

An Extraordinary Proposition

The following communication, from which we omit the name of the writer and the place of his residence, was received by a Catholic Clergyman of this city. It bears date 29th of April, 1854, and reads as follows:

April 29, 1854. Sir:—You are aware no doubt of the existence of a Society widely spread in its operations—working powerfully against the interests and influence of the Catholic Church. From present indications, it threatens the entire overthrow of Papist influence and Catholic institutions throughout the length and breadth of this Republic. Being desirous of benefitting myself, and your cause, I make a tender of the whole mystery by which this Society is now working, for the sum of ten thousand dollars. I say the whole, for, as an officer in the Society, (and a high one at that) I am in possession of ALL papers relating to its working, and have, of course, correctly all the various instructions, passwords and mysteries in all the degrees of this Order; and as I would be under the necessity of being the country or suffer death by an exposure, if you will promise to pay me what I ask, and send me a check for two hundred dollars to pay my expenses to that city, I will come on immediately.

Any further detail of matters in this connection would be superfluous. "A hint to the wise," I feel confident that if you knew all you would comply without hesitation, that a check may be made as early as possible.

I am, Sir, &c. (Direct to you) You will of course see the necessity of entire secrecy, till you are in possession of all PARTICULARS PRIVATE. Answer immediately. The person to whom the letter was addressed is moved by charity to give the answer through the medium of the public press, lest the unhappy writer should find himself unexpectedly in the hands of the law for attempting to obtain money under false pretences. There is no doubt that if a check were sent to his address, he would claim the payment of it, and thus fall into a snare which the officers of the law could easily have set to entrap him. Besides this, he puts evidently too high a premium on the information he has to impart. The knowledge of the awful secrets which he proposes to disclose, would not be worth ten dollars to any Catholic, lay or clerical, in the United States. First: it would not enable Catholics to avert the impending dangers, with which, if it is believed, they are menaced. Secondly: They could not place the least reliance on the statements of a man who disreputes with so little sense of honor his obligations to a society, however objectionable its principles may be, which has confided in him to the extent proclaimed by himself. Thirdly: If the Society is composed of members, such as he, it is quite evident it will soon accomplish the work of its overthrow without any interference on the part of Catholics. Fourthly: The principles of the Constitution are too deeply impressed upon the minds of the generally good American people to permit them looking on with indifference while such an awful scheme for the violation of its enactments should be carried into execution by any society whatever—even against Roman Catholics. Fifth: Every sensible man in the country would perceive from the commencement of such an attempt, two things—one, that it should not and could not succeed; the other, that if by possibility it did succeed, it could be carried farther than the destruction of the rights of Catholics. For these and many other reasons, the individual to whom the letter was addressed, begs leave to decline the benevolent offer of the person by whom it was written.

