

Miscellany.

THRILLING ADVENTURE!

An Exploration of the Maelstrom in the Kentucky Cave.

The Louisville Journal contains the following account of a thrilling adventure, the hero of which is understood to be the son of Mr. Prentice: "At the supposed end of what has always been considered the longest avenue of the Mammoth Cave, nine miles from its entrance, there is a pit, dark, and deep, and terrible, known as the Maelstrom. Tens of thousands have gazed into it with awe while Bengal lights were thrown down it to make its fearful depths visible, but none had the daring ever to explore it. The celebrated guide Stephen, who was deemed insensible to fear, was offered six hundred dollars by the proprietors of the Cave if he would descend to the bottom of it; but he shrank from the peril. A few years ago a Tennessee professor, a learned and bold man, resolved to do what no one before him had dared do, and, making his arrangements with care and precaution, he had himself lowered down by a strong rope a hundred feet; but at that point his courage failed him, and he called aloud to be drawn out. No human power could ever have induced him to repeat the appalling experiment. "A couple of weeks ago, however, a young gentleman of Louisville, whose nerves never trembled at mortal peril, being at the Mammoth Cave with Professor Wright of our city, and others, determined, no matter what the dangers and difficulties might be, to explore the depths of the Maelstrom. Mr. Proctor, the enterprising proprietor of the Cave, sent to Nashville and procured a long rope, of great strength, expressly for the purpose. The rope and some necessary timbers were borne by the guides and others to the proposed point of exploration. "The arrangements being soon completed, the rope, with a heavy fragment of rock affixed to it, was let down and swung to and fro to dislodge any loose rocks that would be likely to fall at the touch. "Several were thus dislodged, and the long continued reverberations, rising up like distant thunder from below, proclaimed the depth of the horrid chasm. Then the young hero of the occasion, with several hats thrown over his head to protect it as far as possible against any masses falling from above, and with a light in his hand, and the rope fastened around his body, took his place over the awful pit, and directed the half dozen men who held the end of the rope to let him down into the Cimmerian gloom. "We have heard from his own lips an account of his descent. Occasionally masses of earth and rock went whizzing past, but none struck him. Thirty or forty feet from the top he saw a ledge, from which, as he judged from appearances, two or three avenues led off in different directions. About a hundred feet from the top a cataract from the side of the pit went rushing down the abyss, and as he descended by the side of the falling water, and in the midst of the spray, he felt some apprehension that his light would be extinguished, but his care prevented this. He was landed at the bottom of the pit, a hundred and ninety feet from the top. "He found it almost perfectly circular, about eighteen feet in diameter, with a small opening at one point, leading to a fine chamber of no great extent. He found on the floor beautiful specimens of black silex of immense size, vastly larger than were ever discovered in any other part of the Mammoth Cave, and also a multitude of exquisite formations as pure and white as virgin snow. Making himself heard, with great effort, by his friends, he at length asked them to pull him partly up, intending to stop on the way and explore a cave that he had observed opening about forty feet above the bottom of the pit. "Reaching the mouth of that cave he swung himself with much exertion into it, and, hoping the end of the rope in his hand, he incautiously let it go, and it swung out apparently beyond his reach. The situation was a fearful one, and his friends above could do nothing for him; soon, however, he made a hook of the end of his lamp, and by extending himself as far over the verge as possible without falling, he succeeded in securing the rope. Fastening it to a rock, he followed the avenue 150 or 200 yards, to a point where he found it blocked by an impassable avalanche of rock and earth. "Returning to the mouth of this avenue he beheld an almost exactly similar mouth of another on the opposite side of the pit, but, not being able to swing himself into it, he refastened the rope around his body, suspended himself again over the abyss, and shouted to his friends to raise him to the top. The pull was an exceedingly severe one, and the rope being ill-adjusted around his body, gave him the most excruciating pain. But soon his pain was forgotten in a new and dreadful peril. "When he was 90 feet from the mouth of the pit, and 100 feet from the bottom, swaying and swinging in mid air, he heard rapid and excited words of horror and alarm above, and soon learned that the rope by which he was upheld had taken fire from the friction of the timber over which it passed. Several moments of awful suspense to those above, and still more awful to him below, ensued. To them and him a fatal and instant catastrophe seemed inevitable. "But the fire was extinguished with a bottle of water belonging to himself, and then the party above, though almost exhausted by their labors, succeeded in

