

Miscellaneous, Foreign and Political News.

The New School Law.

The new school law has passed both branches of the Legislature, and has received the approval of the Governor. There are several important changes in the law, although in most particulars similar to the old law.

It makes each ward in a city, or borough a separate district, elect three directors who shall hold all property—levy tax and disburse for the benefit of the ward, exclusively—the directors of all the wards to constitute a Board of Control for the whole town or city. There is a provision for consolidating the property into one district, however, if the directors think best to do so.

One new feature is the election of a County Superintendent, a matter sufficiently important for us to lay the provisions of the law in relation thereto, in full, before our readers.

Sec. 27. That there shall be chosen in the manner hereinafter directed, an officer for each county, to be called the County Superintendent. It shall be his duty to visit as often as practicable, the several schools of his county, and to note the course and method of instruction and branches taught, and to give such directions in the art of teaching and the method thereof, in each school, as to him together with the Directors or controllers shall be deemed expedient and necessary, so that each school shall be equal to the grade for which it was established, and that there may be as far as practicable, uniformity in the course of studies in schools of the several grades, respectively.

Sec. 31. It shall be the duty of each County Superintendent, to see that in every district there shall be taught, geography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography and arithmetic, as well as such other branches as the board of Directors or controllers may require. In case the board of Directors or controllers shall fail to provide competent teachers, to teach the several branches above specified, it shall be the duty of the County Superintendent, to notify the board of Directors or controllers, in writing, their neglect, and in case provision is not made forthwith for teaching the branches aforesaid, to report such fact to the Superintendent of Common Schools, whose duty it shall be to withhold any warrant for the appointment of such district of the annual State appropriation, until the County Superintendent shall notify him that competent teachers of the branches aforesaid have been employed; and in case of neglect or refusal of the board of Directors or controllers to employ such competent teachers as aforesaid, for one month after such notification by the County Superintendent, such district shall not be provided, such district shall forfeit absolutely its whole quota of the State appropriation for that year.

Sec. 39. That the school directors of the several counties of the Commonwealth, shall meet in convention at the seat of justice of the proper county, on the first Monday of June next, and on the first Monday of May in each third year thereafter, and select by a majority of the whole number of directors present, one person of literary and scientific attainments, and of skill and experience in the art of teaching, as County Superintendent for the three succeeding school years.

Sec. 40. That the school directors of a majority of them in such county, shall determine the amount of compensation for the County Superintendent, which said compensation shall be paid by the Superintendent of Common Schools, by his warrant drawn upon the State Treasurer, in half-yearly instalments, if desired, and shall be deducted from the amount of the State appropriation, to be paid the several school districts for said county.

Sec. 41. That it shall be the duty of the President and Secretary of the triennial convention of directors, to certify to the Superintendent of Common Schools the names of the candidates for the office of County Superintendent, and to certify to the Superintendent of Common Schools the names of the candidates for the office of County Superintendent, and to certify to the Superintendent of Common Schools the names of the candidates for the office of County Superintendent, and to certify to the Superintendent of Common Schools the names of the candidates for the office of County Superintendent.

Sec. 42. That County Superintendents shall annually on or before the first Monday of June, forward to the Superintendent of Common Schools reports of the several school districts of their respective counties, and shall also themselves make an extended report of the condition of the schools under their charge, suggesting such improvements in the school system as they may deem useful, and giving such other information in regard to the practical operation of common schools, and the laws relating thereto, as may be deemed of public interest.

Speculations on the Future of Cuba.

A letter dated Madrid, April 21st, to the London Times, says: Last night, in the saloon of an ex-Minister, an idle report, which obtained no credit, of hostilities being imminent between Spain and the United States, brought on a discussion as to the probable consequences of such a struggle, especially in regard to the island of Cuba.

It is stated that Lewis Cass, Jr. is about to be married at Rome, to the daughter of Henry Ludlow, Esq., of New York.

Wheat is now selling in Louisville at one dollar and fifty cents per bushel, the highest price ever obtained before.

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An English jury in a criminal case is said to have brought in the following verdict:—Guilty, with some little doubt as to whether he is the man.

