ERIE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

SLOAN & MOORE, PUBLISHERS. | $1 50 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE. | B. F. SLOAN, EDITOR.

VOLUME 29. | ERIE, SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 1858. | NUMBER 10.

THE ERIE OBSERVER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

B. F. SLOAN AND M. M. MOORE.

OFFICE OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.

B. F. SLOAN, Editor.

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SPEECH OF SENATOR BIGLER

AT THE

DEMOCRATIC CELEBRATION, IN PHILADELPHIA, JULY 5, 1857.

MR PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS—You can scarcely imagine my deep embarrassment at being required to address you, after the delivery of so eloquent and cogent an oration as that to which you have just listened. Seldom has there been presented in the same space so much historic and political truth. I have listened to its delivery, as doubtless you have, with much interest and pleasure

Were I, on this occasion, to consult my own feelings, I should confine my remarks strictly to the occasion which has brought us together, to the events of the day we commemorate—and their mighty consequences. I should be glad to notice the noble deeds of our forefathers, to whom we are indebted for the inestimable institutions under which we live It would be pleasant too to trace the career of our country from the days of the Revolution—to dwell upon its unprecedented progress in all that gives glory and greatness to a nation,—to mark, with mingled wonder and admiration, the steps by which thirteen feeble colonies have expanded into thirty-two great sovereign States

But, fellow citizens, a different task has been assigned to me The eloquent gentleman who has just addressed you spoke of the value of our great National Union. I may have something to say to you about the *importance of a union of* the Democracy for the sake of the Union of the States (Applause)

As one who has just returned from the scene of his labors as your public servant, it seems proper that I should make a brief reference to some of the topics which are at present of great political interest, and while referring to questions which have engaged the attention of Congress, give an account, to some extent, of my stewardship

There are many topics to which I could wish to allude, but time will allow me to notice only one or two; and the first of thes is the endless question of Kansas I regret that it should be my duty to to allude to a topic so threadworn; but I shall not dwell on it at much length Its character and its history are familiar to all, and the issues which it raised are rapidly passing away I shall notice only a point or two about which Democrats have differed most.

So far as concerns my own official connection with this vexatious subject, I have only to say that after much reflection, I adopted that course which seemed to me most likely to promote the peace and welfare not only of Kansas, but of the whole country, and, especially, to allay, for a time, if not permanently, the agitation about slavery (Applause.) The prompt admission of the Territory as a State, as urged by Mr. Buchanan, though by no means free from difficulty, seemed best calculated to accomplish these ends.

This policy was the more acceptable, because, to my mind, it was most in accordance with the principles previously avowed by the Democratic party and with the spirit of the Organic Act of the Territory In addition to the words of the law, it had been our constant party boast that the people of the Territory should be left "perfectly free, to form and regulate their own domestic institutions in their own way," and that the Territory should be admitted as a State [illegible] might provide at the time of the application for admission The application from Lecompton, being regular, and coming up to Congress through legitimate channels, was manifestly the one which we were pledged to acknowledge, and nothing could be clearer than that the people could make a Constitution preparatory to such application in any mode they please.

But these views, so clear to my own mind, became the ground of unpleasant differences among Democrats, and it is for this reason that I make special reference to that part of the subject on this occasion

Many Democrats, now familiarly known as "Anti-Lecompton men," maintained a very different opinion. They contended that the application of the Lecompton Convention was not the one we were bound to respect—that it was not made in accordance with the spirit of the Organic Act or the principles of popular sovereignty, because the entire Constitution had not been submitted to a vote of the people; and they have made this difference a ground of special hostility to the policy of the President Doubtless most of them were sincere and honest in this difference; but they were evidently mistaken, and had fallen into a "fundamental error" as to the effect of the doctrines they maintained, and, instead of being, as they claim, the advocates of the largest liberty to the people, they have been contending for a palpable restriction upon popular rights, for a degree of intervention utterly inadmissible under the Democratic creed It was certainly very proper for citizens of Kansas to insist on the opportunity to vote on their Constitution, if they preferred to do so; and their right to do this could not be questioned. But it is monstrous to contend that the people of other States, through their representatives in Congress, have the right to interpose the omission of this form against the admission of the new State into the Union —to lay it down as a principle that an incipient State may be kept out of the Union because of the mode in which its Constitution has been made—because it had not been voted upon by the people. I deny *in toto* the right of the people of one State thus to dictate to those of another The people of Pennsylvania, for instance, have no right to deny to the people of Kansas admission into the Union because the Constitution with which they present themselves, has not been formed and adopted through a particular process. There could be no higher degree of interference than this—no more vexatious encroachment upon the sovereign rights of a people. Such doctrine, were it recognized and practiced, would subvert the most cherished rights of the States and lead to endless contentions amongst them And this is the principle, for which our Anti-Lecompton friends, in their too eager difference with the Administration, have virtually maintained.

