

The Oxford Democrat

TERMS, TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.

"THE WORLD IS GOVERNED TOO MUCH."

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS IN ADVANCE.

NEW SERIES, VOL. 8, NO. 41.

PARIS, ME., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1857.

OLD SERIES, VOLUME 24, NO. 51.

Farmers' Department.

"SPEED THE FLOW."

DARIUS FORBES, Editor.

All the arts and sciences pertaining to life, are closely linked together, and are intimately connected with Agriculture.—AGRICOLA.

Special Notice.

Agricultural Exchanges and communications for this department, should be directed to "Oxford Democrat," South Paris, Me.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY
A. L. BURBANK, Esq.,
BEFORE THE
BETHEL FARMERS' CLUB.
Wednesday, October 14, 1857.

Mr. President and Members of the Bethel Farmers' Club: I did not consent to occupy your attention this evening, thinking to instruct this Society, not a member of which but is my senior, both in years and experience, nor to enlighten this audience, composed as I see it is in part, of those whose hair has grown gray while tilling the soil. The few suggestions which may be presented, I ask assent to, only so far as they may agree with your experience, and the results of careful experiment.

Associations of individuals in Societies for improvement in Agricultural and Horticultural pursuits, are of no recent date.

The first efforts to establish an Agricultural Society in our own State, we are informed, were in the County of Kennebec, in A. D. 1787, and were confined to that County until A. D. 1832, when the Kennebec and the Cumberland County Societies, were incorporated by the Legislature.

Besides the twenty-six incorporated Societies of the present day, there are several towns which hold annual fairs, such as Winthrop, Mercer, our own, and others. The large number engaged in this branch of industry, and the importance it holds with reference to all other pursuits of life, has led to various enactments by our Legislature for its encouragement.

It is not with the State or County, that we have to do on this occasion, but with our own town, its situation, products, and inhabitants. A theme so suggestive of ideas that a glance at some of the principal points, is all that can be accomplished in a single half hour.

Notice the situation of our town, with the noble Androscoggin, flowing through its entire length, on either side of which are valuable tracts of interval land, while farther back are the upland farms, which, although not so easily cultivated, yet yield bountifully, together with a large quantity of what is termed meadow land, bordering the smaller streams. This diversity of soil affords an opportunity for the cultivation of a large variety of crops, without obliging our farmers to confine their attention to any one.

The present has been termed a cold, wet, and backward season, a poor hay season, &c. The older farmers inform us there is but little difference in the real value of the farm products, with us, year by year, so far as climate is concerned. Let this be as it may, we have the promise of a "seed time and harvest," when we have done our duty. This point correctly settled, our duty in farming embraces the whole subject, and the moment we endeavor to assert what is proper to be done, we meet with countless theories and opinions.

Ask the farmers of this town, which is their principal crop, and they will tell you the hay crop. For this they are endeavoring to prepare their ground, so as to produce the largest amount, and continue the longest so to do. Let the land now under cultivation, be made to yield two tons of English hay per acre, and think you would be as many acres devoted to potatoes, corn and other grain, as at present? Certainly not, for this is a crop easily harvested, and when secured yielding a good profit.

How to increase the hay crop in this town, is a question of no small importance, and I will suggest three ways by which I think this can be accomplished.

First. Our pastures may be improved so as to keep stock in a better condition, and save in the second place, the necessity of feeding many lands.

Second. More stock should be kept, and in order to do this root crops should receive more attention, and if this can be done, more fertilizers will be furnished, and consequently, the land is in better condition for hay and other crops.

There may be other methods by which the hay crop can be increased. Such as plowing in green crops and purchasing guano; but before the farmer does the latter, he had better secure all that is made to home. Purchasing guano, and allowing the manure in the yard to be leached by rain and evaporation, is much like going to mill with a hole in your meal bag.

I have said that the rearing of stock was one method of improving our farms. And it costs no more to raise a well formed, good colored, saleable animal, than one directly the opposite. Care should be taken to secure as many good points in our stock as possible, and improve on them year by year. Why is it that for the last twenty years, stock has commanded so much better prices in Kennebec County, than in our own? Simply, because they have paid more attention to the improved breeder, and as a matter of course their stock has received better attention. The man who has stock of good color and symmetrical form, will be likely to give it better attention, than if he had that of an ordinary quality.

It has been the custom here, to sell the best, because they would bring a few dollars more, and but little attention has been paid to those we breed from.

I have been repeatedly told by the older farmers, that the size and quality of stock in this town has decreased very much for the last fifty years. There has recently been one full blood Devon introduced here, through the enterprise of a member of this club, a resident of an adjoining town, the stock of which bids fair to be an improvement upon our native breeds. I do not say this is the only breed of stock adapted to

Here, for instance, are two acres of land from which a crop of wheat has been harvested, and have been seeded down with herds-grass and clover; these grass roots have made a vigorous start, and are sure to receive a good share of attention. It is late in the season, a rain comes on, and the ground being soft, the cattle leave large holes, which become filled with water, the ground freezes, water and all. The next year you will hear the farmer wondering why the grass looks no better where the wheat was last year. It is uneven, the grass not starting at all in some places. Is it any wonder? Remember the ground filled with holes frozen up full of water and then see if it does not look reasonable that where the land is left smooth and the second crop or aftermath is allowed to remain, that it will serve the double purpose of protecting the roots through the winter, and enriching them the succeeding year?

Instead of feeding your fields with any thing more than calves, take a quarter of an acre of land or more if necessary, and sow corn for silage, and if you have never tried the experiment, you will be astonished at the amount grown on so small a space. It should be sown at different times, so as to mature as wanted. When sown in drills, it can be thinned out and the weeds kept out, which is not so convenient, when sown broadcast. By having a good supply of this, and feeding regularly, you need not graze your fields at all.

The practice of feeding your grass land in the fall, would not be so objectionable, if fed but moderately, and the stock was not allowed on those portions, recently seeded down; but, so long as neither precaution is attended to, the practice to my own mind seems decidedly injurious.

Third. More stock should be kept, and in order to do this, root crops should receive more attention.

In England, the turnip is valued very highly, the top as well as root, being cured. And it has been asserted that the failure of this crop a single season would be of more injury to them than the failure of the Bank of England.

I was recently informed by a Massachusetts farmer, that he frequently wintered his shoats with the ruta bags, fed in a raw state.

From experiments made the present season, I think the flat turnip, which is good for feeding the first of the winter, can be raised at an expense not exceeding six cents per bushel, while those in the habit of cultivating the ruta bags, say they can be raised for eight cents.

In other sections of our State, they raise six and eight hundred bushels to the acre, and say they do not cost them eight cents per bushel.

Allowing them to cost ten cents per bushel, which is but about half the average cost of raising a bushel of potatoes, and I have never yet seen the man, that has carefully compared the two, but has said the turnip was worth more than half, and some say equally as much as the potato.

Carrots are much more nutritious, and on light sandy soils, are easily raised. Of late they have been esteemed quite highly as a feed for horses.

It would be well to experiment with the turnip, carrot, parsnip, beet, and mangold wurtzel, noticing the cost of raising each; then compare by feeding, and the relative value of each could then be arrived at.

The man that has two hundred bushels of roots in his cellar, will winter his stock of fifteen or twenty head of cattle, with less amount of hay, than those who feed with hay alone, all will admit. Here then are three ways by which the hay crop may be increased.

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this section, but it has points in its favor, which are not possessed by any other.

By keeping more stock, I do not mean it should be turned into the highway, to get its living. Cows, being obliged to run the gauntlet between clubs and dogs, so that it would seem, that the milk they afford, would turn sour before the cream could rise, from the many curses they get.

The man who habitually pastures his cows in the road, gains no enviable reputation as a man, and his boys, while hunting them up at night, will be apt to acquire the habit of pilfering orchards, by the time apples are the size of bullets.

