Raftsman's Journal.

S. B. ROW, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CLEARFIELD, PA., JAN. 26, 1859.

THE KANSAS FRAUDS PROVEN.

Our readers will recollect that, during the controversies relating to the Lecompton constitutional question, frauds of the grossest kind were alleged to have been perpetrated in several of the election precincts of Kansas, the most noted of which, perhaps, were those of Oxford, in the county of Johnson, where 1628 votes, as indicated by the fraudulent returns, were cast, whilst according to the census taken afterwards there were only *forty-three* voters in the district. The charges of fraud, although originating with men of distinction and high character, were at the time sedulously denied by the friends of the National Administration, which was using its influence and its patronage to force the obnoxious constitution upon a protesting people. The truth of these charges is now, however, being established in such a manner as should remove all doubts from the mind of every right-thinking person. The proof of forged returns having been made for the precinct of Oxford, has just been presented to the country in a shape that is entirely reliable. It comes through Ex-Gov. Walker and Ex-Secretary Stanton, of Kansas, who have issued an address "To the People of the United States," relative to the returns from that precinct, which they rejected on the 19th Oct. 1857, in which they embody a letter from Mr. Batt Jones, one of the Judges of the election at Oxford, whose name purported to authenticate the returns. In this letter, Jones says that *he never subscribed them, nor authorized any one to do so for him*, and consequently they are a forgery, as alleged at the time by Messrs. Walker and Stanton, and as such were properly rejected by them. There is, however, more importance to be attached to this circumstance than may at first sight appear. "Upon the face of the Lecompton Constitution," say Messrs. Walker and Stanton, "it appears that this Oxford forgery wae incorporated into, and made part of that instrument, by the legislative apportionment avowedly based upon it." Besides this they have no doubt "that the census and registration, purporting to have been taken in the fifteen counties out of thirty-eight which formed the sole basis of representation in the Convention, were largely contaminated with fraudulent and fictitious names, designed to give control of the Convention to the same parties who were the authors of the subsequent frauds at Oxford, Shawnee, Delaware, Kickapoo, and elsewhere, perpetrated under the Constitution itself." Thus, it is clear, that the Lecompton Constitution was based upon fraud and forgery, and should, for that reason, as Senator Hammond, of South Carolina, said, "have been kicked out of Congress." And yet, as Messrs. Walker and Stanton remark, the President of the United States, with the full knowledge of all the facts, urged upon Congress the sanction of this forgery. We are somewhat curious to know what the advocates of the Lecompton swindle will have to say now that the Kansas frauds are being proven.

A short time since, Hon. John Covode, the member of Congress from the Westmoreland district in this State, acting upon the President's opinion as expressed in his letter to the committee of the centennial celebration of the taking of Fort Duquesne, that of late years money had been employed to carry elections, offered a resolution asking the appointment of a committee to inquire whether any money had been used last fall in Pennsylvania to influence the election of Members of Congress, &c. This motion of Mr. Covode has had the effect of arousing the "vengeful wrath" of a number of pseudo-Democratic editors, who make it a pretext for pitching into him rough-shod, and in order to withdraw attention from the corrupt and nefarious practices of their own party, they charge him with having used large sums of money to carry his own election. We are well acquainted with Mr. Covode; we know him to be what it will keep some of his maligners busy to be, "an honest man," and we feel satisfied that he would despise using any but fair and legitimate means in a canvass. Where he is well known, a refutation of such a story as is alluded to would be unnecessary; but as the report might, perhaps, be credited where he is not acquainted, we deem it but an act of justice to an upright and honorable man to stigmatize it as it deserves—a base fabrication. The very fact of Mr. Covode asking for a committee to investigate the corruption that is alleged to have been practiced in this State, is of itself sufficient to refute the charge made against him by unscrupulous politicians.

THE AMERICAN FREEMASON—an Organ of Ancient Craft Mason, conducted by J. F. Brennan, 221 Centre street, New York, is a monthly periodical that every member of the fraternity should have, if possible. Besides a large amount of interesting miscellaneous reading, the Constitution, Laws, Usages and Regulations of the order are to be treated in such a manner that each one may understand his duties and responsibilities as a Mason. The magazine will also contain a history of Architecture, an epitome of Masonic events for the month, &c. Price—single copy $3 a year—2 copies $5—5 copies $12—8 copies $16.

Read the new advertisements.

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Raftsman's Journal.

JANUARY 22, 1859.

