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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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING ON A MAMMOTH SHEET, AT

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR, INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE

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

Democratic National Convention.

The National Executive Committee which assembled at Washington on the 8th, fixed on the first Monday in June as the time for holding the Democratic Convention at Cincinnati.

The Convention—The Platform.

The result of the deliberations of the De- [illegible] State Convention, which assembled [illegible] dispelled alike the hopes [illegible] Know Nothings and the fears of many Democrats. Instead of that accrimonious strife for nominations and bitter contentions between politicians which many anticipated would characterize the Convention, the utmost harmony prevailed among the delegates, and an evident determination was manifested, early in the day, to give to the nominees, whoever they might be, that cordial support necessary to success.

Probably the most important and delicate duty which the Convention had to perform, was the framing and adoption of a series of resolutions which should constitute the platform of the party. While the members of the Democratic party agree on all leading principles and measures, it is not to be supposed that there would be equal unanimity in the details of measures or as to the proper manner of carrying them out. In discharging the duty imposed upon them, we think the Committee, of which Judge Hughes, of Bloomington, was chairman, have succeeded to admiration, and that the resolutions reported by them will receive the cordial approbation of the Democracy of Indiana. It will be seen that the Compromise measures and the Nebraska bill are endorsed; and thus, so far as this numerous and highly respectable body of men could do so, the principle of the right of every people to frame their own laws and decide upon their own institutions, is fully established as a Democratic measure. The resolutions condemning the intolerance of Know Nothingism on the subject of religion, and declaring against any change in the naturalization laws, will of course meet with the cordial approval of every true Democrat.—On the subject of temperance, the resolutions but reiterate the well known sentiments of the Democratic party. Pledged to advance and uphold the cause of morality and sobriety, they are opposed to such arbitrary, unjust, and unconstitutional laws as that passed by the last Fusion Legislature.

It will be seen that the name of Senator Bright is presented to the Democracy of the Union in connection with the nomination to the Presidency, and the delegates appointed, although not positively instructed to do so, will, as they ought to do, use every honorable effort to secure his nomination by the Cincinnati Convention. The administration of Gov. Wright is endorsed, and in this we have no doubt the feelings of the Democracy of the State are correctly expressed.

The resolution in relation to the colonization of any portion of the American continent or contiguous islands by European nations is but a reiteration of what has long been the settled policy of the Democratic party.

Upon the platform thus adopted the Democracy of Indiana can enter upon the contest with ardor, enthusiasm, and confidence of success. In the resolutions there is no "dodging" or equivocation, as our neighbor of the Journal seems to intimate. Everything is as clearly expressed as words can do so. He who runs may read. There can be no doubt as to the position occupied by the Democracy of Indiana on any of the great questions of the day, and we hope there may be no misrepresentation of it by our opponents.

☞ The richest joke of the season is the "*insult*" which the K. N. Abolition members of the House pretended had been offered to their *dignity* by the President, in sending his message before they were organized! A set of fellows who are really no better than a mob, but who unfortunately hold certificates of election as members of Congress, and who daily charge one another with every species of rascality and corruption, to pretend to be insulted because the President chooses to discharge the duty required of him by the Constitution, is certainly rich in the extreme.

☞ At an election held at the office of the Indiana Central Railway Company on the 7th inst., the following gentlemen were elected directors for the ensuing year. Charles Parry and Samuel Hannah, Indianapolis; John T. White, Raysville; Williams Seitz, Camp-Ledge City; David Commons, John S. Newman, Jas. W. Jackson, and W. S. T. Morton, Centreville.

The following gentlemen were re-elected officers for the ensuing year.

John S. Newman, President. John M. Cormons, Secretary. Samuel Hannah, Treasurer.

REFRESHINGLY COOL.—A conductor on a New England road was sent for by the President or Superintendent of the road one day, and rather summarily informed that after that week the company would not require his services. He asked who was to be his successor, and the name was given him. He then asked why he was to be removed. After pressing the question some time, and failing to obtain a satisfactory explanation, a little light dawned upon him, and he addressed his superior officer nearly as follows: "You are about making a great mistake, Sir, a great mistake. You know, Sir, I have a nice house, a fast horse, a splendid gold watch, and an elegant diamond ring. *That fellow you have chosen to take my place has got to get all these things.*" It is said the argument was conclusive, and the conductor was allowed to retain his position.

☞ John Van Buren declines an invitation to lecture before the democratic young men of Cincinnati but he gives them a chapter of political advice.

Great Cry and Little Wool.