Even should the present prices of stock not continue, yet it must and should be kept, and instead of being bought and driven to Brighton to be fattened, we should endeavor to fit them for the shambles at home.

We are told that the number of consumers increase in greater proportion than the producers. So long as this is the fact, the products of the farm will yield a remunerative price.

Of the products of the farm easily converted with us into cash, the potato is an important crop. The more common way has been, to draw them direct from the field to the starch factory, and this method has many advantages, not being obliged to assort them, with the risk of frost and decay. From the proprietor of the starch factory, in this town, I learn that for two years preceding this, he has purchased annually fifteen thousand bushels of potatoes, paying twenty-five cents per bushel. Should this market be taken from us, it would be felt more than we are wont to suppose.

With a favorable season, corn is probably the most profitable cultivated crop. The manner of cultivating this crop, application of manures, variety of seed, how to be harvested, are all matters which the successful farmer must be well acquainted with.

Many have become discouraged in sowing wheat, from the effects of the war, rust, and early frost, and seed down their land with oats. These of late, having brought a good price, and with their surplus of them purchased their flour. The principle of raising one specific crop, and exchanging for other necessities, will hold good if not carried to too great an extent. For instance, the raising of hops. Where this is made the only business, and the prices continue remunerative, all is well; but, when a change comes, as it often does, and they will not pay the cost of raising, should you wish to cultivate a variety of crops, you have no fertilizing matter. Raising stock will be a poor business with you then, your farm run out, not fit for corn and potatoes, and hardly fit for hops.

A few of our farmers, who farm well in all cases, have turned their attention in part, to the cultivation of this crop; and the fact that it is but in part that they have devoted their attention to this branch, may be one reason of their success.

Formerly, it was the custom to use the surplus products of the farm, in fattening pigs. Some think it the better policy now, that it needs close calculation to make potatoes realize twenty-five cents, or corn one dollar per bushel, and raise pork for eight or ten cents per pound.

I learn that one of the members of the club is raising barley as a feed for hogs, but with what success I am not informed. I have this year raised oats and rye together, and am not sure but I shall have as many oats as though the rye had not been there, the rye serving to keep the oats up and prevent them from lodging.

The feed is certainly an improvement, and I shall farther experiment with it. The quantity sown was one peck of rye to one and a half bushels of oats.

If corn and potatoes cannot be raised so as to fatten pork with profit, it will be well to ascertain if possible, what can be raised in root crops, oats and rye, barley, or whatever it may be.

If, in feeding out the produce of the farm, we receive in return the market price of the produce, when converted into beef or pork, there is not much loss. The hog should be made to furnish fertilizing material enough, to pay the expense of feeding. His yard should be the receptacle of all weeds, before ripening their seed, the chips in the bottom of your chip yard, and let it receive the water from your sink spout. Where this is not convenient a cistern should be made in the ground, planking up the sides, and into this throw the waste material around your buildings—straw, potato-vines, turf &c., and allow the sink water to saturate the mass, and you will have one or more loads, of dressing, for your garden.

If you have never attended to this, do it at once, and you will be rid of one nuisance around your premises, besides furnishing yourself with a quantity of superior dressing. I have neither time nor inclination, to discuss the subject of deep or shallow plowing, or the much disputed theory of the application of manures. As it regards the former, I am in favor of deep plowing, deeper by one inch at least, at each time of plowing, than before and pulverizing the soil more. Plow until the ground is as mellow as your garden is prepared, and then the roots will have a chance to penetrate the soil in quest of food.

As it regards the application of manures, the quicker they are in the ground the better. I am aware that many do not agree with this. I would prefer to have all fertilizers, in a state capable of being dissolved in water as a test; but while waiting for this, the volatile parts are passing off by evaporation, we are told by chemists, and every farmer should be chemist enough to understand this, unless they are protected. True it takes longer for them to become fit food for plants, when undergoing the state

of fermentation in the ground, but the loss is much less.

But in this, as with every other practice in farming, the man must exercise his own judgment. Let reason and careful experiment decide the matter. Not what this, or that one says, respecting the many theories, should be taken as law, without investigation. Experiment for yourself, and with close observation and a good share of common sense, and the more of the latter the better, note the result. In order to do this, so as to arrive at anything definite, keep a record of each section of your farm, noting the time and depth of plowing, the kind and quantity of fertilizers used, and the result of each crop year by year. Should you wish to know whether you are farming with profit or loss, if you would be sure whether corn is the most profitable crop, instead of guessing that it is so, merely because others say so, then keep a journal of your farming.

How many farmers are there in this town, that can inform you from a correct account kept, the cost of raising one acre of corn or potatoes this year?

Were the soil of this town alike in all cases, and had it been under the same state of cultivation, with the same situation and exposure, then the experiment of one individual might answer for all. But so long as this is not the case, each must experiment for himself to a certain extent.

You are aware that a large proportion of our citizens are tillers of the soil, while nearly every one has at least, a garden spot. It is a custom no more common here, than in many other places, to think that for a man to be qualified for business at the present day, requires more attention than formerly, in all professions, save that of farming. But with the farmer this is thought to be all unnecessary. It requires no education with special reference to agriculture to be a farmer.

When a boy is shrewd and sharp, at a trade, as the saying is, he is selected for a merchant; another may have a good share of common sense, and be a ready scholar, or he may be possessed of neither, he is sent to college to make a professional man of him, and if there is still another, that does not exist in either of these points, then make a farmer of him. When a man is fit for nothing else, of course he can be a farmer. These are the conclusions of some persons. I do not intend any personalities here. For my own part I am a farmer, partially from choice, and part from necessity, and with health, I have no higher ambition in point of vocation, than to be able to manage a farm in a thorough, scientific manner. You may call that a low ambition if you wish. It is what but few attain to.

Nor would I have all become farmers. But it is no more true, that it is necessary for those termed "professional men," that they should receive an education with special reference to their calling, than that the farmer should be equally informed, in his calling, one of the greatest sciences of the age.

It was the language of General Washington, that "Agriculture was the most useful, the most healthful, and the most noble employment of man."

Farmers' sons are apt to think farming is all a drudgery, from the little their fathers endeavor to interest them in it. Seldom do they see a book pertaining to Agriculture or Horticulture; and while a political newspaper can be taken, one devoted to the interests of the soil cannot be afforded. It is equal folly to think we must follow all the theories presented by agricultural processes. It is only by reading and close observation, that we are enabled to separate the practical, from the visionary.

The merchant, lawyer and doctor, can have a thrifty garden, the front yard enclosed with a neat fence, and a few ornamental shrubs set out; but the farmer is apt to reason there is no utility in this. I once queried with a farmer in this town, who was about erecting a very convenient and somewhat showy house, on the property of setting it a little farther from the road, so as to leave a larger front yard. Why, said he, "I do not consider the land left in front of the house of any profit, while if I have it in the rear, it will yield two tons of hay per acre."

In villages, where building lots are sold for five hundred dollars it may answer to build city style, near the street, and if you can plan it to get your buildings into the road, so much the better, provided you hide the favorite view of your neighbors, who may have a little better situation than you, or does not think as you do on politics. But the farmer has no excuse like this, and there is no reason why he should not make his dwelling attractive, both within and without.

Were the farmers of the present day, willing to educate their sons to be scientific agriculturists, to teach them that farming is a calling they need not be ashamed of, and to adorn their homes with the natural gifts within their reach, there would be less young men quitting the farm, and fleeing to our cities, eager speedily to acquire wealth and fame, but after returning ruined in all that makes a man. It has been truly said

An honest man, is the noblest work of God.

