The Kansas Chief.

SOL. MILLER, ... Editor.

TROY, KANSAS:

Thursday, : : : : : August 21, 1873.

Down to the Bed Rock.

If it be true, that "whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," then, the editors of the Troy *Republican* are destined for the Winter's pork-barrel of the gods. Having been driven to misrepresentation, scandal, lies, and all other grades of meanness, they have now touched that lowest depth of degradation, of violating private correspondence—an act which the most degraded of men, with a spark of principle left, shrinks from; an act which that most remorseless of institutions, the law, hesitates to do until demanded by the last degree of necessity—an act which, when a man performs, for spite or revenge, he writes himself down a dirty, lousy dog.

Being driven to the wall, having reiterated and spewed out stale slanders against us until some of its warmest friends were utterly disgusted with it, the *Republican* undertakes to regain public sympathy, and turn the tide against us, by claiming that we have swindled its publishers, and as a text, gives to the public a confidential letter which we wrote them almost two years and a half ago. We acknowledge that letter, every syllable, word, and sentence. Aside from the ineffable meanness of thus violating private correspondence, we are otherwise glad that they have given this letter as the text for a long, full-lunged howl upon a subject which they have been hinting at for several months past; for it affords us an opportunity to expose the meanness, bad faith, and sneaking dishonesty of the men. It gives those who are so disposed, a pretext to charge that a combination was entered into for the purpose of extorting money from the tax-payers; but men who will befoul themselves to spite another, take no consideration of the consequence to themselves. We are willing to stand our share of it; and we propose to prove, by their own article, and our letter which they submit in evidence, that they made the first proposition on the subject; that the agreement was plain and explicit on all points; and that while they were receiving the benefit of good faith on our part, they were sneakingly violating the contract for their own personal advantage. But first, some preliminary explanations.

The laws of Kansas fix the prices for all kinds of public printing, including tax-lists, financial statements, and legal publications. These prices were fixed at rates which, by careful calculation, the law-makers found to be fair and just, as affording the printer a reasonable compensation for his labor. For some years, the Commissioners of this County seemed to have a particular grudge against the printers' prices, and endeavored on all occasions to beat them down, while allowing extravagant sums for other purposes, without a word of complaint. We fought against this determinedly, and stood up for our prices. But it was a losing game to us. No other paper in the County would back us, and the result was, that we were generally at loggerheads with the Commissioners, while the other papers were currying favors, and taking off the cream. When Mr. Bridges came here and established the *Republican*, the same men who are always so zealous in exposing our wickedness, took early occasion to prejudice him against us, and make him believe we were a regular vampyre, who made it a business to suck the life-blood out of other publishers. A contest took place for the printing, (in which, we have ever believed, certain County officers virtually perjured themselves.) Bridges bid down low, and got the work. But one turn at it satisfied him. He found that he not only got no pay for his work, but was likely to continue at bitter enmity and ruinous competition with the other papers in the County. He concluded that it was better to maintain the prices fixed by law, even though the proceeds be divided between them—inasmuch as there would then be no strife and bad feeling, while at the same time each of them would get as much, if not more, than one could get by bidding. He therefore proposed the arrangement, which was accepted by the other papers, and honorably carried out by him, as long as he retained the office.

Beale and Sauborn, having played out at Savannah, Mo., came to Troy in January or February, 1871, and bought the *Republican* office of Bridges, while we were at Topeka, a member of the State Senate. Upon our return home to White Cloud, we found a letter from them, proposing a continuance of the agreement which had existed with Bridges. We at once accepted the offer; and that there might be no misapprehension, we stated what the arrangement was. By reference to our letter, which they publish, it will be seen that the agreement embraced not only tax lists, but *advertising of any kind*. This agreement, the *Republican* acknowledges, it accepted in good faith. Now, let us see who kept their faith, and who are the thieves.

