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TERMS, TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.

"THE WORLD IS GOVERNED TOO MUCH."

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS IN ADVANCE.

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OLD SERIES, VOLUME 25, NO. 12.

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.—AGRICULTURE.

Special Notice.

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

Reported for the Oxford Democrat.

Board of Agriculture.

(CONTINUED.)

Thursday, Jan. 21.

The committee on elections reported the presence of two additional members. Piscataquis county, Elisha L. Hammond, Atkinson; Somerset Central, John K. Russell, Skowhegan.

The Secretary, in consequence of a leave of absence in his family, requested leave of absence, which was granted, and John F. Anderson was chosen Secretary pro tem.

The committee appointed to arrange the distribution of the reports of the Secretary of this Board, reported in part, that five volumes of the report for 1857, be distributed to each member of the Board, and three volumes of the report and abstract for 1858, and one to each member of the legislature and Governor and Council.

Renewed the report from the several members of the Board, of their respective constituencies.

NORTH FRANKLIN. S. Dill. I am not so much of a farmer as some may suppose. I was brought up on a farm, but have not made farming a business, although I have some fifty acres of land that I cultivate. This land is very stony and hard soil, and has been regarded as rather a hopeless affair. I began to fence it, and my neighbors laughed at me and wanted to know what I was building a fence round such land for; and concluded that its only use could be merely to keep animals off of it, rather than on it, because I could never think of animals ever living if shut up on it. They must starve, for all they could get from it. But I kept at my work, built my fence, hauled muck and applied to it, and finally laid it down to grass, and I have the best pasture in the neighborhood.

Our society has been organized five years. Its members are a good deal scattered, but it has gone on prosperously. Our shows have been well attended, and are increasing in interest. It is in a good condition and its prospects flattering, and I think it is doing a good work for agricultural improvement.

There was a piece of land in our vicinity which was very stony and barren. The owner took it in hand, dug out the stones and cleared up thirty acres of it. He carried out muck which he exposed to the winter's frost, and then mixed salt and leached ashes with it, and applied the compost to this land. He used from three to four hundred bushels of leached ashes, to from fifty to seventy-five cords of muck. The result was the production of fine crops of everything attempted to be raised from it, and finally of grass.

NORTH KENNEBEC. William E. Drummond. I have not much to say. Our society is but five years old. All its affairs have been held in the vicinity of Waterville. We have now purchased grounds in Waterville, have it fenced and partially improved. Our numbers are increasing, and a good degree of improvement is taking place in our vicinity, under its auspices, in stock and every other branch of farming. We have improved stock of various kinds. In most stock, the Durhams predominate, and in swine, the Suffolks and Essex.

OXFORD COUNTY. Dr. N. T. True. Until within two years, the society moved about. During this time everything dragged heavily. The exhibitions were meagre in quantity and inferior in character. People, wherever it went, felt it a burden. The last show it had before it located afforded an income of only about thirty dollars.

A committee was raised to take into consideration the subject of locating the show. This committee decided in favor of locating, and finally fixed on a site between South Paris and Norway Villages. The grounds for the use of the society were purchased and fenced by the citizens in the vicinity, and which it has free of rent so long as it chooses to occupy the same a show ground. Since then its affairs have been highly prosperous.

Under the present auspices of the society, a very considerable improvement in stock and agriculture in general is taking place. Improved breeds of stock have been recently introduced into the county, and a growing interest in our fairs and agricultural improvement, is everywhere manifest. Devon, Durham, and Hereford stock may now be found among us. Devons and Herefords are regarded as the best.

Improvement is also going forward in orcharding, and fruit growing in general. Apples, pears, cherries, grapes, and the small fruits, are receiving considerable attention.

Barn cellars are increasing for the protection of manure. It is not difficult to get a cellar under a barn on level ground. My barn stood on such a piece of ground. It was 36 ft. by 42 ft. I raised it up two feet, and found no difficulty in making a good cellar and dry. It is not so formidable a matter to dig out a hole under a barn as many imagine.

In the north eastern part of the county, in the town of Gilead is a strip of very fertile land, which is occupied by wealthy farmers.

This land is on the Androscoggin river, and a portion of each farm is interval. From the intervals the land rises with considerable abruptness into mountains, the sides of which are occupied by orchards and pastures, the soil of which is very fertile, though stony and hard. One young man born in this region went into Boston, and for several years in trade; but he has left the city and city life, and returned to the valley of his birth and engaged in farming with real devotion and intelligence. He has introduced a Hereford and a Devon bull which are adding very much to the value of our stock. He has also introduced the Cheviot, a very hardy race of sheep, from the Cheviot mountains in Scotland. He has gone into the business of making manure in good earnest. There was a large pile of scrapings of the chip-yard, which had been accumulating for years. This he put under contribution, when dug he hauled it into a shelter and during this winter and the summer past, he has loaded his cattle with it, and then thrown it into his barn cellar to use as hogs for them to work over, and to add to his "pile." This we examined, and we found it exceedingly odoriferous. It had that peculiar fragrance which is always so grateful to the olfactory of a good farmer, from such a source.

WEST OXFORD. F. L. Rice. I have but little to say. Our society is probably the smallest society in Maine. It was set off from the Oxford County society eight years ago, and embraces only eight towns. The Saco river meanders through our territory, and forms a large tract of intervals and meadow, which is but a little above low water level, and of course is overflowed by every considerable freshet. On these meadows are cut great quantities of a coarse hay on which our young stock is mostly wintered. The higher intervals are very productive when well cultivated; but makes but indifferent pasture and mowing, in consequence of its great tendency to the growth of the mosses which seem to kill out the grass and prevent its forming a close turf. Back from the intervals the land is stony and hard, and on this land only do pastures and orchards flourish. Apple trees do not succeed at all on the intervals. I should have said that there is usually a strip of pine plant between the intervals and the upland, which is not very much improved.

Our show the last year came well nigh being a failure, in consequence of the unwillingness of the people to carry articles for exhibition. But the society has done good. Our cattle have increased in value not less than fifty per cent. So with husbandry in general, there has been a great improvement. We now as often raise sixty bushels of Indian corn to the acre as we formerly did forty.

Two years ago one of our citizens bought at Brighton a calf said to be of the Hungarian breed of cattle. He was a very inferior looking animal—so much so that no one would buy him. To most of our farmers he was a very repulsive looking animal. The owner put him out to winter, and he was kept on meadow hay, and with this keeping he gained five inches in four months. We now have some of his calves a year old, and they promise finely. When young they look mean, but grow rapidly after they are about a year old. They have not been grown with us long enough to test their qualities fully for farm stock, but they promise to be the best adapted to our soil and climate of any breed we have ever had. They seem to be exceedingly tough and hardy.

There has been great improvement in fruit culture. Old trees are being grafted and young ones set out. The apple is the only fruit cultivated to any great extent, and a growing interest is every where awakened in behalf of improvement in agriculture.

It is now proposed to locate our show. There is some difference of opinion in relation to the matter, and some apprehension in relation to its effects. If we do not break down in locating, the prospect of our society never was so good as at present.

WEST KENNEBEC. John Thissell. The society I represent, was incorporated in 1854. We have had three exhibitions. It is composed of fourteen or fifteen towns, ten or twelve of which will compare favorably with any other towns in the State. Some of those towns have a very superior soil. A good degree of interest is manifested in the property and success of our society among the people. Our shows have all been good. The show of stock has been one of its leading features, and will compare favorably with any others in the State. At our last show there was one hundred yoke of oxen. Of blood stock, we have Devons, Durhams, and Ayrshires.

SOUTH KENNEBEC. Daniel Lancaster. I am a poor talker, and prefer to be a worker. Our society was organized in 1852. It is formed from a sort of isolated territory, so far as other towns are concerned. It includes eleven towns, and its shows were held in Gardiner at the beginning, and a fee for admission was charged. Our first show was held on the society's grounds in a tent, and premiums awarded to the amount of \$200. From that time the articles on exhibition have increased, and also the amount of premiums offered and paid out, until at our last show they amounted to \$600.