It is encouraging to know that there is a spirit of inquiry with our citizens, as to what can be done to improve the farm and garden. It has been found that barn cellars, are the cheapest sheds for cattle, and afford protection to manure. Apple trees, are better trained, grafted and cared for. Young trees are taking the place of old and decayed ones; the pear, plum and grape are being introduced; dwelling houses and out buildings, are being repaired and made more neat and convenient; better fences are seen, while many other improvements of

merit might be noticed, which have been made in our town within a few years.

It is pleasing also to know that so many who are not members of our club, have contributed to the interest of the exhibition to-day; and if such do not feel repaid for their efforts, we will say that our books are always open for those desirous of becoming members of the society, and the dollar for your membership, shall be properly expended for the increase of the Library.

Many new varieties of seeds have been introduced the present season. There has been received from the Patent Office and other sources, and distributed among the members of the club, seeds, that had they been purchased by the single package, would have cost more than thirty dollars.

It is not expected that all will be adapted to our soil and climate, yet some, we believe, will prove valuable additions to our field and garden products.

Our old and tried vegetables are not to be hastily thrown aside forever, for uncertainty, but should be brought to the highest state of perfection.

While speaking of seeds, it has occurred to me that we might adopt a system of saving garden seeds, something like this. Let one member of the club devote his attention to the raising of best seed, another carrot, another turnip, and so on through the list, selecting well formed, and the earliest samples and furnishing seed enough for all the members, and then exchanging with one another. The more common way is, to set all the varieties together, the seed ripening at different periods, they are neglected; but was there but one variety to be attended to I think better seed would be secured with less trouble to all. I mention this subject now, that those having good samples can preserve the same till our weekly meetings, when the matter can be arranged.

I can but congratulate you, Mr. President, and members of the club, upon the prosperous state of our society. Started with but few members, it has steadily increased both in numbers and interest, until its importance is felt and acknowledged by nearly all.

I have often been questioned to know if it was in as prosperous a condition as has been represented in The Oxford Democrat? and I have replied yes, that was all true.

It was not started with large pretensions, either to outstrip the County or State Societies. From a letter received from the Secretary of the State Society, I learn there is not a public Agricultural Library in the State save that of the Bethel Farmers' Club. With the change proposed to be made in the Constitution, so as to admit those engaged in mechanical pursuits, doubtless there will be other additions to the Library.

It is encouraging to know that our efforts for self improvement, have been carried on with the utmost good feeling and unanimity. No one has felt injured, and his views did not accord with his neighbors, while all have been allowed to judge of the correctness or falsity of every theory presented; and I presume to say there is not a member, that has attended the weekly meetings for discussion but feels himself repaid, for whatever of time or money it may have cost him.

Who is there that will say, that such an exhibition as we have witnessed here to-day, could have been held in this place, five years ago?

Who has not attended our County fairs in years past, and seen less of variety, and poorer in quality, than has been exhibited here to-day? Had our efforts resulted in nothing more than this, viz: exciting a spirit of rivalry among the members of our club to excel in gardening, it would have accomplished much. But it has done more. It has led us to think and reflect upon the subjects discussed, which are of interest to all.

Let it not be understood that we have arrived at perfection as farmers or gardeners. We are but learners yet. We have not ascertained to what extent ground may be made to produce, or the garden spot of two rods square, even, either as to quantity or quality. We are associated together for our own improvement, and from those who are both willing to receive and impart instruction, we shall be glad of cooperation. Our aim is still higher. The exhibition of this day is commendable, and reflects much credit upon the town, when it is remembered that it is wholly voluntary. Yet we believe the prolific soil of Bethel, can be made to produce the products here exhibited, and others, in a greater state of perfection, and that its inhabitants may become better informed, as to what is necessary for the profitable management of the farm and garden. Then let us go on and persevere.

"Give new endeavors to the mystic art, Try every scheme, and ripe your vint; What glorious fruits thy conquests may create!"

PROFIT OF UNDER-DRAINING.—Mr. Wm. Chamberlain, of Lower Red Hook, N. Y., drained 25 acres of land, at an expense of \$60 per acre, and the first three crops paid the whole expense, including cost of cultivation. He may then heretofore look for a profit of \$20 per acre on each crop. Last season part of his ground yielded 75 bushels of corn, another part 300 bushels of potatoes, while on adjacent undrained fields the crops were nearly ruined by the drouth.

[Arator.]

A PEAR. A country Republican paper, in chronicling the Free Soil victory in Kansas, and the election of Parrot over Ransom, quotes the following lines from an old Methodist hymn:

"The year of jubilee has come; Return you RANSOM'd sinners home."

MISCELLANY.

A Night in a Harem.

The N. Y. Herald publishes a report of a recent lecture in that city, by Chechik Oacanyan Effendi, upon the subject of the "Harem," which we copy in part, as a matter of novelty and interest to outsiders.

Harems exist in America, says Mr. Oacanyan, precisely the same as they do in Turkey; that is to say, the common Western idea of Eastern harems has no foundation whatever in fact. So all our notions of the glorious time which Pacha and nabobs are supposed to have, are upset in a breath. The word "Harem" does not mean polygamy, for the Christian subjects of the Porte use the word too, and yet possess but one wife. Harem is merely the Turkish for home (*le foyer domestique*); and, for all that we can see to the contrary, might belong to a bachelor, were it not that in Eastern climes "useless men" do not flourish, for certainly, Turks agree with Oliver Goldsmith, that "he who marries early and brings up a large family, does more service to his country than he who continues single and talks only of population."

The two holy cities of Mecca and Medina are spoken of as harems, in the same way as the Christian calls heaven his home—the oriental would say "heaven is my harem," without any reference to the several scores of black eyed hours which the prophet has promised to the faithful. When the American minister arrives at Constantinople should he bring his family with him, the Hon. Mr. S and so is announced, "with his harem."

The upper part of the house, which we style the ladies' apartments, is kept for the female sex alone, and bears the mystic name, The ladies' cabin in our ferry boats, would, in Turkey, be dignified with the title, harem. Your Moslem is so fearful of scandal that he never permits the female members of his household to be seen abroad unveiled, nor would the ladies themselves consent to it, for according to the lecturer's account, they are even more bashful and prudish than a boarding school miss. A Turkish woman would be as confounded, if caught without her veil, as an American surprised on toilet to admit. The dear creatures walk the streets alone, their husbands not even recognizing them, if they meet, and there is no fear of insult, for the passers by would render them sneer at all times. Were he to any man who gets into dispute with them, for the tongue is ever ready (as here) and the slipper is a sure means of attack.

The first years of a girl's life are passed with men and women indiscriminately; during that time she attends the public school, or studies at home, but arrived at eight years of age, she enters the harem and no longer appears in public unveiled. Education is on a very low scale and unscientific, consequently the women are mere overgrown girls. They have the same love of dress which characterizes their sex the wide world over, and the fashion is constantly changing so that their husbands are no better off, momentarily, than the poor fellows in the West.

An European or American is astonished at finding no sleeping apartments in the Turkish houses. Bedding is put out of sight during the day, but at the hour of rest it is brought forth and spread on the floor of any one of the rooms most convenient. Western manners are creeping in, however, and bringing furniture along; so that in some houses, chairs, sofas, and even bedsteads are beginning to make appearance. The lecturer went on to state that "harem" meant an assemblage of women, but not by any means of such women as were generally supposed. True polygamy exists, but it is fast dying out; and very few now possess more than one wife. Mahomet found the tribes of Western Asia living in the most primitive state of encumbrance, and endeavored to reform the evil by directing that no man should have more than four wives, except the Prophet and his successors, who might "see that and go three better." The present Sultan has five, each one ruling over a separate and distinct household, for jealousy exists there the same as with us, and produces similar results. Pettish government, "Candle lectures," &c. flourish, and Turkish women get their own way, if they want it, and what woman does not?