drawing him to the top. He was as calm and self-possessed as upon his entrance into the pit, but all of his companions, overcome by fatigue, sank down upon the ground, and his friend Professor Wright, from over exertion and excitement, fainted and remained for a time insensible. "The young adventurer left his name carved in the depths of the Maelstrom—the name of the first and only person that ever gazed upon its mysteries."

Ocean steamer "Austria" BURNED AT SEA. 533 LIVES LOST.

HALIFAX, September 27.

The bark Lotus, from Liverpool, arrived in Halifax harbor on Sunday afternoon with twelve of the sixty-seven surviving passengers of the steamship Austria, burnt at sea September 13th, in lat. 45 01, long. 41 30, taken from the bark Maurice on the 14th.

At a little after two o'clock on the 13th, dense volumes of smoke burst from the after entrance of the steamer. The ship was instantly put at half speed, at which she continued until the magazine exploded. The engineers, it is inferred, were instantly suffocated. Fire was next seen breaking through the lights amidships, and travelled aft with fearful rapidity.

Some persons let down a boat from the port side of the quarter deck, and she was thought to be crushed under the screw. An attempt was made to launch a boat on the starboard side, but it was swamped from the numbers who rushed into it, and all were lost. All the first cabin passengers were on the poop, except a few gentlemen who must have been smothered in the smoking room.

Many second cabin passengers were also on the poop, but a number of them got shut into their cabin by fire. Some of them were pulled up through the ventilator, but the greater number could not be extricated. The last woman drawn up said there were six already suffocated.

The ladies and gentlemen on the poop jumped into the sea by twos and threes, and some of the ladies in flames. Several hesitated, but were driven to it at the last moment. In half an hour not a soul was to be seen on the poop. The French bark Maurice, Capt. Ernest Renaud, came alongside the steamer at about five o'clock, P. M., and rescued forty passengers, chiefly taken off the bowsprit, a few were picked up floating around. At about eight o'clock one of the metallic boats came up with about twenty-three persons in it, including the first and third officers.

Afterwards three or four men were picked up floating on a piece of broken boat. The second officer was taken up, having been swimming for six hours. He and the 3d officer were severely burnt. One male passenger was burnt frightfully, and some others slightly. There were but six women saved, three of whom were burnt. A Norwegian bark came up with the steamer the next morning, and a boat was observed going around the burning ship. They may have picked up a few persons, but only a few. The Maurice had no communication with the Norwegian.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The Centre Congressional District.

Both parties have made their nominations in this district. The Lecompton candidate is Hon. Allison White, the present member, a lawyer of Lock Haven, Clinton county. He has been a silent member, and out for his votes on the Lecompton and English swindle would never have been heard of out of his own district. Having misrepresented the views of a large majority of his constituents, he would probably have sunk into a quiet political grave, had not the office-holders bolstered him up and renominated him. His defeat is certain, as the people of this district can never sustain Lecomptonism in any form.

The people's candidate is the Hon. James T. Hale, of Bellefonte. Judge Hale is a native of Bradford county. He was brought up on a farm near Towanda, and, like many of the hardy sons of the North, he frequently rafted lumber down the river to Marietta and Columbia, returning home on foot. From Bradford county he came to Mifflin county in 1831, and studied law in the office of his uncle, Elias W. Hale, for many years the leading lawyer of central Pennsylvania. On the death of his uncle, he entered into copartnership with the present Judge Wilson, and was appointed deputy Attorney General for Mifflin county by Hon. Ellis Lewis, then Attorney General of Pennsylvania. In 1835, Mr. Hale married the daughter of Judge Huston, of the Supreme Court, and removed to Bellefonte the same year. Here he speedily rose to distinction at the bar, and, on a vacancy occurring on the bench, was appointed president judge. This office he held for about a year, and then returned to the bar.