Now the people of Kansas either had the right to form and adopt a Constitution and State Government, or they had not. Their right to do this was conceded by all, and the mode in which they commenced the work of getting up a Constitution and State Government, had the sanction of all the men officially connected with the subject at the time Having, then, the right to do this thing, no one will deny that it was competent for them to do it in "their own way" They could form and adopt a Constitution and State Government through the agency of delegates in convention, or they could authorize delegates to form a Constitution to be ratified by the people at the polls The Convention had adopted the former mode Either mode is consistent with the doctrine of popular sovereignty and the spirit of the organic act; and either a good way of making a Constitution Pennsylvania has practiced both modes—the former in 1791, when she made her second Constitution; the latter in 1838, when her amended Constitution was submitted to a vote of the people She has been prosperous and happy as a sovereign State under the results of both. Many of the other States of the Union have done the same thing Some have adopted parts of their Constitution by delegates, and submitted a part to the approval of the people, as did the Convention in Kansas A large majority of the States were admitted into the Union under Constitutions which had never been submitted for the sanction of the people. How unjust it would seem for those States, at this day, to lay it down as a rule that the mode in which they made their Constitutions, and under which they became members of the Confederacy, should, if practiced by the new States, keep them out of the Union; in other words, that the new States should be punished for following the example of the old ones. The idea would seem to be absurd I was of those who felt required to give the people of Kansas the same rights that had been exercised by the people of other States—just that high degree of sovereign power which the people of Pennsylvania had so often exercised. No one objected to the submission of the Constitution of Kansas to a vote of the people; but when the Convention, regularly selected, with full authority over the question, had decided otherwise, what right had we, not of the Territory, to complain? and what remedy could we apply? We had no right to interfere It was their concern, and theirs only.

Nor will it do to pretend that Congress had the right to interpose between the people of the Territory and their local representatives, on the plea that the delegates had acted in bad faith to their constituents. This doctrine, if acknowledged and practiced, would break up the very foundations of our representative system and subvert the sovereignty of the States

It is apparent, therefore, that our Anti Lecompton friends are utterly mistaken when they rate themselves the peculiar advocates of popular rights. Whatever they may intend, their theory would have the reverse effect It would impose a most unjust restriction upon the rights of the people of the Territories.

But enough as to the question itself My main object, was to speak of the effects of this unhappy imbroglio, upon the future harmony and ascendancy of the Democatic party

It is too obvious that the old enemies of our noble party have already counted *on our* dissensions as a principal means of *their* success, in the future They are talking confidently of a triumph in 1860, with no other capital that I can see, than discords in the ranks of the Democracy How far their expectations are to be realized will depend, therefore, quite as much on us, as on them If the Democracy be united, then the hopes of the enemy will be vain; if we divide, then they may conquor. But I can see no sufficient reason for the ecstacies of the opposition about divisions in our ranks. They may be "counting without their host" They should not be too credulous in judging by appearances—they have often been deluded by them, and it would not surprise me if they should be again. They are in the habit of carrying the elections before the day of voting: and especially of mis understanding our family feuds. A lamented member of the old Whig party—Michael Dan Maghehan—used to understand Democratic dissensions better I shall never forget the remark of that gentleman on the occasion of a stormy State Convention at Harrisburg When the most violent scenes were witnessed in that body, and when the Whigs were delighted with the *row*, Michael Dan was seen to note the performances with the gravity of despair, and when asked what was the matter, he replied: "There is matter enough. I never knew the Democrats to commence a canvass by a fight amongst them. selves that they did not lick the Whigs to death."