Marriage in Turkey is a civil contract, not a religious ceremony or sacrament. A man buys a pig in a poke when he marries in the East, for he does not see his wife before marriage, but does all the courting with the lady's father. The preliminaries arranged, he enters the chamber of the bride, and finds her on the sofa, veiled. The following conversation, or something like it, ensues: "May I be guilty of the gross indiscretion of lifting your veil?" and the maiden of course replies "Not my will but thine be done." The ice is broken, and there is no necessity of our pursuing the subject further, except that the husband follows the bride to her new home, and the same results obtain in Turkey as elsewhere. Divorce is easily obtained, and, as it is feared, the women get all they can out of the men, and lay it up in store against an evil day. Infanticide is very frequent, and illegitimacy is unknown in consequence.

The lecturer stated that women in Turkey are treated as the mates of men, not as the mere subjects of his will, and that no belief exists there in relation to their possessing no souls. As well might it be argued that Christians deny immortality to women because "in heaven there is no marrying or giving in marriage."

"Cheerfulness is the daughter of employment; and I have known a man come home in high spirits from a funeral, merely because he had had the management of it."

Judge Yell's First Court.

When Colonel Archibald Yell, afterwards killed at the battle of Buena Vista, had taken his seat for the first time upon the bench in Arkansas, the bar was composed of a set of lawyers who had always browbeaten his predecessors and had their own way. Judge Yell determined to put a stop to this. The first case on the docket was called and the plaintiff stood ready. It was a case that had been in litigation for five years. General Smoot arose for the defendant, and remarked in an overbearing tone, "our witnesses are absent, and therefore I demand that the case be continued until next term, in course."

"Let the affidavit be filed, for not till then can I entertain a motion for its continuance," was the reply of the Judge.

"Do you doubt my word as to the facts?" Gen. Smoot exclaimed sharply, and involuntarily raised his huge sword cane.

"Not at all," replied the Judge with his blandest smile; "but the law requires that the facts justifying a continuance must appear on the record, and the Court has no power to annul a law, nor will it see it annulled."

The Judge's deliberate tone and manner only served to irritate the bully, and he retorted, shaking his sword-cane in the direction of the bench. "Whatever may be the law, I, for one, will not learn it from the lips of an upstart demagogue and coward!"

Judge Yell's temper was a little moved at this reply, but he only turned to the Clerk, and said—"Mr. Clerk, you will enter a fine of fifty dollars against Gen. Smoot, as I see him named on my docket, for gross contempt of Court, and be sure you issue an immediate execution."

He had hardly communicated the order, when Gen. Smoot was seen rushing towards him brandishing his sword cane. Every glance was fixed on the countenance of the Judge, for all wished to know how he would bear the coming shock of the duellist's fierce assault. But none, however, could detect the slightest change in his appearance. He did not change color, nor did a nerve tremble; his calm eye surveyed the advancing foe, with a little of perturbation. He sat perfectly still, with a little start of painted iron in his hand. Smoot ascended the platform and immediately aimed a tremendous blow at the head of his foe. At that blow all expected to see the victim's head shivered to atoms. The general astonishment may then be conceived, when they beheld the little iron staff describe a quick curve, as the great sword cane flew from Smoot's fingers, and fell with a loud clatter at the distance of twenty feet in the hall! The baffled bully uttered a yell, and snatched his bowie-knife from its sheath, but ere it was to the desperate plunge, the little iron staff cut another curve, and the big knife followed the sword cane. He then hastily drew a revolving pistol, but before he had time to touch the trigger his arm was struck powerless by his side. And then for the first time, did Judge Yell betray any emotion. He stamped his foot till the platform shook beneath him and shouted in trumpet tones—"Mr. Clerk, you will blot this ruffian's name from the roll of attorneys, as a false disgrace to the bar. Mr. Sheriff, take the criminal to jail." The latter officer sprang to obey the mandate, and immediately a scene of confusion ensued which no pen can describe. The bravos and myrmidon friends of Gen. Smoot, gathered around to obstruct the sheriff, while many of the citizens lent their aid to sustain the authority of the Court. Menaces, shouts and curses were commingled. The new judge used his little iron cane with terrible efficiency, crippling limbs, yet sparing life. The sheriff, imitating the clemency of his honored friend, declining the use of either knife or pistol, actually trampled and crushed opposition, singing out at every furious blow—"This is the way to preserve order in court,"—"a sentiment which he accompanied with a loud peal of laughter. In less than two minutes the party of the Judge triumphed, the clique of Gen. Smoot suffered a disastrous defeat, and the bully himself was borne away to prison. Such was the debut of Archibald Yell in Arkansas; and from that day, his popularity as a man, as a Judge, as a hero, and as a politician, went on rapidly increasing, till eclipsing the old and most powerful names, it set on the bloody eve of Buena Vista.

A STEAMBOAT NEWSPAPER. Among other innovations which the mammoth steamer Great Eastern is about to inaugurate, will be the publication of a daily paper on board for the benefit of the traveling public—the regular "public" of travelers—whom she may be bearing across the ocean. But this startling feature is anticipated on the western waters of the New World, for the New Orleans and St. Louis packet steamer James E. Woodruff now sails equipped with the force and material for the publication of a regular daily paper on board during her trips up and down river, with a job office attached for the printing of bills of fare and other work. [N. Y. E. Post.]

PREACHING AND PRACTICE. A worthy clergyman in New York, following the practice of his ministerial brethren, recently preached a very earnest discourse on the hard times, enforcing the duty of retrenchment and economy. Immediately after church the congregation took him at his word by holding a meeting, at which his salary was cut down from \$1000 to \$600.

It is remarked that the New York Banks and Mrs. Cunningham "suspended" on the same day—the latter failing to appear at Court and thereupon forfeiting her recognizance.

The Oxford Democrat

PARIS, MAINE, NOV. 13, 1857.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING BY
WM. A. FIDGIN & CO.,
PROPRIETORS.

JOHN J. PERRY, Editor.

Terms.—One dollar and fifty cents strictly in advance; one dollar and seventy-five cents within six months; two dollars at the end of the year. To which fifty cents will be added for every year which payment is delayed.

Advertisements inserted on reasonable terms; the proprietors not being responsible for any error beyond the amount charged for the advertisement.

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Payment for all advertisements is held to be due from the date of the first insertion.

Communications should be directed to "The Oxford Democrat, Paris, Me."

Book and Job Printing
PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

The Black Democracy and Hard Times.

Who does not remember the hue and cry that was raised, previous to the last Presidential Election, by the black democracy all over the country, that the election of Col. Fremont would bring wide spread ruin upon the whole Union? The aversion of men was strongly appealed to, by the pro-slavery democracy, and made an element in the contest. Strange as it may now seem, it had its effect, and many votes were carried upon this supposed issue. Men of all classes in many of the large cities, whose sympathies were really with the Republicans, became alarmed, and joined in the general cry of prospective ruin unless Buchanan could be elected. This was especially the case in the cities of Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati, and Boston. Well, election came off, and Fremont was defeated and Buchanan elected, and the people of this country are now witnessing with a vengeance the *beneficial* times that were to follow the election of the latter. Had Fremont succeeded we should now be told at corners of the streets, in the highways and bye ways, by this same black democracy that the financial calamity now upon us was produced by his election. The leaders of this same party in that event would have now been howling round the country like so many hyenas, from one end of it to the other, declaring things had turned out just as they predicted. As it is, they are mighty still, being in the sad condition of the man who stole the pork, "having nothing to say." We have no desire to get up false issues or accuse the black democracy of any thing of which they are not guilty,—for Heaven knows they have committed more sins than they can ever atone for; yet we charge upon this party that it has directly caused all, or nearly all the financial troubles that now embarrass and trouble the country.