FRIEND ROW:—Petitions from 'Pine' county that is to be, continue to pour in to such an extent that I presume by this time the name of every man residing within the proposed limits of the new county, is now before the Committee on New Counties and County Seats in both the House and Senate. The prospect is that a bill will soon be before the committee, but what its fate will be, I am not prepared to say. There are but three applications for new counties up to this time.

At length both House and Senate have taken action on the Tariff question, by passing a resolution instructing our Senators and members of Congress to vote for a modification of the present system, in order that Pennsylvania interests may be protected. The resolutions were offered by Mr. Lawrence, of Washington, last week, and referred to a select committee, which made the following report on Tuesday:—

The experience of the past and present most fully demonstrates that it is a wise and beneficent policy of the General Government which dictates the imposition of duties on such products of foreign nations as come in such direct contract with those of our country, as to interfere and prostrate the trade on our own soil and among our own citizens. For want of such aid the country is filled with foreign products, the result of cheap labor; the monetary affairs of the nation disarranged by the exportation of specie to pay an indebtedness abroad, and the citizens and laborers in many departments compelled to abandon their accustomed employment; especially do our own coal and iron interests suffer; therefore

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, &c., That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested, to labor for the passage (at the present session) of such an act as will not only tend to increase the revenue by the imposition of duties, but afford adequate protection to all the interests of the country injured by the productions of the cheap labor of other countries, but more especially to urge an increase of duties on coal and iron—in which so large a portion of our people are deeply interested.

Resolved, That the views of the President, expressed in his late Annual Message, in reference to the advantage of specific over *ad valorem* duties, as more uniform, less liable to frauds, and affording the most certain amount of revenue and protection, meets our most hearty approval.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress a copy of the above preamble and resolutions, informing them of their adoption.

The following named gentleman composed the committee:—G. V. Lawrence, P. C. Gritman, Geo. W. Wood, Jno. J. Patterson, George Wiley, W. P. Wilcox.

The resolutions were adopted with but two dissenting voices—Messrs. Goepp of Northampton, and Laird of Erie.

The resolutions came up in the Senate on Wednesday and passed a final reading unanimously.

Quite a large number of gentlemen identified with the coal and iron business were in town, and immediately on the passage of the resolutions they made arrangements to go to Washington in a body. What effect this unanimous expression of the representatives of the people will have upon the dignitaries at the Federal City remains to be seen.

If there is to be any local legislation for the benefit of your people, I must say that those who expect it are tardy about rushing it in.

The bill abolishing the Canal Board came up in the Senate on Wednesday, but it was soon surrounded and hemmed in by barriers in the shape of amendments which gave rise to a lengthy debate, which ended in the bill being left in the hands of the committee, with leave to sit again. The fact is, some of the Senators have friends with "claims," and they did not wish to see the Board abolished on the 10th of February without some provision that the claimants, "their heirs, assigns, executors or administrators forever," may push these claims for all time to come.

I believe I told you about the Donnavan and Church affair. Yesterday a re-consideration of the vote on expelling Donnavan from the privilege of the floor of the House was lost—yeas 44, nays 40.

The everlasting "Record" business has been disposed of so far as the House is concerned, by a party vote, rescinding the contract made with Haldeman last session. So far so good, but it still has to go through the Senate, and a party vote there would certainly shelve Bergner & Co.'s prospects.

The State Agricultural Society held its annual meeting on Tuesday last and elected the following officers to serve during the ensuing year:—President, David Taggart; Vice Presidents, 1st district, Geo. W. Woodward, 2d A. T. Newbold, 3d Chas. K. Engle, 4th Joseph Yeager, 5th Thos. P. Knox, 6th Chas. Kelly, 7th Adrian Cornell, 8th George M. Keim, 9th John Strohm, 10th John P. Rutherford, 11th Amos E. Knapp, 12th E. W. Sturdevant, 13th H. D. Maxwell, 14th Wm. Jessup, 15th H. N. McAllister, 16th Jacob S. Haldeman, 17th W. Heyser, 18th Elias Baker, 19th John McFarland, 20th Joshua Wright, 21st John Murdoch, Jr., 22d John Young, Jr., 23d Thos. J. Power, 24th Henry Souther, 25th James Miles. Additional members of the Executive Committee—Fred. Watts, Jas. Gowen, W. A. Stokes. Simon Cameron, Jacob Mish. Chemist and Geologist—Prof. S. S. Haldeman. Librarian, Henry Gilbert.