Of the influence of the society for good, we have the most convincing proofs, in the condition of things in Gardiner market. A few years ago butter there was of a very inferior quality. Now, as good butter can be found there as any where else. Ten years ago few vegetables were raised. Now, every body raises them in abundance. Every little spot in the village is cultivated with them, and those of the first quality grown.

The same thing holds true in regard to all kinds of stock. The best breeds are now sought, instead of the cheapest.

The committee on business made the following partial report, and the gentlemen whose names are appended to each topic, were elected committees to consider and report on the same.

1st. To see if any and what amendments in the present laws relative to agriculture, are advisable. Russ, of Franklin; Hammond, of Piscataquis; Avery, of Lincoln.

2d. What further agency for the further advancement of Agriculture should be adopted, and if any, to report plans. Anderson, of Cumberland; Flint of Somerset; Lancaster, of S. Kennebec.

3d. To prepare blanks for statements—whether by questions and answers, or otherwise. Goodale, of York; Drummond, of N. Kennebec; Thissell, of Penobscot.

4th. To inquire whether it is advisable to recommend to societies to give books, plates, fruit trees, seeds, or other articles in certain cases, instead of money as premiums. Noyes, of Penobscot; Fuller, of Kennebec; Fairbanks, of Kennebec.

5th. To inquire whether it is advisable to prepare rules, directions and suggestions in relation to ploughing at our fairs and shows, and if so, to prepare a draft for the same. Porter, of Washington; Rice, of W. Oxford; Goodale, of York.

6th. To inquire whether it is advisable to recommend action by the Legislature, to obtain agricultural statistics. Flint, of Somerset; Dill, of Franklin; Tucker, of Waldo.

7th. To inquire what the Board ought to recommend in relation to the speed of horses at our agricultural shows. Tucker, of Waldo; Palmer, of E. Somerset; Lancaster, of S. Kennebec.

8th. To inquire into the expediency of recommending legislative action to encourage the organization and support of farmers clubs. True, of Oxford; Perley, of Cumberland; Anderson, of Cumberland; Porter, of Washington.

9th. To instruct the Secretary to inquire into the best methods of securing immigration into Maine, and stay the progress of emigration from among our agricultural population. Perley, of Cumberland; Noyes, of Penobscot; Russ, of Franklin; Stevens, of Arrostook.

10th. To inquire as to the expediency of locating our county shows and fairs. Lancaster, of S. Kennebec; Drummond, of N. Kennebec; Leadbetter, of N. Somerset.

11th. What measures shall be adopted by which to disseminate more general knowledge in agriculture, and thereby excite greater interest? Rice, of W. Oxford; Russell, of Somerset; Fairbanks, of Kennebec.

12th. Is farming a profitable employment in Maine, and can a man who has capital invested in farming, realize an income equal to that afforded by capital invested in other occupations? Drummond, of N. Kennebec; Anderson, of Cumberland; Dill, of N. Franklin.

The statements of the members were resumed: a call was made on

WEST SOMMERSET. William R. Flint. The society I represent formerly embodied all the territory above Kennebec County, but it is now divided up into four societies. By the liberal policy pursued by the State towards our agricultural societies, it has been of great service in keeping our society alive, although it almost died out while the whole remained together, for there were constant bickerings about the place for our shows. Since the formation of other societies within our borders, its importance has increased in the estimation of our citizens, and more interest has been awakened in its behalf. It is not located, but has always held its shows at the same place. Emulation between the different societies in the county is productive of good. There is some talk of locating.

Sheep are one of the leading interests in farming, and I think the best sheep in the State are to be found within the borders of this society. They are of the fine wool variety. Importations of these varieties were made into Readfield, but from the want of a demand for such qualities of wool, which kept its price down nearly to that of the common qualities, the growth of such stock declined, and nearly disappeared from its original district. But the farmers in our section kept up their stock, and have found their interest in it. The breeds are the French and Spanish Merino, the latter, which are the hardiest, taking the lead. They are harder and tougher than the old natives. They are not apt to have twins, nor do they attain maturity so early as some others; but they are longer lived.

Improvement is also going on in neat stock. Our shows exhibit some of the finest specimens of their kind any where to be found, especially in the department of young cattle. At our last show a yoke of two years old steers raised within the borders of our society, were sold for \$160.

KENNEBEC SOCIETY. Francis Fuller. The society I represent, is the oldest society in the State. It originated in the Winthrop farmers' association. From various causes the society became reduced, and came well nigh its death. But by the efforts of a few it was revived, and finally located. It has grounds fenced in Readfield. Shows have become more interesting and received the sympathy of the farmers. The last show had on exhibition 600 pairs of steers and oxen.

"John," said a father to his son, one day, when he caught him shaving, "don't throw your shaving water out where there are any hardfaced boys, for they might get their feet pricked."

STIRRING THE SOIL IN DRY WEATHER. That frequent stirring the soil is the cheapest and most effectual way of protecting crops against drouth, is proved by the fact that a soil plowed or cultivated often in a dry time is moist almost to the surface, while land that is neglected, is dry to a great depth. Some farmers from false reasoning infer that if a new surface is continually exposed to the sun and air, the effect will be to dry the soil still more. But the atmosphere in the hottest and driest weather is more or less charged with moisture, to prove which we have only to present a cold surface to the atmosphere, as a pitcher of ice water for instance, when the moisture of the air will be condensed and form in large drops on the outside of the pitcher. By frequent stirring the soil it is kept loose and porous, the air can penetrate to a greater depth, and coming in contact with the cold earth is robbed of its moisture by condensation, in the same manner as in the example of the pitcher given above. The oftener the soil is stirred the more new surface will be presented for action in the same manner; but when land is suffered to remain idle, a crust is formed on the surface which is impenetrable to the atmosphere and no such effect can take place. [Gen. Farmer.]

PLANT SWEET CORN. If you have not tried this crop, do so this season, and you will never regret it. There are few crops which will furnish nicer food for Summer, Autumn and Winter use. It may be planted to the middle of July for drying corn, though any time this month is better. There is a choice in varieties, but any variety is better than none, and you will be lucky to find seed enough of any kind this year. We have distributed forty thousand packages to our subscribers this Spring, of the Darling and Stowell varieties, which we hope will all be saved for seed another year. We are sorry to hear of two instances in which seed sent to subscribers have failed to come up. The fault must have been in the weather and too early planting. We are certain that all we have sent out, has not only been of pure quality, but also in good condition. We have tested samples to be sure that it would vegetate. [Am. Agr.]

AN IMPORTANT FACT NOT MUCH HEEDER. The Editor of the Horticulturist gives his readers this important fact, which ought to sink deeply into the minds of the American people. "It cannot be too often repeated that the tendency of our people is too much given to non-producing employments. Ease of body is sought before cheerfulness of mind. Sedentary occupations are not so healthful as those in the open air. If statistics are to be believed, it is residents of the country who enjoy the greatest amount of physical health. Cities notoriously depreciate even the human stature. An attentive observer for forty years may safely say that in cities families rapidly run out and disappear; the only permanent ones are the landholders. Strange as it may seem, this is as evidently the story of America as in thickly settled Europe."

HOW TO HILL CORN. A correspondent of the Tribune says: "Take one quart of strong ripe corn, put it in enough very strong ley, boiling hot, to cover it, until the outer covering of the kernel, or hull is destroyed, which will require six or eight minutes. Then wash it through two waters and boil until perfectly tender, and it is fit for use. One quart prepared in this way will make four quarts of hulled corn, and will cost, when corn is eighty cents per bushel, two and a half cents. It is delicious eaten in milk, and a most excellent substitute for potatoes." "warned up" after the same fashion. Let the poor who complain of hard times and "nothing to eat" try it. Let the rich try it and they will eat it as a luxury ever after.