In the first place, they have had the whole political power in their hands, almost unopposed for the last thirty years. They have generally had a majority in both Houses of Congress. The responsibility has been upon that party, and they stand directly accountable for the evils that have come out of our National Legislation. Now it is useless to deny the fact that the present state of affairs has been brought about in a great measure by governmental action. Extraneous, one of the admitted causes of those troubles, has originated with the general government. John Quincy Adams expended only fifteen millions per year, during his administration, and yet those black democrats were finding fault with him all the way through because it was so much. Martin Van Buren, because he added about ten millions to this amount was driven from power by an overwhelming majority. Since that time under democratic rule, our nation has been going on from bad to worse, until Pierce's administration squandered about eighty millions a year. His administration in addition to all his other infamous sins was prodigal in its expenses. It was *prodigal, prodigal*, during his four years misrule. The public monies were squandered by him during this time in a manner perfectly outrageous. His whole administration was a perfect Galgahin swindle. Now an extravagant national government leads its people into habits of extravagance. It is perfectly natural that it should be so and it really is so. If our rulers set the example of this kind, even if it is a bad one, the people will follow it. But it has not only been the force of example, operating to corrupt the masses, but causes have been put in operation which have worked out results, fearful to the American people. The Legislation of the black democracy has been directed against the best interests of the whole country. As honest John Davis said when returning from Congress, "Slavery rules everything." The black democracy have legislated exclusively for the aristocrats of the South, and against the laborers of the North. Northern interests have been sold out by the slave drivers from the South and the doughfaces of the free States.

The National Treasury has been plundered of its millions and hundreds of millions to pay for runaway negroes, buy slave territory, supporting wars to extend its area, to pay off Northern doughfaces for their treason in selling out their constituents, and otherwise to extend and perpetuate the curse of human slavery. The black democracy has done all this and the same party is now engaged in the same notorious work. So great has been this power and so completely have the negro drivers of the South held the black democracy by the nose in the management of all our governmental affairs, that no tariff of duties or imports could be graduated, except under their immediate dictation. Look at the tariff act of '46—an act framed expressly to build up Southern interests and ruin the people of the North—an act to protect Southern cotton and ruin Northern manufacturers. Look at the abominable tax the consumers have had to pay, to protect a single interest in a single Southern State.

In 1856, the duties paid upon the single article of Sugar was *twelve millions of dollars*, and all filched out of the pockets of the people to protect the sugar growers of Louisiana. The black democrats who now hold the reins of power at Washington, have always been making a great hue and cry about corporations, manufac-

turing companies &c., and yet they joined with the South in the crusade against the North in the passage of the Tariff Bill of '46, which has ruined nearly every capitalist that has invested funds in those corporations, and turned out of employment tens of thousands of honest laborers, who now have nothing to do to support themselves and families. It has been the policy of the black democracy for years to break down free white labor in the country, to crush down the man who thinks it not degrading to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. That is what they are laboring for now. Mr. Buchanan has always contended that the price of labor in this country has been too high. This is the reason why the State gave to him the name of "ten cent Jimmy," years ago. He is a fit representative of his party. The black democracy not only are raising heaven and earth to enslave the blacks, but they are aiming a death blow at the white man who labors with his hands. This is why they desire to enslave Kansas and other portions of our free territory. Slave labor is the great antagonist of white labor, and you cannot promote the former without necessarily degrading the other. Those are democratic times. Our merchants ruined, our manufacturing interests prostrated in the dust, our free white laborers thrown out of employment, with destitution and want staring them in the face, public confidence destroyed, and wide spread ruin showing his ghastly head on every side.

We have got to change the public policy of the general government, or these hard times are but the precursor of worse ones. "Be not deceived, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap." The men who aided in elevating Buchanan to the Presidency, are within a single year reaping the bitter fruits of their misguided action. Desperate cases sometimes require desperate remedies. If the people who back up the usurpations of the black democracy have not suffered enough yet, they may before they get through with them. They that sow to the wind, must expect to reap the whirlwind, and the retribution is a just one so far as they are concerned. If the people want democratic misrule, let them have it with a vengeance until they are satisfied.

Gov. Walker and Kansas Frauds.

The black democracy in some of the free States, are now in ecstasies, because Gov. Walker has done one honest act, as chief magistrate of Kansas Territory. They think it wonderful, very wonderful, that he did not sanction the Kansas frauds, perpetrated in his recent election. They think it a great virtue in Gov. Walker that he got frightened into doing right—for he very well understood that if the 1700 fraudulent votes from the Oxford precinct in Johnson County were counted in, the people of the Territory would fight. It is well known that Walker did everything in his power, prior to and at the election, to favor the border-ruffian democracy. He everywhere encouraged them on, and at his suggestion the United States Troops voted—a proceeding which is expressly forbidden in the organized act of the Territory.

Now it is really remarkable that Walker and Stanton did not count in those bogus votes, for every election that has taken place in Kansas, has been a perfect swindle, and the frauds have been sanctioned and approved by the general government at Washington. To so anything that even equates at fairness on the part of a government official in Kansas, is wonderful indeed. We have had so much rascality on the part of the villainous democracy in power at Washington, and the black hearted villains they have sent out to Kansas—with official authority—that we are all astonished, that even Walker and his public Secretary got frightened into doing right. But while the black democracy in New England for the sake of keeping up appearances, seem to rejoice because Walker did not set out the border-ruffian in social democratic style, by directly sanctioning a villainous fraud plain before his eyes, the South are on his track in regular blood-lust style. And the Northern doughfaces have got to cave in. The whip of the Southern masters cracked over their heads only a few times, will bring them to their senses. These craven-hearted fellows will be compelled to join in the hue and cry against Walker. The South has "taken snuff,"—the doughfaces must "smoke." The negro-drivers will give the word, and the Northern peopled will soon be heard "barking at the hole." This they must do to maintain a respectable standing in the democratic party.

Responsibility of the Black Democracy.

Hold them to it.

The slave democracy have the President, both houses of Congress, and every department of the general government. The responsibility for what is past is not only resting upon them, but they will be responsible for the future. They can do as they please. All the rascality that shall be perpetrated in the next Congress, will have to be sanctioned by them. The load is upon them, and they have got to bear it. They have got the Country into trouble, now let them go to work and get it out.

This party has involved us within the last four years, in a civil war,—has treated its own citizens worse than aliens,—has squandered the public money, and plundered the treasury until it has nearly drained it of twenty millions of surplus funds,—has corrupted and debauched the public mind, and brought wide spread ruin upon the whole American people.

This party is responsible for all this. The eyes of the American people are being opened. They begin to see who has been guilty. Now let this party, now in full power, go to work and do something beside legislate for negro traders—take their necks out from under the yoke of their Southern masters,—scrape the dough from off their faces, and if afraid of manhood remains, show it by some acts of honest legislation worthy of men who prate so much about being "national." We repeat,—the whole responsibility is upon this party, and the American people will hold them to a strict accountability.

A new Baptist church has been recognized in Mechanic Falls. It numbers forty two members.

Constitutional Convention in Kansas.

The Pro-Slavery Convention, which has taken upon itself the duty of forming a Constitution under which the citizens of the future State of Kansas are to live, is still in session, but it is reported that it is drawing its labors to a close. The clause in relation to the slavery question has been acted upon, and is as follows:

PARAGRAPH. The right of property is before and higher than any Constitutional sanction, and the right of the owner of a slave to such slave and its increase is the same and as inviolable as the right to any property whatever.

Section 1. The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves without the consent of their owners, or without paying their owners, previous to their emancipation, a full equivalent in money for the slaves so emancipated. They shall have no power to prevent emigrants to this State from bringing with them such persons as are deemed slaves by the laws of any one of the United States or Territories, so long as any person of the same age or description shall be continued in slavery by the laws of this State; provided that such person or slave be the bona fide property of such emigrant; and provided also that laws may be passed to prohibit the introduction into this State of slaves who have committed high crimes in other States or Territories. They shall have power to pass laws to permit the owners of slaves to emancipate them, saving the rights of creditors, and preventing them from becoming a public charge. They shall have power to oblige the owners of slaves to treat them with humanity, to provide for them necessary food and clothing, to abstain from all injuries to them extending to life or limb; and in case of their neglect or refusal to comply with the direction of such laws, to have such slave or slaves sold for the benefit of the owner or owners.

