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For the Inquirer and Chronicle.

The Woodberry Demonstration.

The Democratic Sanhedrin that has been exhibiting itself to the terrified in quite a number of townships in this county, arrived at this place on Saturday, the 12th inst., headed by a number of the *savants* of the party, who are generally to be found "tucked in" at Bedford, as "snug as fleas in a sheep skin," until a political resurrection, when they turn out to dictate terms to the "weaker vessels" of the party, and to preach Democracy, and it persecuted to the benighted.

The crowd that came to town to "see and be seen," numbered, all told, about fifty persons, although a sale, meeting of School Directors, and various other inducements were held out to all, and especially those who wished to be enlightened on the issues of the campaign so ingloriously dodged by the inglorious Packer, but all the gummen could not induce them to step in to "see the elephant." Some may be disposed to doubt the above statement of the number present, but I have no desire to do any such "small affair;" for from it, but say, by way of backing up the statement, that a gentleman of undoubted authority "counted noses" and gives me his word, that there were present only thirty Democrats, nine American Republicans, and half a dozen boys. The latter dropped in to see, the Irishman that annoyed Mr. Spang, and occasionally retired to see "Bally."

The meeting was organized in the store room formerly occupied by G. R. Harndollar, Esq., by the appointment of some half-dozen of officers, three-fourths of whom, I am confident, were ex-Know Nothings, and if I am not mistaken, the entire batch, save one, (an Irishman) were formerly members of that "bloody party;" if they were not all, save and except the one mentioned, it was not the individuals' fault.

Mr. Spang was the first speaker on the stand, and I hope, for the credit of Democracy, that they may always secure the services of such men as he, although, in my estimation, he was wrongly shipped, and I believe, as a Democrat, he could have pointed his argument to much more advantage; but his speech was free from blackguardism and low slang; it was such as characterizes a higher order of democracy than we have had exhibited heretofore in this section of country by its votaries. Mr. Spang explained the positions of the party on the Sal of the Public Works in quite a Democratic style, and also attempted to exculpate Packer for his Liquor Law votes, presuming, no doubt, that we, like some other sections of Bedford County, are decidedly fond of the "critter," and that here, too, it might be the "omnipotent of politics," but he is in error. He wound up this part of his speech by saying, "You cannot legislate men moral"—a bad doctrine for a lawyer.

Mr. Meyers followed, and closed the performance, giving us first a specimen of Southern *Lococoedism* in English, and a peroration in German. What induced the fellow to deliver a Dutch speech to Woodberry was an interrogatory that the Democrats themselves did not know how, or were ashamed to answer. I hope the next time the gentleman has occasion to come this way, he will bring along some Dutchmen that can't speak better English than himself, to talk to.

Woodberry Township will be found all right at the October election, or politicians are greatly deceived.

BYD STYLES.

Woodberry, Sept. 14, 1857.

The political destiny of Kansas appears to have been determined. (The President's course is plainly avowed by the actions of his subordinates, and in his letter to Professor Silliman and others. The Territory is full of the creatures of the slavery expansionists—judges, marshals, and the major part of the available force of the army.—Kansas will be a slave State. Mr. Buchanan hesitated for a time whether he would risk the displeasure of the North or break that of the South. He has now made up his mind. He prefers to rely upon the forbearance of the doughfaces rather than bear the denunciations of the free-actors.

The letter to Silliman states explicitly two things—the bugle laws of the Missouri marshals must be enforced with the bayonet, and none but qualified voters under the provisions of the Constitution to be made by the pro-slavery convention are to be allowed the right of suffrage when that instrument shall be submitted to them for their approbation or rejection.

If the "Hallelujah" can be made to stand steady now, "free Kansas" is dead, and the pledges given by him in his inaugural address are "glittering generalities."

PACKER AND THE COMMITTEE OF 1853.

General Packer was Superintendent of the West Branch Canal from 1832 to 1835. He had scarcely been a year in office—the first he ever held—until his administration of the office compelled the Legislature of the State to raise a committee of investigation concerning it. Indeed it is a singular coincidence that in the very first year of his Superintendency, and in the first of his Canal Commissionership, his own party being in the majority, we believe in both instances, they were compelled to raise committees of investigation concerning his official misconduct. The man who was censured in 1833 by a committee, was again arraigned in 1839 and in 1844. How comes it, (surely the history of no public man in Pennsylvania affords a parallel) that during the six years he was upon the public works he was three times arraigned before legislative committees of his own party, and twice found guilty, and publicly reprimanded for notorious violations of the law?