The contributions to the English Wesleyan Missionary Society for the year 1854 amount to about \$573,000, being an increase on the preceding year of about \$45,000.

Hon. Joseph L. White has purchased the farm formerly belonging to a Peninsular Officer on the side of Otego Lake, in the vicinity of Cooperstown, and is about to erect a summer residence thereon.

A destructive fire occurred on the morning of the 18th inst., in Richmond, which destroyed among other property a dwelling house belonging to General Scott. It was unoccupied at the time, and was evidently the work of an incendiary. His loss was covered by an insurance of \$5,000.

TRADE OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—During the year 1853, 827 American vessels touched at the islands, of which 500 were whalers, and 127 merchantmen. The tonnage of the latter amounted to 45,285 tons.

THE WHEELING BRIDGE.

The Right Hon. Dr. Wainwright, Bishop of New York, is generally known as the author of the following letter to the Rev. Mr. Whipple, in relation to the rebuilding of the Wheeling Bridge.

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ERIC CITY OBSERVER.

ERIC, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1854.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR: WILLIAM BIGLER, Of Clearfield County. JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT: JEREMIAH S. BLACK, Of Somerset County. FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER: HENRY S. MOTT, Of Pike County.

DR. H. M. DAVIS, late from Virginia, proposes to spend a few months in the counties of Erie, Crawford, Warren, Mercer and Lawrence for the benefit of those suffering Cancer and Sore Eyes, Club Feet, and other diseases requiring skillful surgery. He comes very well recommended and solicits a share of the public patronage.

City of Erie vs. Erie & North East Railroad. The Supreme Court of the State have fixed up on the first Monday of June for closing the testimony in this case, and the second Monday for hearing the arguments in the case. We congratulate our citizens upon the prospect of an early settlement of this long pending question. That all will cordially acquiesce in the decision of the Court there is not a doubt, for notwithstanding the great amount of work that has been expended in cursing us for our illegal acts no Court think heaven has yet decided that the course of the authorities of the City of Erie, or of the township of Harborcreek was illegal, and we have no fears that any Court will say so.

In another column will be found a synopsis of the new law regulating the Common Schools of the State. Its provisions are generally pretty well spoken of by those who are "puffed" in the wants of that department. We are not sufficiently familiar with the form of law to point out the difference and exhibit the advantage of the new law over the old, but all concede that the election of Superintendents by the directors will result in great benefit to the system. If properly carried out, we presume it will, but if it is suffered to run into politics, as it undoubtedly will, we are not so sanguine of its benefits. So long as men are selected for their merit instead of their creed it will do, but when that is departed from it might easily prove a curse instead of a blessing. A fair trial of the law, however, will be the best test of its utility.

We understand that the "powers that be" in the matter have announced the death of the Erie City Railroad. Well, inasmuch as there were only about a "bakers dozen" in this community who ever had the least notion of its living, we presume but few will be astonished at the disease. Of course we cannot tell what has been affected or attempted by this effort at humbugging the people. One thing is certain however, that those men who have been put to expense and trouble along the located line of the Road will long hesitate before acknowledging that they have been honest or honorably dealt with. What the people in New York think who were expecting a connection with the proposed Erie City and its present management. We watched its birth, and knowing its parentage proclaimed an early death certain. Let's have the first move of the next game.

Judge Pollock, we learn, intends to devote his time and energies to the political contest as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made for that purpose. Col. Curtin will accompany him in his tour through the State. We learn further from the same source, that it is the desire of Judge Pollock that Gov. Bigler should meet him on the stump, and discuss with him before the people the politics of the day. And before Governor Bigler would have time to administer more or two or three prescriptions to Judge Pollock, to cure him and his friends of their presumption, the whole Whig Press would be wild with indignation at the idea of a candidate taking a long electioneering tour, neglecting official duty and receiving a salary. In this sense should Governor Bigler attempt anything of the kind, our Whig brethren would be delighted indeed.