In 1871, we got the tax list, amounting to about $800. Before the account had been presented to the County Board for allowance, Beale & Sauborn wrote us a letter, asking us if we could not advance them their share, as they were hard up. We did not have the money, and could not accommodate them. If we had had the amount by us, we should have advanced it to them, without waiting until the Board allowed our account. We have since thought, a hundred times, of the inevitable thanks we should have received for showing a disposition to accommodate them, and help them out of a pinch. The very first time they had got their backs up, they would have proclaimed the fact that we were flush, and that it was as good proof as they wanted that we had sold out in the Legislature! As soon as we got our money from the County, we directed that $250 of it be paid to them, which was done. Soon after, we made a settlement with them in person, and paid the balance, except about $12, as they say. Not long after that, we again met Mr. Beale, and remarked to him that we believed there was some $12 due them yet; to which he replied, never mind; they had done some work and received pay for it, and he thought our share would just about square the $12. That ended the matter with us; and we have not the least doubt that they have since done work and got paid for it, that made a balance of a good many times $12 on their side.

The following Fall, we published the Redemption List, and promptly ordered their third to be handed over to them when the bill was allowed. Thus, we paid them $350 or over, is clean cash, of our earnings, in one year.

In 1872, when the present Board came into office, they were aware of this agreement between the printers. With this knowledge, they went to Beale & Sauborn, and proposed to publish the allowances of the Board, at each meeting, in the *Republican*, if they would do it at *half price*. Beale & Sauborn, in the face of an agreement which they acknowledge they had made in good faith, and of which they had been receiving the benefit, accepted this offer, and agreed to do at half price, work which, at full price, would have amounted to four or five hundred dollars a year. We do not blame the Board for this—it was their duty to do the best they could for the County—but the fact of their going to Beale & Sauborn with that proposition, knowing they had solemnly agreed to maintain legal prices, shows that they estimated the character of the men at its true standard—*and they were not mistaken!* They never made such a proposition to us.

For a year they went on doing this work at half price, never opening their heads to us on the subject, and never hinting at settlement—for they were receiving the pay, and we were doing but very little work for the County. Last Fall, they got the Redemption List. When they received their pay, they generously gave us our third, amounting to the enormous sum of $38 or $39—and this is the sum total we have ever received from them, as an offset to $350, when they were doing County printing almost constantly! And we would not have got this, had they not known that, in the regular turn, we would have the Delinquent List, which would be of some consequence. When making this dividend, Mr. Beale spoke about the arrangement, asking whether we still meant to continue it. We replied that it was our wish to do so, at the same time plainly intimating to him that we expected him to live up to his part of it, and not take a considerable job at half price. His reply was, that *if they did not do it at that price, they would not get the work!* His argument was, that the Board would refuse to publish the statements. The Board may have given him so to understand, in order to drive a profitable bargain with him; but they knew well enough, that the law requires them to publish a statement after every regular or special meeting, and as they have taken an oath to obey the law, they cannot avoid it without violating their oath.

We let the matter pass, for the time being, expecting that they would make some effort to return to the agreement; but still the half pay arrangement went on. Finally, one morning in the Spring, we happened in the Clerk's office, on the morning of a day on which the Board was to meet. Mr. Raudolph came in, and addressing Mr. Rappelye, asked him how it was about publishing the statements; whether the *Republican's* year was not out, and whether the thing had not better be divided around. Mr. Rappelye replied that the agreement was for an indefinite time, and his understanding was, that it was to continue until one party or the other gave notice to the contrary. Of course, the Board would not close out a contract at half price, in order to get the work done at full price; and as the *Republican* still continued publishing the statements, we came the conclusion that they meant to hold fast to that soft thing, and at the same time share the proceeds of our labor at full price. We then and there determined that the fun should not all be on one side, but that it was time for us to "shinny on our own side." The fact that they offered no settlement to the *Reporter*, not even of the Redemption List last Fall, shows that they meant to play a cut-throat game, and that they only condescended to throw out that small bait to us, in order to make a bigger haul out of us.

When we received pay for the Tax List, Beale coolly asked if we couldn't let them have their part of it, to which we replied that that game was played—that they had been playing it fine on us for a long time, but the long end of the string was on our side at last. Then it was, after he had found out where he stood, that he proposed to divide on the statements of the Board. For almost a year and a half he had been violating his agreement, during which time we had once spoken to him about it, yet never once did he say divide. But when he found that our bill exceeded the proceeds of his rascality, than he was anxious to divide—even offering to give us one third of what the work *would have amounted to* at full price. But we believe in that old doctrine that men may sin away their day of grace—and theirs was sinned away, in that case.

