WEEKLY INDIANA STATE SENTINEL.

A National Democratic Newspaper-----Devoted to the Union and True Interests of the Country.

SPANN & NORMAN,] [PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.] [PROPRIETORS.

VOLUME XV. INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1855. NUMBER 31.

Weekly Sentinel.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING ON A MAMMOTH SHEET, AT

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR, INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE

☞ Address, Post-paid, SPANN & NORMAN. Indianapolis, Ind.

The Next Presidency.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.—We notice that the "Valley (Ill.) Blade," has *hoisted* the name of this distinguished democrat, as its choice for President in 1856. Without saying anything prejudicial to the claims of a distinguished Indianian, who is also *aspiring* to that position, we most emphatically believe that Judge Douglas would be the choice of the Democracy of the whole Union, were it understood that he desired his name brought forward at this particular time, but we have all along understood that the Judge did not wish his friends to present his name to the consideration of the next Democratic National Convention, in connection with the Chief Magistracy of the nation. Are we correctly informed, Mr. Sutherland?—*Rockport Democrat.*

Who shall be the next Democratic nominee for President is a question that is beginning to be a good deal agitated. There are several distinguished individuals, North and South, mentioned in connection with this nomination. In the South are Hunter, Wise, Rusk, Butler; in the North Dickinson, Dallas, Buchanan, Pierce, Douglas, and Bright. Any of these gentlemen are worthy, and there would be no fear that the interests of the country, or of the Democratic party would suffer in their hands. We could give to either of them, and shall give to the nominee, whoever he may be, our most zealous support.

We would not attempt to dictate as to who the candidate shall be. At the same time we cannot refrain from saying that Mr. Bright is, by all odds, the first choice of the State of Indiana. Nor is this to be wondered at. The people here know him, for he was reared among them, and they have tried him. The Democracy have entire confidence in his ability, his integrity, his fidelity, his nationality. With him as our candidate the entile West could be carried with more certainty, probably, than with any other man. At the same time, unless there be a clear indication of public sentiment in his favor, Indiana will not urge his name.

Our friend of the Rockport Democrat is mistaken in supposing that Mr. Bright is an *aspirant.* He does not seek the place, but he is not in a position to decline it. It is not for him to say that he will or will not be a candidate—that belongs to the party. Mr. Bright knows—he cannot but know—that his name is freely used in connection with the next Presidency; and it should be, as it no doubt is, a source of just pride to him, that he should have so far gained upon the confidence and respect of the American people, as to be suggested for that distinguished position; but so far from "*aspiring*" to it—so far from desiring to enter into a contest for the nomination, he has endeavored to dissuade his friends in Indiana from using his name. If the nomination be tendered him, he will undoubtedly accept the race, with many acknowledgments to his party for this high mark of their confidence.

According to usage, our next candidate should come from the South, and if that section insists upon it, and can agree upon their man, the Democracy of the free States, in our opinion, should yield it to them; but policy would dictate (and we believe the South very generally regard the matter in that light) to take a sound national man from the free States. Should this course be adopted, there could be little objection to their naming the man; and whether they select Bright, Douglas, Pierce, Buchanan, Dickinson, or any other national Democrat, we will be found fighting the battle with all the power we possess. The same policy that would suggest the selection of a candidate from the free States, would also dictate that he should be taken from the *great West.* Whether it be Bright or Douglas, the party will have a candidate of whom they may be justly proud, and with whom there will be certainty of success. Our preference—the preference of Indiana is for her own sterling statesman; but we shall not mourn over the selection of that great man—the "Little Giant."

☞Our neighbor of the Journal thinks our local editor did injustice to A. G. Porter, Esq., in his notice of the speech of that gentleman before the Supreme Court in behalf of the prohibitory law. If anything of the kind was done, it was altogether unintentional. We did not hear Mr. Porter's argument, but we have heard it spoken of as a very fine effort and highly to the credit of the gentleman who delivered it. Mr. Porter's speech was mainly directed to depicting the evils which intemperance has inflicted upon society and to the necessity of the State throwing restrictions around the traffic in ardent spirits. This branch of the question of course affords a fine field for oratorical display and for exciting the sympathies of the listeners.

Differing entirely from Mr. Porter, as we do on this subject—deploring the evils of intemperance, but believing such statutes as the prohibitory law more dangerous than the evil it is intended to remedy—we can yet say that Mr. Porter's effort was a fine one, and highly to his credit as a lawyer and an orator.

Secretary of State.

We learn that the friends of Wm. Lee, Esq., of Clark county, intend presenting his name to the 8th of January Convention for the nomination to the office of Secretary of State. None who know Mr. Lee will question his qualifications for that office. He is the present able editor of the National Democrat at Jeffersonville, and as such he did yeoman's service in rescuing old Clark from the stigma of Black Republican Know Nothingism.