HOW TO SAVE YOUR SOLES. It consists merely in melting together tallow and common resin, in the proportion of two parts of the former to one of the latter, and applying the preparation recking hot, to the soles of the boots or shoes, as much of it as the leather will absorb. One substantial farmer declares that this little recipe alone has been worth to him more than the price of five years' subscription to the newspaper publishing it.

BOSTON JOURNAL. We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of this newspaper in another column.

We have been a reader of it almost daily, for some months past, and must say it is one of the most ably conducted journals, in our judgment, emanating from the Modern Athens. We like its tone and spirit. While it is decisive in its party affinities it occupies an elevated and conservative position, being neither unworthily partisan on the one hand, or a shuffling mountebank on the other.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. This body adjourned on Friday, Jan. 29. Its sessions were well improved in the discussion of various important matters, as will be seen by a reference to our report, published and to be published. This report will occupy a portion of our paper for several weeks to come, and we hope it will be attentively read by our farmers in particular.

BEST THINGS TO GIVE. The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to your opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to a mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.

MISCELLANY.

From Peterson's Magazine.

CAUGHT A TARTAR.

BY MISS CARRIE E. FAIRFIELD.

Henry Winthrop was a physician, a widower, and the father of two children. His quiet home had been under the charge of a housekeeper rather more than a year, and as the evenings began to lengthen, and the winter winds sounded their premonitory notes through the leafless branches, he began more sensibly to miss the comforts and endearments of an unbroken home circle; and to think seriously of filling the vacant seat by his hearthstone.

The doctor, in spite of the advice of his elders in the profession, had married young and as a consequence, found himself at the age of thirty with a small family upon his hands, and an income somewhat narrower and more precarious than he could have desired. Still he was a handsome man, and a great favorite among the ladies, and had possessed an excellent professional reputation. Under these circumstances ambition whispered that it would be possible for him to contract a brilliant alliance; to carry off some dashing beauty, whose solid charms would ally his pecuniary vexations; while her beauty, her wit, and her style should make him the envy of half the town. To do the doctor justice, he did not draw on his imagination for all these details; they were suggested to him ready made, in the person of Miss Minerva Hall, a lady whose apparent age was five or six and twenty.

On the other hand, he knew a little cottage just out of town, embowered amid roses and honeysuckles and clumps of evergreen, where dwelt, in the retirement of domestic peace and tranquility, the solace and joy of a widowed mother, and the pet and idol of the small circle of the cultivated and warm-hearted people with whom she moved—sweet Annie Huntington.

Annie was gentle and fair-haired; she had none of the golden grace or subtle fascinations of her town rival; but she possessed what was better, a refined and educated mind; an amiable disposition, and a warm, loving heart.

The doctor's first wife had been a woman of this stamp; quiet and affectionate in disposition; and the doctor had some rather distinct impressions that these same qualities had much to do with the happiness of those few years of married life. He was a domestic man; he loved his home, and home enjoyments, and home endearments; yet nevertheless, Amy had come to him a portionless bride, and the consequence was, he was in debt now, and harassed daily for funds.

One dreary November evening, the doctor came home from a round of most vexatious professional calls to find tea not ready, the housekeeper cross, the children in tears. Before the cloth was scarce removed, the children were sent to bed for some trivial misdeed, the housekeeper, irritated at some sharp remark by the doctor, slammed the door behind her and retired to her own room.

Thus left alone to his own meditations, the doctor fell very naturally to soliloquizing, and his soliloquy took very much the tone of the dismal rain which beat continually against the windows.

"What a miserable life this is! It will be the ruin of me and my children, soon, that is certain. But how to mend it? The truth of the matter is, I ought to marry a fortune. I'm bothered to death, day by day with duns; there's the grocer's bill hasn't been paid these six months; and the butcher's bill is about due; and the interest of the mortgage on this house must be paid next month. To be sure with the right kind of management all these things could be straightened out in the course of time; but a housekeeper at the head of internal affairs isn't like a good wife, I've seen that; neither, I have a slight suspicion, are women like Amy, poor soul; she was a good wife to me; but I don't think I have married when I did; why couldn't I have waited awhile, and not have plunged myself headlong into—I know not what. Well, 'experience is a dear school, but fools will learn in no other.' There's Minerva Hall now, that would be a match worth talking about; ten thousand easy, I suppose, she will bring to the man who is fortunate enough to win her; besides her wit and the quietly air she has. It does one good to see her come sailing down the street; head up, and such a bust; and her slender form fairly scorning the ground she walks on. They say such women are apt to have tempers; but I think that is half bunbogy; and any way, no man will object to a little spirit of the right sort. It's spicy. And as to her being heartless, that's all nonsense, too; every woman has a heart, only every man hasn't the wit to lay his hand upon it. Trust me to find the soft spot in a woman; once get your hand fairly well among the heart strings, and you can manage the proudest of them. Now Minerva has a sort of weakness, for me; I know that, I've seen it this long time, and on the whole, I don't believe I shall ever do better than to take her."

The doctor paused, and I think a vision of the pretty cottage, and its fair inmate flitted across his brain, for he grew more deeply pensive, and a gleam of tenderness softened his dark eyes. But presently he muttered, "Pshaw! that will never do, she hasn't the dimes."

Things grew gray in his brain, for a while, and then, as just arrived at a sudden resolution he started up, arrayed himself for a walk, and went out into the darkness. When he came back, it was as the affianced husband of Minerva Hall.

A short time elapsed, to the doctor it seemed very short, until she was brought

home to preside as Mrs. Winthrop over his household.

It may be doubted whether, even on his wedding night, the doctor felt himself supremely blessed; but perhaps the first real tangible drop of bitterness in his cup was tasted, when he saw his wife stand before her mirror, and divest herself of a very handsome set of false teeth, and two or three heavy braids of hair. These slight operations, together with the washing off of a coat of rouge and pearl powder, wrought quite a transformation in the beautiful Miss Hall.

One morning, shortly after, Mrs. Winthrop was going out shopping, and desired her leige lord to supply her with the necessary funds.

"I am extremely sorry, but really, my dear, I haven't the money by me this morning."

The full, red lip, whose point during the courtship had been so bewitching, swelled now in earnest in a way that wasn't half so fascinating.

"A pretty reply to make to my first request for money, doubtless this is only the commencement of the insults which I shall be called upon to endure," said the bride.

The doctor was a little heated, and replied, "Very likely, madam; for when I married an heiress, I expected her to find herself in pin-money."

"You did, eh? So you married me for my money, did you; and you have the impudence to tell me of it to my face, too, actually before the honeymoon is over. It is shameful, sir, it is outrageous."

The doctor strove to apologize but the flag of the advantage of him, and continued to pour out a torrent of invective long after he had placed the door between them and was hurrying down the street. As this some had commenced at the breakfast table, its effect upon the children, who were present, can be better imagined than described. That day the doctor took pains to ascertain the amount of Mrs. Winthrop's "fortune." It turned out to consist in the use of five thousand dollars. Subsequent discoveries proved to him that, as the result of the lady's extravagance, her account at the banker's was usually overdrawn.

The delinquencies of the doctor's evenings at home may be imagined. Generally his resource, after tea, was the newspaper or periodical; or if the household atmosphere was too stormy, he betook himself to a small upper room, which was usually denominated his study. Sitting there one evening, while his wife was entertaining two or three fascinating young gentlemen in the parlor, he heard a timid knock at the door, and his little golden haired Amy entered; his first-born, his pet, the mascot of his early life. She led her little brother by the hand, and both were crying.

The doctor's heart was touched. By some strange forgetfulness, he seemed never, till this moment, to have taken into consideration the claims of his children in his choice of a step-mother for them. Now, as if in a magic-glass, the enormity of his conduct in this respect was held up before him. He said, tenderly,

"Come here, Amy, darling, and tell me what grieves you."

Amy glided gently into his embrace, and Harry climbed noiselessly to his father's knee.

"Please, papa," said Amy, timidly, "is the new mother to be always our mother, or will she go away, by-and-by, as our own mother did?"

The doctor's eyes filled with tears.