An extended reply to the wanton attack of the Buffalo Express upon M. B. Lowry, of this place, and upon some of his long since dead ancestry, will be found in our columns of to-day. It is not our intention to say anything upon the facts in controversy, for he they as they may, we look upon the thing as none the less irreparable. It is very plain, we think, that the Editor of the Express is but the donkey and his paper the vehicle in which the filth of certain others is conveyed. Therefore, when we say to the said Editor, that the next time he makes a fool of himself to be sure to get into the hands of decent men, we have said all that he probably needs for the present. To that man who recently visited Philadelphia from this City, to obtain the shadow of a base for the foul publication of the Express, and to those his colleagues who neared around him and enjoy his periodical monomania for dirty work, we have a few words more. Gentlemen, (and its only for a convenient form of address that we style you thus,) what do you expect from conduct so revolting and unmanly. Is it to gratify a petty malice, or do you imagine that perhaps by dragging some one or two down to your own level you might by probability appear to a little advantage. If you indulge such a hope, we can tell you, you were not mistaken when you supposed that by shooting one or two citizens "down like dogs" the remainder would tamely submit. We say much desired, if the way to repair a shattered character in Erie County is by violating the sacredness of the grave, and with demagogic joy scattering its quiet ashes to the winds. Hitherto, the infamy of a selfish for such violence has been enjoyed by the wolf or hyena, and we pray you don't form us to do that catalogue the same of evildoers man. Besides, if you unsuccessfully attacking a living man, what is there but the barest brutality in following a corpse. Suppose that the men referred to, in the early part of this century, did do wrong in not leaving their all upon the first sight of a man with a bit of paper in his hand, and take to the wilderness again with their wives and little ones; what man of sense or honor would hold their children responsible for the fault? We can't think that a second thought will be given to the thing, or it would have been repaired a shattered character in Erie County is by violating the sacredness of the grave, and with demagogic joy scattering its quiet ashes to the winds.

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The following letter from the celebrated Dr. James C. Ayer, gives the honest side of the Nostrum question. Since the Public will use these remedies we wish for the sake of suffering humanity there were more of them like his (Nervy Peroral Cathartic and Pills, which require no secrecy to make them good.

Lowell, 29th April, 1854. Messrs. Ayer & Co., New York City. GENTLEMEN:—Four of the 25d cent, tablets, sent me to join in a combination to put down the Ohio Nostrum Bill, come daily to hand. I cannot see any reason for the following reasons: The law requiring that the composition shall be published, of every medicine sold in the State, cannot result to the injury of anybody who deserves protection. I have published the recipe of my medicine for fifteen years, and believe this to be the best way of making their true value known to the community. The Medical Profession publish their discoveries to the world as soon as made, for the benefit of all mankind. Why should we not do the same? If we do not, we are guilty of a crime against humanity. If we do not, we are guilty of a crime against humanity. If we do not, we are guilty of a crime against humanity.

Governor Bigler's Veto.

For a year or so past it has been the habit of a certain interest in and about this section of the State to represent her as but wax in the hands of the worker, whenever her authorities were touched in the "right spot." That certain appliances would invariably accomplish certain ends, irrespective of the claims of patriotism or other duty. Some of us, too sensitive, and from the boldness and frequency of the charge, fearing that the good old Commonwealth was about to be delivered into the hands of the Philistines, shorn of her beauty and her strength, have been tempted almost to leave her borders for a season. But a moment's thought taught us the rank injustice we were doing another. In our extreme solicitude we had forgotten, for the instant, that WILLIAM BIGLER was Governor of Pennsylvania. The past winter, that while his hand holds the helm, the course of our glorious old Ship of State is to be only onward. When Gov. Bigler telegraphed the citizens of Erie that "his sympathies were with them," the "right" contained the spirit of what is presented in the statesmanlike document on our first page. If it's a man's previous high executive career could have been by any possibility blotted from history, this one act of itself would have fallen little short of placing him in the same elevated position in the minds of his fellow citizens. We only wish that we could adequately express all the feelings that crowded upon us while reading the document referred to. To the people of Erie County every word has a peculiar charm and value. The great struggle through which we have recently passed was based upon the same eternal principles of justice and equality; and to find so able an advocate as Governor Bigler, directly or indirectly, will, no doubt take a deep hold upon the gratitude of all. It would be useless, probably, to say that we most heartily concur in all the sentiments expressed by his Excellency in his message; for wherever an idea of right or wrong in government has an existence, there will be fully appreciated the wisdom of the paper.