A GRASSHOPPER ROAST.—Amongst the choice delicacies which the Digger Indiana regales themselves during the summer season (says the Evans County Argus) is the grasshopper roast. Having been an eye witness to the preparation and discussion of one of their feasts of grasshoppers, we can describe it truthfully. There are districts in California, as well as portions of the plains between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky mountains, that literally swarm with grasshoppers, and in such astonishing numbers that a man cannot place his foot to the ground while walking there without crushing great numbers. To the Indian they are a delicacy, and are caught and cooked in the following manner: A piece of ground is sought where they most abound, in the centre of which an excavation is made, large and deep enough to prevent the insects from hopping out when once the entire party of Diggers are old and young, male and female, then surround as much of the adjoining grounds as they can, and with each a green bough in hand, whipping and thrashing on every side gradually approach the centre, driving the insects before them in countless multitudes, till at last, all or nearly all, are secured in the pit. In the mean time smaller excavations are made, answering the purpose of ovens, in which fires are kindled, and kept up, till the surrounding earth, for a short distance, becomes sufficiently heated, together with a flat stone large enough to be placed on the top. The grasshoppers are now taken in coarse bags, and after being thoroughly soaked in salt water, for a few moments, are emptied into the oven and clove in ten or fifteen minutes suffice to roast them, when they are taken out and eaten with "at further preparation, and with much apparent relish, or, as is sometimes the case, reduced to powder, and made into soup." And having from curiosity tasted, not of the soup, but of the roast, really it is, would out digest himself of the idea of eating as delicacy as we do an oyster or shrimp without other preparation, and that the roasting would not be considered very bad eating, even by more refined epicures than the Digger Indians.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.—Last Saturday morning our community was startled by the announcement that a mother had cut off the head of her child—an infant about six weeks old. On investigation, it was found by the coroner that the child was committed under the following circumstances: The father and mother have been quarrelling, drinking and quarrelling, and some of the neighbors seeing the destitution of the child, bestowed some care upon it. On Saturday morning it was given to its mother, that she might give the nourishment it required; and a person going to the house a few moments after, and not seeing the child, asked the mother for it. She gave an evasive answer. On going up stairs, the child was found lying in a pool of blood, with its head cut off and lying some distance from the body. When the coroner came, and an inquest was summoned, search was made for the instrument with which the deed had been done, but the only thing which could be found, was an old razor, that appeared to have been recently washed. The jury, after hearing all the testimony that could be brought to bear upon the matter, rendered a verdict that the child came to its death by the hands of its mother. The head was cut off close to the lower jaw, leaving the whole of the neck and the body, and probably the nearest reason that could have prompted to such a deed, was the father's drinking and quarrelling, and some of the neighbors seeing the destitution of the child, bestowed some care upon it. On Saturday morning it was given to its mother, that she might give the nourishment it required; and a person going to the house a few moments after, and not seeing the child, asked the mother for it. She gave an evasive answer. On going up stairs, the child was found lying in a pool of blood, with its head cut off and lying some distance from the body. When the coroner came, and an inquest was summoned, search was made for the instrument with which the deed had been done, but the only thing which could be found, was an old razor, that appeared to have been recently washed. The jury, after hearing all the testimony that could be brought to bear upon the matter, rendered a verdict that the child came to its death by the hands of its mother.

A leading Southern Whig paper published at Macon, Ga., in commenting upon the stand taken against the Nebraska bill by all branches of the Whig party in the Northern States, says: "The Whig party of the Union cannot be re-organized. The factions of Abolition and Free Soil which cling to that name, and have robbed it of its prestige, never can be united with its sound material at the North and at the South in a national Organization."

THOMPSON'S MURDER.—OUR MAN KILLED

AND TWO OTHER PRISONERS SHOT.—About 3 o'clock yesterday morning, a difficulty took place at a German wedding party, held in P. Kemmer's house, near the corporation line, in Storms township, the result of which was the murder of a man, named Casper Dresser, and the wounding of two other persons, named Augustus Siegel and Elizabeth Pope. The particulars, as we learn there, are these: Dresser had a man named Robert Thompson, got into a quarrel about a partner, which the former claimed as being the one to whom he was engaged to dance. The lady decided in favor of Thompson. A quarrel ensued, and Dresser taunted Thompson and repeatedly threatened to strike him.

The latter caught hold of the former and attempted to eject him from the room, and finally succeeded. Dresser went to his home, but soon returned, and again commenced upon Thompson who turned and fired a revolver. The first shot missed Dresser, and the ball struck Siegel on the head, inflicting a severe wound. The second shot also missed Dresser, but struck Elizabeth Pope on the left arm. Dresser then ran to the head of the stairs, crying "murder," when Thompson fired three times more, the balls entering in the vicinity of the abdomen of Dresser who fell and rolled down the long flight of stairs. When he picked up, he was found to be dead. Thompson then jumped through a side window, and made his escape, and had not been heard of up to yesterday. Coroner Noble held an inquest yesterday, and the jury returned a verdict, "that he died by being shot by Robert Thompson." Dresser leaves a wife and three children. Magistrate Lieb, of Storms township, has issued a warrant for the arrest of Thompson, and all due diligence is being used to cause his arrest. The affray has created much feeling in the immediate neighborhood, all parties being well known to that township. Cincinnati Gazette, May 11.

A BLOODY FIGHT.—The rencontre between Gen. Barie and Mr. Wood, the former of Jacksonville, Ala., and the latter of Wetumpka, which took place on the 26th ult., resulted in the death of Barie, who had been a very prominent politician in his part of the State. A young lady, a relative of Wood, was in the case, and the having resided with Barie, and having been spirited away, the suspicion became so strong with Wood that a wrong had been done her, that he assailed him first with a pistol, the ball penetrating the back of the neck, and ranging upward between the skin and skull. The wounded man fell forward to the floor, with the chair on which he had been sitting partially covering his back. Wood then drew his knife, and cut Barie while life lasted, inflicting many wounds about the head, and finally leaving a fatal blade in the skull. His death followed in a few minutes.

