuse some of the public functionaries for prosecuting this inquiry like public prosecutors; but how can any man in his senses look at the facts without coming to some conclusion as to the guilty person—and that conclusion a perfectly clear and fair one?

THE SCOTT AND DAVIS CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Scott and Davis correspondence is quite voluminous. From a hasty examination of the documents, it appears that Gen. Scott declined to give open and specific information to Secretary Davis regarding the expenditure of the Secret Service money in Mexico, believing that no obligation of public or private honor, according to the usages of nations and of armies, required him to disclose the names and circumstances. He, however, expressed a willingness to give such information for his private ear alone, which the Secretary said he was willing to receive in confidence.

In November, 1855, the President of the United States writes to Secretary Davis, saying, in substance, "Gen. Scott states two grounds on which he has learned that I hesitate to allow the 5 per cent. commission. It is proper to remark that he has been misinformed or has misapprehended my position. He, himself, fixed 3 1/2 per cent., which he might properly have received for his disbursements in Mexico, and a balance struck upon that basis was the subject of conversation between us."

Secretary Davis, in response to the President, informs him that Gen. Scott had charged himself with the sum of \$261,691, all of which, excepting \$30,000, were levied and captured in Mexico, and with-held by Gen. Scott in his account.

There are many explanations relative to these figures, but the financial part of the transaction cannot be fairly understood by this mere reference to the subject. Among the documents is the opinion of Attorney General Conshing, January, 1856, to the effect that the act creating the rank of Lieutenant General does not confer upon General Scott all the authority which was imposed by the law of 1798 upon Washington, who was thereby made the Commander of the army, while General Scott was appointed Lieutenant General by order of the President of the United States.

Secretary Davis, July 25th, 1855, says: "I leave unnoticed the exhibition of peevish temper in reply to an inquiry from this Department." &c.

Gen. Scott replies, July 30th—It would be easy to show that the whole letter, in which you charge me with exhibiting a peevish temper, is as dipicant in its statement and logic as in that accusation. "Certainly, as Secretary of War, you have done enough to warrant more than a suspicion, that from the first you have considered it your special mission, by repeated aggression on my rights and feelings, to lead me into some perilous attitude of official opposition. To prove my long forbearance, for at my time of life all angry discussions are painful, I will now proceed to enumerate some of the provocations alluded to, without dilating in this place on your partial hostility to the Brevet of Lieutenant-General and to the compensation Congress intended to attach thereto."

Gen. Scott then alludes to one of the Secretary's "Captain's reports," and his "cupping the climax by usurpation and absurdity." He likewise says: "Following out your personal rebuke in the letter of the 12th, your object, in violation of principle, is to crush me into a servile obedience to your self-will. I know your obstinacy, and I know also what is due to myself as a soldier, and if I am to be crushed, I prefer it at the hands of my military peers."

The Secretary rejoins in an unofficial note, dated August 25: "Your present accusation, which charges me with usurpation for the most unworthy ends, and imputes to me motives inconsistent with official integrity, is considered basely malevolent, and pronounced utterly false."

Gen. Scott replying, August 6th, says: "I have received a note from you, dated 2d inst., which you seem to desire me to consider as unofficial; I shall not comply with that singular fancy, as you can have no legitimate claim to address me, except as Secretary of War.—Accordingly I shall treat your communications whether designed as private and scurrilous, or as public missives of arrogance and superciliousness, as equally official. There are beauties in them which ought not to be lost, and it shall not be my fault if I do not render your part of this correspondence a memorable example to be shunned by your successors."

To this the Secretary replies, September 7th: "Nor am I to be at all deterred from a full exposure of the groundlessness of your charges, by the threats you make of rendering my part of this correspondence a memorable example, to be shunned by my successors. This is the merest bravado in one who himself affords the most memorable example on the records of this Department, of a vain controversialist defeated, and a false accuser exposed."

RAFT STOVES for sale very low at (Feb. 11) MERRELL & CARTER'S.

A LOT of good WINDMILL SASH, 10 by 12, for sale by MERRELL & CARTER.

BACON! BACON! BACON!!! A FINE ARTICLE. Kept constantly on hand and for sale at the store of Feb. 11-13

NOTICE.—In the Orphans' Court of Clearfield County, in the matter of the Estate of Garland Irvin, dec'd. The undersigned, appointed by the said court at their Term of Jan. 1857, to make distribution of said Estate, appoints Friday the 27th of February inst. to attend to the duties of said order of Court, at the office of M. A. Frank, Esq., in Clearfield, where persons interested may attend. Feb. 11, 1857. ALEXANDER IRVIN, Auditor.

MANSION HOUSE. Clearfield, Pa. The undersigned respectfully announces to the public that he has leased the above Hotel in Clearfield borough, and that he is prepared to accommodate all who may favor him with their custom. His house is commodious and convenient, and table shall be supplied in the best manner possible. No effort will be spared to render general satisfaction. By strict attention to business, and to the wants and comfort of his guests, he expects to secure a liberal share of patronage. Feb. 11-13 DAN. M. WEAVER.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH-DAY.—The Phillipsburg Guards will celebrate Washington's Birth-day by a public parade on Friday, the 20th of February. The exercises will be conducted in a manner worthy the memory of him whose actions and name as freemen we cherish.—An oration will be delivered on the occasion by Israel Test, Esq.—Their annual Military Ball will be held at the house of A. Jackson, commencing at 7 o'clock in the evening. By order of the Committee. A. THOMAS, J. WILLIAMSON, I. TODD. Jan. 21, 1857.

VENUE! BARGAINS!!! On the 3rd of March, 1857, at 10 o'clock A. M., will be sold at public sale, at the premises of Rudolph Litz, Sr., in Boggs township, in Clearfield county.

Horses, Cows, Sheep, Hogs, Grain of all kinds, Hay and Straw, Grain in the ground, Bacon, Hams, &c. &c.

ALSO, Farming utensils, such as Plows, Harrows, Wagons, Sleds, Dearborn, Log chains, and other things useful on a farm, besides household furniture of all kinds. Come one and all. Terms made known on day of sale. JOHN LITZ, and BROS., Clearfield, Pa. Jan. 28, 1857. Agents for R. Litz & Co.

CAUTION.—All persons are cautioned against meddling with the following property, now in possession of John S. Williams, of Knox township, as the same belongs to me, and any party who shall sell or dispose of the same, or any part thereof, shall be held liable to me, and my heirs, executors and assigns. JOHN S. WILLIAMS, New Millport, Jan. 21st, 1857—Jan. 21-31