

Raftsmen's Journal.



S. B. ROW, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. CLEARFIELD, PA., JAN. 19, 1859.

ACQUISITION OF CUBA.

The acquisition of Cuba is just now attracting considerable attention. The proposition of Senator Sidel... to place thirty millions of dollars in the hands of the President...

Our object, however, in this article is not to discuss the practicability or impracticability of the Cuban policy of Mr. Buchanan and his friends...

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Raftsmen's Journal. JANUARY 15, 1859. FRIEND ROW:—The "Pine" county project is beginning to be agitated. Petitions for the new county have poured in...

After describing the whites, he goes on to give a vivid picture of the condition of the black population. He says "the slaves of Cuba are vastly inferior to those of the United States..."

"Under masters, therefore, undesirable and dangerous as fellow-citizens, there live in Cuba some seven hundred thousand men of degraded and debased nature, unfit companions for the least civilized of our slaves..."

The State Treasurer question has brought some of the up-country editors down. I notice Brown of Bellefonte, Judge Jones of Hollidaysburg, Capt. Bell of Tyrone city, and one or two others.

A bit of a fracas occurred between Church, a member from Philadelphia, and Donnavan, an ex-member, during which the latter used up a cane on the head of the former, a la Sumner. The affair had its origin in something which Church said in the House reflecting on Donnavan.

We see a movement has been made in the Legislature towards the passage of a law requiring uniform bank notes for all the banks of the Commonwealth. The plan is doubtless a good one.

DOESN'T LIKE IT!

The editor of the Clearfield Republican doesn't appear to like Gov. Packer's message, so far as it relates to the Kansas question. He thinks that "when the Governor enters upon national politics, as if to re-open and revive the recent angry and unprofitable controversy about Kansas and Leocompton, he fails to meet the approbation of any portion of the Democratic party, not even excepting those who were most earnestly—but honestly—opposed to the course taken by Congress and the President."

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

JAN. 10.—Mr. Douglas took his seat in the Senate. Mr. Iverson introduced a bill abolishing the franking privilege, which was referred. After Mr. Davis had spoken in opposition to the French Spoilation bill, and Mr. Crittenden in its favor at some length, the bill was passed.

JAN. 11.—Mr. Mason reported to the Senate a bill authorizing the President to use the land and naval forces at discretion in Spanish America. Mr. Wilson made an elaborate speech upon the Pacific Railroad question, and in reply to Mr. Iverson's remarks.

JAN. 12.—The President informed the Senate that it was inexpedient to make public the correspondence growing out of the Wanderer affair, at present. Mr. Hale reported a joint resolution authorizing the appointment of Commodore Stewart, senior Flag-Officer, on the active list.

JAN. 13.—The Senate referred to the Committee on the Judiciary a bill introduced by Mr. Seward, the object of which is to put a stop to the slave-trade by forbidding any vessel to sail for the African coast without a clearance from the District-Attorney.

JAN. 14.—The Senate voted down the amendments of Mr. Bigler and of Mr. Wilson to the Pacific Railroad bill. Numerous other amendments were offered. One by Mr. Doolittle, which provides for the submission to Congress of any contract made by the President for the construction of the road, was adopted.

Mr. Thompson of Kentucky made the only amusing speech thus far in the discussion. He termed the whole scheme a magnificent humbug, spoke of the President as a clever old gentleman who might be trusted to do the White House marketing, and of himself as a monument on the Whig party—a "dead corpse."

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY.—On the 17th ult., Mr. Wm. Kenley, of Bell tp., met with an accident which proved fatal. He had been on a load of hay, and threw the fork to the ground, previous to making his descent. The handle of the fork had been broken, and was quite sharp. In jumping from the hay, he came in contact with the handle of the fork—the prongs of which were sticking in the ground—penetrating his bowels a considerable distance.

FAYETTE COUNTY.—A son of Mr. J. Shoop, aged 14 years, residing in Bullskin tp., was out in the woods near his father's house, one day week before last, when hearing his dog make a noise as though he had "treed" something, betook himself to the spot, and succeeded in bringing the animal down, by throwing stones, which he had no sooner done, than the dog attacked him with a severe struggle.