"Why do you ask me such a question, my dear?" he inquired with a choking voice.

"Because, if she is only to stay here a little while, I will try to be patient and good till she is gone; but oh! papa, I hope she will not be here always."

Spirit of the gentle, departed Amy! wert thou hovering near to watch the upwelling of that long slumbering fountain of parental tenderness? Closer, closer to his heart he held the dear offspring of his youthful love, and asked, "What is it, Amy, darling; tell papa what Mrs.—what the new mother has done."

"Oh! it is many things; first of all, she don't love us, me and Harry, I mean. I am sure she don't; for she scolded us, and says such hard things. Calls us 'beggars' brats'; does that mean our own mamma?"

"Go on, my dear. What else?"

"Then she makes us eat in the nursery, you know."

The doctor's heart reproached for ever having consented to this arrangement. "And she only gives us dry bread and little bits of pie and cake that are left; because she says now that she has been cheated into marrying a beggar, she must be economical."

The doctor thought of a new set of expensive jewelry brought home that morning, and sighed. "But this is not all, papa, she strikes us; look there!" and the little one stripped up her baby brother's sleeve, and showed the marks on his arm.

And those were Amy's own children! "Oh! fool that I was!" groaned the repentant father. For a half hour he held the children on his knee and comforted them. It made them very happy, for childish sorrows are easily assuaged; and then taking a hand of each he led them into the nursery, and saw them laid in their quiet bed; nor did he leave them, till locked in a sweet childish embrace, they both slept soundly.

The next morning there was a scene. It was commenced by some mild reproach of the doctor's in regard to the nursery arrangements; for the doctor had by this time learned the fallacy of his old notions, in regard to the ease with which a spirited feminine might be managed, and now actually dreaded an encounter with Mrs. Dr. Winthrop.

"Did he expect her to trouble herself," she said, "about another woman's brats? No, he hired a nursery maid for that—it was none of her business, to be sure, whether he paid her or not—as for the children coming to the table with her, it was a ridiculous whim, and as long as she was mistress of that house, should never be tolerated. Of course when they were grown up, it would be different, but no slobbering pinafore babes should be seen at her table."

"Madam," cried the doctor, enraged at her impudence, "I fancied I married a lady when I married you, but I see I was mistaken."

"Ha!" she exclaimed with a laugh of bitter scorn, "you thought you caught an heiress, but you may find instead that you—Caught a tartar!"

"I believe you madam," and rising from the table, the doctor was seized with a sudden impulse to hurl the carving knife at her head, when suddenly—he awoke!

He looked around in bewilderment. The fire was going out in the grate; the candle was wasting and guttering upon the mantle, and still, as when an hour ago he had fallen asleep, the dismal November rain beat against the windows.

The doctor rubbed his eyes, looked eagerly around him, as if he thought to satisfy himself that the scene was real, and then fervently ejaculated, "Thank the Lord!"

The next evening found Dr. Winthrop a guest at Rose Lawn. A week later, and he was the accepted suitor of sweet Annie Huntington; and it was not many months that he led her from the altar a happy bride.

Home pictures, very different from those seen in his dreams, greet the doctor now upon a winter's evening; and under the quiet but efficient management of his gentle wife, the wrinkles have disappeared from his brow, the cares from his heart, and he is now a prosperous and a happy man.

I Wish, and I Will.

"I wish I could play on the piano as well as Miss Hallett," said Ellen Rose.

"Well, so you will, when you have had as many years practice," was the reply.

"O, I mean now, without waiting so long."

"I wonder if wishing will make her a good player," I thought. "If wishing were efforts, most men would be great."

"I wish I knew as much as you, do Miss Emily," said the same young lady.

"So you may, if you will study and improve your time."

"I wish I knew as much now."

"Knowledge does not come to you of its own accord, Miss Ellen; you have to put it there by efforts of your own."

"I wish I knew my lessons."

"Sit down and study them, and you will soon have your wish."

"I do not feel in the humor of studying; I'd like to know them without."

"I wish," must be a great help to you, you say it so often. If I could discover the magic, I would use it myself; but it must be invisible to all but yourself, for I cannot see that you accomplished a great deal by it, after all."

"Now you are laughing at me. It does not do me any good I suppose; but it is so easy to say it, and I do really wish what I say."

"No doubt you do if you could get it without any trouble. 'I wish' is a lazy friend of yours; he isn't any profit to you; suppose you turn him off and take instead 'I will.' My word for it you will find that he helps you more than the other. He is the very soul of industry; and he accomplishes more in an hour than 'I wish' does in a lifetime. Say 'I will' learn my lessons, and there will be no occasion for 'I wish I knew them.' You will cut the acquaintances of your old friend when you have tried the new one, I am sure."

Ellen laughed. "Well," she said, "I don't like to dissolve old friendships; but I will try your advice, that is, if I can remember; but 'I wish,' is easier to say than 'I will,' is to do."

Her resolution

THE LECOMPTON CONSTITUTION
Message of the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.
I have received from Mr. Calhoun, President of the late Constitutional Convention of Kansas, a copy, duly certified by himself, of the constitution framed by that body, with the express statement that it would submit the same to the consideration of Congress, with the view of the admission of Kansas into the Union as an independent State. In compliance with the request, I herewith transmit to Congress for its action, the Constitution of Kansas, with the ordinance respecting the public lands, as well as the letter of Mr. Calhoun, dated Lecompton, 14th ult., by which they were accompanied. Having received but a single copy of the Constitution and ordinance, I send this to the Senate.

A great delusion seems to pervade the public mind in relation to the condition of parties in Kansas. This arises from the difficulty of inducing the American people to realize the fact that any portion of them should be in a state of rebellion against the Government under which they live. When we speak of the affairs of Kansas, we are apt to refer merely to the existence of two violent political parties in that Territory, just as we speak of such parties in States.

This presents no adequate idea of the state of the case. The dividing line there is not between two political parties, both acknowledging the lawful existence of the Government, but between those who are loyal to the Government and those who have been endeavoring to overthrow it by force and usurpation—between those who have done all in their power to overthrow the Territorial Government established by Congress.

This government would long since have been subverted, had it not been protected from assaults by the troops of the United States. Such has been the condition of affairs since my inauguration. Ever since that period a large portion of the people of Kansas have been in a state of rebellion against the government, with a military leader at their head of a most turbulent and dangerous character. They have never acknowledged, but have continually denounced and defied the Government to which they owe allegiance, and have been all this time in a state of rebellion against its authority. They have been all the time endeavoring to subvert it and establish a revolutionary government under the so-called Topeka Constitution. In its struggle with this government, the Topeka Legislature is in session.

Whoever has read the correspondence of Gen. Walker with the State Department, recently communicated to the Senate, will be convinced that this picture is not overdrawn. He always protested against the withdrawal of any portion of the military force of the United States from the Territory, deeming its presence absolutely necessary for the preservation of the regular government and the execution of the laws.

In his very first dispatch to the Secretary of State, dated June 2, 1857, he says: "A most alarming movement, however, proceeds from the assembly of the so-called Topeka Legislature, with the view to the enactment of an entire code of laws. Of course it will be my endeavor to avoid such a result, as it would lead to an entire and disastrous collision, and in fact result in civil war in Kansas."

This was preceded by the efforts of Gen. Walker, but he had to send to General Harney to request him to furnish a regiment of dragoons to proceed to the city of Lawrence, and this for the reason that he had received authentic intelligence, verified by his own actual observation, that a dangerous rebellion had occurred, involving open defiance to the laws, and the establishment of an insurgent government in that city. In his former dispatch of July 15th, he informs the Secretary of State that the movement in Lawrence was the beginning of a plan of organization in that city to organize a rebellion throughout the Territory, and especially in all the towns, cities, and counties where the Republican party have a majority.

Lawrence is the hot bed of all Abolition movement in this Territory. It is the center established by the Abolition societies of the East, and whilst there are respectable members of people there, it is filled with a considerable number of merchants who are paid by the Abolition societies to perpetuate and disseminate agitation throughout Kansas, and prevent the peaceful settlement of this question.

