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BY GEO. W. BOWMAN.

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Select Poetry.



Life and Death.

BY J. S. ROLLEROOKE.

Awake! awake! the rosy hills
Are drenched with rosy light,
The waving forests, warbling rills,
All worship God aright.

Where trees like emerald pillars rise,
A child is kneeling on the sod,
Her face is looking on the skies,
Her heart has gone to God.

Her prayer is said, she raises now,
She seeks the clear, familiar hower,
Shaded by many a leafy bough,
Perfumed by many a flower.

With fingers pale the bridal vine
Still clasps her forest lord, and strays
Where warm voluptuous sunbeams shine
A thousand different ways.

Or hangs the curtain that she waves
In folds before the temple fair;
A lovely tapestry of sunbeams
That sits with every air.

The child approached the lone retreat,
With quickened step and eager eye;
She called—'Awake! oh, sister sweet!
But there was no reply.

She drew the leafy veil apart,
She looked above, but nothing said;
And entering with a beating heart,
She stood before the dead.

Alone and with the dead she stood;
The dead, as if among the flowers,
That yesterday her hand had strewed,
Marked not the changing hours.

She knew not it was morning prime,
Shall never know the silent noon,
Shall never hear the twilight time,
Nor chronicle the moon.

A broken lily in her hand,
A drooping rose no drooping head;
Even Nature seemed to understand,
Her queenliest flower lay dead.

The child, with aspect sad and still,
Stood gazing at her sister's side,
Content, if it had been God's will,
That moment to have died.

She felt like Eve, when Eden's gate
Had closed on her forever more;
She felt that life was de-olate,
That Paradise was o'er.

No tears are hers, for tears are vain,
The heart and not the robe is rent;
If God who gives will take again,
'Tis folly to lament.

Then drop the curtain, fold by fold,
O'er the consecrated hower,
And veil from curious eyes and cold,
The dead and living flower.

What is Happiness?

BY ROBERT JOHNSON.

Hours of bliss are now departed,
Scenes of childhood, hope and joy,
All are gone, we have become old,
Sigh for days that blessed the boy;
The some transient gleams of glory
Float across our manhood's prime,
Yet old age soon tells the story,
Happiness is not for time.

Here 'mid earth's delusive pleasure;
Golden streams in prospect flow,
Holding out each wish-fulfilling treasure,
Ever gliding as they go.
Till you think you're at the fountain,
Whence to draw life's pleasure free;
Then like shadows on the mountain,
They will leave no trace for thee.

Warrior, statesman, man of trade,
Tell me plainly if you can,
Where this earth has ever made
Perfect happiness for man.
Is it in the halls of nations?
Is it on the tented field?
Is it linked with riches, stations?
Tell me where it can be found.

Pleasure's rotary, have you found it
In the giddy cups of life?
Till in Bacchus' rind you'd drown it,
Has your conscience ceased its strife?
In the golden halls of folly
'Tis a drug to clog the soul,
And will leave its melancholy
Though you drown it in the bowl.

Where, then, does true joy await us
Where's the refuge we can meet?
When all others shall forsake us
We would know some safe retreat;
Tell us, then, since man can tell not,
Ye bright seraphs near the throne,
If in all things rounds some bright spot
Ye have found to us unknown.

Then an angel robed in beauty,
Stooped while in his heavenward flight,
High invested with the duty,
Points poor man to joys more bright—
Bids him take, though oft rejected,
That which Time and sense ontrove;
Seek, though late and long neglected,
Joys which ought but Heaven can give.

RIGHT OF COLORED PERSONS TO VOTE.

Mr. D. L. Smith, a representative from Allegheny county, read in the Pennsylvania Legislature, a few days since, the following bill:

AN ACT to confer upon colored persons the right of Citizenship.