But now for the report of the committee of 1853.

The Committee, in their report made upon the 7th of April, 1854, (vide H. R. Journal for that year, pp. 897-98, inclusive) say:

"By the act of 1833 it is provided that the Canal Commissioners shall not be authorized to incur any debt on the faith of the Commonwealth in any way or measure beyond the appropriation aforesaid. There is retained in all contracts fifteen per cent. of the amount engaged to be paid, which is subject to the control of the Board, and may be paid to the contractor when the work is suspended; or if it be abandoned, may be paid or retained at pleasure, according to the circumstances of the case, and when a job is completed it is embraced in the final estimate.

The Committee are of opinion that the State and its agents hold this per centage as trustees of those who have earned it, that it is theirs, and is retained only by virtue of *retention* in contracts and to insure their more perfect performance, and that when an appropriation is otherwise fully expended it is as much exhausted for all State purposes as if this money were paid over. It is obvious, if it were not so, the law which has been cited would be a mere dead letter, and superintendents and other disbursing canal agents might create a debt for which the Commonwealth would be normally and legally bound, to any amount which the percentage might reach. If they can employ the money thus retained on the current work, and are permitted to do so, the contracts secure the payment of it to him or them whose money has been thus used, and a debt is thus thrown upon the State. This direct violation of the spirit of the law cannot be justified. These remarks are induced by the fact that the back percentage was last autumn and winter applied to the work in progress upon the Lycoming line of the Pennsylvania Canal, instead of being retained for its legitimate purposes. Neither the fact of its being done with the view of advancing the public interests, by finishing and completing certain jobs which, in the opinion of the engineer or superintendent, might or would suffer from delay, nor the fact that the institution of no doing was communicated to many of the contractors, who approved of it, and that there were few complaints on this account, do not afford any justification, although they may excuse the act. On such subjects public agents, and particularly subordinate ones, have no discretionary power. The Committee accord full credit for purity of motive and fidelity of execution, but they must express their strong disapprobation of such a course, and the hope that it will not be pursued hereafter."

The Committee on page 900, thus unfold another of Mr. Packer's transactions during the same year:

"That the Superintendent of the Lycoming division of the Pennsylvania Canal exchanged fifteen or twenty thousand dollars of the notes of the Bank of Pennsylvania for notes of the Bank of Middletown, and paid them out on his line, as known, and would not probably have been denied, for he received no premium or commission.—But the committee think that the exchange ought not to have been made; whatever advantage there is in distant circulation, the bank of which the State holds three-fifths of the stock ought to have it when in the power of the State agents to confer it; and it is expected that in future they will regard this as their duty. Although the Committee have not been able to ascertain precisely by what confidential officer of the Canal agency the notes were placed in drafts on those banks have been exchanged with other institutions for their paper, and a premium allowed on their exchange, yet there remains no doubt that such has been

the case, and probably in more instances than one.

"It is believed that many respectable men think this may be lawfully and honestly done. A very different opinion prevails your Committee, by whom it is thought the practice cannot be too severely reprimanded. If this petty traffic is allowed, large speculations will offer, and a wide field be entered. The public funds will be used for private purposes, to the great hazard and the almost certain and ultimate loss of the treasury. How are all violations of duty and disregard of moral obligations and want of pecuniary faith commenced? By some such liberty which does not belong to the individual, by some act deemed venial which is succeeded by one less so, and another, and yet another, until he finds himself at the foot of the hill, who but a little while ago would have shuddered at the thought of ever leaving its proudest height. The only security for the individual and the public is the payment of the State creditors the identical money received from the Commonwealth. The creditors have a right to the best money, if there is any difference. The State should insist upon it as due to the banks who enjoy public patronage and safety from the treasury. It is strongly recommended to the Canal Commissioners to remove the individuals who have been concerned in such practices, if they can be discovered, and to issue an order prohibiting for the future absolutely the exchange, with or without premium, of any funds received by public agents for account of the Commonwealth."

It will be thus seen that the committee felt it to be a necessary duty to reprimand him for his mal-practices.