PARDON OF KISSANE.—GOV. Clark has pardoned William Kissane out of the New York State Prison. The pardon was solicited by a large number of influential persons in New York, Ohio, and Indiana, it being urged that his presence as a witness is necessary to the ends of justice in the two latter States.

CONGRESS.—We have to repeat the same old story—no Speaker. Banks held up to 107 pretty well, but on the last ballot went down to 106. The final result we cannot guess.

What will the Majority do?

At the date of this writing we have received no intelligence of the election of Speaker, and we presume none has been elected. Not far from fifty ballots have been taken, and although the enemies of the Democracy have a majority of some seventy votes, so discordant are the elements of which that majority is composed, that they have thus far been unable to concentrate upon any one of their men a sufficient number of votes to elect. That they *will* effect some kind of a compromise, or hatch up a bargain, by which they will choose some one of their number Speaker, we have never for a moment doubted. Still, we are not going to complain if the House employs another week or a month in voting for a Speaker. We have no confidence in their ability to do any *good*, and while they pass their time in balloting, they are at least doing no *harm*.

But, after a compromise or bargain is effected, by which a Speaker, Clerk, Doorkeeper, &c., are elected, and a portion of the gentlemen who are so hostile to the "wild hunt after office" are satisfied, what are we to expect? This House was chosen in the midst of a wild anti-Nebraska hurrah, which, in the North, swept down the Democratic party as with a besom of destruction. Throughout the free States the opposition which the Democratic party were enabled to offer to this fanatical crusade was powerless and ineffectual. It was only here and there that a Democrat succeeded in being elected to Congress. Notwithstanding this overwhelming triumph of the anti-Nebraskaites, however, it is now quite evident to our mind that no bill restoring the Missouri Compromise can pass the House. Campbell and Banks, who are the champions of the anti-Nebraska faction of the opposition, have failed of an election on this issue, and this we take it is sufficient indication of the temper of the House. No doubt the maudlin Abolitionists who are indebted to this element for their election will make furious speeches and use every endeavor to stir up sectional strife. With fratricidal hand they will endeavor to set one section of the Union against the other—friend against friend and brother against brother. The worst passions are to be appealed to and envy and hatred are to be inculcated. And all for what? Simply that a few score of demagognes may float upon the top of the angry waters they themselves have stirred up. Possessed of talents far below mediocrity, it is only by raising and keeping up an excitement that they can prevent themselves from sinking into that obscurity for which nature designed them.

While, then, the country may expect to be regaled, or rather nauseated, with any quantity of abolition slang during the present session of Congress, we do not anticipate that upon a test vote (if such should ever be reached) any bill proposing to restore the Missouri Compromise will be passed. The policy of the Democratic party in respect to the Territories—the principle of allowing the people to settle their own domestic matters to suit themselves—has passed through a terrible ordeal and is probably destined to pass through another during the present session of Congress, but of its final triumph there can now be little or no doubt. A Congress elected under circumstances the most unfavorable to the Democratic party—elected at a time when the most stedfast quailed before the fierce assaults of bigotry and fanaticism—will fail in doing the very act which it was elected to do. The Kansas-Nebraska bill will remain unscathed and the Missouri Compromise will never be restored even by a vote of the House. This is our prediction.

Effects of Emancipation.

From papers recently laid before the British Parliament, it appears that, since the emancipation of the slaves in Jamaica, more than 600 estates in the island have been abandoned. These once gave employment to 50,000 laborers. The number of estates totally and partially abandoned from January 1852, to January 1853, is as follows:

	Sugar Estates.	Coffee.	Country seats.
Totally abandoned	128	36	30
Partially do.	71	66	22
	199	102	52
Total acres		391,187	

From the facts here presented we may judge of the effects of the emancipation of the slaves upon the Southern States of our own confederacy. All accounts agree in representing the free blacks of Jamaica as the most debased and worthless class of creatures to be found in any portion of the civilized world. Lazy, shiftless, dishonest, impudent, and ignorant, they are a curse to the island in which they dwell. Their emancipation has not in the least improved—but on the contrary has made infinitely worse—their own condition, and at the same time has brought ruin to hundreds of worthy and humane families, and spread desolation throughout the island. Travelers—even English abolitionists themselves—who have passed through Jamaica, one of the most beautiful and fertile countries in the world, represent the aspect of things—the desolation which everywhere meets the eye—the once well cultivated fields given up to the dominion of rank tropical weeds, and beautiful mansions converted into lurking places for tropical reptiles and insects—as painful and disheartening. Should the same species of "philanthropy" which has converted Jamaica into a wilderness, prevail in the United States, it would not be long before the fine plantations of our Southern States would exhibit a like deplorable picture, while the Northern States would be overrun with the emancipated negroes. Who that is not crazed with abolition vagaries desires to see such a state of things brought about?

☞Elections for municipal officers took place in Massachusetts on the 10th inst. In Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and Newburyport, the largest cities in the State, the anti-Know Nothing tickets were elected by decided majorities. The K. N.'s have not thus far succeeded in a single city.