The abolition of the Canal Board came up again in the Senate on Thursday, when Mr. Turney offered an amendment for the immediate abolition of the Board, inasmuch as the town was filled with buzzards who were engaged in digging out old rotten claims against the Commonwealth, which had no foundation in fact. Several of these old condemned claims were re-opened, and allowed by Messrs. Scott and Frazer, one of which created some little excitement. It was to A. M. White, allowing him a claim for upwards of $5,000 for wood furnished the State on the Portage Rail Road in 1856. The Senate passed the amended bill without a dissenting voice, and it was sent to the House, which body concurred in the amendment yesterday. So the Board, like Hummel's cider, "ish very goot, aver it ish all any more!"

Yours,

SPECIAL.

N. B. Both Houses adjourned at 1 o'clock yesterday, until 3 o'clock on Monday.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

JAN. 17.—Congress did little but listen to speeches called forth by the announcment of Col. Harris's death. The House adopted a resolution to hold evening sessions for debate (i. e., buncome speeches).

JAN. 18.—The Senate adopted a joint resolution permitting Mr. Townsend Harris to accept a gold snuff-box from England. A resolution, introduced by Mr. Seward, calling for the correspondence between our Government and Spain relative to the purchase of Cuba, was adopted. The Pacific Railroad bill occupied the remainder of the session. A number of amendments were rejected, and Mr. Bigler's substitute, somewhat amended, was adopted. Finally the Senate, after ordering the bill to be printed, that they might see what shape it now wore, adjourned in despair. The House adopted a resolution, offered by Mr. Sherman of Ohio, appointing a Committee of Five, to inquire into the truth of charges importing that the Navy Department here and in Philadelphia has been guilty of favoritism in the award of contracts, and has used the public money for partisan purposes.—Should the inquiry be put into the right hands, and be prosecuted with proper diligence, some interesting discoveries may be made, even at this late day. In Committee, the House struck out the enacting clause of Mr. Cochrane's bill to codify the Revenue laws, and then concurred, as the House, thus defeating the measure by a vote of 108 to 84. Mr. Cox of Ohio, made a speech on the "Law of growth," and the "Genius of our institutions," in which he took ultra filibuster grounds, and talked a great deal of second-hand nonsense. He was for the annexation of the whole world, and "the rest of mankind." Mr. Hickman made a speech on the Tariff. The majority and minority reports of the Committee upon the Oregon bill were presented.

JAN. 19.—The Senate refused to lay the Pacific Railroad bill on the table, by a vote of 38 to 19. Mr. Bell withdrew his motion to re-commit the bill. The residue of the session was occupied with a discussion on the constitutionality of carrying the road within the limits of the States. In the House, Mr. Cobb of Alabama reported a bill amendatory of the pre-emption laws, by which three months' occupancy of the land is required. An attempt to table the bill proved unsuccessful; but, the morning hour having expired, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Consular and Diplomatic bill. Mr. Keitt made a Cuba-stealing speech; in the course of which he was, however, honest enough to say that he did not believe the island could be purchased. The appropriation for a Minister to Persia was stricken out of the bill, on motion of Mr. Colfax. Mr. Lovejoy of Illinois moved to strike out all the appropriations for the salaries of Ministers and Commissioners, excepting—on the suggestion of Mr. Clark—the Minister to Spain. Mr. Stanton of Ohio, did not see the utility of Ministers; Mr. Crawford of Georgia did. Mr. Scales of North Carolina cried for retrenchment. Mr. Lovejoy's amendment was finally rejected, but by only twelve majority. Motions to strike out the salaries of Ministers at Rome and Switzerland, prevailed. In the evening session, Mr. Humphrey Marshall of Kentucky, made an elaborate political harangue, ostensibly in reply to recent speeches of Messrs. Seward, Giddings and Washburn. Other members had leave to print their remarks—a practice to which Mr. Burnett sensibly objected.

JAN. 20.—The Senate passed the Invalid Pension bill. Mr. Benjamin reported a substitute for Mr. Mason's by which the warmaking power is conferred upon the Executive. The main difference between the substitute and the original bill is, that the President is by the former required to make an immediate report to Congress of what he may do under previous provisions. After further discussion of the Pacific Railroad bill, the Senate adjourned. In the House, the Committee on Mr. Sherman's motion to investigate charges of corruption in the Navy Department was announced. It consists of two Republicans, two Democrats, and one American, as follows: John Sherman (O.), Chairman; Wm. S. Groesbeck, Ohio, Chas. Ready, Tenn., Thos. S. Bocock, Va., David Ritchie, Pa. Taking up the bill amending the Pre-emption Laws, the House adopted Mr. Grow's amendment, prohibiting the exposure of public lands for sale unless returns of the surveys thereof shall have been made ten years or more previously, and then rejected the bill by four majority. In the evening session speeches were delivered by Messrs. Purviance, Thompson and Phelps of Minnesota.