And why should not the Democratic party be united and triumphant as heretofore? What reason is there for separation? True, we hear it said in a spirit of complaint that the President has made some mistakes in selecting his officers That may be so; but who that ever made appointments did not make mistakes? The wisest men of the nation have not been infallible in this particular Gen Jackson probably made more mistakes in his appointments than Mr Buchanan; and were George Washington President at this day, with the countless applications that would be before him, he could not escape complaints similar to those made against Mr Buchanan

Then again, it is said, there are many of Mr Buchanan's "original friends" who have received no appointments. That is doubtless true; but the fault is theirs, and not his [Laughter] There are too many of them [Renewed laughter] Had there been no more "original friends" than there are offices to fill, then the President might have come to this standard; but as it is, the thing is impracticable. Men are generally prepared to conclude that the President has made a very grave mistake, when they themselves are not appointed. [Laughter.] I am sure I always think him greatly in error when he refuses to appoint the man I recommend; [renewed laughter,] but he does that so often that it is useless to complain. The truth is, that the President has a peculiar inclination to do as he pleases on these questions, and take the responsibility — [Laughter] This one thing is universally conceded—he is eminently the President. His will usually controls great matters as well as small ones.

But what are these appointments compared with the higher duties of his station? Democrats, bound together by great principles for patriotic purposes, will never separate because of appointments or disappointments They will look to the settlement of the Mormon question by the President, to his prompt disposition of the Kansas imbroglio; and to his vigorous resentment of the indignities offered to our flag by the British Government—the settlement in a few short weeks of the long deferred question of the right of search. Who does not believe that the fact that Mr. Buchanan is President had much to do with the prompt adjustment of this complicated question? For one, I think it had — British statesmen know him well, and they were satisfied from the beginning that they would have to come up to the point of his doctrine; and they did so without hesitation

And I again ask, why should not the Democracy be united? The question of admitting Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution is a past issue. As to it, the struggle has terminated The position of our party has been taken, and the responsibilities of that measure, whatever they may be, are upon us. Whatever else remains is for the people of Kansas; and however they may decide, the consequences must be upon themselves, and all others should be content. Nine tenths, or more, of our party in Congress, with the Democratic Administration in the lead, have made a disposition of this question; and it would not seem unreasonable that the minority should be expected to acquiesce in and sustain that disposition, and share the responsibilities it may impose,

They *should* do this; and they *will* do it, if they intend to be of the party and for it in the future. Many Democrats thought the repeal of the Missouri line an unwise measure; but when the majority had decided, they sustained the decision. [Loud applause.]

It is not to be expected that Democrats will unsay what they have heretofore said in favor of a different policy; but it is expected that they will sustain what has been done by the majority. (Cheers.) Difference of opinion amongst Democrats as to men and measures, is no uncommon thing; but it has always been conceded to the majority to decide the points of difference, and to fix the position of the party. This is the case in selecting candidates for office, and also in determining the peculiar sentiments which such candidates are to represent. When those differences are once adjusted by the voice of the majority in our Conventions, it is expected that the minority will acquiesce. (Applause.) In adjusting the differences about the admission of Kansas, the Democratic Congress, with Mr. Buchanan in the lead, was the organ of the party. That organ has decided, and the minority should be content.

True, all men have a right to leave the party and join the enemy, if they feel required to do so by a sense of duty to the country. If any of our Anti-Lecompton friends think that the Democratic party, because of its action on the Kansas question, is a worse party than the Republican, they have a right to leave us and join the latter. But, as the minority, they cannot claim to control or proscribe the majority. (Applause.)

But what is this Kansas measure, that it should drive men from the Democratic party? What is there in it so offensive in principle or unjust in practice, that it cannot be tolerated? Viewed in a single glance, what does it amount to? Why simply this: after a struggle of four months on the proposition to admit Kansas as a State, it was determined, in accepting her under the Constitution which she had presented, to extend to her people the opportunity of deciding for themselves, at the polls, whether they would become a State or not, on the conditions proposed. This is the head and front of the offence, if there be any. (Applause.) Surely, no Democrat will leave his party for a reason like this! The people of Kansas are to decide by vote whether they will become a State or remain a Territory; and we are told that, because this is the measure of a Democratic Administration, the friends of popular sovereignty will leave the party! (Laughter) I do not believe they will do any such thing Some of the leaders may, for other reasons, and make this the pretext; but the masses will not "The sober second tho't" will bring them back to the Democratic fold; and they will be of the party and for it, as heretofore. They will go for Union of the Democracy, for the sake of a Union of the States (Applause)

Nor should any decision which the people of Kansas may make, affect the future harmony of our party Whatever the decision may be, it will relate wholly to the local affairs of that Territory, and should be satisfactory to the people of other States.