NAPOLEON WANTS A DIVORCE.—The Paris correspondent of the Montreal Witness, writes as follows:—The great question which occupies at present the Court of France, is the divorce of Napoleon III. He no longer hopes to have any children by his present wife, and it is said he thinks of marrying another. The report is not official, but as it has appeared in several licensed papers, the truth of it can scarcely be questioned. Napoleon III. is, however, very fond of his wife, and the divorce will resemble in every point that of his uncle and Josephine, who were, as you know, separated for the same reason. Whether from this motive or any other, the Empress of the French is looking very melancholy. It is impossible to see her without being struck by her expression of sadness. As to the Emperor, he appears constantly calm and imperturbable.

HAPLESS.—Among the killed at the late fire at New York, was George Rhinehart, aged 19, whose body was drawn from the ruins, the head being buried off. He was an engine runner. George was from Kingston. His father, a widow, died of cholera in 1839, leaving a mansion and four children in poverty. By committing iniquity the widow left the family together. Last summer a malignant erysipelas compelled the amputation of her right arm. George went to New York, and materially aided his mother by sharing his earnings with her, and now affliction comes to that poor woman in a new form. Surely we need not go to heaven lands or distant climes for proper objects of sympathy and kindness.

A NOVEL PROSECUTION.—A gentleman as Green Farms, Connecticut, lately left the Methodist and joined the Congregational Church. In his new place of worship he found it difficult to repress those outbreaks of religious feeling which were allowable with the sect he had left, and was quite often guilty of the impropriety of speaking in an "outcast" or "outcast" manner to the great annoyance of his brethren. He was lectured affectionately upon the subject, but it was of no use—the occasional "Amen" and "Glory to God" would slip into it spite of his teeth. He was finally prosecuted for shouting "Glory to God" under the influence of a stirring discourse, and was fined three dollars and costs amounting to ten dollars. In the complaint against him he was accused of "disturbing religious worship."

GO OTT EAST.—The Deatur, Ia. Press last week noticed the receipt of a citizen of that county, who, on the 28th of December last, most bravely and gallantly overcame his wife. It says, "He was fined one dollar and sent to the penitentiary for three years. It was proved that he began the assault by knocking his wife down with his fist, which was repeated several times. He then struck her with a chair, and breaking it, continued beating her from the neck of the neck, until she fell on the ground, and was so badly injured, that she was unable to rise, and he carried her to the house, where he covered her with wounds and bruises from the crown of her head to the sole of her feet. For several weeks she could not be raised in her bed, and by the Physician's testimony, must have died but for the cool water."

CANDID.—The Edinburgh Scotsman has an article upon the acquisition of Cuba by the United States, in which, of course, the latter country is charged with greediness and covetousness. The Scotsman, however, has the candor to say, that "whatever course the United States may pursue in relation to Cuba, we can hardly, with good grace, protest against it, after having taken possession of half the Burmese empire, because Commodore Landreth was not received with due respect by a third-rate official."

WELL SAID.—The Silver Creek Gazette, having been accused of being wanting in deference in its remarks upon the three thousand clergymen who petitioned Congress upon a political question last September. We plead guilty to the indictment. The Gazette is profoundly political in its character, and contains some political articles, in which we venture to criticize both politicians and political measures. It is our right and privilege so to do. To those who deprecate our course towards the clergy, we can only reply by a yarn. A minister was once riding through a section of the State of South Carolina, where custom forbade inn-keepers to take pay from the clergy leaving the whole of the neck on the body, and probably the nearest reason that could have prompted to such a deed, was the father's drinking and quarrelling, and some of the neighbors seeing the destitution of the child, bestowed some care upon it. On Saturday morning it was given to its mother, that she might give the nourishment it required; and a person going to the house a few moments after, and not seeing the child, asked the mother for it. She gave an evasive answer. On going up stairs, the child was found lying in a pool of blood, with its head cut off and lying some distance from the body. When the coroner came, and an inquest was summoned, search was made for the instrument with which the deed had been done, but the only thing which could be found, was an old razor, that appeared to have been recently washed. The jury, after hearing all the testimony that could be brought to bear upon the matter, rendered a verdict that the child came to its death by the hands of its mother.

ITEMS OF NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The 16th of April was the day fixed for the abolition of slavery in Venezuela.