Judge Hale is about forty-eight years of age, in full vigor of life and health. As a lawyer he has no superior. In the Supreme Court no one is listened to by judges more attentively; but the great arena of his triumph is in trying causes before a jury. Here his legal learning and practical knowledge of every kind of business, from the construction of the most intricate machinery to the ordinary pursuits of life, backed up by a ready command of language, winning address, and persuasive oratory, carry the jury with him whenever the court leaves a loop-hole for them to do so.

In politics Judge Hale may be called a Democratic Whig. He commenced life as a Democrat, but joined the Whig party on the tariff and currency questions. He is now, and ever has been, really and more identified with the masses than nine-tenths of those who profess to be Democrats. Living in the iron county of Centre, he has ever been a strong advocate of protection. Judge Hale, through sunshine and storm, has stood by the great iron interest of Pennsylvania. When he commenced political life, all parties were for the tariff. He has lived to see all parties come back and take up this great principle, so vital to Pennsylvania.

Need it be said that he loathes and despises the Lecompton fraud and English swindle? Such a man, brought up from boyhood among the people, the architect of his own fortunes, from a lumberman on the river to the judicial bench, always sympathizing with, and beloved and respected by, the people, could not look tamely on and see their rights trampled in the dust. Every court house in his district has heard his voice proclaiming the indignation of a freeman against this cruel outrage, while his opponent, basely bowing to the knee of power, betrayed by his votes those who trusted him. The second Tuesday of October will bring in the verdict of freemen in the ignominious defeat of Allison White, and the triumphant election of Judge Hale.

INTERESTING TO NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS.—One of the courts of the state of Indiana recently made a decision which is of interest to all newspaper proprietors throughout the Union. A controversy existed relative to a charge for advertising, between the Commissioners of Hamilton county and the Patriot newspaper. It was held by the Judge that "the published terms of newspapers constitute a contract. If work is given to newspaper publishers, without a special contract contravening the published terms, the publisher can charge and receive according to the terms so published. It is not necessary to prove what the work cost or was worth; the publishers have a right to fix the estimate value of their columns, and if so fixed, no other question need be asked, but the price thus charged can be recovered."

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Thursday Morning, Sept. 30, 1858.

T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Union State Nominations.

FOR JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT, JOHN M. READ, OF PHILADELPHIA.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, WILLIAM E. FRAZER, OF FAYETTE.

Republican County Nominations.

FOR CONGRESS, JAMES T. HALE, of Centre.

For Member of Assembly, LEWIS MANN, of Coudersport, L. P. WILLISTON, of Wellaboro'.

For County Treasurer, ELI REES, of Coudersport.

For County Commissioner, JEROME CHESEBRO, of Oswayo.

For County Auditor, WILLIAM B. GRAVES, of Clara.

OUR TERMS.

from and after the first of October, will be \$1.25 per annum in advance, and no paper will be sent after the time paid for. These terms will be strictly enforced. We desire our readers to take particular notice of this announcement.

In addition to the above we give due notice to Delinquents, that unless their indebtedness to us is paid up as soon as the above date, their accounts will be put in the hands of a Justice of the Peace for immediate collection by due course of law.

We are indebted to Hon. Simon Cameron for Vols. 1, 2 & 3 of the Patent Office Report, 1857, (Mechanical). The third volume contains engraved illustrations of the patents granted. The Hon. Senator will accept our sincere thanks for his kind remembrances.

Read the article from the Philadelphia Press headed "The Centre Congressional District." Forney will not commend a Republican candidate without reason—neither will he condemn a "Democratic" one without just cause.