Sec. 1. That from and after the passage of this act, all colored male persons of African or mixed extraction, who are now or may hereafter become residents of this Commonwealth, be freemen, and are hereby entitled to all the civil, religious and political rights, as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes, as the same are enjoyed and held by any person, or persons, citizens of this Commonwealth.

Reception of Gov. Pollock—the Ceremonies at the Capitol.

When Gov. POLLOCK made his appearance to take his place in the procession, he was greeted with enthusiastic and long continued cheers, by the thousands of people who thronged the streets and sidewalks. After gracefully acknowledging the compliment, the Governor elect took his seat in the carriage, and the procession moved through various streets to the Capitol, where from ten to fifteen thousand people were already assembled. The Governor elect, accompanied by Gov. BIGLER, Ex-Governors JOHNSON and PORTER, the officers and members of the Legislature, and the various committees, was escorted to the portico of the Capitol, where a platform had been erected for the occasion. As Gov. POLLOCK ascended the steps, he was greeted with three enthusiastic heart-warm cheers, by the immense concourse of people who filled the spacious enclosure.—

Gov. ALFRED COOKMAN then approached the front of the stand, and addressed the Throne of Grace in the following earnest, impressive and eloquent prayer, appropriate to the solemn occasion:

"Who is like unto Thee, oh Lord, among the Gods? Who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Thou art the Author of the world, the Creator of men, the Ruler of Nations, and the Establisher of Governments. Sensible of our entire dependence upon Thee, we would come into Thy august presence with all that reverence and humility which are due to Thy greatness, and with all that hope and love which Thy goodness should inspire. Look complacently upon us, and let the words of our lips, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, oh Lord our strength and our Redeemer!"

Reminded by surrounding circumstances of our national blessings, we would render Thee hearty praise for this good land which the Lord our God hath given us—a land distinguished by knowledge—dignified as the abode of civil and religious liberty, and endeared to our hearts by the patriot's zeal and the ashes of our forefathers. God of Nations, sanctify and perpetuate our civil and sacred privileges. Let the future of our country's history be more prosperous and glorious than the past. Upon this Freedom's fair heritage, let the bright cloud of the Divine glory continually rest, and upon all this glory be Thine an unending and abiding defence. Bless the President of the United States, his advisers in Cabinet council, our Representatives in National Congress assembled, the Judges of our supreme and subordinate Courts, the Governors and Legislators of our various States, and all who are in positions of authority, and responsibility, and honor. Give unto them that wisdom which is profitable to direct, and may their conduct, both public and private, be marked by the strictest justice and the most unswerving integrity. Graciously remember, oh Lord, Thy servant, our Governor, who this day retires from a station which he has occupied with credit to himself, and with profit to the people. We praise Thee for the peace and prosperity which have prevailed during the entire term of his official service. Accompany him into other spheres, and may his conduct in the future be characterized by the same purity of intention and uprightliness of action which have ever dignified and adorned his life in the past.

And now we earnestly and unitedly invoke the richest blessings of Thy Grace upon the Governor elect, who, with all the solemnities of an oath, will this day be inducted into his new and responsible office. Visit him as Thou didst Moses in the bush, Joshua in the battle, Gideon in the field, and Samuel in the temple. Give him the blessing of David and of Solomon. Let this day, so bright and beautiful, be emblematic of his prosperous Administration and happy life. Kindly regard those who shall be associated with him in the various departments of the State government. May they be men of clean hands and pure hearts, always acting with a reference to the Divine will and the public good—may they eventually be rewarded with the delightful plaudit of "well done, good and faithful servants." Hear our prayers—forgive our sins—accept our praises—and at last may we form a part of that mighty multitude who, encompassing the Eternal Throne, find their highest joy in ascribing undivided praises to Father, Son and Holy Ghost, forever. Amen."