An Indian woman died at Knight's Ferry, California, recently, at the age of 142 years.

The total number of deaths in the city of Buffalo for the month, was 166. Of these 22 were from Consumption.

Among a cargo of army comforts that lately reached Constantinople, from England, were 700 wooden legs!

Joseph B. Earl, landlord of the Golden Sheaf, in Somerset, Pa., was killed by a drunk man named Kocota, on Monday last.

Gen. Persifer F. Smith, U. S. Army, was married on the 18th ult., at Corpus Christi, Texas, to Mrs. Armstrong, of Washington.

St. Paul, Minnesota, has now seven hundred houses and four thousand square inhabitants. It was settled first in 1848.

A man named Burton was killed in New York last November by the Hudson River Railroad cars. The Supreme Court have awarded \$3,500 damages to his relatives.

The Free Church Society, in Casanovia, have invited the Rev. Miss Annette L. Brown to become their pastor. She has not yet signified her acceptance.

The Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel through the Allegheny Mountains is three thousand six hundred and twelve feet long.

Some two hundred acres of the bottom lands opposite Plainville, on the Little Miami River, nine miles from Cincinnati—have been sold at \$180 per acre.

The stable of Mr. Brown, at Georgetown, Mercer Co., was destroyed by fire on the night of the 1st inst. Eight horses, belonging to the Ohio State Company, were burned to death.

The Furnace is the title of a newspaper just started in Madison county, Mo. It is Democratic in politics, keeps up a blaring fire on Whigery, and is chock full of bromides.

MORDE.—A person signing himself "Less than the Least," has sent twenty-five thousand dollars to a society in London, for propagating the gospel in China!

The loss by the fire at Chambersburg, on Friday last, is set down at \$8000. It broke out in a house in the very heart of the town, and swept two square, without destroying a single dwelling!

The Iowa Gazette (Burlington), says that an ordinance has been passed by the city fathers of that town, prohibiting the steamboats at the landing blowing their whistles, "for the reason that folks can't hold their horses."

A Detroit paper contains a communication from the spirit of Thomas Paine, in which he denounces the war between fire and brimstone. He says he is "happy, free and glorious spirit, in the mansions of the spiritual spheres."

The Mt. Sterling (Ky.) Whig, of Friday, says: "On yesterday afternoon, after our formal were closed, we learned that Bright Frizer, a well known citizen, got into a difficulty with some fisherman and shot three of them and killed one—the others mortally wounded."

The Richmond Enquirer very properly, in our opinion, defines the principle of squatter sovereignty to mean that the people moving to new territory have the right to take just such property there as the persons going there think proper.

Charles Hathaway, of Windsor, Broome county, with his wife, two children and two dogs, were drowned by the upsetting of a skiff in the Susquehanna River on Sunday last. They were crossing the River on their way to Church.

A Western editor says, that if you want to feel as nice as a hyacinth in a red cover and a gold chain, all you have to do is to run and pick a pretty girl up when you see her fall down in the street. He tried the experiment the other day, and has felt full of sunshine, clover, and four-story happiness ever since.

A man named Hiram Taylor, was sent to the chain gang for two months, in Cincinnati, for passing a gilt coin or token as a gold coin of the value of four dollars and fifty cents. The coin was an advertisement of somebody's preparation to destroy insects and rats.

A bright and interesting little girl about eight years of age, died in the village of Newark from convulsions brought on by jumping rope four hundred times in succession. The movement of the muscles of the limbs, as in jumping, continued without cessation forty-eight hours, until the sufferer was released from the painful exercise by death.

The Boston Herald is learned in biblical history. It traces the "know-nothings" back to the days of Abalton, and quotes 2 Samuel xv, 2, in evidence, as follows: "And two hundred men went out of Jerusalem with Abalton, that were called—and they went in their simplicity and they knew not anything."

A SOLEMN SOCIAL DUTY.—The Elizabethtown correspondent of the Louisville Courier says that ex-Governor Helm, in his recent address to the jury in the case of Edward, his billiard table, was discharging a solemn social duty when he shot Prof. Butler.

We see that the man who tamed the monarch of the forest and led him in a neck and collar in the three houses of Arnold, which he has done with his hand on the globe, Herr Dresbach, has had his lion tamed. He has sworn to love, honor and cherish a buck eye belle. What an anomaly—gave his youth to ambition, his manhood to love.