I was among those who voted for the absolute admission of the Territory, as the best means of giving peace to the country. Whatever others may think, I am now more than ever satisfied that, had that policy been adopted, the feud about Kansas would, *ere* this, have been ended forever Enough has recently transpired in the Territory to warrant this belief. The fact that many of those who originally opposed the Lecompton Constitution, are now making active efforts in favor of its acceptance as proposed by Congress, is sufficient evidence to justify this opinion, as it is also, that the wrong doings of the Lecompton Convention were magnified for *mere partizan ends* But enough on this topic, and I wish to notice one other.

It is obvious Mr. President, that this question of admitting Kansas into the Union is not the only one which is to enter into the coming election There is another topic which is doubtless to have an important bearing, and to which, therefore, I wish to make allusion. I shall do so, not so much because it is a party question. [illegible] *our whole people.* It is, in the main, a Pennsylvania question; and I am not of those who would drag it into the partisan arena. But it is evident that our opponents intend to do this. I have reference to the question of the tariff — They intend to draw this question into the next election, and, if possible to turn it to political account Efforts are now made daily to convert the present depressed and distressed state of the country, not of one branch industry, but of all, into political capital—into an element of discontent with the Democratic party. The first effort seems to be to create the impression, if possible, in the popular mind that the present depression in business is the result of the Democratic policy on the subject of the tariff—that the revulsion under which we are suffering was brought about by a change of the rates of duties in March, 1857.

For my own part, I have no fear as to the effect of this effort upon the popular mind. No such deception as this can avail any party. In the first place, the allegation is without truth or reason; and in the next place, if it were true, the Republican party would have no right to turn it to their advantage, for a majority of their men in Congress voted for the present tariff.—But practical results and stubborn facts will put to rest the absurd allegation. The seeds of the prostration were widely sown long before the tariff was touched The revulsion was the natural and inevitable consequence of an unguarded expansion of business and credit. The business energies of our country and of other countries had been stretched to a dangerous extent long before Wholesome enterprise had given way to visionary speculation, the banks had become expanded beyond their means; merchants and business men were involved to such an extent that all the tariffs on earth could not have averted the blow. The revulsion extended simultaneously over all parts of our country, and of the civilized world How, then, could it be the consequence of a change in our impost duties?—How, then, could it come from a cause which we are told reaches one interest only? I can understand how the revenue laws of this country might be so framed as to affect injuriously particular branches of industry in this country, and so as to give an advantage to competing branches of industry in other countries; but I cannot understand how the same regulation can prostrate the same interests in both countries. This prostration in business was common to the whole Union: the farmer and the merchant suffer quite as much as the manufacturer and the miner.

The truth is, the operations of the tariff are difficult to trace Nearly every leading principle that is laid down on the subject has been contradicted by experience. For instance, there would seem to be no truer proposition than that a reduction of the rate of duty would increase foreign imports, and that a high tariff would keep out foreign goods. And yet, in the face of this theory, we have seen the reduction of the tariff, in 1857, followed by an immense reduction in the amount of imports—to such an extent, indeed, that the imports for 1858, under the reduced tariff, will probably not exceed fifty per cent on the amount imported in 1856, under a higher rate of duties.

I know it will be said in reply, that the reduction in the amount of imports was the consequence of the depressed condition of commerce and general business. And this is true; but what does all this go to show? Simply, that what the Democrats have told the protectionists from the beginning, is true—that the influence of a reasonable tariff on the amount of imports is only secondary and subordinate, not a controlling influence, and that it is always subject to the impulses of commerce and trade and of monetary affairs The history of the tariff proves this; for we have often had the largest excess of importations under the highest rate of duty.—But in the face of this experience, men will talk about the rate of duty as having a direct and reliable effect upon the interests of the American manufacturer. This is not candid in any man or party, and can only serve to mislead and deceive Those who talk about a high tariff as a panacea for all ills of the manufacturers, trifle with a great question.