Sec. 2. In the prosecution of slaves for crimes of higher grade than petit larceny, the Legislature shall have no power to deprive them of an impartial trial by petit jury.

As yet it is not decided whether the instrument is to be submitted to the people before it is presented to Congress. If the people have a voice in it, it is certain that no monstrous provision could stand a moment. Gov. Walker has intimated that unless such a course is taken the administration will oppose it in Congress. On the other hand Southern fire-eaters, say that it will not be submitted to the people, but the State will be admitted with the Constitution presented by the Convention. So the democracy seem to be divided into a people's party and a fire-eater's party, and it remains for the administration to endorse the one or the other. Rumor has it that he disapproves the action of Walker, and if this is the case it may be that he is preparing to still further identify himself, if possible, with the Southern disunionists.

Supreme Judicial Court.

The November Term, for Oxford County, commenced on Tuesday of this week. Hon. J. W. Hathaway, Justice.

The following is a list of the jurors in attendance:

GRAND JURORS. John M. Doshon, Canton, Foreman; Geo. W. Battles, Rockfield; Wesley B. Coburn, Albany; Oscar Charles, Stone; Wellington Dudley, Paris; Charles F. Doshon, Paris; Thomas E. Fox, Porter; Eli Foster, Bethel; James Hobbs, Jr., Lovell; Solomon S. Hall, Norway; John Hamblin, Sweden; Amos F. Maxwell, Fryeburg; Joshua Perham, Woodstock; William V. Porter, Roxbury; Jedediah Stuart, Hiram; Philander S. Wilson, Mexico; Daniel Gurney, Greenwood.

TRAYNOR JURORS. Paris, Alfred Adams, Foreman; Hartford, John C. Allen; Watford, Theodore I. Brown; Stoneham, Amos Barker; Greenwood, Peter B. Back; Oxford, Cyrus Brown; Denmark, Samuel C. Gully, 2d.; Sweden, James Evans; Shaw, John Harrington; Paris, Daniel Hall, 2d.; Norway, David R. Holden; Holton, Joseph Merrill.

Second Jury. Henry C. Reed, Norway, Foreman; Joseph Patten, Albany; Kilburn Perham, Woodstock; Maybrow C. Peary, Brownfield; Erastus P. Poor, Andover; Leonard Russell, Rockfield; Andrew Stevens, Rumford; John Stanton, Porter; B. Y. Tuell, Sumner; William H. Walker, Lovell; Samuel Wadsworth, Hiram.

SCIENTIFIC JURORS. Dixfield, Isaac F. Newton; Paris, Sullivan Andrews; Bethel, Woodbury Mason.

No. 45. MOSES CHESLEY V. HENRY HAWKINS.

Action of trespass for damages for assault and battery and false imprisonment. The defendant undertook to justify, as a Collector of taxes for the town of Oxford.

There was evidence put into the case tending to show that the plaintiff offered to turn out property to the defendant, to satisfy his taxes, and that the defendant refused to take it. Also, that after the arrest of the plaintiff, he claimed the right of bail—which the defendant also refused.

Various matters of law were raised by counsel for both parties.

Perry for P.T.F. Walton for Deft. Verdict for Plaintiff.

ELECTION RETURNS. In Wisconsin, the returns are contradictory and unsatisfactory. An official count will be necessary to ascertain the majority.

In Ohio, Gov. Chase has about 2000 majority. The democrats have in the Legislature, by a majority of 7 in the Senate, and 13 in the House.

The New York Legislature stands as follows. Republicans, 60, Democrats, 61, Americans, 7. The democrats have the Secretary of State, and the Republicans five of the eight Judges.

In Pennsylvania, the returns for President in 1856, and for Governor in 1857, are as follows:

1857.	1856.
Paeker 188,887	Buchanan 220,710
Wilmut 146,136	Fremont 147,510
Hazlehurst 28,432	Fillmore 82,475
Paeker over Wilmut 42,751	over Wilmut and Hazlehurst, 14,619.

If any hunker proposes to crow over this victory, we wish him good success.

New Jersey is Democratic and Maryland Know Nothing. Henry Winter Davis, is among the new members of Congress.

A CURE FOR INFLUENZA. This troublesome malady can be cured in two or three days, by using half a bottle of Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry. All irritation of the throat and bronchial tubes subsides at once under the soothing influence of this Balsam.

Out West—No. 3.

Here I am again with another dry letter through the columns of the Democrat, to my friends in the East. The Illinois people are on the eve of County elections. The political papers will at once, elections over, look you up in relation to the result, so no time need be occupied in making predictions, all of which might fail. Suffice it for you to know that party lines in County and State contests are exceedingly faint, and in many towns hardly traceable. Men readily and seemingly without any misgivings of conscience are now passing over from one party to another, and voting, each one, according to his own predilections, for whom he happens to cherish the warmest friendship; or for whom may be regarded by him as the best "fellow." There is really no party discipline, especially in the republican party. The party and its name are as much a thing of the past as time and time's political conflicts, trials and achievements have yet a work to do, to cement and discipline the Republican party, to enable it to win future victories worthy of its name and principles. It can and must politically regenerate and redeem the world.

But political matters may "slide," and I must redeem my promise to write about prairie chickens, experience in the legal profession, and surface views of society in general; and, finally, anything that will kill time in writing, provided it is warranted not to kill the printer in printing, or the reader in reading. In boyhood I doubted whether Illinois prairies were so beautifully sprinkled with veritable chickens. All doubts are removed. They are nearly as numerous as the trout in our New England mountain streams. Would you know how they are hunted? The sportsman mounts his horse, armed and equipped with all the necessary fixings, taking with him his well-trained and faithful chicken dog, a regular setter. The setter beats and scours the prairie, keeping at no great distance from his master. He sees a chicken in the grass, stops or sets, lightly lifts one fore paw, whinnying turns his head to his master. His master comes up. The setter moves rapidly along to the chicken. The chicken rises, and often reveals others at the same time. The chicken's flight at first, from the tall grass is heavy and slow, the aim of the hunter is sure and unerring, and rarely, if ever, fails to bring from the wing to the ground the one aimed at, and very frequently many others of these beautiful birds. In this way my friend, Col. Hume, and myself, bagged in one fine autumnal forenoon twenty-two as fine chickens as ever winged the air, or fell dead and bleeding at the hunter's feet. Many have made fortunes in hunting and sending to Eastern markets these prairie chickens, and no doubt many more will do the same. We became tired of the chase and dropped into a prairie cabin, constructed of hewn logs. The owner, a wealthy farmer, and his good wife, welcomed us and kindly consented to cook in genuine western style, a couple of our chickens for supper. We sat dinner with them and again took to the chase with about the same success as attended us in the forenoon. Supper came, or we came to supper, any way you choose to have it, in due time, and we devoured it with a relish.