At the conclusion of Mr. COOKMAN'S eloquent prayer, Gov. W. HAMMERSLEY, Esq., Clerk of the Senate, read the certificate of election, when Gov. POLLOCK was escorted to the front of the platform, where the oath of office was administered to him by Mr. HESTER, President of the Senate, in the presence of thousands of his fellow citizens. During this brief but solemn ceremony, the stillness of death reigned throughout the vast assembly. Having been duly qualified in the form required by the Constitution, the Governor proceeded to the delivery of his inaugural address, as follows:

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR POLLOCK, JANUARY 16, 1855.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—Custom sanctions, and demands, a brief declaration of the principles and policy, to be adopted and pursued by an Executive about to assume the functions of that office. The character of our institutions demonstrates the propriety of such declaration. All the just powers of the Government emanate from the people, and to them should be communicated the manner in which it is proposed to execute the powers conferred.

The people are sovereign; and in the exercise of their sovereignty, they have ordained and established a Constitution for the government of the State. That Constitution, I have this day, in the presence of my fellow-citizens, and of Him who is the searcher of hearts—and

with humble reliance on His wisdom to direct—sworn to support. The high powers therein delegated to the respective co-ordinate branches of the government are clearly expressed and defined. Side by side with the grant of powers, stands the declaration of the rights of the people, recognizing the general, great and essential principles of liberty and free government. To guard against the transgression of the powers delegated; and to preserve forever inviolate the rights, liberties, and privileges of the citizen, thus declared, will be both a duty and a pleasure, in full harmony with every sentiment of my heart, every impulse of my nature.

Republican institutions are the pride, and justly the glory of our country. To enjoy them is our privilege, to maintain them our duty.—Civil and religious liberty—freedom of speech, and of the press, the rights of conscience, and freedom of worship—are the birthright and the boast of the American citizen. No royal edict, no pontifical decree can restrain or destroy them. In the enjoyment of these blessings, the rich and the poor, the high and the low, meet together—the constitution, in its full scope and ample development, shields and protects them all. When these rights are assailed, these privileges endangered, either by mad ambition, or by influences foreign to the true interests of the Nation, and at war with love of country—that noble impulse of the American heart, which prompts it to reverse home and native land as sacred objects of its affections—it is then the ballot box in its omnipotence, speaking in thunder tones the will of the people, rebukes the wrong, and vindicates the freedom of the man—the independence of the citizen. To the American people have these blessings been committed as a sacred trust; they are, and must ever be, their guardians and defenders. The American citizen, independent and free, uninfluenced by partisan attachments, unswayed by ecclesiastical authority or ghostly intolerance—in the strength of fearless manhood, and in the bold assertion of his rights—should exhibit to the world a living illustration of the superior benefits of American Republicanism: proclaiming a true and single allegiance to his country, and to no other power but "the God that made and preserves us as a Nation."

Virtue, intelligence and truth are the foundation of our Republic. By these our institutions and privileges can, and will be preserved. Ignorance is not the mother of patriotism, or of Republics. It is the enemy and destroyer of both. Education, in its enlightening, elevating and reforming influences, in the full power of its beneficent results, should be encouraged by the State.—Not that mere intellectual culture that leaves the mind a moral waste, unfit to understand the duties of the man or citizen, but that higher education, founded upon, directed and controlled by sound and elevated moral principles—that recognizes the Bible as the foundation of true knowledge, as the text-book alike of the child and the American Statesman, and as the great charter and bulwark of civil and religious freedom. The knowledge thus acquired is the power conservative of States and nations; more potent in its energy to uphold the institutions of freedom and the rights man, than armies and navies in their proudest strength.

The framers of our constitution understood this, and wisely provided for the establishment of schools and the promotion of the arts and sciences, in one or more seminaries of learning; that the advantages of education might be enjoyed by all.