I do not mean to say, by any means, that the rate of duty has no effect so far as regards the encouragement of home industry. I believe that it has an influence under almost any circumstance, and at times a very important influence; but it is by no means controlling, by no means reliable.

Nor do I mean to be misunderstood in what I have said on this subject. I am not against an increase of the tariff just so often and to such an extent as the necessities of the government may require. I believe that the Democratic doctrine of a tariff for revenue, with such incidental aid to home manufactures as may result from a reasonable discrimination in their favor, is the wisest policy that can be adopted—(applause)—the only policy that can be permanent—the best policy for the manufacturers themselves. (Great applause.) But it would seem that we are to have the exploded dogma of a dead party—"protection for the sake of protection"—and with it the whole tariff question are to be drawn into the partisan arena. For what purpose? For the purpose of securing increased rates of duty to help the manufacturers? Sir, that *may* be the way to effect the object, and it may be the motive of all, but I do not believe it is I believe that it would be the true interest of the manufacturers of this country to keep this question out of the partisan contest, if possible The enemies of the Democracy in this State intend to use it for partisan purposes and nothing else

At present the incomes of the Government are insufficient; the revenue is not equal to the expenditures: and to my mind that is a conclusive reason for increasing the rate and extending the range of the tariff. I have no hesitation in saying that I prefer an increase of duties to an increase of the public debt; for I am in favor of raising the revenues of the Government by means of impost duties Congress, at its next session, ought to readjust the tariff in such way as to meet the demands of the treasury; and in doing that, due regard should be had to the welfare of great home interests—such as are peculiar to our country and to the habits of our people; for instance iron, the raw material of which we have in inexhaustible abundance, as we have of the skill and the capital to manufacture it, and there is no reason, therefore, why we should not produce enough to supply the demand, and, by home competition, do justice to the consumer.

Nor can I see any objection in principle to a specific duty on an article of the same value under the same name, like iron It is the misapplication of the specific principle, as in the act of 1842, that renders it odious and unjust, exacting a higher per cent of taxation from the consumer of the coarse article than from the consumer of the fine; but where articles of the same quality and value are known by the same name, this is not the effect.

I say, also, that so far as home production can be stimulated, with due respect to the rights of other interests, it ought to be done I cannot understand why any man should entertain any other feeling I have seen it announced that your Senator from this State is a free trade man. And why? Because he voted for a duty of 24 per cent on iron. (Laughter.) That is singular logic; your Representative a free trade man because he voted for a tariff! (Renewed laughter.) I am not for free trade, but for raising the revenue of the Government [illegible] ject of a tariff; but in adjusting the rate of duties, I would consider the interests of the producer and consumer, and the relations of capital and labor, and while taking care that capital should make its full contribution to the Treasury by taxing luxuries at a high rate, I would extend every possible stimulant to our manufacturing operations.

I was by no means satisfied with the adjustment of the tariff in March, 1857 I resisted and voted against the Senate bill throughout — I did so on the ground that it seemed like an impulsive and inconsiderate change of a policy which had been succeeding very well. I tho't the question deserved more consideration I did vote for the report of the Committee of Conference, because by agreeing to do that I could get the schedule in which iron is found raised from 22 to 24 per cent. It was obvious, too, that a much lower rate could have been carried I thought it prudent to take this for fear of worse Our people must not expect too much. So long as their great staples are kept in the highest class, they have no reason to complain of the arrangement of the duties, though they may of the rate

But, Mr. President, there is another point connected with this subject to which I wish to refer; and that is, the influence which our system of currency necessarily exercises on this business of encouraging manufactures

It is ridiculous for the advocates of an extended system of paper money, inflating credit and nominal values to a destructive extent, as it does to talk about "protection to home interests," "protection to the toiling millions." Mr. President, the manufactures of this country, and the toiling millions, need protection against the operation of fourteen hundred institutions that make paper money, about as much as they do against the manufacturer of foreign goods — (Loud applause and laughter) A system of paper money and inflated prices is utterly at variance with the policy of protecting your home interests The one counteracts the other Our loose system of credit and superabundance of fictitious money beget a spirit of speculation, accompanied with enhanced values, which completely counteracts the effect of any just rate of duty For instance, what does it avail the manufacturer that Congress assesses a duty of 25 per cent. upon the article which he manufactures, if credit and speculation be so unduly stimulated in this country, that all the elements that enter into the production of this article, immediately become enhanced in value to such an extent, that it costs him the additional 25 per cent to produce the article?