The American Organ, Cincinnati Times, and other Know Nothing papers, are making a great ado because the First Assistant Postmaster General asked Mr. Puryear, a K. N member of Congress, whether a certain gentleman recommended for the office of postmaster was a Know Nothing? "Is it possible," asked the innocent Puryear, "that his being a Know Nothing would be an objection?" to which the First Assistant replied that it would. For this avowal, the Times and the Organ denounce the Post-office Department as proscriptive, and proceed to shed saucers full of briny tears over the fate of the proscribed "Americans." Now, these Know Nothing editors must be possessed of the impudence (together with most of the other bad qualities) of Satan himself. Every one of these fellows has taken an oath that he will not vote for a foreigner or a Roman Catholic, but will use all his influence to turn out all such as may now be in office, and that he will vote on all occasions for the nominees of his own band of conspirators, and none others; and yet when their own rule is applied to them, they lift up their hands in holy horror and cry "persecution!" "persecution!"

We think the Postmaster General does exactly right in refusing to appoint Know Nothings to office. The fact that a man is a Know Nothing is a good reason why he should not be appointed Postmaster by a Democratic administration. Fill the post offices of the country with these oathbound conspirators, and whose correspondence would be safe? It is notorious that the great body of the Know Nothings regard an oath to support the Constitution and laws of the Union as subordinate to the oaths they take in their secret councils. Such men are utterly unfit to occupy the office of postmaster. Public confidence in the sanctity of the mails would soon be lost under their rule. We hope the Postmaster General will make rigid inquiries into the character of all men recommended for appointments by Know Nothing members of Congress. Let not one upon whom this stigma rests be appointed as postmaster. Public opinion will sustain him in such a course, let such papers as the American Organ and the Cincinnati Times howl as they may.

☞ The old liners, we know, have opposed the use of the Bible in the public schools. To object to its circulation among the people, and to refuse "material aid" to the American Bible Society may become a cardinal old line principle.—*Madison Courier.*

We deny the charge in toto that the old liners have opposed the use of the Bible in public schools. That story was started by Know Nothing bigots, and was long since put to rest. We are not so certain, however, but that Democrats *did* ought to refuse "material aid" to certain Bible Society agents, who go about the country gathering up money under pretence of purchashing Bibles for distribution among the "destitute," but who employ a large portion of the time for which they are paid out of the money so collected in retailing pitiful slanders against the Democratic party. We now have in our mind's eye one such agent, who does not live a hundred miles from Madison.

☞ Great stress is laid upon the fact that the Fusion press of Mr. Dunn's district—the Madison papers especially—denounce his course on the Speakership question. Mr. Dunn is stronger than all the Fusion papers in his district combined. In 1854, when Mr. D. came out as a candidate for Congress in opposition to Capt. Hendricks, the "regular nominee" of a convention, they denounced Dunn as a "bolter," a "disorganizer," &c., &c.; but a half dozen speeches from Mr. Dunn sufficed to drive Hendricks from the track and all the Fusion papers into his support. So it will be again.

☞ The Know Nothing members of Congress are just now engaged in the laudable occupation of reading each other out of the party. Campbell, of Ohio, reads out Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, for his proslavery doctrines; and Marshall reads Campbell out for his abolitionism. Eustis, of Louisiana, says no man can be a true "American" (K. N.) who subscribes to the 8th article of the Philadelphia platform, proscribing native Catholics; while Smith, of Alabama, says anti-Popery is the corner stone of the Know Nothing party, and no man can be regarded as a true brother who does not denounce all Catholics, whether native or foreign. If every fellow who is *read* out of the K. N. party *goes* out and *stays* out, there will be precious few left in it.

☞ We understand that a meeting of a portion of the Democratic editors in the city at the Convention took place at the Supreme Court room on Tuesday evening. We regret that severe indispositon prevented us from being present with our brethren of the quill on that occasion. We believe, however, that no business of importance was transacted.

☞ The New York Tribune is informed by one who professes to know all about the matter, "that George Law is carrying all before him in the election of delegates by the Know Nothing councils of that State to the K. N. Presidential convention, to be holden at Philadelphia on the 22d of February."

IMPORTANT DECISION.—Judge Bicknell, of the Second Judicial Circuit, has decided, in a case which came before him in Scott county, the Liquor Law unconstitutional. The law is, therefore, annulled so far as Judge Bicknell's Circuit is concerned.

☞ Several companies of Mormons lately undertook to introduce their system among Cherokee Indians, The Indians became disgusted and drove them out of the nation.

☞ The Fort Wayne Times sets down John S. Davis and Samuel H. Patterson as "Locofoco leaders." This will be news to the folks down about the falls of the Ohio.

☞ The Know Nothings of Delphi have been thrown into a terrible state of consternation by the exhibition there, at a Democratic meeting, of a pair of the identical "Brass Knucks" used by their brethren at New Albany to carry the election in 1854.

Plurality Vote.