Indeed, in 1835, when he was a candidate in the then heavy Democratic district of Lycoming, Clearfield, Centre, &c., for the State Senate, he was beaten by General Irvine of Clearfield, a Whig, because of his notorious mal-administration of affairs upon the West Branch. He was then regarded whilst only a Superintendent, as the leader and head of the organized band of leeches, who preyed upon the public.

If his neighbors and friends around his own home twenty-two years ago pronounced a verdict against him upon these grounds; if those who knew all the facts then avowed their belief of his guilt, ought not the verdict to be confirmed by the people of Pennsylvania now? What reason is there for changing it? None. Certainly the lapse of time will not be plead as a bar to the force of the facts!

GEN. PACKER'S OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.

Some time ago we gave to the public a document presented to the Legislature of 1839 by certain contractors, against the Canal Board of that day, of whom GEN. PACKER WAS ONE. The charges presented were deemed of so grave a character that a Democratic Legislature thought it due to its party and the public to raise a Committee of Investigation, which sat for a long time, and elicited a heavy mass of testimony. Gen. Packer deemed the danger so great that, with all his experience as a public man, and with all his characteristic coolness and self-possession, he employed Ovid F. Johnston as counsel.

We need not say that the testimony fully sustained the charges made against the Canal Board and their employees. But the evidence evolved two minor points. First, there was a law in existence in 1832, when he was Superintendent of the West Branch Canal, requiring that no work should be let or relet by Superintendents, Engineers, &c., upon the public works, without being advertised. Yet, in defiance of this law, which his official oath required him to observe strictly, he let and relet work without advertising. That he did so was proven accidentally before the Investigating Committee of 1839, by William B. Sullivan.—This witness, among other facts, testified as follows:

"I have known work on the canal to be thrown up a day or two before letting, under Mr. Packer (meaning whilst Packer was Superintendent.) He (Packer) let me a contract for removing a building on section 9, West Branch Canal, without advertising. He also let me a public bridge on No. 9, but Mr. Harris, the Engineer, came along and annulled the contract, and gave it to another without advertising."

Not only did Gen. Packer thus violate his official oath whilst Superintendent of the North Branch Canal, from 1832 to 1836, but it was also shown in this investigation, that Victor E. Piolet, his appointee as Superintendent upon the North Branch Canal, during his Superintendency, although the

laws of the Commonwealth expressly forbid it. Indeed, they imposed the penalty of disability to hold office on the public works upon those who had an interest in canal and railroad contracts. These laws were founded upon the highest necessities of public policy. They were designed to compel the employees of the State to keep themselves free from all jobbing, and, therefore, from all favoritism in the awarding of contracts. But for the proof, Mr. J. Clark testified before the Committee, "that Victor E. Piolet, then Superintendent, was interested in a contract with himself."

Gen. Packer was present as the defendant in the case then pending before the Committee, heard this testimony of Mr. Clark, and yet he did not have Piolet removed. If we mistake not, the public records show that Piolet retained his office long after this fact became known to Gen. Packer, although he, as Canal Commissioner, knew of the law prohibiting such official misconduct, and knew that it was his bounden duty to remove Piolet.

But the fact of his neglect or refusal to have him removed after these facts were disclosed, only shows that he excused or winked at, in the conduct of others, those things which he himself did as a public officer. Piolet did only what Packer did in other cases. Piolet violated the same law that Packer violated at a later date in the case of the Towanda dam. We presume that Piolet did not make as much out of the contract in which he was interested with Clark, as Gen. Packer in the Towanda matter. But the Towanda matter shall be treated of in due time.

We appeal to our readers whether we have not established fairly, by the testimony of disinterested parties, that Gen. Packer, both as Superintendent of the West Branch and as Canal Commissioner, did knowingly violate the written law of the land in two several instances? Is the official violator of a law a fit person to elevate to the chief magistracy of a great State like this? Ought a man to be so elevated whose whole official career is stained with gross official misconduct?

SOME OF PACKER'S ANTECEDENTS.