☞Pap Taylor, of the Cincinnati Times, is greatly alarmed lest the Know Nothing party in Ohio shall be sold out to the Abolitionists! No danger of any such sale. The abolitionists already hold the K. N.'s between their thumb and forefinger, and have no need of *buying* a piece of property they are already possessed of.

FOR GOVERNOR.—A correspondent of the Fort Wayne Sentinel recommends Hon. Norman Eddy, of St. Joseph county, for Governor.

Col. John C. Walker.

In another column will be found a correspondence between a committee of our Democratic citizens and Col. John C. Walker, late Editor of the State Sentinel, by which it will be perceived that the Colonel, with that modesty characteristic of merit, declines the acceptance of a proffered testimonial on his retiring from the editorial chair of the Sentinel. Whether or not Col. W. did right in refusing to accept this voluntary testimonial to his fidelity to Democratic principles and his ability in advocating them, it is not for us to say, but presume he considered the reasons sufficient. The thousands of Democrats with whom the Colonel has daily and weekly communed through the columns of the Sentinel, will, in common with ourselves, be gratified to hear of his advancement to those high stations in the gift of his fellow citizens for which his talents and his character so admirably qualify him.

Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We understand that the name of Professor Larrabee will be submitted to the consideration of the Democratic Convention of the 8th of January, in connection with the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is not necessary for us to dwell on Prof. L.'s qualifications for this office. He has already filled the position with high credit to himself and great advantage to the State and the cause of common schools. The Professor's devotion to democratic principles is unquestioned and unquestionable, and his nomination would doubtless give universal satisfaction to his party.

Kansas.

In the St. Louis Democrat of the 12th we find letters from Leavenworth to the 1st inst., but the only intelligence additional to what we have already given is that McCrea, the Free Soiler who was on trial for the murder of a Missourian, named Clark we believe, escaped from the Leavenworth jail on the 1st by cutting the door around the lock. He was subsequently seen riding on a spirited bay horse towards Lawrence, stating that he would appear at Tecumseh for trial, but that he did not choose to stay at Leavenworth, to be taken out and hung by a mob.

☞Two of the Indiana K. N. delegation in Congress refuse to vote for Mr. Banks for Speaker. These are Mr. Dunn of the Madison and Mr. Scott of the Terre Haute District. We presume Mr. Dunn refuses to vote for Banks because he (B.) was once a Democrat, and Mr. Dunn was never known to vote for a man of that ilk. Mr. Scott is understood to be a Philadelphia platform K. N., and declines to support Mr. Banks on account of his abolitionism.

RE-ELECTION OF SENATOR MASON.—The Hon. James M. Mason was, on Saturday last, re-elected U. S. Senator by the Virginia Legislature, by a vote of 124 to 69 for all others—most of which were given to Mr. Summers, who received the nomination of a Know Nothing caucus. Mr. Mason is one of the ablest members of the Senate, is an eloquent defender of the State Rights doctrine, and his election by so large a majority must be highly gratifying to himself and his numerous friends and admirers.

JUDGE PERKINS.—We take the following extract from a letter received by a gentleman in this city from a Supreme Judge of a neighboring State. It shows what a gentleman of profound legal learning thinks of Judge Perkins's opinion delivered in the Hermann case. We commend it to those "howling dervishes" of fusionism who have emptied the garbage tubs of their malevolence upon this honorable gentleman and distinguished jurist:

"I thank you for sending me a copy of the very able and learned decision of Judge Perkins in the case of 'Hermann vs. The State.' It is altogether the most conclusive argument I have read upon the question, and must, I think, dispose of it with all sensible persons. We have greatly needed something besides *interest* and *passion* to arrest the over earnest arm of "moral reform," and show us the danger and the absurdity of its attempts.—Judge Perkins seized upon the only ground upon which the Liquor Law can stand, and has effectually shown its unconstitutionality.

"Some things may be, *per se*, unlawful or nuisances; but they are rare indeed. In this State we punish as unlawful, the "keeping" of a "gambling device, designed to be used in gaming," but we have no law against the *keeping* of rattle snakes, tigers, Canada thistles, or Strychnine. Still our Legislators and Reformers have been boldly bent on declaring all intoxicating liquors a nuisance; and not to be sold or kept. Judge P. has helped us to meet the question and put it at rest.—And he has rendered an invaluable service to the profession and to the public at large."

Sullivan County.

A meeting of the Democrats of Sullivan county was held at Sullivan on the 8th inst. Major Isaac Stewart was called to the chair and J. W. Wolfe appointed Secretary. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Branson, after which delegates were appointed to the State Convention and the following resolutions adopted:

Resolved, That we have unlimited confidence in the Hon. John W. Davis as our standard-bearer in the approaching gubernatorial campaign; that we consider him the most available candidate yet suggested for the position; that we know him to be pre-eminently qualified for the post, and if the interests of the State are entrusted to his hands as the chief executive officer, they will be safe beyond a doubt.