The editor of the Journal appears to be very desirous that the House of Representatives should adopt the plurality vote in the election of a Speaker, and proceeds to denounce all those who do not square with his own notions on this subject. He says the Democrats set the example of adopting the plurality system, and therefore they ought to vote to adopt it now. We suppose our neighbor refers to the session when Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, was chosen Speaker under this rule. But the Journal should remember that the Democrats in Congress occupie da very different position then from what they do now. They then had a nominal majority in the House, and were responsible to the country for the time and money consumed in trying to effect an oiganization. They cut the Gordian knot by adopting the plurality rule, and thus choosing a Speaker. Now, however, they are a lean and powerless minority. They have never been able to concentrate more than seventy-six votes on their candidate, and this is less than one-third of the voting strength of the House. To hold this minority responsible for the non-organization of the House is an absurdity too gross to be worthy of serious refutation. If the opponents of the Democratic party want to adopt the plurality rule and thus elect a Speaker, they have the power to do so; but to suppose that the Democratic members will give any vote which shall in any manner, directly or indirectly, contribute to the election of a Black Republican or a bigoted Know Nothing to the Speaker's chair, is simply ridiculous.

With the divisions which afflict the opposition, the Democrats have nothing to do.—The men who vote for Banks, the men who vote for Fuller, and the men who vote "scattering," rejoiced in common over the defeat of the Democratic party and over each other's success. The defeat of the Democrats of the North was hailed with every demonstration of joy by the Southern Know Nothings. These latter elected whom they would associate with, and now let them abide their choice or come over to the Democrats. Certain it is the Democrats will never go to *them.*

☞ Once every twelve months (and sometimes oftener) the New England folks get up a grand celebration, or dinner, or something else, in honor of the landing of the Pilgrims, and set up an orator whose duty it is to discourse for one, two, or three hours, as the case may be, on the unparalleled virtues of the Puritans—at which, as a matter of course, the descendants of the Puritans, the Yankee auditors, feel very good, and give vent to their admiration by sundry cheers, stampings, and clapping of hands. Some of these celebrations have recently come off, at which Senator Seward, Wendell Phillips, and others ministered to the vanity of the modern Puritans, by telling them of the great deeds of their ancestors, their sufferings in behalf of *liberty of conscience*, etc.

Singularly enough, just on the heels of these celebrations, a number of the most diabolical murders ever recorded in criminal annals have taken place in Connecticut, the very heart of blue light Puritandom. The murderers are a species of spiritualists who profess to have received directions from the Almighty to commit these murders—just as the Puritans of old contended that they were only obeying directions from on High when they hung Quakers, drowned witches, burned heretics, and performed similar charitable and Christian works.

We only refer to the subject of these horrid murders, in this connection, for the purpose of reminding our readers that they were committed in that section of the country which is responsible for most of the abominable isms which now afflict the country politically, morally, and socially, and which are in a great measure attributable to the self righteous, Pharasaical, and bigoted dogmas bequeathed by the Puritans to the modern New Englanders. A people who are ready to preach the entire population of the Southern States into the bottomless pit because they hold slaves, who think that a Catholic should not be permitted to breathe American air, and who vote to disfranchise all who are not able to read their laws, cannot, of course, have any just conceptions of the atrocity of murder. If New England fanaticism progresses at the same ratio it has been doing the last few years, life and property will soon have but little protection within her borders.

☞ A difficulty has recently taken place at Bethany College, Virginia, between some abolition students from Canada, Ohio, and Indiana, on the one side, and the Faculty and southern students on the other. It appears there are about 130 students in the college, of whom about 100 are from the South and 30 from the North. The northern students persevered in a determination to discuss the subject of slavery, and a Mr. Burns, of Canada, preached a sermon of so ultra an abolition character that violence was threatened to his person. Meetings of the students of both sections were held, and finally a portion of the northern students, considering "discretion the better part of valor," submitted to the requirements of the faculty, while the others, ten in number, among them John Guffin, Leander McConnell, and D. R. Van Buskirk, of Indiana, withdrew from the institution. It is a little singular that even a southern college cannot be exempted from the impertinence of abolition meddlers.

ALAS FOR "FANNY FERN!"—Sunday night Fanny Fern was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to James Parton, Esq., of New York. Mr. Parton was for many years sub-editor of Willis's Home Journal, and figures in "Ruth Hall." He is also the author of the Life of Horace Greeley. This is the third time the redoubtable Fanny has entered the silken bonds of wedlock. Her first husband died, and the rude hand of the law separated her from the second. Mr. Parton is a man of courage.

☞ The editor of the Journal compares the nominees of the Democratic State Convention to elephants. He will probably have reason to believe that he has "seen the elephant" before the second Tuesday in October.