For the benefit and amusement of my legal friends, perhaps, a few general observations upon Illinois Courts, lawyers and practice will not be regarded as wholly inappropriate. Judges, courts, trials, and practice, to me seem queer. Talent and legal acquirements are not wanting, but the same rough and ready pitch and terrible style prevails in courts of trial and the administration of justice, which is so peculiar and characteristic of western life and manners. No man, because he is judge or lawyer, need wear stiff dicky, well-polished boots, nicely adjusted and perfumed hair, and presume and rely upon his dignity; for surely the careless looks, the rushing whirl of society and the prairie mud will take the starch out of the dicky, the shine from the nicely polished boots; and the man with Eastern dignity will find it all gone. In order to give you some idea of courts of justice and trial by jury, it becomes necessary, among other things to introduce myself as one of the actors. The suit was an action of trover, to recover the value of two calves, alleged by the plaintiff to have been taken and converted by the defendant. The parties were a Mr. Reed, plaintiff, and a Mr. Baehus, defendant. It seemed to be well understood and generally conceded on all hands that the plaintiff is a litigant, quarrelsome man, and is addicted to the sin of selling to any who will buy, rotgut whiskey. While on the other hand the defendant is a highly respectable citizen, industrious, honest and upright, esteemed and respected by all who know him. I made the closing argument to the jury in defense, and in the course of my argument took occasion to animadvert with severity upon the character of plaintiff, and at the same time pay what I deemed a just tribute of respect to the character of my client, the defendant. The people in the court room seemed to justify my remarks. The plaintiff was sustained by one J. Wood, Esq. He replied to me in a speech of nearly an hour. He is a man of acknowledged legal acquirements and fine natural endowments. He is about fifty years old—has practiced law in various States, and has seen better days. He rose, boots up over his pants, his left hand in pocket, his right hand swinging carelessly and awkwardly at his side, unshaven for some two weeks, one would judge; tobacco juice freely running down from either corner of his mouth; about one quart of whiskey just drunk; and thus looking for all the world comical and ludicrous, he commenced with an exordium as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Jury! This is a suit about some calves. Old man Reed has sued old man Baehus to make him pay for two calves, one steer, and one heifer. Now old man Reed, my client, is guilty of the greatest sin of selling a little whiskey to lawyers, and occasionally to other people. Wat of it? Old man Reed may sell whiskey; he may be dishonest; he may be honestly and disliked by the codfish aristocracy; and on the other hand old man Baehus may be temperate; he may be industrious and honest and highly respected; he may be handsome; he may be as beautiful as our prairies in full vernal bloom, and smell as sweet as a beautiful little school girl's alabaster bosom; and still, gentlemen, with conscience within, and God over head, the question, and the only question for you to settle, is, who owns the calves?"

The above exordium of Mr. Wood's speech I took down, *verbatim et literatim*, at the time of delivery. At times he would state a legal proposition, and elaborate them with a clearness and correctness, and enforce them with a power and logic, evincing high intellectual endowments and early culture; and, often dismissing his drolletry, would rise into flights of witching fancy, and passages of genuine eloquence, truly thrilling and sublime. You should have seen him, as he ordered to appreciate him fully. There is no dancing before mirrors before speaking—exhibiting rings upon the soft little fingers—bowing to and complimenting the ladies—but the speaker had quite as lief, and will speak quite as well, standing on the street in the prairie mud, knee deep. He is always hearty, humorous and enthusiastic.

Now a few surface views of society, and then, this too tedious letter shall come to a close. Society is entirely unsettled, no divisions or subdivisions. In the East you pass regular grades, and enter regular and well defined degrees from a lower to a higher circle, bearing to the door of each circle, a certificate of so much money, so much Railroad stock, and such an honorable profession, or that you married or are about to marry some body's daughter, whose uncle is rich, has been accidentally elected from some obscure town in the rural districts to the legislature, or is going to be, if he continues to take and pay for the Eastern Argus, and if the Argus party is in power, when it comes his turn according to the programme. Thus society is divided up into circles. When a man in some little country village becomes worth some \$5000, his wife cannot wear bade or brow; his daughters, bless their tender years and delicate beauty, cannot step over a broomstick, on washing day, especially without fainting. Out here in the West, no one can separate the rich from the poor on the street, or in public assemblies, by dress or otherwise. Wives, whose husbands are worth fortunes, do their own work without waiting. Young ladies marry and wash their husband's shirts, mend his clothes, darn his socks, without being obliged to run home to their mothers once a week, to tell their mothers how hard they are compelled to work—how they regret that they ever married, and O dear! how they wish they could return to their girlhood, and the exquisite nice little drives in summer, and such delightful sleigh rides in winter, and those nice little twilight strolls in the garden, under the trees, and amid the shrubbery, and through the old gate; and then those sweet little letters from their dear beaux far away, and ten thousand other little pleasures and heart throbs, never to be forgotten. Society is forming, and reforming itself; there is no starch, no stiffness in Western life. Men are not hooped to keep them from swelling, women are not hooped to keep them from swelling. Every man looks out for himself, and his word is "pitch in." Women are seized with the same propensity to "pitch in." Society is active, revolutionizing and purifying itself. It never becomes stagnant. In fact it is composed of revolutionary, working, moving elements. It repudiates all etiquette—discards all conventional forms and fashionable restraints, running over and trampling under foot all division and compromise, emphatically utilitarian in movement and design. Stiff clothes are useless here—polished boots are of no account—beauty will feel the prairie mud—the dignified gait must be quickened—the young lady doffs the low slipper and dons the thick shoe—no need of any hopes to swell the white skirt—no particular need of white skirts. The wife and daughter regard it essential to domestic education, that they be able to make corn bread and nice biscuits—love their husbands and make home substantially happy. I am to leave soon for other sections of Country, and when and where I stop I will remember my friends and write you. The weather here is delightful. Harvesting is going on. Wheat is 45 cents per bushel. Corn 25 cents, and market heavy. Hard time for farmers who are owing heavy debts and must convert their grain into money.

J. W. B.

AN INSTITUTION NOT FIT TO BE EXPANDED. The Washington correspondent of the Independent relates a sad story of the injustice done to a colored freeman by a pious slaveholding seceder, a head steward of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The colored man was once a slave, but was manumitted by the will of his owner, a lady. The will was broken and Charles remained to servitude. Some Quakers procured his release on his paying five hundred dollars, but his wife and three children remained in slavery. The seceder before referred to, agreed to purchase the family and hold them until the husband and father should pay him six hundred dollars. Charles went to Washington to labor for the money. He visited his family four times a year, and carried them clothing to keep them comfortable. In the meantime the family increased to six children. When Charles offered to pay the price stipulated, the old sinner coolly asked him four thousand dollars. After a while this offer was accepted, and the possessor of the family was asked to give a writing to the effect that he would stand by this bargain. He refused, and then made complaint against Charles, that he was engaged in running off slaves. Charles, however, escaped and returned to Washington, where he now is. The laws which allow such villainy as this are considered worthy of "expansion" into all the Territories of the United States, and the man who dares to object is summarily set down as a fanatic and a disunionist.

FIELDS BAD. The Traveller feels bad. It squirms. Its bones ache. In plunging into Gardinerism it committed a ruinous mistake—one that it will not soon recover from. It feels bad. Poor fellows, they are doomed to feel worse. (Daily Bee.)

The Metropolitan Police Commissioners of New York, have elected Peletiah Perit, President of the Chamber of Commerce, to fill the vacant seat in their Board, proffered to Mr. Draper, but declined.

A READING ROOM. Among the institutions most essential to a country village, like this, we regard a well-conducted Reading Room. Our citizens, most of them, are not so situated that they cannot bring within their reach the principal daily journals of the country; and generally content themselves with subscribing for some one, or their own use only. A reading room obviates this difficulty, by placing within the reach of each man, for a moderate compensation, all the matter he will find time to peruse. It becomes rather a system of exchange, in which each contributes a portion and enjoys the benefit of his own money, as well as that invested by his neighbor. A very neat and convenient room has just been fitted up in the rear of the Post Office, in this place. It is designed, somewhat, as an experiment. The proprietors have arranged the matter at their own expense, and leave it with the citizens of the village to say whether or not they shall be sustained, in the enterprise. Each citizen is now called upon to express his opinion in the matter. If he desires that it shall go on, he may record his vote in the affirmative, by paying his subscription, and be entitled to the privileges of the room.