To maintain their characteristic meanness, they bring Mr. Dreuning into the fight. All we have to say about Mr. Dreuning is, tha whatever he has done in the past, we were alwas satisfied that he did it from no dishonest motive—and furthermore, that all business arrangements between him and ourself have been fully settled, amicably and satisfactorily. They had better not shed too many sympathetic tears over the wrongs of the *Reporter*, until they themselves fulfill their obligations to that paper.

We have been thus lengthy, that the public may know exactly how the matter stands over which the *Republican* has raised such a dreadful cry of martyrdom. We want them to know who has violated contracts, and who has been wronged. We could put up with their abuse from year in to year out, and being charged with every crime and meanness known to the catalogue; but when the men who are so lustily calling us thief and swindler, have been swindling and stealing from us for a year and a half, and at the same time predicting that we cannot maintain ourself for six months, we propose to get our money back when the opportunity offers. If the County Board wants to submit all the County printing to bids, we are ready to put in our proposition; but as long as we have an agreement with other publishers to stand up for legal rates, we shall do so on all work—not, like the *Republican*, agree upon a plan, then privately cut down to half price on an important class of work.

And who is this A. W. Beale, whose righteous gizzard is so excessively worried on our account? He is a canting "weak-sister," who can be bribed to blow for a candidate for Congress, or to puff up a brainless money-bag as a magnificent farmer, for any sum from $10 to $25. He published a newspaper in Savannah, Mo., which he sold out to a man, obligating himself to not go into the newspaper business there again; but he had scarcely perfected the sale, before he went into a joint stock company and started an opposition paper. The sentiment of the community was so strongly against this act of dishonesty, that, although his political party was in a majority in the County, he played out for want of patronage, and came over to Troy, bringing one of his workmen along, and taking him into partnership, as the only means of paying him what he owed him—spoiling a good stage-driver, to make a poor stick of an editor. And this is the man who talks about dishonesty, and violating agreements!

If we have managed to publish a paper for seventeen years, by stealing and selling out, we must be of more consequence than the *Republican* is willing to admit. No other paper in Kansas has been published so long, and we suppose no other editor was worth buying. But the public have confidence that when they subscribe for the *Chief*, they will get it for the full time paid for.

The *Republican's* warning to business men to watch us, might be of some use to them, were it not for the fact that we do not owe any business man in Troy or elsewhere; and our books are always open to the inspection of all with whom we have business. We are willing to hoe our row with the *Republican*, and leave it to the business men, in the end, to determine who most needs watching.

☞ An anxious inquirer in natural history, wants to know why the distinction in the terms neighing, lowing, and braying, as applied to animal sounds. We suppose it is because the sounds have different significations. Let us take a human illustration. Say, for example, there is the "sole Representative" of Kansas in the Lower House of Congress. When he voted against the insertion of the salary grab in the appropriation bill, that was Naying. When he voted for the bill with the item inserted, and then took his share of the grab, that was Lowsing. And when his Postmasters and retainers bawl out against those who denounce him for his course, that is Braying.

☞ Col. Jennison has come to grief. Last Friday, he followed and aggravated a baggage smasher for the payment of the miserable sum of $1.50, the balance on a gambling debt. The man paid it, then proceeded to smash Jennison's baggage. He whipped him terribly, so that he remained insensible for several hours. Then D. R. Anthony telegraphed a highly colored account of it all over the country. We have long indulged the fond hope that Jennison and Anthony would one day come into contact, and kill each other, and thus both become public benefactors.

☞ Congressman Lowe has gone to Colorado, on a pleasure trip. Farmers who are selling corn at 15 cents per bushel, to raise money to meet the additional taxes consequent upon the salary steal, are not going to Colorado.

Mr. Mahan's Letter.

In this issue, we print Rev. Mr. Mahan's article, which contains some points to which we wish to reply, or submit explanations. We can do no better than to take them as they occur in the article.

To begin with, we will say that the "bitter and unseemly controversy" was not of our seeking, but was literally forced upon us, without provocation on our part. Rather than get into a newspaper quarrel, we passed them by in silence, while they were constantly assailing us in the meanest manner, until even our friends began to think that we feared to strike back. Being forced in, we propose to fight it to the bitter end, and those who do not wish to see, must shut their eyes and turn aside. We haven't got fairly commenced yet.

We repeat what we said before, that we did not abuse the Methodist Church in general, or of Kansas in particular, in exposing some of the black sheep who are carrying on their low practices while entrenched within its pale; and he must be very touchy upon the subject of church pride, who will insist upon it, after we have taken the trouble to explain what we did mean. But more on this subject hereafter.