☞ While in New Albany the other day, we took a peep at a splendid new steamer just receiving the finishing touches of the unrivaled mechanics of that flourishing city. She is called the "James Montgomery," named in honor of a brother of the principal owner and commander, Capt. Sam. Montgomery. The Montgomeries have built and commanded some of the most magnificent palaces that float on the western waters, and are deserving of the good fortune which has always attended them.—*State Sentinel.*

From the above it will be seen that the late editor of the Ledger is not likely to lose sight of old friends, or forget the pleasing associations formed during a residence of nine years in our city. Such notices in the Sentinel are beneficial, and welcome evidences of his good will, and we shall expect often to read such in the Democratic central organ of the State. We hope friend Norman will meet with large success in his new and extended field of usefulness. But however fortunate his lot may prove, yet his thoughts must oft revert, and fondly dwell upon the many pleasant hours spent around the Falls of the Ohio, and in the promising city of New Albany.—*New Albany Ledger.*

Our friends of the Ledger may rest assured that we shall *never* "lose sight" of New Albany or the many warm and devoted friends we think we have in that city. Whether our separation from them be permanent or only temporary, we shall recur to our abode among them as the most pleasant part of our life, tempered though it was by many and heavy domestic sorrows. We yet hope to see New Albany rise superior to the misfortunes which the baneful and proscriptive influence of Know Nothingism has brought upon her, and anything that we can do to assist in bringing about that result, shall be done cheerfully. Nature has done much for New Albany, and her public-spirited people have been lavish in their expenditures for improving and beautifying the city. No city of similar size in the West can present such an array of paved streets, such magnificent churches, or splendid school houses—attractions which render her, as a place of residence, unsurpassed. Let her citizens frown down those rowdy characters who have rendered her name a byword and a reproach, and she will soon emerge from her present eclipse.

ONE OF THE "KNOW NOTHINGS."—The editor of the Lafayette Courier, who pretends to have been present, gives the following account of a speech he says was made in the State House on the evening before the meeting of the State Convention:

The two most prominent speeches of the evening were made by Gordon Tanner—a man who has always been a Whig, joined the Know Nothings one year ago to get office, but was defeated last fall, for lack of confidence in his ability or honesty by the people, but who was a few days since appointed by Gov. Wright, to the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of his district.

Now, the truth is, Mr. Tanner didn't make any speech on the occasion alluded to; Mr. Tanner has never been a whig; never joined the Know Nothings; never was defeated for an office that we ever heard of; and never was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

☞ The editor of the Journal seems to have drawn down upon his head the ire of Mr. Congressman Dunn, but says he is not to be "hated into doubting his (Dunn's) honesty," in the course he is pursuing on the Speakership question. Well, neighbor, if Mr. Dunn is honest in the course he is *now* pursuing, we hope you would not ask him to *change* that course.

"DOCTORS DISAGREE."—The editor of the Indiana Journal says Bright was completely overslaughed in the recent Democratic State Convention, while his brother of the Vincennes Gazette says Wright was outgeneraled by Bright. When the Fusion brethren agree on this subject we may have something to say. Under present circumstances it is unnecessary.

☞ In one paragraph the editor of the Journal says a good many people had their ears frozen by the extreme cold weather of the last few days, and in another he says he hears a good deal of grumbling amongst the "old liners" at the nominations of the State Convention. Was our neighbor one of those who had their ears frozen?

☞ The New Albany Tribune may be added to the list (of papers preferring Fillmore for President.) We long since expressed our preference for Mr. Fillmore. There is no man whose nomination would please us better.—*N. A. Tribune.*

What has occurred since 1852 to render Fillmore so acceptable in your eye, neighbor? You then advocated the nomination of Gen. Scott with all your might, and seemed to think Fillmore exceedingly small potatoes.

☞ The Washington farce, of trying to elect a Speaker, is being reproduced in the House, at Albany, N. Y., on a small scale. The Legislature met on the 1st inst., but thus far no Speaker has been chosen in the popular branch of the Legislature. Neither party having a majority of the members. Know Nothingism and Black Republicanism everywhere produce the same bitter fruits.

MORE DEFECTION!—It appears that the example of Messrs. Dunn and Scott, in refusing to support Banks for Speaker, is about to be followed by Mr. Brenton, another of the Fusion members of Congress from this State. Mr. B. intimated as much in a speech in the House the other day. Bring your guns to bear on Brenton, gentlemen of the Fusion press! Democrats will make no effort to spike them.

☞ The K. N.'s of the First District are to hold a meeting at Princeton on the 22d inst. The object of the meeting is not stated, but we presume it is to appoint a delegate to the Philadelphia convention to nominate a candidate for President. The K. N.'s of the Pocket are generally Twelfth Section men.

ONE OF THE PATRONS.—A subscriber to the Lafayette Journal gives the following answer to a dunning letter:

"Sorry to say Old Hos that I can't pay. I am very tight up which is to say I haint nary red. Ef lard oil was ten cents a barrel, I couldnt buy enough to grease my hair. Dont worry about it, I freely forgive you the Debt.
Signed, ——"

From Washington.

[Correspondence of the State Sentinel.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1856.