To improve the efficiency of this system, not only by perfecting our common schools, but by encouraging and aiding "some or more" higher literary institutions, in which teachers can be trained and qualified; and to increase the fund appropriated to educational purposes, are objects which will at all times receive my willing approval. Money liberally, yet wisely, expended in the pursuit and promotion of knowledge is true economy. The integrity of this system and its fund must be preserved. No division of this fund for political or sectarian purposes should ever be made or attempted. To divide is to destroy. Party and sectarian jealousies would be engendered; the unity and the harmony of the system destroyed, and its noble objects frustrated and defeated. Bigotry might rejoice, patriotism would weep over such a result.

In the performance of the duties now devolved upon me, it will be my desire to aid, by all constitutional and legal means, the development of the resources of the State; and to encourage and promote her agricultural, mining, manufacturing and commercial interests. A kind Providence has bestowed upon us, with a liberal hand, all the elements of wealth and greatness. Our valleys and plains offer their fertile soil to the plough-share of the husbandman, and reward with their rich productions his honorable toil. Our inexhaustible coal fields; our rich iron deposits; limestone everywhere, and just where most required; the interminable forest, and our rushing streams; all invite the energy and enterprise of our citizens to the development of their treasures, and promise a rich reward to their labors. The smoke of our furnaces, the crash of rolling-mills; the hum of the spindle; and the din of the workshop, attest the energy and manufacturing skill of our people; and whilst the plough, the loom, and the anvil, unite in the production of wealth, commerce, by her thousand avenues, is bearing their valuable and abundant products to our markets of trade.—Amidst all these great interests, and their rapid and almost romantic development, it is a matter of congratulation that agriculture, in its various departments, has awakened public attention to its importance, and claimed and received from science the tribute of its aid. Pennsylvania, so deeply interested in the success of her agricultural industry, cannot be indifferent to the laudable efforts now making to perfect and advance this first, and noblest, pursuit of man. This, and all other branches of industry, should receive the fostering care and encouragement of the Government.

The interests of our great commercial emporium should receive the considerate attention of the Legislature. Her manufactures, trade and commerce, are of great and increasing importance, and Philadelphia, as consolidated, in population, wealth, enterprise and intelligence, ranks and rivals the first cities of the Union. To make her the first among the cities of our country, should be the pride of every Pennsylvanian. Her interests are so identified with the interests of the State, that they cannot be separated without injury to both. A prudent and liberal system of legislation, appropriate to her real wants, would promote her own and the interests of the Commonwealth.

A sound currency is essential to the prosperity of a commercial people. All classes of society, and every branch of industry, in their varied interests and economical relations, are interested in securing and maintaining a safe circulating medium. To accomplish this result, wise and prudent legislation is necessary. The creation of a well regulated, and carefully guarded system of banking, is not only sound policy, but beneficial to the legitimate trade and commerce of the country; and aids in developing her great natural and industrial resources. Our present system of banking, with its limitations, restrictions and liabilities, individual and otherwise, imposed by law on these institutions, has become the settled policy of the State.—The checks and guards thrown around them should not be lessened or removed. Their own safety, and the security of the public, require their continuance.

Notice of numerous intended applications to the Legislature for new banks, an increase of banking capital and savings institutions, has been given as required by the constitution.—Without desiring to assume a hostile attitude towards all banks, the propriety of incorporating all that may be called for, under the notice given, cannot be justified or defended. The extravagant, improper or unreasonable increase of banks and banking capital, is not demanded by the wants of the community, and will not, and cannot be sanctioned by the Executive. The present commercial and financial embarrassment of the country; the depressed state of trade; past experience, and the more recent experience of our sister States, as seen in their ruined banks and depreciated currency, demonstrate the necessity of legislating cautiously and prudently on this subject.