CAMBERG COUNTY.—The sawmill of J. P. Scott, of Washington township, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 24 inst. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. Loss \$300. A young man, named John Devlin, a pudler at the rolling mill at Johnstown, was badly burned in the face on the 12th, by the "blowing up" of the furnace under his charge.

ERIE COUNTY.—A terrible row occurred at the public house in Eagle Village, recently, between a company of Germans on one side, and Irish and Americans on the other. Noses were broken, eyes blackened and blood spilt. The Erie Observer was sold out by the Sheriff last week, bought by J. J. Lantz, Esq., who will continue its publication.

BLAIR COUNTY.—The Tyrone Star mentions a report of a man being killed by a panther in the barrens between Stormstown and Spruce Creek, a short time ago, but cannot touch for its truth. There appears to be quite a fever respecting panthers in that section of the county. A short time since Wm. Ewing shot one on the Ridge which measured eight feet six inches in length.

AMITYVILLE COUNTY.—On the 9th, an attempt was made to fire the stables belonging to the Colwell House, in Kittanning. The flames were discovered and put out before they had made any serious progress. Wm. Blakeley, Esq., has been selected as the Attorney for the Commissioners. Chaney Sward had his leg so badly injured in an ore bank in Mahoning township, week before last, that it had to be amputated.

WARREN COUNTY.—Seven or eight men were arrested back of Tidouste a few days since, suspected of being horse thieves. The house of Mrs. Templeton, in Kinzua, was burned on Friday week, with all its contents. A donation is contemplated, in Warren, for her relief.

FIVE HORSE THIEVES HUNG.—The Memphis Eagle learns the following from a friend recently returned from Arkansas: "A man by the name of Rogers stole a horse from an honest old farmer of Arkansas, and wended his way up into Washington county, where he said he sold it to a farmer. But upon his not being able to give the name of the man, nor make a satisfactory explanation, a company who had been in pursuit of the horse thief took him to the woods and tied him to a log, and gave him between two and three hundred lashes, well laid on. This had the effect of bringing him to terms. He then confessed where the horse was, and who were his accessories. The company then proceeded to Red River Bottom, where they found the missing horse and five fellows, whose business it was to steal all the horses, and whatever else "would pay," that they could, whom they hung to limbs of trees, until they were dead, dead, dead. Upon consideration of Rogers having "turned," he was spared."

Senator Iverson, a democratic representative in the United States Senate from the sovereign State of Georgia, has declared, in his place in that body, that if a Republican should be elected President he will advocate the immediate secession of the Southern States. We note this threat, not because we believe it is in the least alarming, but to give our Northern democratic friends another instance of a disunionist being found in the ranks of their own party.

On the fourth page of this paper will be found "Facts in Relation to the Location of the County Seat at Clearfield."

NEW COURT HOUSE.

For the "Raftsmen's Journal." MR. EDITOR:—By an advertisement in the papers, I see that the Commissioners will receive sealed proposals until the 29th January, for building a new Court House in this borough, and that "specifications can be seen for ten days preceding the 29th January, 1859."

It appears to me that this is short notice to contractors, and the question arises: Can a mechanic, in the space of ten days, make a proper estimate of what he could do the work for and put in a proposal for such a building as is contemplated? I do not believe that any mechanic, without having had access to the plans and specifications previous to the time designated in the advertisement, can make an accurate calculation of the cost, or prepare a contract which he would feel safe in binding himself to fulfil.

To me it looks as if there was "an Indian behind the bush," who has his gun cocked and primed for the occasion, and will make "a nice thing" out of it. I will leave it also to the good judgment of any man if such hasty action is well calculated to subserve the interests of the county or the taxpayers.

By doing so, the contract might possibly be given out at a thousand, two or perhaps three thousand dollars less than it will on "ten days" notice, and I think the Commissioners could not have considered this matter as fully as they should or they would not have displayed such uncalculated haste, in advertising the letting of the contract—there being but fifteen days from the time the advertisement first appeared until the day on which they will receive "sealed proposals"—nor do I believe that their course will be approved of by any considerable portion of the tax-payers of Clearfield county, no matter where they reside.