An old lady in Corinth Me., who has attained the remarkable age of 118 years, is in the habit of taking three boxes of arrow root, which would make about two bushels and one peck per annum. Since her fiftieth birthday, therefore—go no further back—she has snuffed up one hundred and thirty-nine bushels! Any lady, hereafter, who may preach against the salubrity of this cleanly custom, may be safely set down as not being "up to snuff."

The jury in the case tried at Keaton, in this State, in which certain persons were charged with extorting money from an old gentleman, by using a female to decoy him into a place of doubtful reputation, rendered a verdict of guilty. Dr. Field was found guilty on all counts, and Daniel Leachman guilty on the third and sixth counts.

The increase of emigration from Germany, and decrease from Britain, has before been remarked. It is strikingly exhibited in the arrivals at the port of New York on Tuesday last. On that day, the usually large number of 4,418 arrived, 4,108 of whom were from German ports, and only 310 from those of Britain.

An important decision to govern keepers was given by Hon. Oswold Thompson, President Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Philadelphia county. The District Attorney is presenting the case that the ground that the license did not cover sales of liquor made on Sunday. Judge Thompson charged the jury that the defendant's license did not give him the privilege of selling on Sunday, that the Supreme Court had so decided, and if they believed liquor had been sold by the defendant on Sunday, he could be convicted on that count.

BARBAROUS.—Two clerks were recently whipped in the market place at Charleston, S. C., for stealing from a man who has been sentenced to receive thirty-nine lashes, which he is to be inflicted at three different times and at ten intervals that the wounds caused by the first should be healed before the second punishment, and so of the third. At the act of whipping these unhappy victims of the barbarism of the middle ages, after suffering twenty strokes, fell bleeding and fainting, and were carried back to jail. The thousand tongues behold this horrible scene.

Eric Weekly Observer.

FRIDAY, P. A.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 20, 1854.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATION.

FOR GOVERNOR. WILLIAM BIGLER, OF Clearfield County. JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT. JEREMIAH S. BLACK, OF Somerset County. FOR CANAL COMMISSIONERS. HENRY S. MOTT, OF Pike County.

The Gazette's position, as defined this week, is perfectly satisfactory to us. We never expected that our contemporary would, in any "way encourage the Governor's political aspirations," but knowing as he did how wholly and unreservedly the Executive sympathized with Eric in the fiery crisis he has passed through, we did expect that guidance would impart political animosity of its sting, and that our contemporary would be in truth and in fact "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's." We are glad to see that this expectation will be realized.

HUNTER has occupied a new stock of Hats and Caps in the room opened by J. Culbertson & Son, on State street. We have examined the stock, and think we can say in that quality and price those wishing to purchase can't better themselves. Give him a call for "old acquaintance sake."

Indications are that the bill establishing territorial Governments over Nebraska and Kansas, will pass the House in a few days. In three months after it does, allow us to predict, the "sound and fury" of the Whig and Abolition army will have ceased. People will only wonder there was so much clamor raised over such a harmless affair.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE.—As usual, the Senate elected a new speaker before it adjourned in place of Col. McClain. The choice fell on Hon. BYRON D. HAMILIN, of McKean county. Mr. H. is but thirty years of age, and has been but two years in the Senate, or in public life; but in that time he has "won golden opinions" from all parties. He is a staunch Democrat, an able debater, and well informed in relation to public affairs.

The Meadville Gazette is down on the Legislature in general, and Gov. Bigler in particular, because the bill relative to the Sanbury road and Cleveland and Erie road, has been permitted to become a law. The Editor says he "will call this act by no other name than a base suicide, an outrage upon the rights of the citizens of Crawford county, as well as all interested in our Railroad projects. A direct law has been made of our rights, granted us in the charter of the Franklin Canal Company, and the proceeds given to a road adverse to our interests—antagonistic and desirous of 'crushing out' every prospect of the Sanbury road. This is the first we ever heard that the Sanbury road was 'adverse' to the 'interests' of Crawford county, or 'desirous of crushing out' every hope 'the citizens of that county entertained.' But this aside. There is one remarkable feature in this railing of the Gazette, and it is this. It is but a short time since when the Editor of the Gazette was railing as bitterly about the use of the veto power, and if we are not mistaken, advocated an amendment to the constitution abolishing 'King Veto,' as he called it. Now, he rails at Gov. Bigler because he did not exercise 'King Veto' upon a bill that passed the popular branch of the Legislature by over two thirds, and by a decided vote in the Senate! Inconsistency and Whigery go hand in hand always, we believe!