We find these facts in a recent number of the *Butler American*. They come from one of the best men in the State. Let them be read and pondered:

"Can any good reason be given why Wm. F. Packer, being connected with the public works as Canal Commissioner and other offices, should be elevated to the chief seat of honor in the State? The scrutinizing eye of an intelligent public cannot hope to escape. The three years that Moses Sullivan and others were in the Canal Board, to wit—the years 1836, 1837 and 1838—the revenue upon the Portage Railroad was \$45,763.34, and the expenditures during the same time were \$439,224.90; being an excess of revenue of \$12,538.65.

The three years that Wm. F. Packer was Canal Commissioner: viz.—1839 1840 and 1841—the revenue was \$464,030.54, and the expenditures were \$542,980.67; being an excess of expenditures of \$78,950.03; and the excess of revenue of 1836, 1840 and 1841, and you have the amount of \$94,497.67, as the loss of the Packer administration as compared with the three years of Sullivan's administration.

Then take the three years succeeding Packer's administration: 1842 1843, and 1844, under Wm. B. Foster and others, and the revenue for those years amounted to \$466,428.92, and the expenditures to the sum of \$488,804.17, being a difference against Packer's administration of \$31,583.78.

Will not the people of Pennsylvania say to Wm. F. Packer, give an account of thy stewardship, for thou mayest be no longer steward?

Gen. Packer is a talented man, and an ambitious man. He knew well the power of corrupt politicians, and a desire on his part to propitiate their favor was ever in the way of a fearless discharge of duty. He belonged to, and was one of the Cabinet officers of an Administration that was condemned by many of its own party. Many Democratic State Conventions passed no resolutions approving of Gov. Porter's Administration; an Administration that, at the end of its first term, and after Gov. Porter's re-election, refused to continue Francis R. Shunk as Secretary of the Commonwealth, and George R. Eps as Auditor General, both of whom occupied high positions in their respective stations, as men of capacity and incorruptible integrity. Wm. F. Packer was after the act passed making the Canal Commissioner elective re-appointed by Governor Porter, Auditor General.

That he was once conferred from the Canal Board to the head of the Financial Department, and with Ovid F. Johnston, Attorney General, and George W. Barton, was

brains and heart of an administration that was condemned by many of its own party. The very man who was dismissed as unworthy to be Secretary, was, before the close of the administration, nominated and elected Governor of the State to the deep mortification of the out-going administration.

Twelve years have rolled by, and death has silenced the many voices of Shunk and Miller, Petriken and Eps; and now Wm. F. Packer is the candidate of the *legis* Democracy for the exalted office of Governor of one of the greatest States of the American Confederacy. We much mistake the signs of the times if he is not permitted to retire to private life upon the mere honor of a mere nomination. Certain it is, that if the people properly appreciate their own interest, and our opponents would meet fairly the issue, and discuss the same in an honorable and generous spirit, Wm. F. Packer could never receive a majority of the free voters of this Commonwealth; for, verily, "he has been weighed in the balance and found wanting."

OLD DOCUMENTS.

The *Tioga Agitator* has been delving among old documents to the great annoyance of the Democrats ("") of that county.—These men charge Wilmut with Abolitionism, and oppose his election as tending to the spread of evil doctrine. The *Agitator* proves that until very recently they stood upon the same ground he does. They have apostatized and now seek to falsify his position and policy.

In July, 1834, the Democrats of Tioga held a meeting, the proceedings of which were reported in the *Tioga Eagle*. It says in its report of the meeting, that—

"Ten guns were fired in honor of the ten independent Southern Senators and Representatives who dared to oppose and vote against the Kansas Nebraska Territorial law."

It adds that—

"The Hon. David Wilmut addressed the audience for more than two hours, and a halting and incoherent orator, presided upon the subject of the extension of human slavery, with that of the immortal Washington and of the fathers of Democracy in the days of Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Jackson."

Then it was Democratic "to oppose the extension of human slavery." The meeting adopted these resolutions. Comparing them with the present sentiments of the party the extent of their apostasy can be clearly discerned:

"Resolved, That while we will faithfully abide by all the compromises of the Constitution in regard to Slavery in the States where it exists, and disclaim any right to interfere with it there, we feel compelled to declare in reference to the Missouri Compromise and the consequent extension of slavery into territory now free, that we regard slavery, even in the most mitigated forms, as a great social and political evil—a relic of barbarism which must pass away with the advance of Christian civilization, and therefore should not have been extended to such territory. Entertaining these opinions, we can but avow our hostility to the 14th section of the Kansas and Nebraska bill, as being a departure from every principle of former legislation upon this subject."