I understand that the Commissioners give as a reason for letting in such great haste, that they are fearful the county will lose largely if they do not accept of the following magnificent offer, for a copy of which I am indebted to a friend who procured it in the Commissioners' office:—

Know all men by these presents, That we, Richard Shaw, George L. Reed, Jon. Boynton, William A. Wallace, James B. Graham, J. B. McNally, Jas. T. Leonard, J. F. Weaver, A. K. Wright, Wm. L. Moore, D. W. Moore, C. Kratzer, all of the Borough of Clearfield, are held and firmly bound unto the County of Clearfield in the sum of thirty thousand dollars lawful money to be paid to the said county, her certain attorney or assigns, to which payment well and truly to be made and done, we and our administrators jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated this 30th day of December, A. D. 1858.

Now the condition of this obligation is such, That whereas by law the Commissioners of said county are required to proceed to the erection of a new Court House in Clearfield, and certain parties at Curwensville desire to delay the contracting for said Court House in order that they may agitate for the removal of the county seat, and we, desirous that the same shall be let and contracted according to law forthwith, if the Commissioners of said county shall do agree upon the plan of a Court House as submitted to them by George Thorn, and shall do advertise a bid let the contract for building the same within one month from this date, and no proposals are received by them properly guaranteed to erect the same for less than twenty thousand dollars, our seals, and dated this 30th day of December, A. D. 1858.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year first above written. J. B. McNally, [s.] Richard Shaw, [s.] Jon. Boynton, [s.] Jas. T. Leonard, [s.] Jas. B. Graham, [s.] J. F. Weaver, [s.] A. K. Wright, [s.] G. L. Reed, [s.] Wm. L. Moore, [s.] D. W. Moore, [s.] C. Kratzer, [s.] Witness present, I certify that this a correct copy of the bond filed in the Commissioners' office of Clearfield County. Wm. S. Bradley, Clerk, [s.]

What an offer! They will pay all that will be required over a fixed sum for building a court house, according to a plan furnished, knowing that the contract will be taken for that amount. And who, that is able, is not willing to advance money to the county, when she will pay it back with interest? A safe investment, I should say; and the gentlemen who propose it have enough "sharp business tact" to know that they can lose nothing, in any event, by such an operation. For my part, I can't see what the county will gain by it. If the taxation is not increased, interest will be paid on the money advanced—and will that not, in effect, be the same thing? Besides, if, as is contended, Pine county is "a fixed fact," is there any necessity for having new county buildings immediately? In any view of the case, the action of the County Commissioners to me seems premature.

OLDTOWN.

KANSAS WAR, RENEWED.

We publish to-day, says the N. Y. Tribune, some very interesting letters from our correspondent at the seat of war in Kansas. These letters give the full particulars of the recent renewal of the civil war in that quarter, brought to a termination some months ago by a compromise to which Gov. Denver was a party. The basis of that compromise was that by-gones should be by-gones. The past was to be forgotten, and Free State men and Slave State men were henceforth to live together in peace. This compromise has recently been violated by the Pro-Slavery squad, whose headquarters are at Fort Scott. Relying upon support from the neighboring counties in Missouri, and having, most of the local officers in their hands, they lately packed a Grand Jury and got up indictments for murder against Montgomery and others. Montgomery met this violation of the compromise by taking possession of the Court House and carrying off the indictments. This, however, did not prevent the Fort Scott mischief makers from arresting one Rice, whom they enticed to surrender himself by false pretense, and held him a prisoner on the charge of murder. At two public meetings, called by the Pro-Slavery men of the county, it was agreed to uphold the Denver compromise, and, in accordance with it, the Fort Scott people were called upon to release Rice. This they refused to do, and when all other means had failed, Montgomery entered the town and released the prisoner by force. The townspeople were taken entirely by surprise, and no resistance was made, except from two stores, whence shots were fired on Montgomery's men. In returning these shots, one Lyttle, who had made himself notorious in the past difficulties, was killed. One of the stores whence the shots were fired, was sacked and emptied of its contents, in accordance with a threat of Montgomery's to treat every house whence any resistance came.