Having failed in inducing their own so-called Topeka State Legislature to organize this insurrection, Lawrence has commenced it herself, and if not arrested, rebellion will extend throughout the Territory.

And again, in an ordinance, in this communication by mail, I most solemnly assure you that the spirit of rebellion pervades the great mass of the Republican party of this Territory, instigated, as I entertain no doubt there are, by eastern societies, having in view results most disastrous to the Government and the Union; and that the continued presence of General Harney is indispensable, as was originally stipulated by me, with a large body of dragoons and several batteries.

On the 25th of July, 1857, Gen. Lane, under the authority of the Topeka Constitution, undertook, as Gen. Walker says, "to organize the whole Free State party into volunteers, and to take the name of all who refused enrollment. The proposed object was to protect the polls at the election in August of a new insurgent Topeka State Legislature. The object in taking the names of all who refused enrollment, is to terrify the Free State conservatives into submission. This is proved by the recent atrocities committed on such men by the Topekites. The speedy location of large bodies of regular troops here with two batteries is necessary."

The Lawrence insurgents await the development of this military organization. In his Governor's dispatch of 27th he says: "Lane and his staff everywhere deny the authority of the territorial laws, and conduct a territorial disregard of these enactments." Without making any further quotations of a similar character from other dispatches of Gen. Walker, it appears by reference to Secretary Stanton's communication to Gen. Case, 9th Dec. last, that the important step of calling the Legislature together was taken after Gen. Walker had become satisfied that the election ordered by the Convention on the 21st inst., could not be conducted without collision and bloodshed.

So intense was the disloyal feeling among the enemies of the Government established by Congress, that an election which afforded them opportunities, in the majority of making Kansas a free State, according to their own professional desire, could not be conducted without collision and bloodshed.

The very first paragraph of the message of Gov. Robinson, dated 7th Dec., to the Topeka Legislature now assembled at Lawrence, contains a defiance of the laws and Constitution of the United States.

The Governor says that "the Convention which framed the Topeka Constitution originated with the people of the Kansas Territory. They have adopted and ratified the same twice by a direct vote, also indirectly through the election of State officers and members of the State Legislature. Yet it has passed the Administration to regard the whole proceeding as revolutionary."

lish a separate Government within its limits, for the purpose of redressing any grievances, real or imaginary, of which they might complain against the legitimate State Government. Such a principle, if carried into execution, would destroy all lawful authority and produce universal anarchy.

From this statement of facts, the reason becomes palpable, the enemies of the Government authorized by Congress, have refused to vote for the delegates to the Kansas Constitutional Convention, and also afterwards, on the question of slavery submitted to it by the people. It is because they have ever refused to sanction or recognize any other Constitution than that formed at Topeka. Had the whole Lecompton Convention been submitted to the people, the adherents of this organization would doubtless have voted against it, because, if successful, they would then have removed the obstacles out of the way of their own revolutionary Constitution. They would have done this, not upon the consideration of the merits of the whole or part of the Lecompton Convention, but simply because they have ever refused to acknowledge the authority of the Government authorized by Congress, from which it emanated.

Such being the unfortunate condition of affairs in the Territory, what was the right as well as the duty of the law-abiding people? Were they silently and patiently to submit to the Topeka usurpation, or to adopt the necessary measures to establish a Constitution under the authority of the original law of Congress?

That this law recognized the right of the Territory without an enabling act of Congress to form a State Constitution, is too clear for argument. For Congress to leave the people of the Territory perfectly free in framing their Constitution, to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States, and then to say that they should not be permitted to proceed and frame the Constitution in their own way without express authority from Congress, appears to be almost a contradiction of terms. It would be much more plausible to contend that Congress had no power to pass such an enabling act, than to argue that the people of a Territory might be kept out of the Union for an indefinite period, and till it might please Congress to permit them to exercise the right of self-government.

This would be to adopt not their own way, but the way which Congress might prescribe. It is impossible that any people could have proceeded with more regularity in the formation of a Constitution than the people of Kansas have done. It was necessary to first ascertain whether it was the desire of the people to be relieved from Territorial dependence, and establish a State Government. For this purpose the Territorial Legislature in 1856 passed a law for taking the sense of the people of the Territory upon the expediency of calling a Convention to form a State Constitution.

At the general election held in October, 1856, of the sense of the people was accordingly taken, and they decided in favor of a Constitution. It is true that at this election the enemies of the Territorial Government did not vote, because they were then engaged at Topeka, without the slightest pretext of lawful authority, in framing a Constitution of their own for subverting the Territorial Government. In pursuance of this decision of the people in favor of the Constitution of the Territorial Legislature, on the 27th of February, 1857, passed an act for the election of delegates on the third Monday of June, 1857, to frame a State Constitution.

This law is fair in its provisions as any that ever passed a legislative body, for a similar purpose. The right of suffrage at this election is clearly and justly defined, every bona fide citizen of the United States who was at the time of the election, and who had resided therein for three months previous to the date, was entitled to a vote. In order to avoid all interference from the neighboring States and Territories with the freedom and fairness of the election, a proviso was made for the registry of qualified voters, and pursuant thereof nine thousand two hundred and fifty-two voters were registered.

General Walker did his whole duty in urging all qualified citizens of Kansas to attend this election. In his inaugural address on the 27th of May, he informed them that, "under our practice, the preliminary act of framing a State Constitution is uniformly formed through the instrumentality of a convention of delegates, chosen by the people themselves. That Convention is now about to be elected by you under the call of the Territorial Legislature, created and still recognized by the authority of Congress, and clothed by it in the comprehensive language of the organic law, with full power to make such an enactment. The Territorial Legislature, then, in assembling this Convention, and the authority of the Convention is distinctly recognized in my instructions from the President of the United States."

The Governor also clearly and distinctly informs them what would be the consequences if they did not participate in the election. The people of Kansas then, he says, "are invited to the highest authority known to the Constitution to participate freely and fairly in the election of delegates to frame a Constitution and State Government."

The law has performed its functions when it extends to the people the right of suffrage, but it cannot compel the performance of that duty. Throughout the whole Union, however, and wherever free government prevails, those who refuse to exercise the right of suffrage authorize those who do vote to act for them in that contingency, and absentees are as much bound with the law and Constitution, where there is no fraud or violation, by the act of the majority of those who do vote, as if all had participated in the election. Otherwise, as voting must be voluntary, self-government would be a mockery, and monarchy or despotism would remain as the only alternative.

It may also be observed, that at this period any hope, if such had existed, that the Topeka Constitution would ever be recognized by Congress, must have been abandoned. Congress had adjourned on the third of March, without having recognized the legal existence of the Territorial Legislature, in a variety of forms which I need not enumerate. Indeed, the delegate elected to the House of Representatives under a Territorial law had been admitted to a seat, and had just completed his term of service the day previous to my inauguration. This was a propitious moment for settling all the difficulties of Kansas—this the time for abandoning the revolutionary Topeka organization, and for the enemies of the existing Government to conform to the laws, and unite with its friends in framing a State Constitution. But they refused to do so, and the consequence of their refusal to submit to the lawful authority, and vote at the election for delegates, may yet prove to be of the most deplorable character. Would that the respect for the laws of the land which so eminently distinguished the men of the last generation, could now be revived.

This is a disregard and violation of law, which has kept the Territory of Kansas in a state of almost open rebellion against its government. It is the same spirit which has produced actual rebellion in Utah. Our only safety consists in obedience and conformity to the laws. Should a general spirit against its enforcement prevail, this will prove fatal to us as a nation. We acknowledge no master but law, and should we do so, we would seem good in his own eyes, our case would indeed be hopeless.

[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]
KANSAS. Difficulties have again arisen at Fort Scott. The troops have been ordered thither.

The Oxford Democrat

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President's Message.