Allison White made a speech, Wednesday evening of Court Week, at the Court House, to just such an audience as we desired him to—composed of a large majority of Republicans—indeed the "dimmyrats" present were so "few and far between" (the lips) that after one or two efforts to get up a little "stamping" to pass for applause, the object was abandoned. Mr. White was no doubt much exercised by the lack of enthusiasm in his behalf manifested by the audience.—We pitied him, because he seemed to feel and know that he could not "pull the wool over the eyes" of that audience—to do which was the undisguised aim of his entire speech. There being Republicans from all sections present to hear him, we

deem any further notice of the affair unnecessary. Those who heard him are fully capable of judging for themselves, and will not misrepresent to their neighbors. One thing, however, we did notice, and that was the party characteristic of the prevalence of bad whisky—and its fumes and effects were not confined to the common democrats, either.

REPUBLICANS OF POTTER!

But one more issue of the JOURNAL will be made before the day of election; and this present number may be the last which a large number of you will see previous to the day which is to decide the relative strength of parties in Pennsylvania—and which is to decide whether the People are serfs or sovereigns. We, therefore, address you a final appeal to STAND BY the great cause you have espoused—the cause of Justice, Truth and Humanity. We appeal to you, not without the faith and hope that you will heed and act aright who do act; but is there not danger that your consciousness of the justice of your cause and the strength of your party will make you careless of its welfare—heedless of the wiles the enemy will practice to triumph upon that "one issue" they harp upon so continuously? Will you not, by negligence, sacrifice your sovereignty—for it is the boast of the "King and his friends" that he will compel the people of the North to endorse his Lecompton policy at the ballot-box. Will you endorse a scheme which dictates terms of enfranchisement and government entirely beyond a fair interpretation of the National Constitution? If so, stay away from the polls on the Second Tuesday of October—or, infinitely worse, vote for Allison White as your Representative in Congress. Sacrifices of rights are mistaken the result of passiveness than of mistaken activity. Republicans of Potter! there is but one complete remedy for the plague of political misrepresentation from which you have suffered so much within the past year. It is this: If all persons in this Congressional district who are indignant at the Congressional course of Allison White, turn out and vote at the October election, JAMES T. HALE, your candidate, will be elected by 500 to 800 majority—whereas, if there be any laxity on your part, Allison White may be elected by a small majority. In view of this fact, will you neglect the remedy in your power? Will you forfeit your God-given right to think and act for yourselves by being passive when the most undividing activity alone can maintain it?

Potter County can easily give James T. Hale 750 majority; but if every Republican and anti-Lecompton voter in the county turns out and votes right, the majority will be EIGHT HUNDRED. Shall it be fifty more, or fifty less? Is the question for your decision, freemen of Potter!

Allison White's defeat is now almost certain—but will you not sacrifice a little personal convenience and comfort in order that it shall be ENTIRELY CERTAIN? Remember, we are only asking you to maintain Principle by voting, and warning you not to sacrifice Justice and Right to the personal ambition of James Buchanan and Allison White, by not voting a week from next Tuesday.

Men of Potter! Allison White voted for the Lecompton Bill through all its phases. On Wednesday evening of Court week many of you heard him say that if the opportunity was again presented he WOULD REPEAT THOSE VOTES! He betrayed you once and WOULD DO IT AGAIN. Will you grant him the opportunity? If so, stay away from the polls election day—in other words, play while he works your ruin! Need we say more? When you are socially misrepresented, do you not make great exertion to prove yourself innocent? Is not your political integrity of as much account, and is not your ballot the only corrective? Then, we say, USE IT WHILE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY!

The Jersey Shore Republican speaking of Allison White, says: "Frank and manly in his intercourse with his opponents, generous to his friends, and true to his constituency; still his name, which 'never yet the breath of calumny had tainted,' has been

made a mock for brainless and unprincipled political knaves to carp at, and, as if actuated by a fiendish malignity, too many of his opponents seem to think that there is no bound at which their persecution shall stop. What previous sin has Mr. White committed to justify such unmitigated hate, such villainous calumny? We did not expect his views to be fairly represented by the opposition, but we did expect that Allison White would be treated as a high-minded, honorable gentleman, and his political reputation alone be the target at which to hurl the murderous darts of political malignity."