The principle that corporations should be watched with a jealous eye cannot be too often presented to the consideration of this country. With other free countries, during the past history of the world, the danger was from the evil genius of some one successful man. With us, we apprehend a great, if not the greatest danger, to our institutions and happiness is to be expected from the efforts of legally associated men, armed with all the corrupting influences of money and preferment. Every blow that strikes at the semblance of such a fearful consummation, is a blow struck for freedom, and deserves the warmest commendation. The doctrine, that a bit of parchment given for some specific purpose to three or four men, necessarily conveys "the divine right of kings" to lay on and spare not, disregarding every tie of friendship or claim of duty, has never yet been found its way into an American law-book, and we know never for an instant into a true American heart.

Every man in the State should read the veto of the bill proposing to make a distinction between corporations and citizens, in favor of the former; and if after so doing each one does not respond a hearty amen, then with the prophet of old will we exclaim, "alas, this people perish for lack of knowledge!"

The disappointment and vexation of our eastern adversaries at the arrangements about to be concluded between the Sunbury and Erie and Western Railroads, begins to manifest itself quite plainly. The Buffalo Express, which appears to be peculiar organ of all Railroads, leads off with about three columns of abuse of one kind and another. In the wake follows the Railroad Constitution of this city, which shows quite plainly that the owners of the charter of the Erie City road are turning their attention to carrying that road across Crawford if it is possible, instead of bringing it here, as their charter promises, because they were not permitted to carry out their grand money-making schemes, to the utter ruin of our City.

They commenced the fight and, like all bragging bullies, have come out second best, and all they have to do now is to abide the consequences. In about four weeks we shall have a decision from our Supreme Court, which will pretty effectually lay out what is left of them. Mark the prediction!

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Death-bed Repentance.

The Cleveland Herald which for the last six months has plunged and wallowed in the very bottom of scurrility, to find language sufficiently low to apply to this city and its citizens,—whose lying, slanderous articles have been copied and re-copied over the whole country, and who never, from the commencement of our troubles to the end, published one word of truth with regard to us, although they knew it, are now making a death-bed repentance after the following style: "The mutual advantages and concessions of the settlement are obvious. Philadelphia, Erie and Cleveland have special cause for congratulation in the important aid thus secured for the construction of the Sunbury Road. This will open a valuable line of travel and trade, and the arrangement made so interlaces the interests of the three cities named as to make this great line at once a bond of harmony and union. We have always urged that the cities of the Lake Shore must depend, for their increase of lake commerce and local trade, rather upon their railroad connections with the interior, than upon the East and West through roads. The history of our own city is proof of this. The Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati Roads with all their interior connections, have brought to us the unbounded mineral and agricultural resources of the State, and have opened to our merchants an immense and increasing trade. It is important to state in this connection that the passenger business of the lake has ceased to be profitable. The line of boats running between Cleveland and Buffalo during the season of 1853 was sustained at a heavy loss. The same was true of the Mandukey and Buffalo lines. This state of facts, it may be confidently predicted that the Erie and Sunbury Road will open to the city of Erie an era of prosperity. NONE CAN DISPUTE THE EXCELLENCE OF HER HARBOR AND OTHER COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES; but, like all other lake cities, she must depend upon her means of communication with the interior for her trade and commerce."

Isn't that nice talk? Take up the files of that paper last winter and compare their language with the above and what conclusion would one come to? Our harbor has not altered, our position on railroad questions has not been changed, our population is the same, and yet that most scurrilous of all sheets (except the New York Times) has found reason to cease its clamors against us, and even to sing praises to the "excellence of our harbor" and our "other commercial advantages," and to put us on the back and say "good boy, we tried to cut your throat from ear to ear, but you were too many for us,—we tried to blot out of existence even your name, but hydr-headed like, it still stands above us with the same determined look,—we proclaimed that your name was a 'by-word and a reproach throughout the land and stank in the nostrils of the whole people,' but you have most gloriously proved us a liar and finally and manfully sustained your dignity, and proved, even to us that you are worthy a place on the face of the earth." Beautiful indeed! When we told the Herald and the West that it was for their benefit as well as our own that we were contending,—when we showed them by arguments clear and unanswerable, that we were not wrong, but contending for what was right to us and to them,—when we proved conclusively that we were only trying to keep the halt off the neck of our last hope for commercial importance, the Sunbury and Erie railroad, did they discover then that "Cleveland and Erie, and Philadelphia" were to become twin sisters, to belong to the same family, and to be benefited alike by the construction of this great trunk line, no. It is only when we have stood up and taken from them the rod with which they were scourging us,—when we have triumphed, gloriously triumphed over the whole race, that they are brought to see our excellencies. Only when we have sent their great men to our legislature on their knees, praying that they might be forgiven for past offenses and making good promises for the future ere they could obtain a pardon, that this beautiful Herald has discovered so much virtue in us and such advantages from unanimity, harmony and good feeling between "sister cities of the Lakes."