If we had known nothing of the past history of James Buchanan, we should have been utterly astonished and surprised at his recent Message to Congress transmitting the Lecompton Constitution. It is one of the most extraordinary official documents, that ever emanated from a public man in this country. It contains more base misrepresentations and abuse, than any other Message that ever came from the hand of any man, clothed with chief executive authority. It is an outrageous libel upon the Free State men of Kansas, a slander upon the people of the Free State, an eternal disgrace to the traitorous hand that penned it, and a reproach upon our common country. It is full of rank treason. We feel mortified, deeply mortified, that occasion has been given by Mr. Buchanan, for the strong language we here use; but the day for tampering with "untempered mortar," has gone by, the time has come for men to speak out fearlessly what they think. The conduct that is now raging is no boy's play. Issues are already made up, that will rock this Union like a frail bark upon the billowy ocean, and it becomes every man, who loves his country, his sacred home, his constitutional rights and privileges, to stand up boldly for the right. The President, through the whole message, takes special pains to abuse and slander the Free State men, and denigrate their movements in relation to the Topeka Constitution "rebellion." Speaking of them he says:

Ever since that period a large portion of the people of Kansas have been in a state of rebellion against the government, with a military leader at their head of a most turbulent and dangerous character. They have never acknowledged, but have continually denounced and defied the government to which they owe allegiance, and have been all this time in a state of rebellion against its authority. They have been all the time endeavoring to subvert it and establish a revolutionary government under the so-called Topeka Constitution in its stead.

This charge is a wholesale lie, and James Buchanan knew it when he penned it. He here tacitly acknowledges a majority of the people in favor of the Topeka, and against the Lecompton Constitution, for when referring to the Topekites, he says, "a large portion of the people of Kansas." Now we should like to know by what authority James Buchanan denigrates the Free State men of Kansas "rebels." What have they done to merit this charge? Nothing but what has been done by the people of other territories, what was done by the people of Michigan, and this same James Buchanan, then in the Senate, advocated and voted for their admission under a constitution, framed, not only without an enabling act of Congress, but expressly against one. If forming the Topeka Constitution was "rebellion," it has had high authority to sanction it, for the last House of Representatives admitted Kansas as a State, under this very Constitution.

The President, also, in his Message, takes special pains to travel out of his way to libel the people of Lawrence. He says: "Lawrence is the hot bed of all Abolition movements in this Territory. It is the center established by the Abolition societies of the East, and while there are respectable members of people there, it is filled by a considerable number of merchants who are paid by the Abolition societies to perpetuate and disseminate agitation throughout Kansas, and prevent the peaceful settlement of this question."

And here is another wholesale lie, uttered deliberately with "malice aforethought," and couched in language that would disgrace the most abandoned pot-house politician, language, that would bring a blush to the face of any but a depraved old tool of the slave oligarchy. Catching the cant of the nigger drivers, who hold him by the nose, he talks flippantly about "Abolition societies" and "Abolition movements," &c. &c.

But the infamous part of the Message is that portion which holds out the idea that the Lecompton Constitution is an emanation of the will of the people. Shades of Ananias and Sapphira! What are the facts? At the October election, the Anti Lecomptonists elected their member of Congress, and carried the State by more than three to one. Then on the vote on the 21st of December, the ascendancy of the Free State men was shown negatively by the meagre vote cast for the Lecompton Constitution. The vote that was taken on the 4th of January last, by an act of the Legislature called together by Secretary Stanton, was in favor of the rejection of the Lecompton Constitution by over ten thousand majority. With these facts before him, the President undertakes to argue out the question, that the Lecompton Swindle is an emanation of the will of the people. In addition to all this, he entirely winks out of sight the atrocious frauds in Johnson Co. and does not take into consideration at all another fact, that a large portion of the vote claimed for the black democracy was fraudulent.

The President, while his whole message abounds with the most fanatical rant against the Free State men and their movements, has not a single word of censure for the border ruffians who have infested the territory from its early organization to the present time, usurping elective franchise, seeking cities, burning houses, murdering peaceable citizens, stealing and carrying away property, and committing other acts, that would put to blush the Goths and Vandals of the early ages. What beautiful consistency! But the despot who now sits in the White House, gives utterance to a sentiment in this Message, that if justice was meted out to him, would consign him to an ignominious death, as a traitor to his country. He says:

"IT HAS BEEN SOLEMNLY ADJUDGED BY THE HIGHEST JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL, THAT SLAVERY EXISTS IN KANSAS BY VIRTUE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. KANSAS IS THEREFORE AT THIS MOMENT AS MUCH A SLAVE STATE AS GEORGIA OR SOUTH CAROLINA."

Here is a flat-footed assumption that the Constitution carries slavery into every State and Territory in the Union. The Supreme Court have so decided, and he endorses the sentiment, when he unqualifiedly declares "Kansas is at this moment as much a slave State, as Georgia or South Carolina." But what does the President mean when he calls Kansas a slave State? If she is now a "State," then we ask why is George Denver kept there by the President, why are the troops of the United States quartered in that Territory?

But the President, in his treasonable document, uses another argument, declaring that if the State is admitted under the Lecompton Constitution, the people, if they don't like it, can change it. This is a strong argument against the Lecompton Swindle, for if it is evident that a majority of the people are against it, why force it upon them at all?

If one part of this Message can be more supremely ridiculous than another, it is the idea thrown out that the passage of the Lecompton Swindle through Congress will give "peace" to Kansas, and "peace" to the country. He says:

The dark and ominous clouds now impending over the Union, I conscientiously believe will be dissipated with honor to every portion of it, by the admission of Kansas during the present session of Congress, whereas, if she should be rejected, I greatly fear these clouds will become darker and more ominous than ever yet threatened the Constitution and the Union.

Is the President a natural fool? Peace! Where in all the Free States, in which are found churches and school houses, does the President expect to find an ignorant man, who will, for a moment believe that this treasonable message will restore "peace" to the country or disperse its ominous clouds?" But the President winds off this most infamous of all public documents, by writing himself down a consummate hypocrite. He says:

My public life will terminate in a brief period, and I have no other object of earthly ambition, than to leave my country in a peaceful and prosperous condition, and to live in the affections and respect of my countrymen.

"My public life (he says,) will terminate in a brief period." No patriot can read this line, without exclaiming from the bottom of his heart, amen! the more brief the better, and then he is guilty of the impious mockery of declaring something about "leaving his country in a peaceful and prosperous condition." The President, when he penned this, knew, yes he knew, that if the recommendations of that Message were carried out, the country would inevitably be plunged into civil war and revolution. But he further says, he wants to "live in the hearts and affections of his countrymen."

Vain wish. For James Buchanan will be remembered only as a traitor to his country. He will be remembered only to be despised and hated by coming generations. He will be remembered only as Benedict Arnold and Aaron Burr are remembered, and the deep, burning disgrace that hovers over the souls that cover their remains, will be written in staring capitals upon his tombstone.

Fighting in Congress.

The Lecompton Swindle seems to be bringing "peace" to the country, especially to the House of Congress. The Argus moans over the "disgraceful row" as it terms the fight between Grow and Keitt, in the House. The Argus should be careful how it talks about its friends. Fighting and brawling, is the quintessence of democracy. The cowardly, brutal attack upon Sumner, by Bully Brooks, was practical democracy, and was the attack of Bully Keitt upon Grow, this was only a second edition of the same chapter. The chivalrous Keitt, it seems, did not come off with anything to brag of, for Mr. Grow, although a man of much less physical strength than Keitt, had him out to cool off. If the black disunionists in the House, who call themselves democrats, want to carry their threats into execution, and illustrate their principles, by commencing drunken brawls and fights in the Halls of Legislation, let them try their hand at it, and see how far they will get. They will find the Republicans ready to give them a warm reception. We felt proud to see in the telegraphic dispatches, the fact announced that one of the boys of Old Oxford (Hon. E. B. Washburn, of Illinois) was conspicuous in the melee. Such men are the boys to send to Congress in these perilous times. We never would advise our Republican friends in Congress to commence any personal encounter in these Legislative Halls, but if they are attacked, why then fight like men, until the brawling cowards who "begin the play," get enough of it. We know Congressional fights are a disgrace to the country, but they have been times past almost invariably commenced by

the black democracy. That party is responsible for these "rows." It sustained Brooks, as a party, in his murderous attack upon Senator Sumner. It is most emphatically a border ruffian party, a party of violence, revolution, filibustering, piracy and blood, and is justly responsible for all the disgrace that follows in its train.