As to the matter of the decline of Methodism, we have this to say: Something of the kind was discussed by the Preachers' Association of the Church in New York, and was widely commented upon by the press. Mr. Mahan admits that the newspaper reporters, through carelessness, made it appear that the decline was general. Now, as we get our information from the newspapers, on public topics of the day, it is not at all strange that we should be misled by the statement, as well as others. No doubt Mr. Mahan's statement is correct, that the decline, or rather the non-increase, was only in New York City. Still, we cannot be expected to say, "I was mistaken," for we were not—it was the papers that originally put forth the report that were mistaken.

The extract which we quoted, did not say that Dr. Newman lived in New York; and it is immaterial to the question, where he does live. The point was, that he endorsed Pomeroy as a God-fearing man. We can say, in reply to Mr. Mahan, that we *did* endorse Pomeroy, in preference to any candidate who was named against him, with any hope of success; and we furthermore say, that we do the same thing to-day, in the face of all that has since transpired. We believe he would be of more service to Kansas than all of them combined, even if he did look out for Pomeroy's interest. But we did not endorse him as a God-fearing man, for we never believed that he worried himself much on the subject. When a man is up for office, we never inquire into his God-fearing qualities. In fact, there is a vast deal of humbug in this God-fearing business. Thomas Jefferson was called an Infidel; yet we would trust him in office in preference to a one hundred and sixty acre field full of some public men we know of, who bear the reputation of being God-fearing. In fact, when a man parades his God-fearing principles as an argument why he should be elected to office, a thousand chances to one that he is bogus, and had better be left out. Now, don't accuse us of want of respect for God-fearing men; for if you should, you would be mistaken.

In regard to the matter of a Methodist Conference being induced to send a preacher to a particular circuit for the purpose of doing political work, we cannot but think that our Rev. friend is trying to split hairs. We intended to express no such idea as that the Conference or the Bishop knowingly sent a preacher for any such purpose; but that he may have no excuse to misunderstand it, we still say that a Conference was induced to send a preacher to a certain circuit, the principal object of desiring him on that circuit, (but concealed from the Conference,) being for political influence. If we should borrow a jug, or some other domestic utensil, from Mr. Mahan, and put it to an improper use, of which he had no thought while lending it, he certainly would not be to blame, although our real object in borrowing it might have been for that very improper object. Now, if we are not understood, we will try again. With this explanation, we repeat that we tell the truth. If it is not the truth, at least a political co-worker of that preacher told it to us, as a "good thing," and he was highly tickled over it. If it is shown to us that this is not so, we will not say that we were mistaken, but we will say that a member of the preacher's political faction, who does not care a snap for the Methodist Church, but relies strongly upon the political service the preacher can do, has lied to us unconscionably. But whether the statement of the reason for desiring his return to the circuit be true or false, we know that we are *not* mistaken as to his action in certain matters, which would have been considered disreputable even in a confirmed political shyster. A preacher has a right to express and act out his political opinions, but he is very much out of his place, when he comes down to trickery and skulduggery in the local squabbles between two divisions of his own party, both advocating the same political principles.

It is wholly useless for Mr. Mahan to name over the list of Methodist preachers of Doniphan County, and ask which one we meant; and it is just as unnecessary for us to answer the question. He knows we did not mean him, for we have told him whom we did mean. Every man in the list who was not meant, knows it; the one who was meant, knows it; and everybody else who knows anything about this controversy, knows who was meant. We therefore refrain from naming him; for, aside from the one matter which we have charged, we have not a word to say against him, and wish him well.

So, let us have no more eloquent indignation on account of the Kansas Conference, or Bishop Scott. We admit all that is said in their behalf, and it is entirely superfluous to say "I did not mean them." In fact, we said it weeks ago, but some persons would insist upon misunderstanding it.