A Dual Expected.

Our last advices from Washington render it pretty evident that an "affair of honor" will come off soon—unless the parties back out, a la Cutting—between Messrs. Hunt, of La. and Craig, of North-Carolina. The cause of this "important affair" is this: Craig called Hunt a "factionist," and Hunt called Craig a "bar," or the equivalent! Thus our unappreciated readers can see what "compliments pass when gentlemen meet." Hunt went into Congress with the reputation of a fighting man, having killed one or two men for looking sideways at him, or for some other trivial offense, and for this dispute it appears he is still ready to "order coffee for one and pistols for two." We have as much of the "milk of human kindness" as any one; but the character of a bully and a braggart we despise, hence we shan't shed a great many tears if Mr. Craig gives this fellow "entire satisfaction."

Brown, of the Connecticut Courier, says the Nebraska bill will no doubt become a law; if so, but a few weeks will elapse before he will hail for some point in Kansas." He also declares that "the next great battle for freedom will be fought on the soil of Kansas and Nebraska," and he is "going to mingle in the strife."

No Quixote's battle with the wind mills, is he doing this "great battle" that's soon to come off away out in Nebraska. Well, if our free soil friend will throw himself away, why "let'er rip." Good-by George; good-by Washington, good-by Brown! Send us an onion, and a piece of black tape, if you fall in that "strife," do!

New Liquor Law.—Our Legislature passed a very stringent act in regard to the vending of liquors. Among other things it prohibits the sale of beer and other malt liquors without license, and prohibits any persons from obtaining license, and selling spirituous liquors by the quart or otherwise, unless the person so applying shall be a retailer of foreign or domestic goods, wares, and merchandise, entitled to be classed equal to class 14, and have been thus classed by mercantile appraisers. Persons violating the law are subject to the same penalties as keepers of unlicensed tipping houses. The act does not apply to brewers of malt liquors, or retailers of spirituous liquors for wholesale purposes.

Business men, and others interested, will do well to recollect this fact. The stamps of prepayment on stamped envelopes of the post office department are not taken as evidence of prepayment, if affixed from the envelope on which they are made. Separating such a stamp from the envelope on which it was made, destroys its legal value.

The Pennsylvania State Fair is to come off the 30th of September at Philadelphia. It will no doubt be a grand affair.

Gov. Bigler's traveling trunk, an advertisement, was laid on Wednesday. Some few "taken in and done for," but not a quarter of the usual number upon such occasions.

What Have We Lost?

The Philadelphia Argus has a long leader headed with the significant question, "What Have We Gained?" In which the writer endeavors to show that the Democracy of the State have lost much strength, and gained nothing, because the State Convention, when it nominated Gov. Bigler, did not pass resolutions endorsing the principles of the Nebraska bill. With most of the sentiments of the article we heartily agree, but to its conclusions we respectfully beg leave, as one who has stood faithfully by the principles of the Nebraska bill through good and evil report, to demur! We say with the Argus emphatically that "the fact that the principles on which the Nebraska bill is founded do meet the hearty approval of the Democracy of the State, is a fact that cannot be questioned or doubted;" and hence, in our opinion, any expression of opinion would be labor lost. So true is this, that the idea advanced by the Argus that the "State Central Committee should at once adopt the National platform, and issue an address upon the subject," sounds much to us as the proposition doubtless would to a firm believer in the Church, if some of the Elders should gravely propose that his brother Elders should at once "adopt" the Bible "and issue an address upon the subject." Why, the "National Democratic platform" is the "platform" upon which the Democracy of Pennsylvania stands invariably stood. Nobody disputes that in the canvass of 1848 and 1852 they stood shoulder to shoulder upon that "platform." It was their watchword when defeat overtook them, and it was their rallying cry when victory probed upon their banners. Have they changed?—have they turned traitors to their profession?—have they become lukewarm and indifferent to the issue? We believe all these questions can be answered in the negative. We believe the Democracy of Pennsylvania stand now where they stood then—upon the Baltimore platform, and the principles avowed in that confession of faith! Believing this, we raise our voice against any expression of opinion upon this, or any other point of party faith, let it come from whatsoever source it may. We are not wigs, with a party creed as changeable as the season, that we need Central Committees to reveal to us the path we must tread. No, the beaten path by which our party has so often marched to victory, is straight before us, and we want no new light—no patent lamp—to show us the road. We say, then, let the Central Committee attend to its legitimate duties—mind its own business—and the masses will do the voting and thus march to victory—Were this a new issue—had the Democracy never been before the country upon it—there might be some propriety in the complaints of the Argus. But such is not the fact. We were defeated in 1848 with it inscribed upon our banner, and we were successful in 1852, thanks to the "sober second thought of the people" with it still emblazoned there. How has it been struck from that banner since, that the Central Committee must needs come forth and, Sir Oracle like, proclaim it anew? When? and by whom? What Convention of the party has repudiated it?—In what canvass has it been lost sight of? These questions cannot be answered. The Baltimore platform is still the "platform" of the Democracy of the State—so proclaimed by the recent State Convention, and so acknowledged by the masses. To "adopt" it, then, through the medium of the State Central Committee, in an address to the people, would do no good—make the cause no stronger, and in the end place us in a false position! It would place us in a false position, because it would in effect proclaim to the Democracy of the Union that, in the opinion of the State Central Committee, the Democracy of the State had "fallen from grace" since 1848 and 1852, and required a "new revelation" from the Elders of their church to bring them back to the fold! We hope therefore the call of the Argus will not be heeded by the State Central Committee, as indeed we know it will not, if good counsel prevail!