EDITORS SENTINEL:—The fifth week of the session has almost passed, and there is yet no organization of the House of Representatives. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the people's money, and thirty-four days of the people's time have been wasted in the attempt to elect a Speaker.—The Democracy are steadily voting for their candidate, leaving the responsibility of delay to the minority who have the power, but have failed to effect an organization. The Democrats are but exercising their constitutional privilege of voting for a gentleman standing on their platform, and holding to their principles, and have thrown no impediment in the way of an organization. They say to the majority, "Gentlemen, elect your candidate. We will take no part in your family discussions. We will form no coalition with any of you. We are in a hopeless minority, and are powerless. With you rests the responsibility before the country."

But as a kind of excuse for their non-organization, or rather as a breakwater to save them from the rising indignation of the people at their delay, I notice that some of the Fusion papers are laboring to show that no time has really been lost, alleging that if they had organized, nothing would have been done anyhow until after the holidays. This may be true of a Fusion, Know Nothing House of Representatives, but it will not hold good as to the action of former Congresses. Though to all appearances, but little is done during the first month of a session, yet really, it is *the* working month.—The Committees are steadily at work, cutting out and preparing business for Congress, and last year all the appropriation bills—the most important bills of a session—were reported to the House in December. The refusal of the Fusionists to elect a Speaker will throw us back just the time that transpires between the first day of the session and the day on which the organization will be effected, and the session will be prolonged just so much longer, or part of the business of the country will remain untouched and unattended to.—This is the exact state of affairs, and no efforts to throw dust into the eyes of the people by false misrepresentations that nothing would have been done anyhow, can alter it. The Journals of the last Congress show that, at the first session, the Indian and the Military Academy Appropriation bills were reported from the Committee of Ways and means to the House, on the 15th of December—the Civil and Diplomatic, (the largest and most important of all these bills,) the Deficiency and the Invalid Pension Appropriation bills, were reported on the 19th of December—and the Army, Ocean Steamers, and Navy Appropriation bills were reported on the 31st of December. At the second session of the last Congress, the Indian and Invalid Appropriation bills were reported to the House on the 7th of December—the Military Academy and Army Appropriation bills on the 11th of December—the Civil and Diplomatic on the 15th—the Naval and Fortification Appropriation bills on the 19th, and the Post Office and Ocean Mail Steamers Appropriation bills on the 22d of December. This shows that a great deal is generally done in the month of December in Congress, and the Fusionists shall not escape the responsibility by such false excuses.

There is a wonderful disparity, in point of intellect and gentlemanly behavior, between the present and the last House of Representatives. The present is a very weak House indeed, composed almost wholly, on the Black Republican side, of very green saplings, old broken down hacks, and noisy, ignorant babblers, who always effect to laugh at what they are utterly unable to answer successfully.—The worst sign of the temper, as well as the behavior of these clowns, is exhibited in their invariable rule of laughing and making light of the matter when any allusion is made to the Union or the Constitution. Nothing could more surely prove the devilish designs they harbor against the peace and unity of this Republic. They love not the Union of these States.

I have said that, as a general rule, they were real, natural Know Nothings, and I could prove it by many evidences. Let one suffice. Yesterday, in the House, Mr. John Covode, of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution that the members should not receive their daily pay until a Speaker was elected! The bright Pennsylvania representative did not know that they couldn't receive their pay anyhow until a Speaker was elected! It appears that the accommodating and clever gentleman, who is Sergeant-at arms of the House, had been, out of his own private funds, paying some little money to the members as they needed it, and so this intelligent scion of Pennsylvania Know Nothings, concluded that the members were being paid out of the treasury!

A good joke is told on Will Cumback, of which however, I know nothing personally. I tell the tale as it was told to me. Cumback, it seems, had been searching the Congressional Directory to see what number of officers were in the gift of the House. The first two names he read were, "J. W. Forney, Clerk House Representatives; W.V. McKean, H. Reps." "H. Reps.," exclaimed Cumback, "who is he?" The Constitution says no man shall hold two offices, and yet here is this Mr. Reps holding two?" H. Reps., be it understood, is the abbreviation of House of Representatives. Whether Schuyler enlightened the darkness of Mr. Cumback or not, this deponent saith not!

Dan Mace has opened his mouth and spoken, like another celebrated animal spoken of in Sacred History. Dan kept as quiet as he could, but "human natur" will out, despite all curbs and chains. Dan offered a resolution to *starve* the House into electing a Speaker. The Doorkeeper was to close the doors on them and not let them out until a Speaker was elected. Dan had a precedent for his resolution he said, and quoted the case of the action of the College of Cardinals in the 17th century, when they essayed in vain for three years to elect a Pope. One would think that Dan Mace was too good a Know Nothing to take such authority. He must be falling from grace, or, perhaps, he is only preparing for another somerset. Who knows where Dan Mace will be this time next year? We humbly and devotedly beseech him, for the sake of the Democratic party, to go anywhere but into our ranks. Stear clear of us, Major, do. Dan's resolution, and he himself, were received with laughter, and the resolution laid on the table. Dan Mace is a great humbug. PINCKNEY.