If Mr. Mahan should stay here one year, he would find out what the Methodist Church has to do with the "Post Office Clique" and the "Sol. Miller Clique." He would find that wires are regularly laid to "run" the Methodist vote, and that members of the Church engage in it. We know that there are very many members of the Church who cannot be bamboozled in any such a way; but there are others who can be and are fooled by the schemes. Let Mr. Mahan inquire of Methodists at White Cloud, and they will tell him that at last Falls's election, a lecherous old villian, who leans toward that Church, (he belonged to it when he thought the devil had him by the throat,) went into the houses of Methodists, and urged them to come out and vote against the ticket which we supported, in order to "beat the Sol. Miller Clique." He went into the house of a Methodist, and fastened on to Rev. Mr. Smith with this argument, and the lady of the house promptly ordered him off the premises. The same demagoguery is practiced upon Methodists at every election, and by Methodists, at that. If many resist their efforts, so much to their credit; but do not tell us that plans are not laid to control the Methodist vote, *as such*. Still, your invocation is not amiss—"The Lord have mercy on Kansas!"

Mr. Mahan grows slightly facetous in quoting the paragraph wherein we say that certain leading lights in the Church, who set themselves up as public teachers, are guilty of divers sins; and he then proceeds to name the class-leaders and Trustees of the Church, and to inquire wether we meant them. The persons he names are, Col. Johnston, Charles Rappelye, Wm. Monroe, Dr. Reeder, and B. F. Calloway. It looks as if he intended getting off a little joke on those staid members of his congregation. We dare say that neither one of them has lost any sleep from apprehension that they were meant—nay, even if we should here say that we meant them, every one of them would know that we were telling an untruth. But we certainly did not say we referred to Class-leaders or teachers in the Church—we said *public* teachers. It seems that, in this connection, we were also misunderstood. We thought we were speaking of Doniphan County, and not Troy circuit alone. In mentioning things that had been witnessed right here among us, we surely did not intend to confine it to the corporate limits of Troy.

If our Rev. friend thinks it necessary that we should go back to the first establishment of Troy Circuit, and disclaim reference to all the preachers who have ever labored here, in detail, we may as well go back to the foundation, and state distinctly that we did not mean John Wesley, George Whitefield, Bishop Asbury, Peter Cartwright, or Barbara Heck.

We decline just now saying whom we meant, that were weaving webs for the seduction of sisters, as that would necessitate the naming of all the parties. From the best information we can obtain, they did not "make the rifle," and therefore the sisters are not guilty. But there is more truth than poetry in it, and it may yet make more fun than is dreamed of.

But we will name some parties. We spoke of members of the church, "who have set themselves up as public teachers, permitting themselves to be made the abject tools of corrupt and dissipated men, doing their bidding, and pandering to their iniquities; and slandering their neighbors in both public and private circles." Newpaper editors assume to be public teachers. Beale and Sanborn have done what is charged above. Their paper has teemed with lies and slanders for months past, and they have been just as busy in retailing such things in private circles. No doubt you have heard the slanders from their lips. They are the tools, the very *property*, of a man who upholds and patronizes, yea, owns saloons and saloon keepers; who relies upon whiskey and other corrupt influences to carry all his ends; who surrounds himself with rowdies and depraved creatures, and is called a "King" among them; who forces men who are at his mercy, to vote, not their sentiments, but as he dictates—but our paper contains only twenty-eight columns, and we must cease the enumeration. They do the bidding of this man, and dare not express a sentiment contrary to his commands, under the penalty of being crushed out. If he should command them never to refer to Rev. Mr. Mahan, or to cast foul slurs upon him, they would not dare to disobey. It is because we are warring against this one-man tyranny, this bullying of the people of the County, and this thwarting and crushing out of the will of the people of the whole County, by means of riff-raff offscourings organized in every locality of the County, and who have nothing else to do, while honest men are working for a living—we say, it is because we are warring against this imposition, that these men, Beale and Sanborn, are commanded to keep the sluices of their filth constantly turned upon us, and which command they obey as blindly and implicitly as the black eunuchs carry out the orders of the royal master of an Oriental harem. If they are not members of the Church, and some one will correct us, we will cheerfully say, "*I am mistaken.*"

We have tried to answer or explain everything that required it. If there are still any doubts, we are willing to try again. But whether we have made everything plain or not, we are confident Mr. Mahan will admit that we have not "abused and slandered him beyond measure."

We are glad that we started this breeze, if for no other reason, than that it has agitated an evil that has long been practiced, and will have a tendency to arouse good men to investigate, and see whether they are acting according to their sentiments, or are being unconsciously used by designing men for their own selfish purposes.