WORSE THAN INFAMOUS.—That pink democracy, the New York Tribune, strongly recommends to the members of Congress to resort to every species of factions and disorderly conduct to defeat the Nebraska bill. With an insanity or insanity unparalleled, it urges a defeat of this measure by blocking the wheels of public affairs, by breaking up Congress in a riot, or even by burning the Capitol! And this recommendation comes from a print which is always noisy in its professions of virtue, and of love for law and order. Well, the enemy burned the Capitol in the war of 1812, and it seems we now have traitors among us who would rejoice to see it "blaze by the torch of the incendiary."

Let our readers may think we do not quote the Tribune correctly, we annex the exact language: "Better that confusion should ensue—better that discord should reign in the national councils—better that Congress should break up in wild disorder—any better, that the Capitol itself should blaze by the torch of the incendiary, or fall and bury all its inmates beneath its crumbling ruins—than that this people and wrong should be finally accomplished!"

In relation to the wheat crop in Michigan, the Detroit Free Press says from information received through the local papers and other sources, it is of opinion that the prospect is now fair for at least an average wheat crop in that State. In the early part of the season, in some sections, the appearance of the fields was forbidding; the root of the wheat seeming to be winter-killed; but in some instances these fields have recovered, and are now promising. With no intervening calamity before harvest-time, the wheat crop of Michigan will be a fair one.

The Ex-Honorable who conducts the Standard Mirror is very much like a dog dog. Go civility by, or attempt to pat him on the back, and ten to one he will snap at you. Give him a good sound kick, however, and he retreats snatching to his hole. Poor mimic, a few years in Washington; has upset what little sense and decency he ever had—and that was't much!

The Toledo Blade states that there is to be no gambling on the steamers plying between that city and Detroit; that it is to be nearly excluded from all the boats. This is an example which might be followed by steamboats everywhere with entire safety.

This is the way they do things in Ohio. The Plainville Telegraph says the Treasurer of Lake county walked into the vault of the Bank of Genoa on Friday afternoon last, and helped himself to the sum of \$1200, the amount due under the bank law for taxes, interest and penalty, for 1853 years past.

Gov. Bigler's traveling trunk, an advertisement, was laid on Wednesday. Some few "taken in and done for," but not a quarter of the usual number upon such occasions.