The foreign manufacture is not affected He brings in his article, and sells it at 25 per cent increased price, because the home producer was obliged to put it to save himself He can sell and realize the same profits that he did before the duty was assessed

Our great misfortune, Mr. President, is an ungovernable inclination to high prices. We attach undue importance to the mere nominal value of things. It is in this way that we give the manufacturers of other countries undue advantage over us. Our system of currency inflates the prices of every thing; and then, if we have a balance to pay to John Bull or anybody else in Europe, he demands coin—he won't take our paper money; and when the country gets right well in debt, and foreigners call on the importers, and the importers call on the banks, and the banks cannot pay, then we have what is called a "crisis," a "financial crisis;" and then down go your manufacturing establishments, and then the Democracy "catch Jessey." (Laughter and applause.) In this country we will have everything run up to exorbitant rates; men wont understand, that an article of subsistence will maintain life just as long purchased at fifty cents as if it cost a dollar; and in the competition with the world, there is about as much wisdom and success in this policy as there would be in that of the merchant who should attempt to make a fortune by buying with a short yardstick and selling with a longer. (Laughter and cheers.)

But I shall not detain you further with details on this question. My object was simply to declare the views which I entertain, and to reassert my belief that the interests of the manufacturers of this country are far safer in the hands of the Democratic party, under our well known policy of a tariff for revenue, than they would be in the hands of Lawrence, Stone & Co. No man who has been in Congress and understands the feeling which prevails among the representatives from the South and West, will take the hazard of promising much on this question Those States have their rights and their views, and they will stand by them. They conceive that they are consumers of what we produce, and insist that there is to be a standard of equity ascertained between the conflicting interests. So far as I may have the power, within the limits of due regard to the rights of other States, I assure you, as your representative, your rights and interests shall be maintained. (Applause.) I am as much attached to the manufacturing interests of my native State as any man in it. I am much concerned for the welfare of the laboring masses as those who make special pretension to concern for them I know more of them than most men; and I think I know as much of their feelings and sympathies as any, and I respect them; and it is for these reasons that I am in the habit of repelling every attempt to impose upon them false pretensions or false theories (Cheers)

You have a right to consider the effects of the policy of the government, upon your interests, and to carry out your views, as far as you can, through your representatives But let me tell you that, for your individual prosperity and success, you must depend on yourselves. (Applause) The wit of man never devised a more mischievous doctrine than that which certain politicians in this country are attempting to disseminate at this time, to wit: that the mass of the people, mechanics and laborers, are to look to the measures of government for their individual prosperity

We have already witnessed the fruit of this vicious sentiment in the shape of combinations of men in our large cities to demand bread of the Government. Were such a doctrine to be generally received in our country, I should regard it as the very bane of our whole republican system —an endless source of discontent and disloyalty, tending directly to the overthrow of our republican system of government; to give place to anarchy, confusion and agrarianism The people should have all the aid the Government can properly give them; and they should be expected to sustain a party or a man who would not neglect them; but after protection to life, liberty and property, they can have but little protection beside But the people of Pennsylvania are a proud people and a just people They will demand her rights as a member of this Confederacy; they would disdain to ask more; and when this is granted, it will be idle for demagogues to attempt to excite discontent, or raise a whirlwind that they may ride into power on the storm

There is one other topic on which I wish to say but a few words. We see it alleged by the opposition press that the Democratic Administration at Washington is a prodigal one—that the expendatures of the Government are unparalleled Well, Mr. President, the expenses of the Government are very great—greater, perhaps, than they ought to be. But it would puzzle any man to find an instance in which any of these opponents of the Democratic party in Congress voted against any appropriation, unless, it was the wild schemes of expenditure and old claims, you find them constantly in the affirmative.—(Laughter) Why the idea of electing a man like Mr Seward, though talented and worthy of respect as he is, in order to protect the treasury, would excite nothing but laughter amongst those who have witnessed his career He is a leader in the opposition, and he does not hesitate to vote for all kinds of expenditures.

In conclusion, fellow Democrats, let me hope that you will sustain the party organization as heretofore—sustain its principles and nominees. Our State ticket, composed of men worthy of the stations for which they are presented, and competent to fill them, is entitled to your hearty support

[*Senator Bigler retired amid hearty and repeated cheers*]

GEN JAMES H. LANE —This notorious personage is now dead politically as a man can well be, and he has no one to blame for it but himself. He might have maintained his position as the leader of the Free State party of Kansas for a long time if he could have controlled his passions, but this he never could do. His life has been one of bitterness, hatred, and personal difficulties In early life he had a difficulty with Capt T. W Gibson, which resulted in a challenge, but for some reasons they did not fight He next comes in collision with a liquor seller named Smith, and stabs him so that his life was despaired of. The stabbing was done *at night* A short time afterwards he attacks the Hon. James H Cravens *at night*, strikes him in the face, and then runs off to a place of safety He next attacks and strikes a lawyer named Vail, a non-combatant His next difficulty is with Col. E Dumont, one armed with a hatchet, the other with a cane They are separated, and go to Petersburg, Ky, to fight a duel. As usual something turned up to stop the affair before any blood was shed He goes to Mexico, and there had a difficulty with Gen Jos. Lane, in which guns and pistols are shown, but not used. He returns home, persecutes the lawyer Vail, and again attacks him, this time with an iron poker. Vail draws a pistol, presents it at Lane's breast, but not having been properly loaded, it missed fire, and Lane's life is saved. He goes to Congress, attempts to browbeat Mr Hunt of Louisiana, who promptly challenges him. The matter, however, as usual, was "amicably adjusted" He goes to Kansas, where he has several difficulties, ending with his recent murder of a friend and his own adjutant general His political career and moral character would form a chapter about on a par with the above

HOW VIRGIL D PARIS GOT HIS NAME — Everybody remembers how Mr. Frog was induced to call his son after Governor Bull, of Georgia, but the following may be new:

Virgil D. Paris, of Maine, has been appointed naval storekeeper at Portsmouth, N H, vice Redding, removed.

There is a funny story told about the manner in which this Mr Virgil Delphini Paris got his name His father, an honest but unlettered man, on the day of the young gentleman's birth happened to take up an old "Delphini" edition of Virgil, printed in France It being all Latin, except the title page, the old man interested himself with that, after spelling over it for some time, he managed to make out these three words,

"VIRGIL DELPHINI;"
"*Paris*,"

the last being the place of publication.

"Ah," said he, "Paris must be some relation of mine. A mighty smart man he is, too, to have writ sich a whaling big book as this, and all in Greek. I'll name my son arter him."—And so the present worthy bearer of the cumbrous sobriquet was christened. In spite of his name he has held high honors, having been Governor of the State of Maine for four years.

☞ Affectionate wife—"Do you know Mr. Brown, dear?" Husband—"Yes."—"Well, don't you think him a very deserving man?"—"Yes, v-e-r-y deserving. He deserves a good thrashing, and the next time he gallants you home I'll give it to him." Awful pause.

Theory of Thunder-Storms.

In an article on this subject, the *New York Evening Post*, after giving its theory of the cause, thus alludes to some of the freakish effects of lightning:

It is commonly thought that there is more danger from lightning in the country than in cities, but statistics would seem to show a greater number of accidents from lightning in cities than in localities of corresponding size in the country About fifteen years since, in a storm of two hours' duration, lightning struck in thirty different places in this city and suburbs

It is probable that upward of fifty persons are annually killed by lightning in the United States, and it may be truly said that in most cases these deaths are the result of rashness or carelessness on the part of the victims. A great many persons are killed by taking refuge from the rain under the trees in open fields. Their presence renders the tree more liable to be struck because the human body is a better conductor than the tree, and therefore it is safer to get wet than to run the risk consequent upon taking such shelter in a thunder storm