The number of banks, and consequently the amount of banking capital should be limited to, and regulated by, the proper demands of active and healthy trade, and the actual business wants and necessities of the community. This policy, honestly insisted upon and pursued, would protect the country from the disastrous consequences of improvident banking. An extraordinary and unnecessary increase of banks and banking facilities, in seasons of great general prosperity, leads to extravagant and ruinous speculation.—Such increase in times of commercial distress, aggravates and prolongs the evils it was designed to remedy. Entertaining these views I will not hesitate to sanction the re-chartering of old and solvent banks, which by prudent and careful management, and an honest adherence to the legitimate purposes of their creation, have merited and received the confidence of the public. Nor will I refuse to sanction the incorporation of new banks, when indispensably necessary and clearly demanded by the actual business wants and interests of the community in which they may be located. To no other, and under no other circumstances, can I yield the Executive consent.

To promote the welfare and prosperity of the Commonwealth, by regulating and increasing her finances, economizing her resources, maintaining her credit, reducing her debt, and relieving her people from oppressive taxation, will be the objects of my anxious desire; and to the accomplishment of which every energy of my administration will be directed.—The public debt, now exceeding forty millions of dollars, and the annual taxation necessary to meet the payment of its interest, seriously affect the great industrial interests of the State; drive labor and capital from the Commonwealth; prevent the extension and completion of her noble system of education, and the prosecution of those laudable schemes of benevolence, which at once benefit, dignify and adorn a free and enlightened people.

Every consideration of State pride, every motive of interest, require its reduction and speedy liquidation, by every available and practicable means. To secure this object, rigid economy in every department of the government; retrenchment in the public expenditures; strict accountability in all the receiving and disbursing officers of the Commonwealth; and an honest and faithful discharge of duty by all her agents, would contribute much, and also save millions to the Treasury.

Created by the State, in the prosecution and management of her system of internal improvements—a system characterized by "prodigality, extravagance and corrupt political favoritism"—the sale of these improvements, or at least of the main line, as a means of reducing this debt, lessening taxation, and saving our financial credit, has for many years, occupied the attention of the people, and their representatives.—Bills for the sale of the main line have been passed by three different Legislatures, two of which were approved by the Governors then in office. The people, on the question being submitted to them in 1844, decided, by a large majority, in favor of the sale; and yet these works, from the defective character of the laws authorizing the sale, the restrictions contained in them, and from other causes, remain unsold. Public sentiment, founded on economical, moral and political considerations, still demands, and the public welfare still requires, their sale.

The consideration to be paid, the mode, terms and conditions of the sale, ought to be carefully considered. Just and liberal inducements should be offered to purchasers, whilst at the same time the people should be protected against wrong and imposition. By avoiding the errors of former legislation, a sale on terms favorable

to the State, and beneficial to the purchaser, may be secured.

It is vain to hope for a reduction of the debt, and relief from taxation, without a sale of the whole, or part, of our public improvements.—Incumbered with debts, and taxed to support a system, the management of which has been marked by extravagance, expenditure, fraudulent speculation, and a reckless disregard of public interests, the people demand relief and release from these burdens. The press and the ballot box have declared the popular will on this subject, and that will should be obeyed.—Duty and a conviction of its propriety, will prompt me to give a cordial support, to the accomplishment of this object.

In this connection, and whether a sale of all or any of the public improvements be effected or not, the abolition or reorganization of the Board of Canal Commissioners, and the substitution of some other efficient and responsible system of management, are subjects worthy of consideration.—Every measure of reform in this regard, calculated to increase the efficiency and responsibility of the supervisory power; protect the interests of the State; and correct the real or alleged abuses of the present system, will receive my approval.

The people having in the recent election decided against the passage of the law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, it will become the duty of the Legislature and Executive to consider what other legislation may be necessary to control and correct the evils of intemperance. Our present license system, although highly penal, and corrective of many abuses, is still defective. The facility with which licenses are obtained for the sale of malt and other liquors, is an evil that demands reform. The number of places in which these are sold, should be limited by law; and no license granted unless by the courts, and in the manner now required in the case of publicans and taverns; and subject to the same regulations, restrictions and penalties.