Resolved, That our delegates in the eighth of January Convention be and are hereby instructed to put him in nomination for Governor of Indiana, and vote for him as the first and only choice of the Democracy of Sullivan county.

On motion of Willis G. Neff, it was

Resolved, That the Democrats of Sullivan county tender to Murray Briggs, Esq., their grateful acknowledgments for his untiring energy in the support of true national Democratic principles, and that we are happy to recommend his sterling Democratic paper to all good Democrats.

☞Our correspondent "X." is really too severe on the editor of the Journal. He says among other things, that the editor's course on the Kansas question "presents to the world a melancholy spectacle of unfairness." That may be quite true. Indeed, our neighbor daily "presents to the world" a *pair* of melancholy spectacles.

☞Who speaks the truth?—*Pap Taylor.*

Well, we reckon the people of Cincinnati came pretty near it when, on two separate occasions, they pronounced you unfit for the office of Mayor.

☞Sidney C. Burton, the well known Prosecutor of the Martha Washington Case, has been summoned to that Tribunal from which there is no appeal. He died on Tuesday last, 11th inst.

The Whig Senators.

A statement was telegraphed to the Northern and Western newspapers from Washington, to the effect that several distinguished Senators who had heretofore been Whigs, but now, being unable to co-operate with the Know Nothings or "Republicans," had determined to act with the Democratic party. This statement, it appears, was incorrect.—The New York Commercial Advertiser, which, we believe, is the only professed *Whig* paper in that city, thus states the position of these gentlemen:

Senators Fish, Jones, Geyer, Benjamin, Pratt, and Pearce did meet on Tuesday evening last at Governor Jones's rooms. The invitation given to Senator Fish was to meet with unspotted Whigs—gentlemen who were "Whigs and nothing else"—an invitation that he could not courteously have refused, seeing that he avowed himself to be such a Whig. In fact we do not see thas he could well have refused to meet *any* Senators in *consultation.* At this meeting it was stated that some Senators of the dominant party had intimated a willingness, and even a desire, that those who were Whigs, and had not joined either the Know Nothing or Rebublican organizations, should meet with them in *caucus*, for the purpose of arranging the committees; with the understanding that they should be treated precisely the same as Democratic Senators so far as concerned the distribution of places on the committees.—The reason given for making this proposition was, that in view of the division in the ranks of the opposition, the customary course could not be adopted in the arrangement of the Senate into committees. It was further stated that the Democratic Senators who had authorized the proposition had said that as a *national* party they were unwilling to treat *as a party* with those whom they regard as sectional.

The "six old line Whig Senators," so far from embracing that opportunity to "signalize the dissolution of their former party," declined the above proposition in the same courteous and respectful manner in which it was made. They replied that they were unwilling to go into caucus with Democratic Senators; that the organization of the Senate was under the control and responsibility of the Democrats, and they as Whigs declined to interfere with it; that as to themselves individually, they were content to be placed where the Democratic Senators chose to place them, and would endeavor to discharge their share of committee duty accordingly. Such was the length and breadth of the action and the non-action of the "six old line Whig Senators" at the meeting referred to in the telegraphic despatch in the morning papers of Wednesday.

It is apparent therefore that unless Senator Fish and his friends had taken just the course they did—that is, stood aloof from the organization of committees—they must have gone into caucus with either the Democrats or Fusionists. As men resolved to stand by their political faith and their political party—that is, to continue "Whigs and nothing else"—they could not adopt either of these alternatives. If they had done so, they would have done just the very thing falsely charged upon them;—they would have "signalized the dissolution of their former party." By the course they *did* pursue they did just the reverse, and *"signalized the continued organization and existence of the Whig party."*—This—nothing more and nothing less than this—is their offence. They did not fuse, but remained Whigs, true to the party that sent them to the Senate.

It will thus be seen that there are a few gentlemen of eminent talent and distinguished position who are determined to stand by the fallen fortunes of the Whig party.—Whether they will remain isolated in their position, or whether they will form a nucleus around which others of their old associates will rally, depends upon circumstances which the conduct of the opposition during the present session of Congress will in a great measure elucidate.

New Publications.

Ten Years among the Mail Bags; or, Notes from the Diary of a Special Agent of the Post-office Department. With Illustrations. By J. Holbrook. Philadelphia: H. Cowperthwait & Co.—Here we have the title of one of the most attractive books of the season. It is a volume of 430 pages, printed in the best style of the typographic art and elegantly and substantially bound. It is, as it purports to be, the experience of a gentleman who was for ten years employed as a secret agent of the Post-office Department in ferreting out mail robbers and other depredators upon the correspondence of the country and in bringing them to justice. There is no class of scoundrels more dangerous than those who prey upon the mail bag, and hence the public take more interest in reading accounts of their detection and conviction than of any other species of criminals. In this volume will be found an account of the ingenious schemes of rascals to rob the mails and of the equally ingenius, and generally successful, efforts of the agents of the Department to detect the perpetrators and secure their arrest. Mr. Holbrook relates his adventures with these depredators in a most attractive style. The volume is illustrated with splendid steel portraits of all the Postmaster Generals, and also numerous other engravings illustrating comical scenes related in the book. We do not know how an hour or two of an evening could be passed more agreeably than in perusing this volume. At least every postmaster in the country, and every one connected with the post office, should have a copy. We have marked several extracts for publication, which we know our readers will enjoy as richly as we have done.