"Resolved, That as it has been the manifest intention of all former acts of Congress to limit and confine slavery to where it previously existed, we condemn the Nebraska bill as impolitic, uncalculated, without precedent, wrong in principle, and in violation of a solemn compact."

"Resolved, That we will withhold our support from all the authors and abettors of this retrograde movement, as well as from those who are opposed to the repeal of the 13th section of said bill and the full restoration of the Missouri Compromise."

"Resolved, That our immediate representative in Congress has truly and faithfully sustained the views and feelings of nine-tenths of his constituents upon this important question."

"Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers, and published in the papers of this Congressional District and in the Democratic papers published in Harrisburg."

In one hundred and nine towns in New Hampshire, there has been a decrease of population of nearly 17,000, owing partially to the ravages of the western fever.

Mr. Grips the usurer, to whom a six-pence always looks as large as a cartwheel, is in the habit of holding his breath while the tailor measures him, so that his garments will require the less cloth.

The tongue was intended for a divine organ, but the devil often plays upon it.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.

We take the following sensible remarks from the *Democratic Press*, of Berks County, and endorse them all.

"It is becoming a conceded question everywhere in Pennsylvania, that David Wilmut the nominee of the American and Republican parties, will be Governor. Nothing can be surer, and nothing assures guarantee to those who look and hope for a reform in all the departments of government. With Wilmut at the helm of State, the Legislative and Judicial powers will receive such salutary directions as must necessarily lead to an avoidance of the evils heretofore inflicted upon a taxridden and an outraged people, by partisan demagogues. And more than this. We can almost say, under his administration, with certainty, that any attempts through these co-ordinate branches, to bring about a recurrence of them, will prove abortive. We know the man, and speak only from what all we know of him. We have no desire, nor do we wish it to be understood, that we would manufacture for him a reputation not strictly and truthfully his due. Such things we will leave for eaning hypocrites to indulge in. And they are too, to a nauseating extent. Our so-called democratic exchanges abound in fulsome laudations. Says one, our candidate is a graduate of Yale College; another, he has been in office a quarter of a century, and a third, that his fitness is based upon eminent experience; while, if the truth were told, the collegian, it would appear, was a sneaking tippler; the office holder, a little better than a panel thief and his experience a mere political paragon."

"The people, however, will settle the matter definitely, at the proper time. They will decide, not as to the classic and legal attainments of the aspirant, but as to his morality; not as to the number of years he has been in office, but as to the FIDELITY he has displayed in the discharge of his duties, and not as to his experience, but whether he is HONEST and WISE now. But a correct decision is only possible where the masses. Here, in Berks, it is true we expect little, we could not expect more under the circumstances, for, as was the case in Rome, an appalling cloud of ignorance is hanging over these fair hills and dales, leaving only in view the demagogue and plunderer, who control the political action of a people honest in all respects, but upon whom deception has as yet not made a perceptible impression. Elsewhere throughout the Commonwealth, the case is different.—And were this not so, the concession could not be entertained for a moment made at the outset of these remarks."

David Wilmut will be the next Governor. The Americans will support him with a willing hand and a warm heart, and the Republican will yield him his suffrage with the same jubilant feelings which pervaded the breast of the patriot of the Revolution—all honest and intelligent men will vote for him, because he has been tried and not found wanting—because he stands committed in favor of free schools and a free bible. He is opposed to a union of Church and State—deprecating Roman Catholicism as being an evil dangerous to republican institutions; and is the sworn enemy of the two great blighting stains upon the fair fame of this confederacy—polygamy and slavery!"