TWO GOVERNORS IN WISCONSIN—MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—On Monday, Gov. Barstow, with other State Officers, was inducted into the gubernatorial office of Wisconsin; and on the same day the same oath was administered to Mr. Bashford by Judge Whiton in the Supreme Court room at Madison. A large number of persons were present, and considerable excitement prevailed. It will be remembered that Mr. Barstow received the certificate of the Board of Canvassers, and is therefore the *legal* Governor of Wisconsin. The object of Mr. Bashford and his friends doubtless is to present such an issue as will enable them to test judicially the charge of fraudulent returns on the other side. The Legislature met at Madison on Wednesday. The Senate stands 13 Republicans to 12 Democrats; the Assembly, 47 Democrats to 34 Republicans, and one Independent.—*Chicago Press.*

Ohio Democratic Convention.

The Democracy of Ohio assembled in Convention at Columbus on the 8th inst. The attendance was large and the proceedings harmonious except in regard to some contested seats of delegates from Hamilton county.—Wash. McLean was admitted to his seat over Dr. Fries, which occasioned some hard feeling. The present officers were nominated for re-election. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That slavery is a domestic institution, and being the creature of positive law cannot exist without it, and that Congress has neither the power "to legislate Slavery into the Territories or States, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their own domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.

2d. *Resolved*, That for the people of each particular State and Territory to establish their own constitution or form of government; to choose and regulate their own domestic institutions of every kind, and to legislate for themselves, is a fundamental principle of all free government; and that it is the self same right to secure which our ancestor waged the war of the Revolution; a right laying at the foundation of all our institutions—a right recognized in the Declaration of Independence and established and secured by the Constitution of the United States—and we hereby endorse and reaffirm this *now* disputed principle.

3d. *Resolved*, That the introduction of moral and religious questions into the political controversies and issues of the day, is a wide departure from the ancient principles and sound policy of the country, at war with the true interests of the people, corrupting alike its morals, religion and politics, and of most pernicious and dangerour tendency.

4th. *Resolved*, That Democracy has no secrecy and requires no oaths; that while it publicly avows, as a fundamental principle, freedom of conscience without distinction of religious faith, the political equality of all whom the law recognizes as American citizens, without reference to the accident of birth, it relies for success upon open discussions and the intelligence and virtue of the people. We therefore denounce the Know Nothing organization so called, as intolerant in its warfare upon the freedom of religious belief and the sacred rights of conscience—unjustly exclusive in its requirements of birth and blood, demoralizing in its oaths and concealments, and anti-republican and dangerous in its secret combinations and its methods of secret political action.

5th. *Resolved*, That the Democracy of Ohio, relying upon the intelligence and patriotism of the people, declare and publish these as the principles for which they will do battle, and inscribing them upon their banner, thus boldly and defiantly meet the issue presented *now* by the combined hosts of the enemies of Democracy and of the Union and the Constitution, pledging themselves that that banner shall remain unfurled so long as there is a Constitution and Democratic principles to support and defend.

6th. *Resolved*, That we rejoice in the firm, noble, and patriotic stand of the Democratic members of Congress of the United States in the matter of electing a Speaker of the House of Representatives, and trust that they will maintain that stand to the last.

Decline of Religion in New Albany

We listened with much interest and attention to the annual sermon of Rev. J. M. Stevenson yesterday, in which he gave some facts in the history of the world—the United States—the State of Indiana—the city of New Albany—and the church to which he ministers, during the year of 1855. During the pastorage of Mr. Stevenson in this church, which has extended through six years, there has been added to it 74 persons. The membership has been increased from 150 to over 200. The average attendance increased from 200 to 300. A remarkable coincidence is observable in the deaths in the church; 12 having died during the year 1853; 12 during the year 1854; and 12 during the year 1855. He alluded to the deaths during the yast in a most impressive and eloquent manner. There was not a dry eye in the house.