The book can be obtained at the Bookstore of Messrs. Stewart & Bowen.

DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE.—Bird Chapman, the pro-slavery candidate for delegate to the House of Representatives from Kansas, received a majority of votes at the Territorial election. He has of course never been admitted by the House to a seat. Yet Forney, the Administration Clerk, calls his name daily on the roll, and the Cleveland Plaindealer says it has received a paper under his *frank.* The Treasury, we presume, also pays Mr. Chapman "mileage and per diem." That is the way the present Administration does business.—*Lafayette Journal.*

Well, friend, if Mr. Chapman received a majority of the votes (by the way he is from Nebraska, not Kansas), as you say he did, we cannot see that Forney did very wrong in admitting him to the House. Or do you take the ground that no "pro-slavery" man should be allowed a seat in Congress, no matter how many votes he may have received?

☞The Cincinnati papers are urging upon the merchants and capitalists of that city the importance of subscribing liberally to secure the completion of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad.

☞A man who registered his name "J. E. Forest, Ills," at King's Hotel, St. Louis, died suddenly, and, it is suupposed, destroyed himself with laudanum.

Messrs. Editors: The undersigned, committee, respectfully request that you will give the following correspondence a place in the columns of the Sentinel.

Correspondence.

To Col. JOHN C. WALKER:

Dear Sir: A large number of your personal and political friends in this city, having heard sometime back of your design to dispose of the Indiana State Sentinel, of which you were the proprietor and able conductor, and resign the laborious duties you have proved yourself so eminently qualified to perform—expressed, through many of your intimate friends, a desire to bestow upon you some external mark of their appreciation of your character as a man, and their approbation of the straightforward, manly, and thoroughly democratic course, which had distinguished your efforts as a public journalist. This token of their regard, you at that time declined, with many grateful acknowledgments on your part of the motives that actuated and prompted them to make the proposal to which we have referred.

Now, however, that you have absolutely retired from the position of editor of the leading democratic organ in Indiana, they are still anxious, and more so, indeed, than ever, to carry out their original intentions in your regard, and have accordingly authorized us, as their committee, to make known to you the fact at the earliest opportunity. In this connection we may further state that they have also requested us to inform you that it is their desire to consummate the design referred to, by presenting you, as a fitting testimonial; with a gold watch and chain, considering such testimonial, slight as it may be, of their esteem and friendship, to be most suitable and appropriate to the occasion. It is to be hoped, sir, that you will reconsider your former resolution, and that the proposition of your friends, thus made through their committee will prove acceptable.

True it is, (and none more fully understand the fact than those for whom we are authorized to speak) a mere formal exhibition of commendation and praise is a poor compensation for the want of that actual and positive friendship and good opinion of one's fellow citizens, which are born of the heart, and drawn forth by the every day life and conduct of those who are so fortunate as to merit their bestowal. But when, as in your case, that friendship and that good opinion have already become a truthful reality, and are not the mere imaginary offspring, the vain and idle dispiay of insincere, or at best, unreliable formality, then it is but right and proper, when the occasion justifies, that an expression thereof be made public.

In the present instance, too, this public indorsement as it were, of your acts and political character, is especially appropriate, coming as it does from those who claim, and whose pride it is to be members of the AMERICAN NATIONAL DEMOCRACY.

Since the foundations of this free government were laid, deep, broad, and everlasting, by revolutionary hands, and cemented with revolutionary blood, that great party has passed triumphantly through all vicissitudes of fortune. During that long period of civil strife and contention, success has almost unceasingly perched upon its unfurled banner, and the mighty and eternal principles of civil and religious liberty of which it has ever been the unflinching exponent, the bold and unwavering advocate, have become in a great measure, by means of its powerful support, and triumphant vindication, the permanent and giant landmarks of our republican institutions.

Oftentimes, however, the thunder-clouds of faction have swept in dark and gloomy masses over the political horizon of our country, foreboding danger and disaster to the gallant ship of the Constitution and the Union. And, as if indicative of its national and liberty-conserving character, in such times, and in such only, has it ever been, that the crashing storms of adversity, defeat, and political treachery lowered upon the glorious and time-honored flag of the Democracy, and hurled their pittiless peltings into its broken and scattered ranks.