PARSON BROWNLOW ON DEMOCRACY.—Parson Brownlow discourses in the last number of the *Knoxville Whig*, on the subject of the late election in Tennessee. He acknowledges the fact that his party has suffered a complete "rout" but at the same time is indisposed to coalesce with the Democracy. His reasons for the refusal he gives in the following brief extract:

"We recognize in the ranks of the Democratic party, thousands of high-minded men, ardent patriots, and true lovers of their country, but before we will fall into the support of what we believe to be the reckless and ruinous policy—the low flung humbuggery, and villainous designs of this self-styled 'National Democratic Party,' we would see that unwashed, interlarded, unenlightened, uncircumcised, and unregenerate organization, as far down in Hell as a Forge-hammer would fall in a thousand years! Let no one suppose this language too strong, without considering to what sort of an organization it is applied. We apply it to the Foreign Catholic, Pauper-loving, Anti-American, Wet-nurse Democracy, who, differing among themselves, widely and materially, on every question of national policy before the country, nevertheless agree, affiliate, fraternize, in elections, for the sake of the spoils—with all the parties, of all colors, and of all religions, embracing in paternal hug, all the odds and ends of God's creation! They are a party whose leaders hunted down to the grave the purest patriots and noblest intellects of the land, slandering their charac-

ters, misrepresenting their acts, and villifying their names and graves; a party that has trampled the Constitution, and Laws, and Treaty obligations, as well as the settled usages of the country, and with them all, the sacred precepts of the Christian Religion, under their unhalloved feet!"

MR. BUCHANAN'S APPEAL TO GOD.—Mr. Buchanan's ungodly in behalf of the laws of Kansas, is displayed in his letter to Professor Silliman and others, reminds one of the fervor with which Philip II. swore to maintain the power of the Inquisition, at Valladolid, in 1559. Seated in his chair, with his sword in his hand, the King listened to the following oath, which was recited by the Inquisitor General, Valdez: "Your Majesty swears by the cross of the sword, wherein your royal hand reposes, that you will give all necessary favor to the Holy Office of the Inquisition against heretics, apostates, and those who favor them, and will denounce and inform against all those who, to your knowledge shall act or speak against the faith." The King, in a loud voice, answered: "I swear!" Then they burned thirteen persons alive, by way of ratifying the oath.

Mr. Buchanan, with equal fervor, asks the aid of God to enable him to enforce the laws of Kansas, which his own Secretary of State declared, in the Senate last year, to be infamous, and a disgrace to the country and the age, and which were enacted by invaders of the Territory, and not by its people. It is something very like injustice to Philip II. and his associates to bring them into a comparison with the President and his advisers: for the former were fanatics, who really believed they were doing the work of heaven, whereas our sovereign and his inquisition have no faith in their own doctrine. Then the world has made immense progress since the sixteenth century, and the Kansas code would have reflected dishonor on that time, and on Inquisition itself. We believe that ours is the only country in which such a code could be blasphemously upheld by the chief of the nation; call on God to help him do the infamous work that he finds necessary to the maintenance of his authority. But he is a decent tyrant, but as he is, and at least affects a regard for religion.—*Boston Traveller*.

"PUBLIC PLUNDERERS."

The *Pennsylvania* of Friday morning last, calls Wilmut's friends a "band of public plunderers," to which the *Star* replies as follows:

The boot is on the other leg. The American-Republican party is not in power in this State or in the Nation, and it never has been. Hence it cannot be a band of public plunderers. What, then, is the truth?

William F. Packer has been more or less in office for twenty years, and has grown rich out of such small salaries as are given to a member of the Legislature, a Senator, a Canal Commissioner and an Auditor General. He could not have honestly amassed his large possessions. He has done it by "public plundering," as many others of his party have done. He has grown rich off the public, and yet his friends denounce innocent men as guilty of the frauds which have yielded the money that gave his candidate prominence in his party. Packer, for a life time, has been a secret partner of the Gamble's, the Jackson's, the Morehead's, and that precious crew who have thriven by fat jobs on the public works. His, not Wilmut's party is in truth, the band of plunderers.—Packer's election as Governor will but give him renewed chances for speculation. Shall he have them?

An old, experienced editor says that there are three things which affect a man's spirits, a dull day, an empty pocket and being in love. We know by experience that one of these will

A young girl recently committed suicide because her mother refused to give her a new bonnet. Coroner's verdict—"Came to her death through excessive spunk."

Why is a vain young lady like a confirmed drunkard? Because neither of them is satisfied with the moderate use of the glass.

If you want an ignorant man to respect you, "dress to death," and wear watch seals about the size of a brickbat.

John A. Dix lately sold his country seat about 20 acres on Manvers Island, on the Sound for \$25,000, to A. Thompson, of Wall street, New York.

Hendrix and Slegley, convicted of arson at York, Pa., have each been sent to the penitentiary for five years.