About Bribery.—The *Republican*, with its usual truth and knowledge of the subject, says we had to be bribed on the County Seat question. For information, we refer the editors of the *Republican* to H. C. Hawkins and Charles Rappelye, both particular friends of their paper, and whose word they cannot dispute. We received not a cent from Troy, except for printing done—not editorials written by ourself, but extra printing. Mr. Hawkins made the arrangement with us, and paid us every dollar of money we received. And this arrangement was not made until we had distinctly and unequivocally taken sides with Troy. Our first communication on the County Seat question was with Mr. Rappelye, to whom we stated that we were in favor of Troy, first, last, and all the time—and this was before receiving any promises of patronage or anything else.

Of course, you will not ask Hawkins and Rappelye; or if you do, you will not tell the people what they say. You prefer to lie upon and scandalize men who stood by Troy when she needed help, because they will not stand back for you, who have come in after the heat and burden are past, and let you lick up the gravy.

☞ The last *Republican* makes a long-winded and labored effort to creep out of its attempt to dictate to the farmers, and to saddle it upon us, as usual. In our article exposing the *Republican's* scheme, we did not say a word of what the *Chief* would do. We said the farmers would find enough help outside of their organizations, to carry them through. So that the *Republican* has had all its bother for nothing. The farmers thoroughly understand and appreciate the implied threat of the *Republican*. One of the speakers, on Saturday, gave it a pretty hard dab, when he alluded to a certain local paper that had asserted that the farmers were only one-seventh of the population, and endeavored to intimidate them with the threat that they could not carry an election without the help of the political tricksters who claim to carry the vote of the County in their breeches pockets. That was a lick right between the eyes, and we hope to see more of them dealt square from the shoulder.

☞ Yard, of the White Cloud *Leader*, was on the pic-nic ground, Saturday, poking his paper under the noses of the people there assembled, and claiming it as the organ of the farmers' movement in this County. The other papers in the County were encouraging the farmers' movement long before they ever heard of Yard or his *Leader*; but the publishers have never made a practice of sneaking around where the farmers had collected for business or enjoyment, and boring them to subscribe, thus showing that their only concern for the farmers' movement was to importune a few dollars out of them.

☞ Congressman Cobb sends us a Kansas City paper, containing a string of bombast and egotism, which he calls a card relative to his libel suit with Taylor, of the *Gazette*. Taylor also asks editors to express themselves on one side or the other. We prefer to await the result of the trial. If Taylor is beaten, he must take the consequences; but if he proves his charges against Cobb, he may depend upon us doing our share in keeping the facts before the public.

☞ Capt. Henry King, long chief editor of the Topeka *Commonwealth*, has become sole owner of the establishment. Prouty says that his failure to be elected State Printer played him out, and left the concern under such a load of debt, that a sale was its only salvation. The *Commonwealth* is a fixed institution, and will maintain a leading position among the newspapers of the West.

☞ An investigation shows that the Auditor and Treasurer of Fairfield County, Ohio, are defaulters to the nice little tune of $142,000. From time immemorial, Fairfield County has given from 1,500 to 2,000 Democratic majority; so that there is no room to call this a Radical steal.

☞ We acknowledge the receipt of a card to the Kansas State Fair, to be held at Topeka, from the 22d to the 26th of September.

A Certificate of Character.—One Josephus Utt publishes a certificate of character in the last *Republican*, from Constable Cochran. A certificate of character from a Constable is rather an equivocal compliment; but from this particular Constable, it is unusually rich. Mr. Cochran has always been an outspoken Democrat, without any disguise. The pathetic story of how Utt urged this Democrat to stick to the Republican ticket, and not bolt on personal grounds, is a little too thin, even for this warm weather. There are hundreds of men in the County, who know how deep Utt's Republicanism runs. They remember when he was a candidate on the Pro-Slavery ticket, against a Republican nominee. Why, the first time we ever saw him, he was escorting a Border Ruffian candidate for Sheriff, and using his "influence" in his favor.

It is notorious to every body in and out of White Cloud, that this Utt's hatred of us is so intense, that he makes it a point always to vote contrary to the way we vote—and he did this in the case of Maquilken. In July, 1871, on a petition of citizens, he was ousted from the Post-office at White Cloud. He at once laid the blame upon us; but after investigating, and procuring a list of the petitioners from the Department at Washington, he failed to find our name in any way connected with it. Then he let loose the vials of his wrath, because we did not step in and prevent his removal; and he has so constantly nursed and fed this wrath ever since, that it has grown into a species of insanity. If Constable Cochran would do this poor maniac a favor, instead of signing a certificate of character, he would deposit him in a public gaol or mad-house for medical treatment, as he did the poor sun-struck man whom he picked up on the streets.