Sir, it was in the midst of one of these truly disastrous periods of political anarchy and commotion, during the very beatings of the national tempest which swept like the genius of desolation through the land, that you came to the helm of the shattered vessel at the Capital of one of the great States of the Confederacy. The field which lay open to your exertions was far from encouraging.—The rich harvest had been gathered by our foes—a harvest of political jugglery and fraud. And proud of their bloody laurels, exulting in the deceptive triumphs they had achieved by such unworthy and disreputable means over the most sacred rights of the people, and relying for future victories upon the invincibility of conscious strength, our unscrupulous enemies seemed to be about to plant, with every prospect of success, upon the very soil of freedom and republicanism, a fruitful crop of the most infamous and baneful principles that by any possibility could blast in the eyes of the astonished world the hitherto untarnished character, and uproot and destroy the liberties of a free nation.—But nothing daunted by the dangers which beset on every side, the difficult and delicate position in which you found yourself placed, with the true courage of one who loves his country, and with unfaltering adherence to that noble old party which has made that country what it is, you went bravely to work, and, having thoroughly fallowed the democratic field, and prepared it for the genial and grateful reception of the seeds of civil and religious freedom, which, in their own good time, brought forth that grand democratic harvest whereby your native State was gloriously, and as good men hope, eternally redeemed from the blighting touch of the unholy and unprincipled combination that has pressed upon its fair fame like a foul and dishonoring incubus.

It will not be out of place, we trust, to refer in this connection to the able and gifted manner in which you were aided in the accomplishment of this grateful task by your late associate and friend, Thomas B. Holcombe, Esq., nor will a brief and passing tribute to his varied abilities as a writer and a scholar, as well as to his virtues and noble character as a member of society, prove other than acceptable, not only to you and to those who knew and loved him, but to all of whatever party, who had the pleasure and good fortune to form his acquaintance.

Not to amplify these remarks, in conclusion let it be said, the battle of "55" was bravely fought and as bravely won, so far as the efforts of yourself and associate could contribute to so glorious an achievement. And while we can only extend through you to your former co-worker in the democratic vineyard, our best wishes for his future welfare and prosperity, with our unqualified approval of his course as one of the editors of the Sentinel, to you, who are as it were, the representative of both, we may be allowed to make a more palpable expression of the high regard in which you are held by your fellow citizens of the democratic party.

J. P. DRAKE, O. B TORBETT,
W. J. ELLIOTT, W. S. PIERCE,
R. J. RYAN.

Indianapolis, Dec. 12, 1855.

COL. WALKER'S REPLY.

Gen. J. P. Drake, Gen. W. J. Elliott, Hon. O. B. Torbet, Hon. Winslow S. Pierce, and Richard J. Ryan, Esq.

Gentlemen: Your letter of this date, reiterating a previously expressed inclination to present me with an external mark of your esteem, has received my careful consideration. I have been unable, however, to persuade myself to alter the determination already conveyed to a portion of your number, as well as to several of the other citizens of Indianapolis in behalf of whom, as a committee, you are now acting. It would be difficult for me to present you with the reasons which control this decision. Suffice it that shrinking, as I instinctively do, from any public demonstration of a character personal to myse'f, I am now driven, as a forlorn excuse, to the confession of my inability to shake off a sentiment which has heretofore controlled me.

When I say this, gentlemen, I would be understood as fully appreciating the motive which actuates your kind and complimentary offer. My editorial career in your midst has been a brief one. Though surrounded by circumstances of an embarrassing and sometimes of a painful nature, *they* have been intermingled with many gleams of sunshine,—gleams of friendship's fraternizing light—light whose genial warmth, shed on the garden of the heart, will bring forth to the support of future days the sweetest flowers of memory. Neither myself nor my early associate, who is not here to thank you for your kind expressions, could arrogate to any service we have rendered in the promotion of great and true principles, the credit which you have seen fit to award. Your words of commendation, however, will be cherished by me as things more highly prized than "gold or precious stones." Time may destroy the latter,—the first, embodying an immortal thought, a thought fertile with the idea of your respect and appreciation, like the mind on which it has impressed a sense of the profoundest gratitude, will live forever.

Permit me, gentlemen, to thank you, and through you, the friends of mine you represent, for all you have said and done in my behalf, and to say that my highest aspirations in the future will be to merit your respect and friendship.

Truly and Sincerely Yours,
JOHN C. WALKER.

Indianapolis, Dec. 12, 1855.

Bank of the State of Indiana.

Messrs. Editors: Your notice of the decision of Judge Major, in your paper of to-day, in regard to the suit of "Joseph A. Wright et al. *vs.* The Bank of the State of Indiana," is not a full and complete statement. It should have stated, that upon the decision of the demurrer, the plaintiff had leave to amend his complaint, which will be done in a few days; when, if a demurrer should be again sustained, the case will be taken to the Supreme Court.

Your statement is also inaccurate in this: that as the suit was brought previous to the organization of the bank, the bank was not and could not be made a party; but by the contemplated amendment the bank will be made a party. M.

Indianapolis, Dec. 13, 1855.