He gave rather a gloomy account of the state of religion in this city, and showed that although we have 14 evangelical churches capable of containing at one time over 6,000 people, the average attendance was not much, if any, above 2,500, and as we have a population of 17,000, not more than one in seven attend divine worship in these churches. There has been a falling off in the churches in the city generally, in attendance and church membership, during the past year, and in summing up the causes which have led to the deterioration of the church, he gave as the first and chief reason, party spirit—political party spirit—which he said was growing more intense every day, and manifesting itself in our social and religious intercourse—that men now doubted the honesty of a political opponent, solely because he held different views. And this is true, and we apprehend no one will deny that it is almost the only reason why the church in this city has taken a step backwards. Had the reverend gentleman gone one step further and told us the party that had engendered this strife amonst men,—that had kindled the fires of discord and hate around the social hearth stone,—and that has taught to reject, as unworthy of social and political equality, a large class of our fellow citizens,—again, we say, had he told us this, and had read to that hydra-headed monster some lessons of charity and good will to all men, he would have done an act of simple justice to the Democracy of this city, and placed the sin where it belonged. For, let us ask, when did the Democratic party alienate friend from friend, or countenance the heart-burnings and bickerings that have been witnessed in this city during the past year? Never! never! According to the gentleman's showing, during the years '52–3, when the Democratic party was largely in the ascendant here, the church witnessed greater spiritual advancement than during any year of that gentleman's ministry here. These are truths that are apparent to every one.

Another reason adduced for the deterioration of the church was, that the flood gates of intemperance had again been opened. We must, with all due deference, differ from the reverend gentleman. If will be recollected that the decision, of the Supreme Judges, has been given but a few days, and that since June we have had a Prohibitory Liquor Law; consequently, intemperance has had nothing to do with the decline of the Churches here.

We think it rather a poor compliment to the Liquor Law, to say that during its existence, religion has retrograded.

A third reason was, that we have no Sunday Law. If the gentleman will refer to the Acts of 1855, p. 159, he will find a Sunday Law. The fourth reason for the dearth of religion was, that we had no law against profanity. We refer him to the 152d page of the Acts of '55, and he will be fully satisfied on this point.

There is but one solution of this matter:—let the Protestant Church discontenance this political crusade against a portion of our fellow-citizens and their religion—extend to them the welcome of Christ, that "these are my *brethren*," and the welcome of patriots, that this is the land of freedom, and teach them the ways of republicanism, and exhort them to become of us. Then will religion flourish as of old and this desert blossom as the rose.—*New Albany Ledger.*

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—A friend says he had two—a kiss from his wife and another from his daughter. The first he valued for its rarity, and the second for its disinterestedness, being given for a bracelet.—*Boston Post.*

To the Editors of the State Sentinel:

GENTLEMEN:—Opposed as I am to the *principle* of instructing delegates to the National Convention to favor the nomination of any particular individual for the Presidency, I cannot consent to pass without notice, the one-sided communication signed "A Democrat," which appeared in the *Sentinel* of the 31st ult. This communication is published almost side by side with the resolutions adopted by the Morgan county Democratic convention; one of which resolutions "A Democrat" has, for special purposes, curtailed of "its fair proportions." He takes exceptions to your editorial notice of said convention because your gift of construction did not enable you to see in the aforesaid resolution what none else than himself has discovered, an endorsement of Jesse D. Bright for the Presidential nomination.

The truth is that the system of espionage, by which certain interested persons have, in obedience to the mandate of their owner, travelled from county to county, and procured the passage of fulsome resolutions, laudatory of a man made great only by *position*, was met by the resident Democracy of Morgan with the contempt which it deserved.

A resolution, I am informed, of positive instruction was offered, but after discussion, was amended so as to leave the delegates free to vote for or against instructions for Mr. Bright as they should think best. "A Democrat" misquotes the resolution which was *adopted*. It is as follows:

Resolved, That the democracy of Morgan county feel justly proud of the prominence given in various parts of the State to our distinguished fellow citizen and statesman, Hon. Jesse D. Bright, in connection with the next Presidency. And while we would hail his nomination to that high position as a sure augury to success and to another glorious Democratic victory in the great North-West, as well as a merited reward for his eminent abitities and unshaken fidelity to the Democratic party and to the Union; *yet we deem it expedient to leave our delegates to the State Democratic Convention, free to act and commune with the Democracy from other sections of the State as to the propriety of instructing the delegates who may be appointed to attend the next Democratic National Convention, as to the course which they shall then pursue*; trusting, that in view of the present momentous crisis in the politics of the country, the wisdom and discretion of that body which will meet on the 8th of January, will be a sufficient guaranty that the interests of the great Democratic party of the nation, as well as that of our own State, will be faithfully guarded.

I fully understand "A Democrat" and his few associates. He has no idea of obtaining success in his purpose; the real object being to give his friend the control of the vote of Indiana, in the National Convention, which will be bartered about among Presidential aspirants, in the hope of thereby obtaining a Cabinet appointment. The Senatorial election comes on before a new President comes in, and if greatness can be manufactured in the manner mentioned, it is the intention of these gentlemen to hold out, as they did in the winter of 1852, the idea that their friend "is certain to go into the Cabinet." This will be good stock (equal to Bank stock), with which they hope to operate upon members of the legislature, and other friends, who are expectants of office, and in this way make United States Senators.

The public, I think, are beginning to understand all about the manoeuvring of the "peculiar interest," in question. They begin to see through this thing, called "public opinion," which has been altogether manufactured by flimsy resolutions, and meets with no response from the masses of the people.