We copy the above merely for the purpose of telling our Lecompton-subdued cotemporary, that had Mr. White's course in Congress indicated that he was a "high-minded, honorable gentleman," he would have been treated as such by the Opposition press of his district. A man who will stoop to treacherous political servility in one respect, cannot be trusted again in the same capacity—the ice over the mire of degradation being broken, and the venturer having entered the chasm, there is little reason to hope for his preservation without withdrawing him entirely from all possible danger. And we think Mr. White can be and will be rescued by the people of this district this fall—he will receive credentials to again take up his residence in Lock Haven—(away from the scene of danger)—as soon as the 4th of March, 1859.

There is nothing, in our opinion, which so much degrades the social character of a man, as his betrayal of political confidence bestowed upon him. No man can be "high-minded and honorable" who will unscrupulously betray a constituency—not only of his opponents but his partisan friends—nor should he claim to be treated as such in a second effort to obtain that confidence. We have little respect for such a man, and much less for a press which attempts to cover up so fresh a sin with the cry of "personality." All charges against Mr. White's private character that have found their way into public print, have originated with, and been made public by, those who are now or were recently in positions to know how true they were; and if his confidential friends will not overlook his shortcomings we ask in the name and behalf of common sense, if his political faults which have so strong a bearing upon his private character, are expected to be overlooked and unexposed by his political opponents?

Can They be Trusted?

We now find that the Lecompton Congressmen, who have been renominated, are ready and eager to pledge themselves to the people that they are willing to admit Kansas into the Union under any Constitution that may be properly framed by her inhabitants, without reference to her population. OWEN JONES is particularly anxious to induce the people of his district to believe that this is his position now, and we doubt very much whether any Northern candidate for Congress will dare to take any other. But it is for the people to determine how far these professions are reliable. The English bill, for which the Lecomptonites voted, contains the following extract:

"But, should a majority of the votes be cast for the proposition rejected, it shall be deemed and held that the people of Kansas do not desire admission into the Union under the said Constitution, under the conditions set forth in said proposition; and, in that event, the people of said Territory are hereby authorized and empowered to form for themselves a Constitution and State Government, under the name of the State of Kansas, according to the Federal Constitution, and may elect delegates for that purpose whenever, AND NOT BEFORE, it is ascertained, by a census duly and legally taken, that the population of said Territory equals the ratio of representation required for a member of the House of Representatives of the United States," &c.

It will thus be seen that Mr. OWEN JONES and his confederates have within the last few months voted that if the people of Kansas would not accept Lecompton, their admission should be delayed until a period when, and "NOT BEFORE," it is ascertained they have the requisite population, &c. And because life-long Democrats would not approve this unjust discrimination between a free and slave Constitution, they have been ejected from office, persecuted and vilified, and read out of the party, so far as the corrupt organs and the officials of the Administration could read them out. Against that proscriptive policy these Lecomptonites have never raised a voice of opposition. If, then, they have voted for the population prohibition in the English bill, and have encouraged the persecution of those who would not endorse it, what confidence can any voter have in their present promises to ignore that discrimination? If it is right now to admit Kansas without reference to population, it was clearly wrong to pass the English bill. The Congressional record of JONES and his confederates is in direct contradiction to his present promises, and by that record must these men be tried. The late struggle in Congress is full of admonition in regard to their readiness to violate the most solemn pledges, and we are at a loss to know how they can satisfy their constituents that they will be more faithful hereafter than they have been heretofore.—Phil. Press.

Allison White being one of the "stripe" described by Col. Forney, we commend

this portrait to the consideration of our Lecompton Democrats in this region—there being a number of them here, we believe.

Forney Sends Greeting.