We thought when Dory Wilmet was slowly stored away upon the Death, we should hear no more of him or his line. We thought the Democracy of Bradford would be allowed to walk the beaten path they trod ere his uneasy aspirations after notoriety lured them into the slyly paths of Free Soil. We knew him to be indolent and lazy—inclined to take his ease—and we hoped that a seat upon the Bench would keep him in a delightful political doze for the next ten years at least. But it appears we are not to be gratified. The great "Proviso" has waked up, and is determined to "kick up a breeze" even at the expense of his damaged reputation. To do this effectually he called his faithful allies together last week, in public meeting, and addressed them upon the affairs of the country in general, and the Nebraska bill in particular. Not satisfied with making a speech the "Judge" read an address to the Democracy of the State, which was adopted, declaring Nebraska a political issue, and predicting that it would destroy every party that supported it in the free States. He proposed also a State Convention to take necessary action on the subject. As the fellow said when he saw the Clowns in the Circus attempt to swallow himself, such proceedings look very much like nonsense, especially in such a minority as the Bradford Democracy! They ought to recollect that they are a very small portion of the Democracy of the State, and hence they show themselves in a ridiculous light when they attempt to regulate the political issues of their party. We have no objection to their "speaking out in meeting" for themselves—that they have a perfect right to do—but the idea of such a fellow as Dory Wilmet, and his few followers up in Bradford, mounting this Free Soil hobby, and asking the Democracy of the State to take a seat with them, "is cutting it rather fat," we think. As the Reading Gazette very pertinently remarks:

"Nebraska is a political issue—an issue between national feeling and sectional fanaticism—an issue between the principle of the compromise of 1850, and the principle of 1854. Abolitionists, and kindred spirits, who have consistently opposed every compromise between North and South, and every effort to exclude slavery agitation from the Halls of Congress. This is the issue now before the people, and if the voice of the great National Democratic party, which triumphed so gloriously in 1852, upon the platform of non-interference with the question of slavery in the territories, could be heard to-morrow, it would speak trumpet-toned in favor of the same just principle.—Let Bradford bear in mind the fate of her famous 'Wilmet Proviso,' and abstain from the quixotic attempt of attempting to dictate a creed for the political organization in which she is, numerically almost a cipher."

THE ASSEMBLY WISDOM OF THE NATION.—Did a good thing, the other day, in deciding that a man ought not to have more than one wife. Had the proposition been decided otherwise, as a good citizen, we should have felt bound to have acquiesced in the arrangement; but as it is, we "breathe freer and deeper." The occasion of this decision was the consideration of the Utah bill, the object of which was the establishment of the office of Surveyor-General, and to grant donations of land to actual settlers. Among the provisions of the bill was the following: "Provided, That the benefits of this act shall not extend to any person who shall now, or at any time hereafter, be the husband of more than one wife." This brought the question directly home to the members, and the result was a very animated debate in which polygamy was treated philosophically, ecclesiastically, and politically. Whatever may have been the private feelings of members, however great their respect, love, and admiration of the gentler sex, there was not one who had the boldness to declare himself in favor of polygamy. The patriarchal and amiable delegate from Brigham Young's spiritual wife paradise, even did not declare himself in favor of it. This may have been owing to policy, to an indisposition to speak, or possibly to the fact that he is "declining in the role of years," and feels more comfortable under the Christian than the Mahomedan matrimonial system. There were members, however, who, in strains of fervid eloquence, indignantly denounced the Mormon practice of having a plurality of wives. The highly respected delegate from Utah thought that the more wives a man had the more land he needed to support them, while the Hon. Mr. Smith, from New York, thought that one farm was enough for any man, no matter how many wives he had, and while the balance of the speakers thought that if a man had more than one wife he ought not to be presented with one solitary acre of land.

The result of all this debate was that the bill was disposed of by a vote of the Committee of the Whole to report it to the House with a recommendation that it not pass.

We have never doubted that the time would come when the press of the West would do justice to the people of Erie in their war with the Railroads. The cause and objects had in view—the opening of another great avenue of such deep import to the people of the west, that the result was alluded to was sure to come sooner or later. Already we see signs of the "coming morning" when light shall come out of darkness, and the people of Erie receive justice at the hands of those who were first to denounce them. Witness the following from the Cincinnati Times:

THE SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD.—In speaking of the settlement of the Lake Shore Railroad difficulty, the Cincinnati Times alludes to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, and its benefit to this city. The Times says:—The Sunbury and Erie Railroad from Lake Erie to Philadelphia yet to be built, must prove a formidable rival to the New York and Erie Road, and it will take passengers to New York through Philadelphia, in shorter time than any other line, and pour a stream of trade into Philadelphia, which now finds its way to New York; hence the hostility of the press of that city during the time of the "break," and their desire to write the difficulties by the force of public opinion, and without recourse to law. The assertion of her sovereignty rights by Pennsylvania over her own territory, however, defeated this grand game, and now we have the result, by which the travelling community will largely profit."—PHILA. ARGUS.

What Have We Lost?

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