JAN. 22.—The time of Congress was taken up with the private calender.

JAN. 23.—The Senate not in Session. The House, after considerable objection, received resolutions in favor of a protective tariff from the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

THE SCALPEL.—We omitted last week to notice the receipt of the January No. of this interesting and valuable quarterly, published in New York by Dr. Dixon. The Scalpel is not, as its name might seem to indicate, a medical publication—on the contrary, it dissects with unsparing hand, and lays open in the plainest manner, the defects and deformities of the body professional, and cuts its way through the humbuggeries of modern practice in a truly refreshing style. It is to be regretted that there are not more as independent and outspoken writers as the editor of the Scalpel.

It appears by a card published in the newspapers over the signatures of Messrs. McKibben and Adrain on the part of Hon. Wm. Montgomery, and Messrs. Lane and Niblack on the part of Hon. Wm. H. English, that English's hitting Montgomery over the head with his cane was *only a mistake*. Mr. Montgomery not having offered any insult which authorized the violence, and Mr. English having apologized to Montgomery for his mistake, the difficulty is settled!

For the "Raftsman's Journal."

NEW COURT HOUSE.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish to say a few words more on the New Court House Question. During the past week I had an opportunity of seeing, in the Commissioners' office, the plan and specifications, known as the Thorn plan. According to it, the lower story is to be 13, and the upper 15 feet—the partition walls to be 9 inches thick, and the lower floor to be cut up into some seven rooms. The building is to be 96 by 60 feet dimensions—to the length will be added the porch projection. Any person who has a correct conception of architectural symmetry and beauty, will at once observe that there is no sort of proportion in the above figures. The building would not be over 30 or 32 feet high to the eave—only one-half the hight of its width, and one-third as high as it would be long. This would give it a low, squatty, unseemly appearance, such as would no doubt induce any mechanic, who has any pride of reputation, to disown it as a specimen of his workmanship. But there are other objections than those that refer to the mere external appearance. Nine-inch partition walls are entirely too frail for a court house as large as the one proposed—the walls should be sufficiently substantial to render the building solid beyond all peradventure. The court room, to make it comfortable, as well as to give it fair proportions, should not be less than from 20 to 25 feet in the clear. The lower floor should be divided off so that four of the county offices—say Prothonotary, Register & Recorder, Treasurer and Sheriff—would occupy one side; then cut off from the other an office for the Commissioners, and make a hall out of the remainder, which could be used for public gatherings, without asking the use of the court room. I have thus, briefly, pointed out some defects, which, in my humble opinion, would destroy entirely the fair appearance, convenience, and, in some measure, the utility of the building. If we are to have a new court house, let us have a respectable and creditable one—not a "botch," of which we will be ashamed. But, says some one, if you make these changes in the plan, the signers of a certain bond will be released from its conditions, and the county will lose the boasted advantages of that offer. As a matter of course, that will be the case; and, after examining the meagre and imperfect specifications, almost any person will conclude that a deviation from the plan is inevitable, and, perhaps, it may be that the signers of that famous document anticipated a release from its stipulations on that very ground—and if the Commissioners do go on and let the contract on the 29th, I will venture the guess that such will be the result. So far as the Commissioners are concerned, they stand in an unenviable position. If they get a house built on the plan before them, they will have an ill-proportioned, incommodious and discreditable building. If they change the plan, they will lose the "advantages" of a bond, which, it is said, was the inducement for using so much haste in advertising the letting. And this may not be all. If they had taken more time, they might have procured a much better plan, and, perhaps, received a much more liberal proposal. Let them take which "horn of the dilemma" they please, they will suffer in the public estimation, notwithstanding they may have been actuated by the best of motives. OLDTOWN.

THE DONEVAN AND CHURCH AFFAIR.—Our readers will recollect that C. M. Donevan, an ex-member of the State Legislature, on the 14th January, committed a most brutal assault and battery upon the person of Mr. Church, member elect to the House of Representatives from Philadelphia. After the adjournment of the House, Donevan met Church, whose seat he is contesting, in the street, and after an angry conversation, proceeded to assault him with a cow-hide. The parties were separated, and the next day the assailant was expelled from the floor of the House by a resolution of that body. Donevan, who is by no means a peaceable man, was bound over to answer the charge of assault and battery at the next sessions of Dauphin county. On last Friday the case came up, and after a hearing the Jury rendered a verdict of guilty.