The desecration of the Sabbath by a traffic so fruitful of evil, and so demoralizing in its results, is in direct opposition to the law of God, and the moral sentiment of the people; and is a reproach to the age in which we live. A stringent and comprehensive law, remedial in its provisions, and vindicating the great law of the Sabbath, in its physical and moral relations to man, is required, not only by the moral sense of community, but would be justified by every sentiment of humanity, every consideration of philanthropy, every impulse of pure and genuine patriotism. The history of intemperance is written in tears and blood. Pauperism, taxation and crime follow in its train. A remedy should be applied; and public sentiment, with the full force of its moral sanction, will approve all prudent and constitutional legislation on this subject.

The pardoning power—the harmonious blending of mercy and justice in our Constitution—will be exercised with a just regard to both these important principles. With every desire to extend mercy to the unfortunate and repentant transgressor, justice, in her stern demands, will not be overlooked by the pardon of the vicious and hardened criminal. This power has been conferred on the Executive, not to overthrow the administration of justice, but to aid and promote it. It should be exercised with great caution, and only upon the most satisfactory assurance that it is due to the condemned, and that the rights and security of the public will not be prejudiced by the act. To prevent the abuse of this power, and to protect the Executive from imposition, notice of the intended application should be published in the city or county where the trial and conviction took place.

Experience has demonstrated the impolicy of subscriptions by municipal corporations, to the stock of railroad companies. This is especially true in relation to county subscriptions. The practice should be avoided, or at least not encouraged by future legislation.

Legislation, so far as practicable, should be general and uniform. Local and special legislation ought to be discouraged, when the object can be obtained by general laws. Its tendency is pernicious; and general principles, and public good, are often sacrificed to secure personal and private benefits. "Omnibus legislation" being improper in itself, and demoralizing in its influence, can not receive my sanction. The views and practice of my immediate predecessor on this subject, meet my cordial approval.

Pennsylvania, occupying as she does an important and proud position in the sisterhood of States, can not be indifferent to the policy and acts of the National Government. Her voice, potential for good in other days, ought not to be disregarded now. Devoted to the Constitution and the Union—as she was the first to sanction, she will be the last to endanger the one, or violate the other. Regarding with jealous care the rights of her sister States, she will be ever ready to defend her own. The blood of her heroes poured out on the many battle-fields of the Revolution, attests her devotion to the great principles of American freedom—the centrality of American republicanism. To the Constitution in all its integrity; to the Union in its strength and harmony; to the maintenance in its purity, of the faith and honor of our country, Pennsylvania now is, and always has been pledged—a pledge never violated, and not to be violated, until patriotism ceases to be a virtue, and liberty to be known only as a name.

Entertaining these sentiments, and actuated by an exclusive desire to promote the peace, harmony and welfare of our beloved country, the recent action of the National Congress and Executive, in repealing a solemn compromise, only less sacred in public estimation than the Constitution itself—thus attempting to extend the institution of domestic Slavery in the territorial domain of the Nation, violating the plighted faith and honor of the country, arousing sectional jealousies, and renewing the agitation of vexed and distracting questions—has received from the people of our own and other States of

the Union, their stern and merited rebuke.

With no desire to restrain the full and entire constitutional rights of the States, nor to interfere directly or indirectly with their domestic institutions, the people of Pennsylvania, in view of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the principle involved in it, and the consequences resulting from it, as marked already by fraud, violence, and strife; have re-affirmed their opposition to the extension of slavery into territory now free, and renewed their pledge "to the doctrines of the act of 1780, which revolved us by constitutional means from a grievous social evil; to the great ordinance of 1787, in its full scope and all its beneficent principles; to the protection of the personal rights of every human being under the Constitution of Pennsylvania, and the Constitution of the United States, by maintaining inviolate the trial by jury, and the writ of *habeas corpus*; to the assertion of the due rights of the North, as well as of the South, and to the integrity of the Union."