Now, we can only say that we want none of this. We are not believers in "death-bed repentance." There is no virtue in an acknowledgment that is forced out and much less in articles of the above stamp from the Cleveland Herald, or from any of the rest of the slanderers of Erie. Whatever advantages we have by the late law we have got with our own hands and the help of such friends as we could call to our assistance within the State, and to those and ourselves do we ascribe all the benefits that may accrue to us and to others. We know that Cleveland and the whole West will be benefited by the opening of another and a better channel to the seaboard, but we don't know it any better now than we did last winter, neither does the Cleveland Herald. In conclusion, we would say to the Herald and the balance of the pack that have been harassing us for the past six months, we want none of your sympathy, none of your praises, none of "kissing and making up." The good will of a dog is better than the ill, but the good or ill will of the whole tribe of brutes of the railroad press amounts to nothing, in the opinion of the citizens of the city of Erie. We want no "death-bed repentances."

TRUE AS PREACHING.—The Germantown Telegraph, in speaking of the price of Newspapers says: "Newspapers of the size of the Observer, ought not to be published under three dollars per annum, and that should be paid each of the contributors of each year. At the present price not a single cent is received as profit—every dollar of subscription money being demanded to meet the expenses of publication. There is not a mechanic or manufacturer of any kind, who has not increased the prices of his labor and productions, and why should not we—the last people in the world to suffer to be uncompensated, if justice had its course—be left to eke out a miserable business existence for a want of a little spirit and firmness to assert our right to be compensated, according to the graduated scale of the times?"

Den Stone's Circus will be here on next Tuesday, and we expect everybody will go. If it ain't better than that last hump of a caravan that attempted to show here it may as well not put up the tent. We shall all have to go and see.

REGATTA.—Two thirty-foot row boats, the Anna Rocca and the Lucy, owned in this village had a contest of speed on Chautauque Lake on Monday last. The distance was one mile and a half and return. The lower boat was at Flanagan, and the upper at the head of Grass Island. The Rocca has four 13 foot oars, and the Lucy six 9 foot oars. The Lake was quite rough, yet the boats started at the signal. The Lucy led a brisk on the upward passage, but lost ground in making the circuit of the island, so that the Rocca was nearly even on the start; the return. The Lucy gained gradually upon her competitor and led in by a short distance. The victory was well contested, and we were in good spirit.

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Eric War—Hereditary Ancestry.

To the Editor of the Buffalo Express. Eric, May 26th, 1854. Sir—In an editorial in your paper of yesterday, indulging in the most wanton abuse of the name of Pennsylvania generally and of Erie's particular, you set forth the following language: "The storm has subsided, and Erie has yielded to the counsel in permitting the connection between the Erie and the West for the territory of Pennsylvania."

"Now if 'this storm has subsided'—with what propriety I shall not complain. The surviving one of our ancestors is not to be held responsible for the sins of his fathers, and it is not our present purpose to show that, if we have brought, or are bringing against us, a character we have no foundation in truth. When you labor for 'free tickets,' have demanded their reputation to eternal infamy by assuming names, and by misrepresenting tools as slaves so that no man should be reasonable or generous in the repetition of one of the enjoyments of life before they pass on the stage of this world, I shall not complain. The surviving one of our ancestors is not to be held responsible for the sins of his fathers, and it is not our present purpose to show that, if we have brought, or are bringing against us, a character we have no foundation in truth. 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