PAY OF CONGRESSMEN.—The present session gives to members a *thousand dollars a month*, besides mileage and perquisites. Deducting the Sundays and holidays, the present "short session will allow about 60 working days; for, by constitutional requirement, it must close on the third of March next, which will give to members nearly *fifty dollars per day* for every day employed, exclusive of mileage."

A correspondent of the Hamilton, Canada, Spectator, says if a railroad should be built through the British dominions to the Pacific, it would cost £50,000,000, and for six months of the year the track would be covered with snow, and with water for another four months. Under these circumstances, he thinks it not prudent for capitalists to invest in the enterprise.

A letter from Madrid, Spain, says: "We have received news of a terrible catastrophe. The rich lead mines of Linares, belonging to the State, have fallen in, and it is said buried in their ruins more than 70 miners, of whom upwards of 30 have been taken out dead. The falling in of the earth is attributed to the excessive rain for some days past.

Mr. Machodo has imported one hundred camels into Texas, with a view of their introduction, not only into the army, but for agricultural purposes.

What has become of the January No. of the *Atlantic Monthly?* Can the publisher tell? We can't do without your valuable periodical.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

PREPARED FOR THE "RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL."

CENTRE COUNTY.—Two men, John Kennedy and Mr. O'Laughlin, on the line of the Bellefonte and Snowshoe Railroad, were injured on the 12th January, by the explosion of a blast, which had failed to go off, and which they then commenced working about. Although a number of workmen were around at the time, none were injured but the two named. O'Laughlin's injuries are slight, but it is feared Kennedy's will prove fatal. . . . Several men and horses made a narrow escape from drowning in the Bald Eagle near Milesburg, one day last week. They were cutting and hauling ice, and whilst on the ice it gave away, precipitating men and teams into the water. It was with much difficulty that they were rescued. . . . Mr. Clarke Brisbin, a resident of Potter township, met with an accident on the 12th, which resulted in his death on the following day. He was engaged hauling wood, and it is supposed that the horse frightened and ran away, as he was found in the woods greatly injured both externally and internally. . . . A series of religious revivals are in progress in the Lutheran church at Boalsburg, and in the Methodist churches at Howard, Unionville and Milesburg. . . . Mr. Daniel Musser, of Boalsburg, while out in the "Seven Mountains" on a hunting excursion, came across three deers, and being an expert and experienced hunter, he succeeded in killing two of them at one shot. . . . Mr. John Fry, of Potter township, who was accidently shot by a friend, while hunting, some time since, is fast recovering.

INDIANA COUNTY.—On the 6th inst., Mr. George Devers, of Canoe township, had his left hand entirely blown away by the bursting of a musket. He, with a party of other young men, were at the time of the accident engaged at serenading Mr. Isaac Bowers and Miss Reed, who were married that evening. . . Mr. John Simms and son, and Mr. Wm. Moses, of Blairsville, while at work mining coal in the bank of Mr. R. Smith, were severely injured on the 13th, by the falling of a large quantity of slate and rock. . . . On the 8th, Mr. Jacob Peelor, of Armstrong township, broke two of his ribs by a fall which he received. . . . A few days since, Miss Sarah Jane Adams, of Burrell township, aged 16, died of erysipelas. The first indication of the disease was a small pimple on the chin, which in a day or two spread over her face and neck and caused her death.

MERCER COUNTY.—Rev. Wm. Smith, of Delaware tp., fell dead while in the act of winding his clock, on Sunday evening, 9th inst. He had preached a sermon that afternoon—his last. He fell into the arms of his daughter—dead. Disease of the heart was the cause of this sad exit. . . . A Mr. Hubbard of West Greenville, returned home from a hunting excursion in Tionesta Forest, last week, having killed 13 deer.

CLINTON COUNTY.—A young man while skating on the river at Lock Haven Tuesday afternoon the 18th, accidently fell in an air hole, and received a complete ducking.—Through the assistance of his comrades he was soon rescued from his unpleasant situation.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.—A little son of Mr. John Condron, near Punxsutawney, came to an untimely death recently, by its clothes taking fire while its mother was absent at a neighboring house.

A meeting has been held in Grant county, Wisconsin, at which resolutions were passed pledging the people against the payment of taxes, State, county, and town. The reasons assigned are that there has been much extravagance in public expenditure—that Providence has withheld its usual bounties from the people, and that it is but just that the office holders should share in the general compulsory economy induced by the hard times.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.