Hon. James Morrison, the present Attorney General of this state, is favorably spoken of for re-election. His profound legal attainments admirably qualify him for the station, and we know no man whose nomination would be more acceptable to the democracy here. The Marion Co. Dem. Convention instructed their delegates to use all honorable efforts to secure his nomination, which we look upon as a favorable indication, showing how he is estimated by those who have the best opportunity of knowing his worth.—*Fort Wayne Sentinel.*

A ROW.—On Monday night, a general "knock down" took place on the west side of the square, between a number of railroaders and some citizens of our town. The row arose from one of the railroaders being arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The railroaders came up from the machine shop in force, when a general fight took place. 'Squire Buskirk was assailed by an engineer, when the 'Squire "unlimbered" that ponderous arm of his and sent his assailant heels over head in the gutter. Several others were "slightly knocked down," when their ardor for pugilistic exercises became somewhat abated, and things resumed their wonted course.—*Bloomington News Letter.*

A MAN FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.—Loyd's forth coming "Steamboat Directory" gives a singular account of a man being frightened to death on board the steamer James Robb, during her trip up the Mississippi river in 1852. The boat took fire in the night, and the cry of "fire! fire! fire!" soon aroused all the passengers, and the wildest excitement prevailed. Women were running to and fro in their nihgt dresses, screaming at the top of their voices for assistance. One man, Mr. J. C. Dent, of New York, in his excitement, rushed to his state room, snatched up his trunk, which contained twelve thousand dollars, carried it a few steps, and then fell dead in the cabin from excessive fright. The fire was subdued.

THE GRAVE OF MADISON.—A correspondent of the Fredericksburg News, in Culpeper county, gives a melancholy picture of the last resting place of the illustrious Madison. He lies with his family in a grave yard a short distance from his house, upon his estate of Montpelier; the family cemetry is surrounded by a brick wall, and the gate is entirely down. The correspondent says that not a stone marks the great man's resting place; dark running green box wraps it with verdure, and the tracery of branches from an old leafless chesnut tree, relieveing itself against the warm azure sky, nod and wave over the dark mountain—'tis a solemn, calm and peaceful spot.

The correspondent adds that Mrs. Madison's remains are in the vault of the Congressional burial ground in Washington; her direction was to be interred by the side of her husband, but her son has never fulfilled her rebuest.

LOST CHILD.—A little girl between ten and twelve years of age mysteriously disappeared from the employment of Thomas Ford, of this county, to whom she was bound, on the 21st of November last. Her name is Nancy Ellen Franks. Fears are entertained that foul play has been used towards her. Any information concerning the child will be thankfully received by the trustees of Centre township, Boone county.—*Lebanon, Boone Co., Ledger.*

☞The Corn Trade of Covington, Ind., is immense. For the year ending Dec. 1st, 1854, the number of bushels shipped from that point, was 644,000. For the year ending Dec. 1st, 1855, the number of bushels were 248,000. And the Friend, of that town, estimates the number of bushels which will be shipped to the corresponding period of 1856, at 1,000,000.

CINCINNATI.—The annual statement of the trade and commerce of Cincinnati shows to good advantage the resources, trade and commerce of this great city of the Ohio valley. The annual value of its manufactures is $52,109,374. Its imports annually are valued at 75,000,000, and its exports at $60,000,000.—There are now 6,000 miles of railroad diverging from the city, and 4,000 miles under construction.

☞Twenty-six applications for divorce have been granted by the Courts of this county during the past year. Of this number, nineteen of the applications were made by females, and seven by males. The total number of applications for divorce during the year 1855, in the county, was fifty-four, and twenty cases are yet pending before the Courts.

DISCONTINUED.—The following-named post offices have been discontinued:

Brunce Creek, Hancock county, Illinois.
Ayesville, Daviess county, Indiana.

CHANGE OF SITE AND NAME.—Cork to Van Wedding's Station, Dearborn county, Indiana, and John Lilie has been appointed postmaster, in the place of Bryant Connelly, resigned.

Correspondence of the Sentinel.

Dec. 8th, 1855.

The first week of the the first session of the 34th Congress has come and gone without the election of a Speaker. It will strike the country as remarkable that with a majority of over seventy in the House the opposition has failed or neglected to organize that body so as so proceed to the public business of the country. Six days have been wasted in fruitless attempts to elect even a presiding officer. The pay of the members of the Senate and House alone, (the Senate can do no legislative busines until the House is organized,) not to mention the clerks, messengers, pages, the expense of reporting and publishing their actions in the Congressional Globe, &c., amounts to the snug little sum of *sixteen thousand six hundred and ninety-two dollars!* The other expenses will exceed *twenty thousand dollars*—making in all over *sixty-six thousand dollars* for one week of doing nothing under the blessed reign of Fusion, Abolition, Know Nothing, Black Republicanism. This is the first installment the country has been called upon to pay for the glorious privilege of being represented by such men. How do the people like the dose? Is it not paying too dear for "the whistle?"

These men came into power last year on the cry of Anti-Nebraska, Retrenchment, and Reform. One week has passed, and what have they done to carry out their pledges to the "dear people?" Where is anti-Nebraskaism to-day? Swallowed up in Abolitionism. At least one third of their number if brought to the test, would vote against a repeal of that part of the Nebraska bill repealing the Missouri Compromise. They don't want it revived. Their shout over its repeal has done the work for which it was raised, viz: the putting them in power.

Where are their promised Retrenchments and Reforms? Echo answers, where? Are we to look for them in the squandering of over sixty-six thousand dollars of the people's money in doing nothing? They have a clear majority of over seventy votes: why don't they organize the House and proceed to the business of the country? The answer can be found in the fact that they are for the most part the rag-tails and bob-ends—the refuse—the old shoes—of all parties—men bereft of principle save the five loaves and two fishes, who have no bond of union save the spoils of office and a bitter hatred of the Democratic party. Hence we see them engaged in an indecent struggle over the Speakership for men, and men only. The difference between Mr. Campbell and Mr. Pennington is the difference between tweedledee and tweedledum, They are both bitter Free-soil, Abolition, Know Nothing, Whig, Black Republicans. Yet so far Mr. Pennington's friends will not support Mr. Campbell, and *vice versa.* The Democracy have cast their votes steadily, unflinchingly, and *unitedly* for Mr. Richardson, thus showing that had they been in power in that House, they would have effected an organization on the first day, and proceeded at once to the business before them—saving the country *thus far* over sixty-six thousand dollars; and if we have another week's voting, double that sum.

The voting for Speaker exhibits some strange scenes. L. D. Campbell, of Ohio, and N. P. Banks, Jr., of Massachusetts, were the prominent candidates before the balloting commenced, and they have kept their positions thrs far. Campbell was formerly, and is yet, a bitter Whig. In former years he was a leading Ohio Whig, very profusely abusive of the Democratic party. In 1848, he could not swallow the nomination of Gen. Taylor, but so bitter was his whiggery that he refused to go for Martin Van Buren though he approved of the platform upon which he ran, because Mr. Van Buren had been a Democrat. Yet for this man we see Barbour, Mace, Cumback, and Petit voting from the very start, as the man they preferred for the Speakership over any other man in the House.

Though Banks was formerly a Democrat like themselves, and though on the Freesoil question and on the Know Nothing question, he is as black a Republican as Campbell, occupying precisely the same position on these questions, yet he was n't Whig enough to get the votes of such *pure* and *unadulterated* Democrats as Lucian Barbour, Daniel Mace, John U. Pettit, and Will Cumback. Mr. Barbour, I understand, claims that he is as good a Democrat as any old liner. Was his vote for Campbell, who yet holds to the Whig dogmas of a National Bank and a high protective tariff, an evidence of his Democracy? From such Democracy may we ever be delivered. We do not wonder that such Whigs as Dunn, Colfax, Scott, Brenton, and Holloway voted for Campbell—nobody who knows how bitterly Whig these men have been, and still are, could have expected otherwise of them; but that Barbour, Mace, Pettit, and Cumback, who claim to have been Democrats, should vote from the start and until his name was formally withdrawn by himself, for a bitter Whig in preference to a man who had been a Democrat, and was occupying the same position on the exciting topics of the day they are, is certainly rather strange. Yet though they showed their inconsistency, and truckled in the very dust at the bidding of Dunn, Colfax, Scott, &c., yet when Mr. Campbell's name was withdrawn, and Mr. Banks commenced running up, all their servility could not persuade George G. Dunn or Harvey D. Scott to vote for Banks. Oh no, Banks had been a Democrat, and that was enough for Dunn and Scott, and though he run up to-day to 100 votes, yet still they refused to vote for him. Their whiggery would have been polluted if they had voted for a man who had ever been suspected of being a Democrat at any period of his life.

Among the Democratic Fusionists who refused to vote for Campbell are Nichols, of Ohio, Thurston, of Rhode Island, Oliver, Wheeler, and Williams, of New York, Grow, of Pennsylvania, &c. How different their course from Mace, Barbour, Pettit, and Cumback. By-the-way, it is said that a committee were here from Cumback's District to hold him up to the rack. It was labor lost. Colfax owns him, and it is amusing to see the boy dancing attendance on his owner, and the patronizing air and approving smile with which Schuyler rewards him when he has done the work set before him. To-day, after the House had adjourned, at the bidding of Colfax, up jumped the pretty little fellow, and announced that he had been requested to say that there would be a meeting of the anti-Nebraska Congressmen in the Hall at 7 o'clock. It is convenient to own such an accommodating, bidable boy as Cumback. It saves one a heap of trouble! Colfax is a fortunate individual! How much will you take for your *protege*, Schuyler?

Mr. Dunn's health, I am informed, has been steadily improving since he came here