Sectionalism and Meanness in the United States Senate.

There never was a party in this country so full of meanness in all its acts and doings as the black democracy. An honorable act from that party would be stranger than a miracle. The committees in the Senate are fixed up in a caucus of democratic blacks, and then carried into that body, where they go through the forms of electing them. No one man would ever risk his character and reputation for fairness and honorable action, by constituting the committees as they now are. It takes the black democrats of the Senate, collectively, to fill up such a compound of meanness and sectionalism as is here exhibited. We took pains to look into this matter a little in the last Congress, and prepared a table from the rules and orders of the Senate, which we incorporated in our remarks upon the President's Message. As some of our readers may not have seen it we copy it:

Committees from free men and South laws.	States.	States.	States.
Foreign Relations	Virginia	5	1
Finance	Virginia	5	1
Commerce	Wisconsin	5	1
Military Affairs	California	6	1
Navy Affairs	Florida	5	1
Interior Affairs	Texas	4	2
Indian Affairs	Arkansas	6	
Judiciary	S. Caro.	6	
Dist. of Columbia	Mississ.	5	1
Territories	Illinois	5	1
		3	7
		23	6

Every slave State is represented on the above committees, while three of the sovereign States of this Union, to-wit: Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, who have six Senators upon that floor, are entirely disfranchised, and excluded from all these important committees. Of these ten committees seven have chairmen from the South and three from the North. Of the fifty-nine places upon these committees, thirty-six are from the slave States, Virginia has two Senators placed at the head of the two most important committees in the Senate, while old Massachusetts is entirely kicked out of the ring.

The above list comprises ten of the most important committees in the Senate, and we leave our readers to make their own comments after carefully looking over it.

But to come down to the present Congress, there is the same contemptible, sneaking spirit in arranging the Committees. The Albany Evening Journal, in some comments upon this matter, shows up the ridiculous arrangement as to the chairmanship of some of the most important committees in that body:

It says the Chairmanship of the Finance Committee is assigned to Virginia—a State impoverished on the verge of bankruptcy. The Chairmanship of the Commerce Committee is given to Alabama—which never launches a ship! Of Military Affairs to Mississippi—where there is not a fort nor an arsenal! Of Naval Affairs, to Florida, that never built a gun boat! Of Foreign Relations, to Virginia, for whose ports no Liverpool trader has sailed in three years, and whose consuls are sinecures! Of Patents, to North Carolina—which does not take out a dozen in a year! Of Post Roads, to Florida, where mail carriers foot it through swamps, with the entire mail in a breeches pocket! Of Revolutionary Pensions, to South Carolina—the headquarters of Tories in the Revolution, and of rebels ever since! Of the Library, to States where it is a crime to read the Bible, and a felony to circulate the Declaration of Independence! The Journal adds:

But New York, whose sails whiten every sea, whose men and money have been lavished in every war, whose post office pays not only for themselves, but for those of half a dozen other States besides, and whose tax payers pour more gold into the federal treasury than the whole fifteen slave States put together—New York must be content with the last place on one Committee, and thence the last on another, while special pains have been taken that she shall be overlooked in both!

"Talk with a black democrat, and he will tell you their party is 'National,' and here is proof of how much truth there is in all such brown-faced assertions. Sectionalism stands out prominent in all the acts and doings of this fanatical organization. Take, for instance, the committee on commerce, of which Mr. Hamlin, has been chairman for years up to the time he left the blacks, and then you have that little, arrogant, bitter first-rate Clay, of Alabama, put at the head, and Senator Hamlin, and the only national man upon the committee, at the extreme tail. Then, again, that committee is made up in such a way as to give a majority in favor of repealing the fishing bounties in order to rob our hardy seamen, and swindle New England out of the rewards, that justly belong to her hardy mariners. The majority of the United States Senate, made up of black democrats, as a body of men, are the greatest set of sectional fanatics on earth. They are infinitely worse than Cromwell's rump Parliament, and if they should share the same fate that befel their prototypes in Cromwell's day, it would be a blessing to the world, and especially to the people of the United States."

CAPITAL SLEIGHING. The late fall of snow, coming, as it did upon a solid bed of ice, has made capital sleighing. The roads are now trodden so as to give a smooth, hard bottom, without the perplexing "doughs," or a depth of snow sufficient to make it difficult for teams to pass each other. With the mild weather, and warm sun of the present month, one can enjoy a sleigh ride to his heart's content.

Lumbermen can get along comfortably now; but the lack of snow has proved a serious drawback to their operations this winter.

Since the above was put in type, we have been visited by another "snow" and a gale, such as have not before been witnessed this winter; and the "capital sleighing," spoken of, is for a season spoiled.

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE. Trenton, N. J. Feb. 4.—The Kansas resolutions denouncing the Lecompton Constitution, passed the House this morning by a vote of 31 to 17.

Supreme Judicial Court—Portland.

Our professional business calls us to attend the sessions of the Supreme Judicial Court in Portland, a portion of the time during every term. If any one has any doubts respecting the impracticability of the act merging the old Court of Common Pleas in the Supreme Court, we should like to have them just call and take a look at the present docket in Cumberland County. They will there find over twelve hundred actions accumulated on the continued docket, with some six or seven hundred on the new docket of this term. At the last term, Judge Appleton undertook to try all the cases that were on the trial docket, and held a long term for this purpose, but comparatively speaking, few cases were disposed of. Judge Davis is now engaged in holding this same court, and by the way, so far as we can learn, presides to the entire satisfaction of the bar, the jurists, parties and witnesses, and intends to continue the term into March, but he will be unable to bring down the docket to any thing like moderate dimensions.

In spite of the bench and the bar the civil docket in Cumberland County has been steadily increasing in size ever since the abolition of the District Court.

As our readers well know, all appealed cases go up into this court and there they are merged in with every thing else, four and sixpenny cases, stand side with grave matters of law and equity involving thousands and tens of thousands, and parties who have their thousands pending have to wait week after week with their witnesses and attorneys for the disposition of other small matters, when neither party, whether successful or not, can never get enough to pay their lawyers fees.

We have here been speaking of Cumberland County, but what is true of things there, is true of other Counties, differing only in degree.

As a whole, litigation costs more in Maine than it did when we had an intermediate court, and parties to suits, are the greatest sufferers. One of the principle reasons used when the old District Court was abolished in favor of the change, was that its abolition would give parties speedy justice, but the practical operation of the change has produced only increased delay. In our own County (Oxford,) the people are suffering many of the inconveniences, that are now felt by the citizens of Cumberland County. If we are not greatly mistaken, we think the time will come when the people of this State will be compelled to make a change in our Judiciary system. If no intermediate court is hereafter established, the present unwieldy system must be changed and simplified. But more of this hereafter.

Living Members of the Oxford Bar.

Biography, with us, was always a favorite study, one in which we always took a deep interest. In studying the lives and characters of men, we not only learn something of their personal history, but the history of events, which transpired around them. The biography of a statesman is, to a certain extent, a history of the times in which he lived, both being so inseparably connected, that neither the biographer or historian can draw a dividing line, separating the one from the other.

We love to read of men we never saw. Men, who have lived in the past, warriors, statesmen, poets and heroes, who have acted well their part upon the great stage of life, and then passed away to the spirit land. But we are no less interested in reading something of living men, who are now upon the stage of action, men who are now moving upon the world's great theatre. These thoughts have been suggested by the fact that we have, in our possession, some dozen (be the same more or less) random "charcoal sketches" of living members of the Oxford Bar, written not long since, by a friend, by way of amusement, and to try his hand at delineating character, and giving the imagery of his brain a local habitation.