In buildings, the safest position is a horizontal one in the middle of a room, and care should be taken that the body be not placed between two good conductors, such as, for example, a mirror in one room and a stove funnel in the room beneath; because lightning in passing through a building selects the best conductors, and occasions destruction on its way from one good conductor to another Several years since a person was killed while standing in front of a mirror by a discharge of lightning, which passed across the quick silver coating of the glass, thence down the body to the floor, and through that to a stove funnel immediately beneath. Mr. Hatch, of Poughkeepsie, was killed while seated in a chair on the piazza of his house with his head leaning back against the bell knob Persons have been killed while standing at a door or window during a thunder storm A man was killed in West Newton, Massachusetts, some years ago, while sitting between a boiler inside a building, and a lightning rod upon the outside, the discharge leaving the rod and passing thro' his body on its way through the building It is proper to add, that this lightning rod was insulated by glass fastenings, and that there is no reason to doubt the efficacy of lightning rods when they are constructed and applied on proper scientific principles Protecting buildings from lightning like prescribing for a sick person—the success of the prescription in either case depending, under Providence, on the degree of knowledge, skill and experience possessed by the physician

A Real Native

The ignorance of this country among otherwise well informed English folks was curiously illustrated in the case of General W———, (a good fellow, but bogus general,) who visited England a few years ago Having occasion to pass a few days in a provincial town which boasted its literary coterie, he received an invitation through an acquaintance from Miss Blue Stocking to attend a soiree The general, of course, went, and being a fine, handsome, agreeable fellow, [illegible] attention, tapped him plafully with her fan, and said:

"Do you know that you are a naughty man?"

"How so, madam?" asked the general.

"Why, for deceiving us all so; but I shan't tell on you, of course; only every one in the room has not seen as much as I"

The general became nervous, and thought of course that he must have committed some terrible *faux pas*, but as the lady seemed kind and forgiving, he determined to probe the matter.

"My dear lady, I am very sorry if I have been guilty of any dereliction; do tell me that I may apologize."

"O!" said Miss Blue, "it's only pretending to be an American!"

"Pretending to be an American! But I am an American, madam."

"Yes, perhaps you live there; but you are not a native, you know"

"On my honor, madam, a real live native of the great State of New York."

"That will do for the company to think, general," said the literary lady, "and of course I shall not undeceive them; but you must know I had a very distinguished American gentleman, who was a native, to lunch with me this morning, and I was sorry I could not have him to meet you tonight; but he was not at all like you His raven hair curled in such beautiful little ringlets all around his head, and his complexion was dark—very dark—a perfect Othello of a fellow"

"*A nigger, by George*" thought the general; and begging our lady not to expose this little *ruse*, in trying to pass off for an American, he got into a corner and enjoyed his laugh

THE STOLEN BEEF—A RICH JOKE—A Belchertown scribe is responsible for this story, which the *farmers will enjoy about 'killing' time*, and it ought to have been drawn into the Drawer some months ago But better late than never.

"The meanest of all the men in our region is Sol Smith 'You must know that here in the country, when one of the neighbors kills a 'beef creature,' he is expected to send a piece to each one of the families near by, and they return the favor when they kill, and so the thing proves to be about as broad as it is long Now Sol was so mortal stingy that it went hard with him to think of giving away anything, and when he came to kill he was bent upon keeping it all to himself But public sentiment was very strong on the subject, and he would like to keep up a good name and keep his beef besides He spoke gently to his next door neighbor, Johnson, and told him that he thought it was a very foolish plan to be sending meat all over town, and each man had better raise and kill his own. In fact, he was determined to cheat his neighbors out of their meat, if they expected any from him, and save his credit too Johnson suggested to him that if he should have his beef in the barn over night before cutting it up, and then take it to his cellar before daylight, and give out that it had been stolen, the people would lose their expected share, and be very sorry for him besides.—Just it exactly! he would do that very thing.—He killed his beef, hung it up to cool, and went to bed, to rise early and hide it. Johnson and a few friends, before going to bed, went over to Smith's barn, helped themselves to the beef, and divided it share and share alike, leaving but a wee bit for the owner. Smith rose early, and found his meat was gone He rushed over to Johnson's and told the story, in a state bordering on frenzy

"'Good!' says Johnson; 'you do it well.'

"'But it is stole, I tell you!'

"'That's right; stick to it, Sol! Put on that dismal face, *and they'll all believe it!*'

"Smith saw it was no use. He had fallen into his own pit; and went home a poorer, wiser, but, we fear, no better man."—*Harper's Monthly.*

☞ An old bachelor, after his matrimonial failures exclaims: "When I remember all the girls I have met together, I feel like a rooster in the fall, exposed to every weather; I feel like one alone who treads some barn yard all deserted, whose oats are fled, whose hens are dead, and off to the market started."