The declaration of these doctrines, is but the recognition of the fundamental principles of freedom and human rights. They are neither new nor startling. They were taught by patriotic fathers at the watch-fires of our country's defenders; and learned amid the bloody snows of Valley Forge, and the mighty throes of war and revolution. They were stamped with indelible impress upon the great charter of our right, and embodied in the legislation of the best and purest days of the Republic; have filled the hearts, and fell burning from the lips of orators and Statesmen, whose memories are immortal as the principles they cherished. They have been the watch-word and the hope of millions, who have gone before us, are the watch-word and the hope of millions now, and will be of millions yet unborn.

In many questions of National and truly American policy—the due protection of American labor and industry, against the depressing influence of foreign labor and capital; the improvement of our harbors and rivers; the National defence; the equitable distribution of the proceeds of the public lands among the States, in aid of education and to relieve from debt and taxation; a judicious "homestead bill;" reform in the naturalization laws; and the protection of our country against the immigration and importation of foreign paupers and convicts—in all these, we, as a State and people, are deeply interested; and to their adoption and promotion every encouragement should be given.

To the people of my native State, who have called me to preside over her destinies, I return the tribute of my warmest gratitude for the honor conferred; and my pledge to them this day, that "I will try" to realize their expectations, and not betray their confidence. In assuming the responsibilities of this high office, I would be false to myself and to the feelings that now oppress me, should I hesitate to affirm my unfeigned distrust in my ability to discharge its appropriate duties in a manner commensurate with their importance. If I cannot secure, I will labor to deserve, the confidence and approbation of my fellow citizens. I do not expect, I dare not hope, to escape censure. Deserved censure I will try to avoid, all other to disregard. Conscious of the rectitude of my intentions; with no ambitious desires to gratify; no resentments to cherish; no wish, but for the public good; it will be my endeavor to perform every duty faithfully and fearlessly, and having done this, will abide the judgment of a generous people; assured that if they condemn the act, they will at least award to me the meed of good intention.

With the constitution for my guide; "equal and exact justice to all" my desire; the greatest good of the greatest number my object—and invoking the aid and blessing of the God of our fathers, and desiring to rule in his fear—my duty, and highest ambition, will be to promote the true interests of the State, maintain our civil and religious privileges, defend the honor, and advance the prosperity and happiness of our Country.

JAMES POLLOCK.

BURSTING OF A MOUNTAIN.—We learn from a gentleman in Scott county, that a mountain, about five miles from Waldron, has exploded three times during the last week. The explosions were very loud and terrific, causing the earth around to quake, throwing up stones and earth, and filling the atmosphere with clouds of dust and smoke. The report of one of the explosions was heard in the vicinity of this town a few mornings since, a distance of forty-five or fifty miles. The earth on the mountain has sunk to a considerable depth. The people in the vicinity are very much alarmed.—These are the facts as far as we are able to learn; but we hear more fully and particularly in a few days. What does it mean? Are we to have a volcano in our State, belching forth fire and smoke, and hurling red-hot stones into the atmosphere, and filling the valleys around with melted lava?—*Fort Smith Herald, Dec. 16.*

DAMAGES AGAINST A RAILROAD.—Horace Colt, of Massachusetts, has recovered \$8,000 damages from the Southern Railroad Company for alleged personal injuries. It appears he was standing up in the cars at the time of a collision, and received a slight shock or jerk, as one would be liable to in such a case while standing. From this shock, it is said, spinal affection has resulted, which has doomed Mr. Colt to the life of a helpless cripple. He sued for \$20,000 damages.

MR. BUCHANAN.—The Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer says that from letters received by friends of Mr. Buchanan in that city, it seems he intends to return home in the month of October next—and not in the spring, as stated by some of the papers. He will then have remained abroad more than two years, the period he expected to be absent when he left. Mr. Sicles, his secretary, who returned home in the Atlantic, tendered his resignation before leaving London. All the calls will be made on Mr. Buchanan, and he will be expected to return to the United States.