Col. Forney's speech at Tarrytown, a short time since caused a great commotion among the Administration organs, and particularly the one edited by the President. Forney sends them the following brief note of defiance:

"A CARD.—When I spoke to the electors at Tarrytown, New York I did so upon the deliberate expectations that from the impertinent calumniator and convict of the New York Herald, down to the pensioners of the Washington Union, I would be abundantly traduced and misrepresented. An Administration which I assisted, not inconsiderably to elevate to the power which it has abused, has not hesitated to make an honest difference of opinion the pretext for a proscription extending to my business and to my most intimate relations; and I am not surprised at the spirit which my remarks at Tarrytown have created in that quarter. This is to state that I shall calmly await the accumulation of all the accusations of the Administration and its agents, when, in my own way, and in my own good time, I will prove all that I have written and spoken as to the gross betrayal of a great principle and a solemn pledge, and still further establish the justice and strength of the position of the Press and of myself. J. W. FORNEY."

New Gold Region—Western Kansas.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

MISSOURI RIVER, Sept. 17, 1858.

We are writing on board the steamer John D. Perry of St. Louis, a new boat this Spring, and considered the best of the Missouri River. The existence of gold in Western Kansas is no longer questionable, and the early reports from Pike's Peak are fully confirmed by parties recently returned for provisions and mining implements. The explorations of these parties over a space some 200 or 300 miles in extent resulted in their finding gold wherever they dug for it, though none were supplied with proper implements for mining. They report diggings at the head of the Platte and Arkansas rivers remarkable richness; also that most of the gold so far discovered has averaged from 20 to 23 carats fine. Persons at the mines were making an average of ten dollars per day with only rude mining tools, and one party is reported to have taken out a thousand dollars in one week. These reports coming from parties well known and respected in Kansas and Missouri, have caused no inconsiderable excitement along the river, and several parties have left the diggings. Parties are also forming in Kansas City, Leavenworth, Bluff City and other towns, to seek for gold in this El Dorado. Wealthy men are sending the Peak large quantities of provisions and the Kansas Stage Company are purchasing a large number of mules to lay a stage line direct to Pike's Peak from the Missouri River. The estimated expense from Kansas City or from Leavenworth to the diggings, including outfit, mining implements, and provisions for six weeks is \$150 per man; this includes two teams of cattle and one wagon for every four persons. Further information from Pike's Peak is awaited with great anxiety, as we will keep you posted from time to time.

THE CONTESTED CASE.—BLAIR vs. BURNETT.

In this interesting and important case Judge Lackland rendered a decision this morning in favor of the application of Blair, and a peremptory order was given to the Clerk of the Court to produce, without delay, true and full copies of the balloting question. Previous to rendering his decision, Judge Lackland gave a carefully prepared opinion of the laws of Congress on the subject, and of the arguments of counsel in the case, the great length of which precludes our favoring our readers with a copy of it in today's issue. The Judge assumed that he had full power to order an examination of the ballots and to cause the same to be spread upon the records of the Court, and declares the election of the County Court, in refusing to submit the ballots to be illegal without authority. The application of Mr. Blair, as well as the positions assumed by him were sustained in every particular.—St. Louis Even. News, Sept. 11.

ANOTHER PARADISE.—In Lewis and Clark county, Indiana, says the Fayette Journal, they have a sort of Paradise of the millennium. It has within its limits one hundred and sixty-five voters and during the last twenty years there has never been a fight or quarrel at an election held in the township. It contains seven school-houses, seven churches, seven road districts, and seven men; three churches, three preaching places, three pair of twin boys, three preachers, three post offices, and three men over twenty-five years of age. It is not a lawyer, doctor or loafer in it—nor a cery nor a pauper. A better, friendlier, happier population is not to be found in the State.

PARSON BROWNLOW'S RETURN.

Parson Brownlow has gone home. The boy which have been entertained of enlightenment by irradiation from the southern luminary have vanished. His missionary tour through the North began and ended in a debate with Pryne, in Philadelphia. Other boys are more benighted, many quite as so as Philadelphia, but Parson Brownlow has peremptorily refused to shine on any other. He promised to enlighten the North upon the slavery question, but he has not even enlightened the South.—THE NEW ORLEANS