From what we personally know of the members of the Oxford Bar, we believe our friend has done them no injustice, and that they will lose nothing in their reputation as professional men by the publication of these sketches. We propose, therefore, hereafter, at such suitable times as we think best, to publish a portion or the whole of them in the Democrat. We desire further to say that no political considerations have had or will have any thing to do with this matter. When we speak of individuals, in this connection, we speak of them as men, not as politicians, leaving each to stand upon his own chosen political platform "perfectly free," to form and enjoy his own opinions.

DONATION VISIT. The friends of Rev. Mr. Bartlett, of Bridgton, residing at Hiram Bridge and vicinity, held a levee at the hall of the Mt. Cutter House, in Hiram, on Tuesday evening of last week, for the purpose of raising funds for the support of preaching, at the latter place, where Mr. B. labors one-fourth of the time. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and if they should share the same fate that befel their prototypes in Cromwell's day, it would be a blessing to the world, and especially to the people of the United States."

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Maine Legislature.

MONDAY, Feb. 1.
SENATE. Mr. Wiggin presented the petition of Silas W. Turner and 110 others, for a road from Kingsbury Mills to Sherry Corner; also of John F. Pike and 71 others, for same object. Referred.
HOUSE. Papers presented and referred. Petition of the Schoolmen of Mills, for amendment to chapter 153, section 8, of the acts and resolves of 1857; of A. H. Pendleton and 134 others, for prohibitory liquor law; of W. P. Spofford and others, to compel the Penobscot and Kennebec, and Somerset and Kennebec Railroad Companies to connect their trains at Kendall's mills; Anna Hinds, for a donation of land or money; of J. L. Child and 50 other citizens of Augusta, for an insolvent law; claim of the town of Greenville for bounty. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Feb. 2.
SENATE. On motion of Mr. Lathrop, Ordered, That the Committee on the Reform School be directed to inquire into the propriety of requiring the several cities, towns and plantations, furnishing inmates to the Reform School, to pay a portion of the expenses of such inmates; also to inquire what reduction, if any, may be made in the salaries of officers, or other expenditures of that institution; and further to inquire whether the word "retrenchment" has any "practical application," and report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. McGilvery, Ordered, That the Committee on the Liquor Law be requested to report at as early a day as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Waking-Dream in Sickness.

The night creeps wearily. I lift my lamp
To hide the brightness of that morning star
That mocks me with a sheepshead-like mine—
Coldly and glitteringly apart and lone!
How unlike life it is—this sickness-waking!
Conscious of life's enfeeble link to more
The soul feels cold-released; and, as the star
Wakes not the colors of earth's slumbering flowers,
Nor warms the darkness of the mountain brow
From which so pathetically it soars away,
So, with strange life, monstrously bright,
The sick man's thought seems tracklessly and far:
The pale cheek on the pillow, and the pulse
Of the dead silent heart, make deathly only
By thought in which their faintness has no share!

The Path of Duty.

The path of duty is the way of glory
Highest walks it, only the way of duty
Deeds right, and learns to do
Long of self, before his journey closes,
He shall find the subtle in these basing
In duty glows, which outshines
All voluptuous garden-roses.
The path of duty is the way to glory:
He that, after following her commands,
On with toil of heart and knees and hands
Thro' the long gorge to the far light has won
His path upward, and prevailed,
Shall find the toppling crown of duty, sealed,
Are close upon the shining table-land,
To which our God himself is moon and sun.

ORIGIN OF THE THATCHERS IN AMERICA. A much respected friend of ours furnished us a few days ago with the following account of the ancestors of the numerous families bearing the above name in this country, some of whom are well and favorably known by our citizens:

John Thatcher was one of the worthy number who came to this country in the Mayflower. Shortly after his arrival his wife died. In due course of time the old gentleman thought he would like to marry again, and one day saddled his black horse and rode to the residence of one Lydia Gurnham, for the purpose of making a proposal of marriage. What was his surprise on reaching her house, at seeing his son John's horse at the door, he having made a visit for the same end as his father. Without dismounting, the old man turned his horse homeward. The next day, at the dinner table, the old gentleman said to his son: "John, does this wish to marry Lydia Gurnham?" "Yes, father, I do," answered John. "So do I," said his father, "and if they will abridge this suit, I will give three pounds old tenor, and the two black steers." "Agreed," said John. He accordingly gave up all claim to Lydia's hand; the old man married her, and this couple were the progenitors of all the Thatchers in America.

ADVERTISEMENT EXTRAORDINARY. The following advertisement appears in the Chicago Times:

"Wanted—By four young gentlemen—Board without lodging, on either Wabash or Michigan Avenue, with a private family, where there are few or no boarders. Required—The privileges of being a few moments late at breakfast; without incurring the risk of a blow up; of being absent a day without exciting curiosity; of eating light as a feather without being suspected of dissatisfaction; of not being required to make loans to one's landlady, taking prospective board as security; of wearing old boots without being suspected of being a miser; of visiting the kitchen, without being suspected of sinister designs on the cook; of being polite to young ladies, without fear of action for breach of promise; of being absent when friends with snappish business din, (one good lady in the family no objection, provided the mother don't call him a beauty); of being generally agreeable and perfectly at home. Board paid hourly in advance if required. Address box 369 post office."

A STRANGE LOVE STORY. The Palmer (Mass.) Journal gives the particulars of a somewhat romantic affair which occurred in that town, lately, omitting the names by request. A young tallness, who had captivated many a heart by her good looks, was ordered by her stern parent to reject the attentions of all who were not of her religious creed, and was finally forced to yield her hand to a coarse, repulsive fellow, who could not take her heart with it. In vain she pleaded against being made an unwilling bride. The marriage took place and the heart of the bride seemed crushed by a dreadful blow. The bloom of eighteen summers faded upon her cheek and a deep melancholy settled upon her. The idea of being condemned to pass her life with a man she could not love led her to adopt a terrible resolution—she would poison him! The deadly potion was prepared, but by a timely discovery the husband was saved. Horrified at his narrow escape he left his wife and fled to California. The desertion was no calamity. Being left alone she rose of youth again kindled on her cheek, and she is now as pretty a California widow as can be found in all the States.

Scene. A tall ladder leaning against the house—a nigger at the top, and a hog scratching his hide against the bottom—"G'way—g'way dar!—You'm makin' mischief."

A culprit, being asked what he had to say why the sentence of death should not be recorded against him, replied: "He had nothing to say, as too much had been said already."

Grief knits two hearts in closer bonds than happiness ever can; and common sufferings are far stronger links than common joys.

Insults, says a modern philosopher, are like counterfeit money; we can't hinder them being offered, but we are not compelled to take them.

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Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in The Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris, in said County, on the third Tuesday of March next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

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Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in The Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris, in said County, on the third Tuesday of March next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

THOMAS H. BROWN, Judge.

A true copy—Attest: DAVID KNAPP, Register.

OXFORD, 28.—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of January, A. D. 1858.

ON the Petition of HIRSH BRYANT, Executor of the last Will and Testament of EDWARD BRYANT, late of Turner, in said County, deceased, having presented his final account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance.

Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in The Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris, in said County, on the third Tuesday of March next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

THOMAS H. BROWN, Judge.

A true copy—Attest: DAVID KNAPP, Register.

OXFORD, 28.—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of January, A. D. 1858.

ON the Petition of JAMES KIMBALL, Executor of the last Will and Testament of EDWARD KIMBALL, late of Turner, in said County, deceased, having presented his final account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance.

Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in The Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris, in said County, on the third Tuesday of March next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

THOMAS H. BROWN, Judge.

A true copy—Attest: DAVID KNAPP, Register.

OXFORD, 28.—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of January, A. D. 1858.

ON the Petition of JAMES KIMBALL, Executor of the last Will and Testament of EDWARD KIMBALL, late of Turner, in said County, deceased, having presented his final account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance.

Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons