# 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.

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## 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 People's Party."

We have published the proceedings had and the resolutions adopted at the meeting of Fusion editors held in this city on the 18th inst. As our readers will have perceived they determined upon re-enacting the platform which served its purpose the former year, when the planks were fresh and new, but which tumbled down after exposed to the elements for a single season. Nor is it to be wondered at that an edifice constructed of such materials should so soon have crumbled to dust. The only astonishment is, that our opponents, after the experience they have had in platform building, should endeavor to patch up another edifice from the old, worn out, and rotten plank instead of looking about them for more durable material.

If these editors represented the sentiment of the opposition to the Democratic party in Indiana, it will be seen that we are not to have the "American" or Know Nothing party, or the Black "Republican" party to fight, but a coalition or fusion of the two, together with such other scattering isms as may have an axe to grind and for whom the Democratic party will not turn the grindstone. A few editors in the Southern part of the State, among whom is the President of the convention of the 18th, have endeavored to make their readers believe that the "American" party had strength enough to crush out abolitionism, and that the battle in Indiana next year would be fought without regard to the slavery question. If these editors ever really believed what they were constantly pouring into the ears of their readers, we presume they are by this time undeceived, but we doubt very much whether they will undeceive those who depend upon them for political information.

When the Fusion editors got together it was found that abolitionism was "one too many" for Know Nothingism—that although they might hate the Germans and Irish a great deal, they hated the people of the South and their institutions a good deal more. The idea of ignoring the Slavery question and fighting the next battle in Indiana on National principles, or of relying upon the Know Nothing mummery and nonsense for success, was laughed to scorn by these editors.

Those, therefore, who have clung to the lingering hope that they might be able to cooperate with a party entertaining national views without attaching themselves to the Democratic organization and voting for its candidates, will find themselves disappointed. Blood-stained Know Nothingism and treasonous abolitionism are again to be united in fond and loving embrace in Indiana. In the Southern counties "pure Americanism" and the danger to our institutions from "pauper immigration" will be eloquently descanted upon, while free soilism will be very slightly touched. In the Northern counties the "aggressions of the South" and "the Nebraska villany" will be never ending themes for the tongues and pens of orators and editors, while Know Nothingism will occupy a back seat. But the two factions will be in close communion. There is no doubt about that. Many individuals hate the Democratic party with such intensity that they can swallow both Know Nothingism and Black Republicanism, while others can only assume courage enough to take one of the pills at a time, hoping that by some streak of luck they will able to get rid of the other.

"The People's Party," then, if these editors are to be believed, is what the Democrats are to enter the lists against, in 1856 as in 1854 and '55. A union of isms is to be again effected if possible. Will it succeed? That is a question for National men, no matter what their party associations have been heretofore, to answer. For ourselves we have no fears of the result.

GREAT SWINDLING OPERATIONS.—The Chicago papers give a long account of the financial operations of one Samuel J. Proper, who appears to have been a little too fast for the fast people of that fast city. Proper went to Chicago and talked largely of his means; said he had invested $100,000 in real estate in Southern Illinois, and had come to Chicago to see what he could do in the same line there. Of course all the real estate speculators (and who is not a real estate speculator in Chicago?) were exceedingly anxious to make the acquaintance of Mr. Proper. To help out his scheme he joined a fashionable church and was always to be seen in his pew. He also hired a large house and furnished it in the most extravagant style. His principal plan of operations was by exchanging checks. He would ask a merchant or banker for his sight check and in return give him one of his own for a few days. For a time he provided for these checks, but after awhile he neglected to do so and disappeared. It is supposed that he realized in this and similar operations between $25,000 and $30,000. A real estate Doctor suffered to the tune of $3,000; a book firm $700; a lumber dealer $5,000; one bank $3,500; another $5,000, &c., &c. All Chicago is horror stricken at these developments—not so much at the losses suffered, but to think that they who have been so accustomed to victimizing, should in turn become the victims.

☞ The Chicago Democrat relates a sad story of two young girls of that city who at one time moved in the first circles of society, and who were employed as singers in the choir of one of the fashionable churches of the city, who are now degraded outcasts.—Their father and mother died of cholera, poverty and destitution ensued, the young *gentlemen* who had before escorted them to churches, balls, concerts, and parties, became their seducers and worked their ruin. How sad, and yet how common a story!

☞ The occasion of the opening of the railroad from Toronto to Hamilton, Canada, was made the occasion of great rejoicing in the former city on the 20th inst. All the great dignatories of Canada were present, together with a large number of distinguished persons from the States. A splendid banquet was served and speeches made by gentlemen on both sides of the line, and the utmost cordiality and good feeling seemed to prevail.

RAILROAD CONVENTION.—A large assemblage of railroad officers met at Fort Wayne on the 20th inst. There were delegates present from the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Hon. Arnold Plumer, of Pa., presided. The object of the convention appears to have been to make arrangements for the consolidation of certain railroads in one grand line between the Atlantic and the Missouri river at or near Council Bluffs, to be ultimately extended to the Pacific. It is proposed to call this extended line of railroad "The American Central Railway." The following companies were represented on the occasion; Clinton Line Railroad; Clinton Extension; Tiffin and Fort Wayne; Fort Wayne and Mississippi; Western Air-line; Philadelphia, Fort Wayne, and Platte River; Venango Railroad.

GREAT FIRE IN EVANSVILLE.—On Monday morning a fire broke out in some frame buildings adjoining the new court house in Evansville, which soon spread to that fine building, and in a short time all the wood work was destroyed. The walls and vaults are still standing. Most of the contents of the county offices were saved, though in great confusion. The loss of the county is estimated by the Enquirer at between $30,000 and $40,000. Mr. Fergus, in whose premises the fire broke out, lost some $5,000. No insurance. The Enquirer blames the head of the Fire Department for inefficiency displayed in subduing the flames.

☞ According to the Ledger, some disgraceful scenes were enacted in New Albany on Christmas eve. A gang of K. N. rowdies went to a German theater and succeeded by their violence in breaking up the performance. The presence of the Mayor and Marshal were ineffectual to preserve order or to protect the audience and actors. After breaking up the play, they proceeded from one German house to another, breaking bottles, destroying property, and beating the unoffending Germans.

CHILD BEATEN TO DEATH BY AN OLD MAID—The New York papers contain accounts of the death of a boy between four and five years of age, who had been beaten to death by an old maid named Miss. Packhurst. She would sometimes beat him for two or three hours at a time with a strap or whalebone. The child was in delicate health, and his mother having died he was placed under the guardianship of this spinster. She was committed to prison to await an examination for murder.

☞ They have some difficulty on the New Albany and Salem Railroad about the Express business. The People's Express Co. has a contract for doing all the express business on that road, but the American Express Co. run messengers on the cars, paying full fare, who carry money and other small packages. One of these messengers was put off the cars at Bloomington a few days since for transacting some express business. We suppose the matter will be brought before the courts.

☞ On Christmas day a couple of boys went into a grocery store at Columbus, Ohio, to purchase some fire crackers. Expressing some doubt as to whether they would "go off," the proprietor of the store lit one and threw it from him. In an instant a terrible explosion followed, the walls on two sides of the store falling out and the roof falling in. Singular as it may appear though there were twenty persons in and about the building, no one was severely injured.

☞ A Know Nothing editor says we "certainly cannot be acquainted with the Hon. Mr. Colfax," or we would not "speak to disparagingly of him." The article is right.—We have no knowledge of the "*honorable* Mr. Colfax." Where does he hail from? What is his occupation? He must be quite a contrast it to his namesake, Schuyler C.

☞ The members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of this city, propose to make a donation visit to their Pastor, Rev. Samuel Wallace, at his residence on the corner of Ohio and East streets, on next Friday afternoon and evening. A general invitation is extended to all his friends to be present on the occasion.

BIG HOGS.—Spears, Case, & Gundy, of Delphi, Ind., slaughtered a hog on the 18th inst., which weighed 726 pounds nett. On the same day they killed several other hogs which netted over 500—one weighing 560. This "knocks" the "huge animal" mentioned a few weeks since by our neighbor of the Journal.

☞ The anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth rock, was celebrated at Plymouth on the 21st. The cermonies took place in the *Unitarian* church. Ghosts of the old Puritans, why do ye not rise up and rebuke your descendants?

☞ The Legislature of Virginia has before it a proposition to repeal the usury laws of that State. The Richmond Enquirer strongly advocates the proposition.

☞ We clip the following paragraph from the N. Y. Journal of Commerce of Friday:

The friends of Rev. J. C. Fletcher will be glad to learn that he has safely arrived in Europe, on his way to the United States from Brazil. We have a line from him dated Monteaux, Switzerland, Dec. 2.

☞ John R. Koontz, a youth aged 17 years, was killed at Peru, Ind., on Wednesday last, by being thrown from a wagon and crushed under the wheels while the horses attached to it were running away.

☞ A new post office has been established at the crossings of the Michigan Southern and New Albany and Salem railroads, in La Porte county. It is called the "Crossings" Post office, and Isaac Weston has been appointed Postmaster.

☞ NEATNESS, CHEAPNESS, and DESPATCH, is the motto of the Sentinel Job Printing Office, on Washington street, North side, between Meridian and Pennsylvania streets.—All those wishing Job work done, should give the Sentinel a trial.

☞ If you would build up your business, add new customers to your list of patrons, and get along "swimmingly" in trade, advertise in the Daily Sentinel.

☞ It is said that the young folks about Lafayette didn't hang up their *stockings* this Christmas as usual. That operation will be performed on the 11th of January.

### From Washington.

[Correspondence of the State Sentinel.]

WASHINGTON, DEC. 20th, 1855.

*Editors Sentinel*—We have had rich and exciting times this week. The dull monotony of voting has given way to the more agreeable, pleasing, and exciting exhibition of speech-making. The long pent up feelings struggled for utterance, and after being choked down for a while, at last, becoming irresistible, broke forth in a perfect avalanche of words. Mr. Dunn, of Indiana, opened the ball on Monday morning with a defence of his course in refusing to vote for Mr Banks, and a furious and withering onslaught on Greeley, of the Tribune. This speech is important in more ways than one, as showing the kind of men who compose and lead the Black Republican party, the disreputable means they will employ for their base aggrandizement, and the end their own selfish promotion—at which they aim. I would ask no better or stronger documents to stamp 'Demagogues,' 'Political Knaves," and, Canting Hypocrites," upon the brows of at least three fourths of the leaders of this Republican party, than the speech of Mr. Dunn, who belongs to their party, but whose chivalric spirit spurns the ignoble and disreputable means they employ. Listen to Mr. Dunn's exposition, ye men of Indiana, who have been so often told that this Black Republican party was the essence of purity and reform—breathed into life to purify the Government, and bring the country back to its ancient standard of honesty. Listen to this mortifying expose, and see therein the political scoundrelism and canting hypocrisy that were covered up in the honeyed phrases these men employed last year to deceive and betray you into placing them in power.

Mr. Dunn commenced by reading from the New York Tribune and the Times, a couple of attacks on him for refusing to vote for Mr. Banks. In order to show the inconsistency of these papers he read extracts from both of them, dated in May, 1854, when the Nebraska bill was pending, in which Mr. Banks and others are very severely handled for voting for Mr. Richardson's resolution to close debate upon that bill and to postpone the Pacific Railroad subject, so that it might be brought at once before the House. "Traitors," "Betrayers of the North," "faithless Representatives," were the terms then applied to Mr. Banks and others of the anti-Nebraska men of the House who voted for Mr. Richardson's resolution. Their votes, said these editors, "*secured the passage of the Nebraska bill.*" "There is no use," continued they "of talking any more about conciliation with a set of men who have once again *betrayed the North into the hands of the slavocracy.* To-day should be made memorable in their lives by its indelible stain upon their future political character," &c., &c., in the same strain. Commenting upon these extracts, Mr. Dunn said that this resolution of Mr. Richardson did render certain the passage of the Nebraska bill, and but for the passage of that resolution, that bill would have been defeated. But, said Mr. Dunn, it was alleged that this was a blunder on the part of Mr. Banks. He hated a blunderer. In choosing a horse he would rather have a very devil than a blunderer. A blunderer was unsafe. Confidence might cost a neck there. I wonder if it occurred to Mr. Dunn when he was denouncing Mr. Banks for his vote for Mr. Richardson's resolution, thus securing the passage of the Nebraska bill, that his own colleague, Dan Mace, *gave a similar vote*, and that his vote against the resolution could have defeated it. My eye involuntarily turned to Mace to mark how he would treat this assault upon himself, for he and Banks voted alike. But he was dumb, and opened not his mouth. He sat down patiently and resignedly, while Dunn thundered forth his denunciations upon Banks and him, and those of their kidney, who so voted. Poor Dan Mace, it was not always so with you. But now, ruled with a rod of iron, the four meek Representatives from Indiana, who claimed once to have been Democrats, bow their neck to the yoke of Dunn, Colfax, Scott, & Co., and allow these men to put the collar of submission upon them. No chastisement can rouse them even to a growl of dissatisfaction. "Overseer" Dunn cracks his whip over them, and they crouch in perfect submission at his feet.

Mr. Dunn declared his willingness to be bound by the decision of a full caucus of the anti-Nebraska men, put as it was he would not now vote for Mr. Banks. Describing the state of affairs in his own party he said:—"The great trouble in this whole matter from the first has been, that Cæsar has a party and Anthony a party, but *Rome* has no party."—I call the attention of the people of Indiana to this precious admission so thoroughly in proof of what the Democrats have said of this piebald party, that it was for their own aggrandizement and not for their country's good they were struggling. True for you, Mr. Dunn, Banks has a party and Campbell has a party, but the country has no party, in your speckled conglomeration of isms. No truer words ever fell from the lips of man. Mr. Dunn belongs to this party—he knows its aims and its objects—he knows the stuff of which it is made, and after a careful and behind-the-scene view of its workings, its rottenness, and corruptions, he admits before the country that his own party is engaged in pandering to their own selfish ambition, and that within its ranks, the country—the country's good and welfare and prosperity—has no party. What a precious admission! Let it go forth on the wings of the lightning, and let the people read and reflect upon it.

Mr. Dunn had, it appears, voted once or twice for Mr. Banks, and it is well for the people to understand his reasons for refusing any longer to support him. He had agreed, it seems, to follow his colleagues, and vote for Banks. And with this understanding he was surprised, he said, to notice Mr. Barbour voting for another gentleman. We will let him tell the balance of the story in his own words:

Before my name was called, however, I had time to see Mr. Brenton, and ask the cause of this division. He authorizes me to say that he informed me that it was the wish of Mr. Banks's friends, that we should not all unite upon him (Banks) at the start; that we should wait until several other gentleman had been tried, and when discovered that they "would not go," and be dropped, then we should all unite upon Mr. Banks. (Laughter.)

Sir, I felt, as I then said, that this was not just the proper sort of conduct among gentlemen professing to be friends, standing upon the same platform, working in a common cause, with a common purpose to accomplish—it was not just the course which they should pursue—that it was neither *fair nor manly*.

True for you again, Mr. Dunn. It was not the course that honorable men should pursue, but showed the political trickster and Demagogue in every lineament, fit to be an offspring of the tricky Mr. Colfax. Yet this disreputable, unfair, dishonorable course to choke down the prospects of other men—friends, "standing upon a common platform, and working in a common cause"—was the concocted and deliberate plan of the leaders of your party—men high in authority in your Israel, whose councils sway and direct the movements of your *pure* and *honest* party.—"Honor among thieves," finds no response from them. Every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost, is their motto.—The end justifies the means is the code of morality they practise.

But not content with this killing off of prominent candidates in the way of their Massachusetts favorite, the friends of this gentlemen aimed a direct, yet a cowardly, blow at the character of those, in his own party, who were supposed to stand in his way to the velvet cushioned chair of the Speaker. Mr. Dunn related that in passing out of the Capitol, and in going up the Avenue, things were said by friends of Mr. Banks grossly discreditable to the character of one of the anti-Nebraska candidates, who was still being voted for, and very improper motives attributed to gentlemen who were said to favor his election. This system of *backbiting* was kept up, with the view of influencing the election of Speaker so that Mr. Banks might succeed. What a spectacle among men who call themselves *gentlemen*. What an honorable set of men! How dignified and gentlemanly such conduct! How becoming the representatives of a great nation! Who does not blush to think that such men now desecrate the Hall of the American Metropolis? Who does not feel the blush of shame mantle his cheek that he is represented by such men in the Congress of the United States? Honor, true, manly honor, knows them not. Gentlemanly decorum and dignified bearing have never made their acquaintance.

Mr. Dunn closed his speech by reading from the journals of the 32d Congress the proceedings which took place in the House on the 25th day of January, 1845, when by two witnesses of his own party—members of the House—Horace Greeley, of the New York Tribune, was proven a deliberate and a wilful liar upon the floor of the House. The castigation was severe and withering, yet Mr. Dunn should have recollected that these men whose disreputable conduct he so ably exposed, were high priests of his own party; the men who pull the wires, and set the machinery in motion, for that party. These be your gods, oh Israel, anti-Nebraska! Let the people mark well the length and breadth of this expose. Last year these men filled the country with high boasting pretensions of their purity and honesty, and with fierce denunciations of the Democracy as the immoral, the whisky party. Look at the picture painted of them now by a member of their own party. Look at the character of the men who lead them, as daguerreotyped by one of their own mess. Look at the disreputable conduct of these men, claiming to be the representatives of the people, as related by one of their own number.

It is really amusing to witness the movements of the member from the 4th district. He is well known in this city already, and even the boys poke fun at him. Poor Cum back, he is the butt at which many a good joke is cracked. He is very anxious to distinguish himself, and has been on the floor for several days asking questions, but nobody would pay any attention. To-day, however, he succeeded in having a question answered, which made him so proud that he asked several more, but the gentleman who had the floor didn't pay any attention to him, and the House exhibited its annoyance at his pertinacity in asking questions by cries of "vote," "vote;" so poor Cumback went to Colfax for consolation. Oh that approving smile with which Schuyler rewarded him! But somebody says there was a slight chuckle and a knowing wink passed on the part of Schuyler to the member who sits beside him! By-the-way, it is said that Billy's appearance has undergone quite a change since he came here.—He sports a goatee, a high standing collar of the most approved fashion, and everything else in proportion. From the number of fine gold pens and gold pencils he sports, it is shrewdly suspected that he has invested his stationery funds in them alone. PINCKNEY

[For the Indiana State Sentinel.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—At the convention of the 8th of Jan., a candidate for this office is to be selected. Among the prominent men named for the office are Hon. James Morrison, of Marion; Hon. Joseph E. McDonald, of Montgomery; and Joseph R. Buckles, of Delaware. They are all worthy and prominent men, and they all deserve the confidence of their democratic friends.—Without disparagement of the other gentlemen, we think there are reasons of weight in favor of the nomination of Judge Morrison. First—he is the present incumbent, and has this far ably and carefully discharged the laborious duties of the office. Secondly—he is an experienced, learned, and well-tried lawyer, having, as is well known, been for many years the presiding judge of the Indianapolis circuit. Thirdly—he is favorably known throughout the State as president of the State Bank of Indiana for ten years. Fourthly—he is not a professional politician but a man of business habits, closely attending to all matters confided to his care. He has *always* voted the democratic ticket, but has never been a candidate before the people for office. The impartial and very able manner in which he managed the financial concerns of the State Bank, gained him the confidence of all who were acquainted with his manner of discharging the duties of his position.

[For the Indianian State Sentinel.]

### Pension Agency.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 24, 1855.

All persons interested are hereby informed that instructions have been received at this Agency, from the Treasury Department, at Washington, requiring the following additional testimony in the cases of applications for pensions to which they severally refer.

1st. Relatives to pensioners placed under guardianship for any cause, the following form is required:

"Form of an oath for two witnesses that a pensioner placed under Guardianship for any cause, was living at the date of the oath of identity.

"State of Indiana, } ss.
County of ——— }

Be it known, that before me ——— a ——— in and for said county, duly authorized by law to administer oaths, personally appeared ——— of ——— and ——— of ——— who are known to me as credible witnesses, and made oath that they personally know ——— the pensioner, who is the ward of ———, whose oath of indentity as guardian of said ———, dated ——— 185-, has been exhibited to us; and that to our certain knowledge, the said pensioner, ———, was living at the date of said oath of identity, viz: on the ——— day of ——— 185-.

Deponent Signature.
Deponent Signature.

Sworn to and subscribed this ——— day of ——— A. D. 185-, before me ———
Justice of the Peace or other Magistrate.

2d. In cases of Invalid or other male pensioners, except Revolutionary Pensioners, the Pensioner must add to the oath of identity, the words,—"*nor since the date of his last pension certificate*," so that it will read—"And that he has not been employed, or paid, in the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States, from the ——— day of ——— 185-, to the ——— day of ——— 185-, nor since the date of his last pension certificate."

Forms must hereafter accord with the foregoing instructions, or payments will not be made upon the applications.

A. F. MORRISON, Pension Agent.

P. S. Persons sending pension business to this Agency will please enclose Post Office stamps to pay return postage, as no papers can be sent back without payment of postage in advance. A. F. M.

The manner in which Judge Morrison was traded out of the presidency of the Bank, is well known to all the politicians of the State, and many of them now say that it is due him that a reasonable effort should be made to do him justice. The duties of the Attorney General are more of a judicial than of a forensic character. He must examine and give *opinions* upon all disputed points of statute law, and settle constructions of the law for the regulation of State and county officers, and serve as counsel in all cases in which the State is a party. For such duties Judge Morrison is highly qualified, and his high character as a gentleman and citizen is well calculated to give strength to the democratic ticket. A MEMBER OF THE BAR.

### THE NEW STATE BANK.

From S. A. Hall---Gov. Wright's Reply.

LOGANSPORT, Dec. 18, 1855.

*Joseph A. Wright:*

*Dear Sir*—I notice that you are plaintiff in error to test the constitutionality of the State Bank. You must necessarily have in your possession facts calculated to throw light upon a question of such vast moment to the people of this State.

As a resident at the capital, your active opposition to the moneyed monopoly which is about being fastened upon the people, must lead you to watch close the appliances which procured the passage of a law so utterly subversive of true policy.

"Opposition to moneyed monopolies" is a watchword of the Democratic creed too sacred to be surrendered without an effort to save the people from the gigantic evil that threatens it. Men who love principle better than party should unite. Feeling that every Democrat, and every lover of the State, ought to raise the banner of Repeal, and that facts which will open the eyes of the people to a correct appreciation of the new State Bank, should be published, I take the liberty of asking such information as you may have at your command.

Hoping to hear from you at an early day, I remain, Respectfully yours,

S. A. HALL,
Editor Democratic Pharos.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Dec. 26, 1855.

*Samuel A. Hall, Esq., Editor of Democratic Pharos, Logansport, Ind.*

*Dear Sir*—Yours of the 18th inst., upon the subject of my suit against the new State Bank, is before me. Many inquiries and frequent misrepresentations are made about the suit: therefore I answer you, as briefly as possible.

The suit was brought in my name, by Judge Morrison, with but a short notice, the object being to have service made before the payment of any money or organization, in order that we should not hear anything about privileges passing into the hands of those who were aiming to establish this great monopoly. Their payments, as well as their organization, were made and effected, after full notice that their rights would be contested. The amendments to the suit now pending will present all the questions directly before the court, as to what rights, if any, passed by the act of the Legislature. If decided by the court against the plaintiff, when the cause is fully presented by the amendments, the suit will then go to the Supreme Court.

This suit is brought with the firm conviction that the legislature had no power, under our present constitution, to incorporate any bank until the expiration of the charter of the present one. The people of the State have a vast interest in the present old State Bank of Indiana. In this institution are their trust funds of every kind; also the basis of banking capital, for which the people are responsible, if not paid by the Bank—in all amounting to more than two millions of dollars.

It was undoubtedly the intention of the makers of the present constitution—the language of that instrument will bear no other construction—that there should be but one bank of the State; and that the present bank should be closed on the expiration of its charter, its affairs wound up, and its final expose made, in order that the people might witness the condition in which it left the State, and then, after a full discussion of the question, the people could decide whether the wants of the country required the chartering of another institution of the same kind.

Our fathers based their hopes for the success of our form of government, upon the fundamental principle that all public measures should proceed directly from the people, especially those measures which affect the finances, trade, business, and character of our State, should all pass through the crucible of public investigation. With respect to the present new bank charter, it is believed that not a single press, nor a single public speaker, in the State, ever named the subject in the political contest of 1854. Now if the legislature, under our constitution, two or four years before the expiration of a charter, can occupy the sole ground for such an extensive and dangerous monopoly, for the next twenty years, without any examination or discussion by the people, I do not see any good reason why the very next careless and or semevous legislature may not prepare the way for a few privileged gentlemen to acquire the same rights and privileges, commencing say ten, fifteen, or eighteen years hence, and, in this way defeat the plainest principles of our constitution, and destroy one of the strongest safe-guards of public virtue—the voice of the ballot box.

The capital stock is exempt from taxation for municipal purposes. The right is given to issue post notes, the most worthless of all Bank issues, payable at their own time. No additional branch or branches can be established, let the wants of the country be what they may, without the consent of two thirds of the Branches. All of these are clear violations of principles laid down in our new Constitution.

By the 91st section of the charter, the General Assembly, with the consent of the State Bank and branches, may alter or amend the charter. On this point, there is force in the language of one who said—"We can hardly trust ourself to speak of the flagitious insult to the common understanding of every decent man, and the derisive mockery of the reserved power of legislation of that man's rights. The people, poor dupes, thought before they had been initiated into the mysteries of banking by this act, that the power to legislate was controlled only by the superior power of the Constitution. But in this new phase of the "higher law," the bank parlor becomes the hall of Legislation in all that relates to the material fiscal interests of the State, and as directory kicking the Constitution out of the way of a bank vote, arrogantly tells the representatives of the people, 'we ignore your bills, we refuse our assent to your legislation—but by virtue of our authority above you and your Constitution, we vouch-safe to you the privilege of passing into a law what we now present.'

You doubtless remember that, among other objections to this charter, there was, in my veto message, the following:—

"The 79th section, after providing for twenty days' notice of the opening of the books for the original subscription of stock, by its obvious import allows the books to be closed if the 'requisite amount' shall then be subscribed, at the end of the very moment at which they are opened. Thus one man may subscribe the entire amount of stock of one or more branches, and a moneyed monopoly as odious and frightful as any of which the history of American legislation furnishes an example, may suddenly be established. The 84th section of the charter of the present State Bank, the language of which is copied, word for word, in many parts of this bill, expressly provided that the books for the original subscription of stock should be 'kept open between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock A. M. of each day, for the space of thirty days;' yet this wise safe-guard in the case of the present bill, would seem to have been studiously omitted."

As strange as it may appear, this prediction has been almost literally fulfilled. Various devices were adopted at the different places where the books were opened. I give you one case. On the day appointed for the opening of the books, at the quiet and peaceable city of Richmond, the commissioners named appeared at the place, a few minutes before 9 o'clock, A. M.—(the usual notice for all the branches was from 9 o'clock until 12 o'clock A. M.) Several citizens were waiting; some with the view of taking stock, others to see how the affair was managed. The gentlemen received their first information upon the subject of the opening of the books, about twenty minutes after 9 o'clock, A. M.—when it was announced that the stock was all taken; and, that a citizen of Indiana, who, perhaps, was never in the city of Richmond before, was the owner of nine-tenths of the whole stock of the Richmond branch.

At some of the branches, the stock was taken in ten minutes; at others in half an hour; and, at some, neither the books, nor the doors of the house, were opened. I am advised, by the best of citizens, that at a large majority of the branches, the opening of the books, and the taking of the stock, were solemn farces; mere mockeries. At two branches suits have been brought to set aside the acts of the sub-commissioners. One suit was decided below against them. The other is not yet determined.

It is one of the objects of the suit to which you refer, to set aside the acts of all of the commissioners. The view taken of the question by legal gentlemen, is, that if these acts be set aside, the books cannot be opened again, without an act of the Legislature. In this way, the whole question may be brought before the people, even should the suit fail, upon the decision of several constitutional questions, in the courts of the State.

I have procured from the Secretary of State, from the files in his office, a statement [A] of the shares of stock, from two hundred upwards, taken by the same person. By this statement which will be found below, thirty persons in Indiana, have a majority of all the stock; the controlling influence in what is imposingly called *the Bank of the State of Indiana;* the exclusive right to furnish a currency that must affect our trade and commerce for the next twenty years.—This is, surely, a remarkable state of affairs, for which, I believe, no parallel can be found in the legislation of any other State. Several gentlemen were at various points, on the same day, engaged in taking stock.

You have, herewith, an article taken from the "National Guard," published in Scott county, Indiana. [B] Some solid, home truths are contained in the article, which, I trust you will attach to this communication

It is truly stated that I purchased one share of stock in the Old State Bank. This was done, with the view of enabling me to raise the constitutional question, to the validity of the new Bank charter. This suit will be prosecuted. Two others will be commenced; one immediately, in the name of the State. These suits will be carried through our courts to a final decision; and if, ultimately, it shall be decided that this new banking institution must be fastened upon the people of the State, for the next twenty years, it will present, in its course, from its introduction into the Legislature till the present hour, a verification of my oft repeated saying, that, with many of the politicians of of these days, the two leading ideas are *Washington City*, and the *Penitentiary;* or how to reach the one, and avoid the other.

Many well meaning citizens were deceived and misled with respect to the nature of this new banking institution, and some were induced to take part in its organization. In no state of things that can arise, is it possible to give such an institution any character or credit; the charter itself containing many privileges and powers which no fair capitalist would desire. In fact, its whole history, from its commencement, presents it in an aspect so unfavorable, that it is the duty of every good citizen to contribute his mite to wipe it out of existence. For the sake of the honor and credit of our own State, I hope that the States may never again be incumbered with its like.

I have the honor to be, Yours, most Respectfully,

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

[A]

BANK OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

BRANCH AT LIMA.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S. P. Williams | Lima | 500 shares. |
| John B. Howe | do | 500 do |

BRANCH AT LAPORTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| D. G. Rose | Laporte | 900 shares. |
| E. D. Taylor | Chicago, Ills | 60 do |

BRANCH AT PLYMOUTH.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. L. Wheeler | Plymouth | 500 shares. |
| E. D. Taylor | Chicago, Ills | 300 do |
| P. M. Kent | New Albany | 300 do |

BRANCH AT SOUTH BEND.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W. C. Depauw | Salem | 600 shares. |
| John S. Davis | New Albany | 300 do |
| Jno. Reynolds | South Bend | 300 do |
| Sam'l H. Patterson | Jeffersonville | 300 do |

BRANCH AT LAFAYETTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| E. Crowley | New York | 300 shares. |
| Nathaniel Cook | Connecticut | 300 do |

BRANCH AT FORT WAYNE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Weston | Rome, Noblesville, In. | 400 shares. |
| O. Bird | Fort Wayne | 740 do |
| H. McCulloch | do do | 740 do |

BRANCH AT LOGANSPORT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| F. Keys assigned by J. T. Musselman, Graham N. Fitch, of Logansport, in trust for M. G. Bright, et al | | 294 shares. |
| | | 830 do |

BRANCH AT INDIANAPOLIS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Washington C. Depauw | Salem | 1010 shares. |

BRANCH AT RICHMOND.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Phineas M. Kent | New Albany | 1775 shares. |

BRANCH AT CONNERSVILLE.

Names of stockholders and number of shares taken not given.

BRANCH AT RUSHVILLE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M. G. Bright | Madison | 869 shares. |
| Jno. L. Robinson, for himself and as Agent | Rushville | 469 shares. |

BRANCH AN MADISON.

Names of stockholders and number of shares taken not given. The report shows however that Michael G. Bright received 450 votes, John Marsh 430 votes, J. W. Chapman 430 votes, Jas. R. Meriwether 450 votes, and Richard J. Bright 450 votes for Directors of said Branch.

BRANCH AT JEFFERSONVILLE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sam'l H. Patterson | Jeffersonville | 449 shares. |
| John S. Davis | New Albany | 229 do |
| Sebre Howard | do do | 300 do |
| Thos. L. Smith | do do | 345 do |

BRANCH AT NEW ALBANY.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| V. A. Pepin, Pres't | | 695 shares. |

BRANCH AT BEDFORD.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W. C. Depauw | Salem | 889 shares. |
| John S. Davis | New Albany | 500 do |
| Geo. A. Thornton | Bedford | 250 do |

BRANCH AT VINCENNES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S. H. Patterson | | 570 shares. |
| J. H. Hager | | 540 do |

BRANCH AT TERRE HAUTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thomas Dowling | Terre Haute | 1300 shares. |

STATE OF INDIANA, } To wit:
Office of the Secretary of State, }

I hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of the shares of stock, from 200 shares and upwards, taken in the Bank of the State of Indiana, as appears by the "Proceedings of the Organization" of said Bank, as filed in my office.

Witness my hand this 19th day of December, A. D 1855.

ERASMUS H. COLLINS,
Secretary of State.

[B]

[From the Lexington National Guard.]

### The New State Bank.

This Bank, which was authorized by the late fusion Legislature, has recently been organized by the election of Hugh McCulloch as President, and James M. Ray as Cashier. The Directors and officers of the different branches have also been selected, but is not deemed a matter of general interest.

The election of Messrs. McCullough and Ray is only important as it indicates a compromise and probable unity of action between the managers of the new and old Bank, both these gentlemen having been officers in the latter.

We regard this Bank Charter as one of the worst laws ever passed in the State. It is one of the legitimate fruits of the inauguration of the fusion party—not that the democrats are entirely guiltless, for it is a lamentable fact that some of them so far forgot the leading principles of their party as to join in fastening this odious and dangerous Bank monopoly upon the people.

A more loosely drawn, unguarded, mischeivous law we have never read, and believe can not be found in the worst wild-cat Bank State in the Union.

Unlike our old Bank the State of Indiana owns not a dollar of stock in this one, and is in no way responsible for its issues. It is in no respect a State Bank.

Unlike our Free Banks, there is no deposit of State stocks or other valuables with the State, or with a responsible third party, to secure the bill-holders.

It is a regular built confidence concern all over—the basis for the issues of the bills, and the security of the people, if it ever has any substantial basis, is to be left in possession of the Bank, which is just no security at all.

What kind of security is that which amounts to only one third of the debt, and is left in the hands of the debtor at that, to be squandered or put out of the way whenever it becomes his interest to do so?

And yet such is the security offered the people in this beautiful Bank law.

It was designed and mainly advocated by speculators, for their own private advantage. This is the truth, and the people ought to know it.

One grand point which these political speculators had, and still have, in view, is to get hold of the State's interest in the old Bank, amounting, we believe, to over a million of dollars. This great scheme of plunder was in the original bill, and came near passing in that shape. Altho' not in the law as it now stands the plan is not abandoned, but is to be passed upon the next Legislature.

To secure this daring object every human agency will be sorted to fair or foul. Combinations will be formed, log-rolling schemes will be projected, the influence of money will be brought to bear in all directions, and corruption will stalk abroad through the State, and into the Halls of Legislation. Let the people and the untrammeled and unsubsidised Press look to it in time. 'Forewarned is to be forearmed.'

Most of all, should the unterrified democracy raise their voice against this measure; and that voice will yet be heard in thunder tones, denouncing it, or we are much mistaken. A few men at commercial points, or for private purposes, may have joined in this swindling humbug Bank scheme in the name of democracy, but it is a prostitution of the term—enough to make the old patriot Jackson turn in his grave, and will meet with the unqualified condemnation of the great mass of the democracy. Let our leaders neither deceive themselves nor be deceived, into the belief that the people are indifferent about this thing; they may be silent for the time, but are none the less observing, or faithful to principle, and, as certain as God rules in Heaven, a large number of them will prove their fidelity to their principles, by denouncing both the measure and its authors and abettors whenever called upon to pass judgment upon them.

### Congressional.

SENATE.—After transacting some unimportant business the Senate adjourned over until Thursday.

HOUSE.—Leiter said that having from time to time received two votes for Speaker, he wished it distinctly understood that he had never been a candidate and never would be. He stated this, least it should be suspected there was something wrong in his position. He had as constantly and consistently voted for Mr. Banks as any man in the House.

Mr. Stewart in explanation, stated the reasons why he had been voting for Richardson: He said the position of the latter and also of Mr. Fuller, had been explained distinctly and explicitly, but that of Mr. Banks had not. He asked Mr Banks whether he had ever said in a speech in the House, that he would 'let the Union slide.'

Mr. Banks replied, that in that speech he had said there might be such a state of things in which he would consent.

He had reference to future contingencies, such as the prostitution of the Government, the usurpation of gigantic powers, the support of the single institution of slavery.

He was for the Union as it is, and would meet its enemies on a fair field. He was for it as a guarantee of the rights of the States, and the main prop of our Government, and would have it stand on the records of history, in the language of Washington, "crowned with immortal fame."

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, was not satisfied with the answer of the gentleman. "Did you say," he asked, "that under certain circumstances you would let the Union slide?"

Mr. Banks—"I have said all