RESIGNED. REV. ADAM WILSON, D. D., for some five years pastor of the Baptist Church in this village, sent in his resignation to the Church sometime since. The subject has been discussed at several meetings of the Church; and at a meeting held Sabbath before last, it was definitely decided that his resignation should be accepted. His engagement will terminate in one week from next Sabbath. We regret, exceedingly, that we are to lose Dr. Wilson, from among us. He is a gentleman of high talent, good education, and an able preacher. He possesses that sterling quality of presenting the gospel in a clear and concise manner, and urged its claims upon the hearer in a manner well calculated to convince the understanding. His duty as a faithful pastor, has been conscientiously fulfilled, and we are happy to be able to say that a good degree of success has attended his efforts.

No one has as yet been engaged to fill his place.

THE NEW POST OFFICE. After a short trial of an upstairs location, the Post Office has been removed to its old quarters. We can hardly say to its old quarters however, farther than location is concerned, for the room has been entirely renovated and refitted, and nearly a hundred glass boxes added. It is now one of the most convenient offices within our knowledge. The new arrangement and location is a decided improvement in every respect.

GOOD GRAINING. In the Post Office and Reading Room, are some specimens of graining, which are considered by all who have examined the rooms, to be executed in a manner rarely equalled. The work was done by Mr. L. B. Weeks, of So. Paris, and he may well take pride in referring the public to it as a specimen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. We are indebted to Senator Fessenden, for a copy of the Congressional Globe and Appendix, for the third session of the 34th Congress. For this and other valuable documents, he will please accept our thanks.

Temperance Lecture.

Hon. Sidney Perham, of Woodstock, Agent of the State Temperance Committee, last evening, addressed a large audience at the Court House in this village, on the subject of Temperance. His address was excellent, just the thing for the times. Having traveled over the State, to a considerable extent during the present year, he has gathered many facts and statistics both interesting and instructive. Mr. Perham's Lectures abound in good sense, sound practical ideas, and cannot fail to do good.

After he had concluded, the meeting was eloquently addressed by Mr. Wedgewood, a member of the bar from Cornish, and also by Seth Sampson, Esq.

Mr. Perham will address the people of Norway and vicinity, on Sunday evening next.

DENTISTRY. We would call attention to the notices of Dr. Grandin, in another column. The Doctor has been engaged in several places in this County, during the past season, and we believe all who have employed him have been well satisfied with his work. He is now stopping for a short time at Mr. Shurtleff's at South Paris, where we think all in need of his services will do well to call.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. Mr. George Starnes, a freight conductor on the Grand Trunk Railway, met with an accident on Tuesday last, which came near proving fatal to him. When the train left Gorham, N. H., he was on the engine. He shortly after started to go to the saloon car in the rear of the train, passing over the tops of the box cars, of which the train was composed. He was aware of the close proximity of a covered bridge, and in looking round to note the distance, the beam of the bridge struck his head and prostrated him, senseless, with his head on one car and his feet on another, and in this position he rode some two or three miles. He was then discovered by the brakeman, and taken to Gorham, and the next day was so much recovered from the effects of the blow as to be able to be brought to his home at South Paris. Although pretty badly bruised, he will probably be able to resume his place on the road in a few weeks. It is a mystery how he could have escaped with life from the double danger to which he was exposed.

Hon. Neal Dow arrived in Portland last week, from his European tour, after an absence of seven months. A large concourse of citizens assembled at the station to welcome him, and escorted him to his home. A public reception has been tendered him in Boston, and the citizens of Portland, have in contemplation such a reception.

The friends of Hon. N. P. Banks, in his native town, gave a banquet on Tuesday evening, in honor of his election to the gubernatorial chair. The affair was conducted in a very happy manner.

From the Bangor Jeffersonian.

A Republican and a Modern Democratic State Compared.

"In Vermont, one person to every fifty three is unable to read and write. [Boston Traveller.]

"That is the Black Republican Banner State." [Boston Post.]

Let us see how this compares with the banner State of the sham Democracy. In Indiana ONE IN THIRTEEN of the adult population cannot read or write—a marked difference which we commend to the notice of the "Post." Furthermore, of the 6240 persons in Vermont who are thus deficient in rudiments of a common school education, only 616 or 1 in 5, are natives—the remainder are foreigners. On the other hand, of the 72,710 who cannot read or write in Indiana, 69,445, or MORE THAN SEVEN EIGHTHS are natives!

It is no reproach to a State that many of her population cannot read and write, if it can be shown that she provides the means of education for all. There is not a town in the State of Vermont which is without its free school, and it certainly is not her fault that foreigners who have sought a home within her limits are uneducated. In Indiana, on the other hand, there are whole counties without a school. Such is the case with Clay, Howard, Randolph, and Switzerland counties. Stark County has only one school, and others have but a limited number. Vermont, with a population of 225,045, endows its schools with an annual income of \$314,120, equal to \$1.29 for every man, woman and child of her population. Indiana, on the other hand, with a population of 988,416, gives to her schools an annual income of but \$537,957, which is only 38 cents to each individual of her population.

We advise the "Post" to be more cautious in provoking comparisons between the Democratic and the Republican States. Show us the banner States, counties or towns of the Democracy; and in nine cases out of ten, it can be demonstrated that they are the strongholds of ignorance. [Boston Journal.]

For the Oxford Democrat.

LOVELL, NOV. 9th, 1857.

MR. EDITOR: Nathan Charles, Esq., of this town, one of our most substantial and worthy farmers, has a pair of three year old steers which weigh twenty-nine hundred and eighty pounds, and girl 6 feet 11 inches. They are half Durham, with a mixture of Devon and native blood of beautiful proportions and fair and straight limbs of a clouded color. They have been worked from calves, and Mr. Charles logged with them last winter and did a fair winter's work with them. We think this will be hard to beat.

He also, has a very fine half blood Durham and Devon Bull two years old, of a beautiful red color, fine proportions and smooth limbs, giring 6 feet and 3 inches, and weighing 1240 lbs. and not over fleshy. He will stand for the use of cows the present season at Mr. Charles' stable. We think our farmers in Lovell will do well to avail themselves of this opportunity to raise the value of their stock by calling on Mr. Charles with their cows.

Yours, &c. J. H.

Thou shalt not kill, has always been considered to hold a positive position in the decalogue. It matters not whether by lead, steel or poison, the crime is the same. Yet we find men holding social positions in society trifling with the lives of the community by imposing on us vile and trashy imitations of the various popular medicines. Among others we notice some vile scoundrels are imitating those justly celebrated medicines, Dr. McLane's Vermifuge and Liver Pills, manufactured by Fleming Bros. Pittsburgh, Pa. The chief injury resulting from this base imposition is to those who may be so unfortunate as to take the vile stuff. We therefore warn the public to be careful. The genuine McLane's Vermifuge and Liver Pills are prepared only by Fleming Bros. and must have their signature on the wrapper of each vial or box.

OYSTERS. Mr. J. H. Rawson, has just opened an Oyster Saloon in this village, where may be obtained, at all times fresh Oysters, cooked in any form desired. He has also a good stock of nice Confectionery. We hope he may receive a liberal patronage.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Courier and Enquirer, under date of October 21, says:

"Col. Benton has recommended work. He is now engaged in the preparation of a review of the decision of the Supreme Court, attempting to overthrow the Missouri Compromise. He says it is appropriate for him, as the last survivor of the struggle and the crisis which ended with the adoption of that great measure of statesmanship, to vindicate the memory and the patriotism of the men who accomplished it."

Mr. Benton thinks that his health has been permanently improved by the operation which his late illness rendered necessary, because it has removed a chronic obstruction."

THE MOHAMMEDANS IN INDIA. Dr. Duff, in a recent letter from Calcutta, says, in regard to the origin of the Indian mutiny:

"As to the proximate or immediate human instrumentality, I have no hesitation in saying, with the utmost emphasis, that the whole is the result of a long concerted Mohammedan conspiracy against the British power, with a view to the re-establishment of a Mohammedan dynasty instead."