As to the selection of a man for the Presidency that is, after all, as yet a matter of personal opinion, somewhat varied too, in Indiana. General Jo Lane, Indiana's favorite in 1852, has many warm friends. The name of Stephen A. Douglas calls to its support thousands of her best men. Neither of these men have ever dodged any great question, but have clean records on all live issues. They have labored, at all times, for principles, and not money.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

PRETTY GOOD JOKE.—Schouler, of the Cincinnati Gazette, tells a good joke upon one of the Know Nothing brethren. He says:

"One of the best jokes of the season is the following: When Mr. Dunn, of Indiana, made his personal explanation the other day, he made use of the words often quoted, 'that Cæsar had a party, and Antony had a party, but Rome had no party' in this House. It appears that a warm and jubilant member of the American party in New York, who probably is not well read in classical literature, addressed a long letter to Mr. Dunn, in which in which he wanted to know why in h——ll Rome should have a party in Congress, when that foreign power had ruled America for the last twenty-five years. Ex-Governor Slade ought to send some "school marms" into the Empire city."

The above is, we presume, a pretty fair specimen of the Know Nothings in New York.

☞ Messrs. Eckford and Silsbee, of the Southern Colonization Lottery, or their agents, under the name of Brown and Harris, have, as we have before noticed, been committed to jail in this city, to await their trial in March next, upon a charge of conspiracy at common law. This is but a misdemeanor, and punishable only by fine and imprisonment. Among the letters found on their persons were some from all of the following States: Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Maryland, showing that their machinations had extended into all of these ten States. If a demand be made from any of these States, and a reasonable prospect is presented of lodging the culprits in a penitentiary, we have no doubt that the Attorney-General of this State would surrender his claims upon these enterprising gentlemen to those who are better prepared for their accommodation. We would also suggest that the papers of these several States extend this notice.—*Charleston (S. C.) Courier, Jan. 3.*

☞ For several years before the advent of Sam with his coterie of bats, and owls, and dark-lanterns, George D. Prentice was in the constant habit of blackguarding Gen. Pilcher through the columns of his Journal. He blackguarded him for his ungodly profanity, and sacrleigious remarks concerning the Virgin Mary and the Saviour of the world, especially. He also took Dr. Borland, of Arkansas, and Sam Houston, of Texas, through several courses, characterising the one a miserable little pill-vender, with more of the ruffianly blackguard than the gentleman in his composition, and the other as a beastly, drunken sot, who contended with the swine for the rights of the gutter. These gentlemen were then *professed* Democrats, but now that they belong to the Hindoo faith, the Editor takes them to his bosom as confidential advisers, and covers them all over with the filth of his embrace, befouling them with a sickly and slimy kiss—*Louis. Times.*

☞ The Know-Nothings up at Frankfort seems to be losing their dread of the Pope. We see by the Legislative proceedings that the House was opened, yesterday morning, by a prayer by Rev. J. M. Lancaster, a Catholic Priest. Where's Sam? There is a screw loose somewhere, and the matter should be inquired into.—*Louisville Courier.*

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer.]

Hon. Ashbel P. Willard and the Gazette.

Our fastidious neighbor of the Gazette, who was never known to get fuddled, and gazes at the brimming glass of sparkling catawba with holy horror, sneers at the nomination for Governor of A. P. Willard, Esq., by the Democrats of Indiana, and cocks up his nose at the pledge Mr. Willard gave some time since to his friends of total abstinence.—What a Pharisee!

Mr. Willard during the past summer and fall, visited every part of the State, and stood in the presence of the people. He addressed them every where, boldly, eloquently, convincingly, in defence of the great principles of the Democracy—in defence of the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and of the bill itself. He denounced Abolitionism as sectional and destructive of the sentiment of union which should animate every American heart; he completely riddled [illegible] Nominee, and [illegible] with withering sarcasm and [illegible] for which he is distinguished.

More than any other individual, or ten individuals, Mr. Willard contributed to the glorious victory acheived by the Democracy in Indiana last fall. Did any of the opposition who attempted to measure lances with him find his arm palsied, his weapon dulled, his eye of fire languishing or dimmed? No!—The people heard Willard, they saw him, they had confidence, and from all parts of the State there was a demand for him. He was believed to be honest, to be patriotic, to possess firmness, and the peculiar elements of character calculated for the office of Governor.

But the sneer at his pledge is very natural in the Gazette. We like consistency. Who would not be shocked to hear a clergyman swear in the pulpit? and yet one hears an oath upon the turf without a shudder. The Gazette so often plumes itself upon its dignity, and assumes so pious a tone, and has had such a leaning to General Cary, the temperance lecturer, that it comes with a bad brace from that paper, even as a meager effort at wit and humor, to sneer at the frank promise of a man who, notwithstanding his sobriety, had been charged with drinking, to