This occurrence produced a great excitement and threats of invasion from Missouri. Rep. Capt. Brown, who had co-operated with Montgomery, and whose property had been destroyed and his son murdered in the former wars, did not wait for invasion. He led a party into Bates county, Missouri, who retorted on the slaveholders of that vicinity the same system of plunder by which the Free State people of Kansas had suffered during the Missouri invasion. It would seem that Brown's men made good their retreat, carrying away, among other property, some dozen slaves. One of the Missourians who resisted was killed.

So long as the robbing and killing were confined to Kansas, the Federal authorities looked on with the greatest composure. Now it has passed the border into Missouri, it is to be hoped they will bestir themselves. The invasion of Missouri, lamentable and criminal as it was, was however a much less brutal affair than the last invasion of Kansas, from Missouri, last May, resulting, as it did, in the murder of some eight unoffending citizens of Kansas—shot down in cold blood, and out of pure malice. Should this foray of Brown's men be a decided and prompt interference on the part of the Federal Government to put a stop to the outrages, on both sides, of which Southern Kansas has been the scene, so far, at least, the result will be good. We much fear, however, that it will be made the occasion for the arrest and prosecution of many innocent parties, and the pretext for a new attempt—in which the Federal Government will take the lead—to drive the Free State settlers out of Southern Kansas.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. CAUTION.—All persons are notified not to meddle with the following property now in possession of George W. Garry in Pike township, the same belongs to me and subject to my order, to wit: One Red and White Horse, to JOHN S. WILLIAMS. New Millport, Jan. 15, 1859.

STRAY.—Came to the premises of the subscriber in Barre township, in September last, one black Mott Bull supposed to be about 2 years old. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take him away, otherwise he will be disposed of according to law. JOHN M. HAFPEY. Barre township, January 19, 1859.

PROPOSALS WANTED.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioners of Clearfield county, in Clearfield, on the 29th day of January, 1859, for the building of a new Court House, 60 feet front by 90 depth, with offices beneath and court room above, with fire proof vaults for Prothonotary's, Register's and Commissioners' offices. Specifications can be seen at the office of R. J. Wallace, Clerk, for ten days preceding the 29th day of January, 1859. Proposals are desired to express what the contract will be taken for, the contractor to take the oil material of Court House and offices. All proposals must be accompanied by the name of a responsible surety, residing in the County of Clearfield. JOHN IRWIN, County Com. WM. MCCRACKEN, J. MISIONERS. Attest—R. J. Wallace, Clerk. Commissioners' Office, Jan. 12, 1859, Jan. 19.

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!—The undersigned take this method of informing the public generally that they have entered into co-partnership in the Blacksmithing business, and can be found at the shop formerly occupied by Jacob Shunkweiler, on Third street, in the borough of Clearfield, where they will be pleased to see their old customers, and as many new ones as can make it convenient, to give them a call. Bring on your hoes, your spades, and picks, Your log chains and your pulling sticks, Your sleds, your sleighs, your horse and mare, No three-year old, shall then go bare. Your spears we'll work up then just right, To pruning hooks for every height, Your swords too, shall then be wrought To plough-shares such as GEORGE W. ORR, JOHN S. WILLIAMS, GEORGE W. ORR. Dec. 5, 1858.

TAKE NOTICE!—TAVERN KEEPERS and the public, that O. A. Kunkel, whole sale Grocer, Canal Street Wharf, Harrisburg, have on hand a large lot of Liquors at reduced prices, by the barrel or otherwise, to suit purchasers, consisting of the following: Pure Brandies, New England Rum, Old Rye Whiskey, Pure Holland Gin, Domestic Brandy, Rectified Pitte Whiskey, Manganese Brandy, Port Wine, Peach Brandy, Madeira Wine, Pure Holland Gin, Cherry Brandy, Domestic Gin, Scotch Whiskey, and other Liquors. Geiler's Pure Champagne, &c. &c. Orders promptly attended to. O. A. KUNKEL. Wholesale Grocer. Canal Street Wharf, between Walnut and State Streets, Harrisburg, Pa. Mar 10 '59.