Important Decision—Speedy and Effectual Remedy.—A new and important question of railroad law was determined at this August term of District Court in Washington County—Judge Wilson presiding. About two years ago, the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad Company entered upon the lands of Charles T. Callender and John Dunnick, lying in that County, under the railroad law of this State, had appraisers appointed, and the damages to the land assessed, for the right of way across these lands; and deposited the amount of damages awarded, ($60 in one case, and $90 in the other,) according to law. Callender and Dunnick appealed from this award to the District Court, and the cases were tried by a jury; W. D. Webb, of this city, for the appellants; Doniphan & Brumbaugh for the R. R. Co. A judgment of $800, was recovered against the company in the Dunnick case, and $1,400 in the Callender case. Neither of the judgments were paid, nor the money deposited to secure their payment.

Last spring, Mr. Webb commenced ejectment against the Railrord Company, to recover the possession of the land, over which the road runs; and judgment for the possession of the land was rendered in both cases, in favor of the plaintiffs, at the term of Court just closed in Washington County.

Mark the Sneaks!—The White Cloud *Leader*, while assuming to be the organ of the farmers' movement in this County, is the mouth-piece, the groom and beslaverer of the clique head ed by *Hon.* M. B. Bowers, who voted in the Legislature, (and afterwards boasted of it,) for the exemption of mortgages from taxation—the worst law for the farmers that was ever enacted in the State. It was designed to exempt capitalists and wealthy moneyed corporations from taxes, thus throwing an additional burden on the farmers. While the capitalist holds the farmer's land in his grasp, at a ruinous rate of interest, the farmer has to pay double on that same land, to make up for the exemption of the man who holds the mortgage. The *Leader* has never denounced this vote of Bowers, and dare not do it. It fills its columns with long-winded essays on the transportation question in Illinois, and with bosh to humbug the farmers, while puffing and truckling to the men who have dealt the heaviest blows to the farmers of Kansas that they have ever received. Come out, you dirty, sneaking fraud, and show your hands on questions that concern the farmers of Doniphan County, before slipping around and begging their support, upon the plea that you are their organ.

☞ The White Cloud *Leader* refers to its editors' services in the war of the rebellion, and contrasts them with ours. We know that one of the editors of the *Leader* did good service in the army, for he has told us of it himself. According to his statement, as to the length of time he was engaged in the different branches of service, the rebellion lasted about fifteen years; and adding his other adventures and exploits, he is at least three hundred and fifty years old. But experience has demonstrated that some men who went into the army, were a good deal more damage to the country than those who staid at home.

☞ The last White Cloud *Leader* devotes another long editorial to telling the farmers what a mean fellow we are. But that is what it was imported for, and it must fulfill its mission. It requires a good deal of presumption for a couple of adventurers, whose faces even are against them, to light down in Doniphan County, and pitch in giving the farmers their orders, and warning them against persons whom they have known ever since Kansas was Kansas. Better attend to collecting your little quarterage.

☞ The *Republican* has done enough overstrained labor to deliver a range of mountains of a litter of mice, in the Maquilken-Shonyo matter. And after all, the fact remains, that it was simply an effort to annoy and persecute a faithful officer for discharging his duty, simply because he had refused to knuckle down to the one-man power. The *Republican's* columns of dirt-eating cannot alter the fact.

☞ A dreadful accident occurred on the St. Louis, Alton and Chicago Railroad, 22 miles from Chicago, Saturday night, by the collision of a passenger train with a coal train. A large number of persons were killed or scalded to death, and many others fatally injured. The name of Jacob Klose appears among the fatally wounded. We do not know whether this is one of the Highland Kloses or not.

☞ Judge F. G. Adams has become chief editor of the Atchison *Globe*. He is a gentleman of ability and experience, and will redeem the character of the *Globe*. This is the most sensible move the stockholders of the *Globe* have been known to make. Now we are glad that we have re-established an exchange with the *Globe*.

☞ It will require mighty close picking for any one to go over the inside of last week's *Republican*, both the editorial and local pages, and find one item the burden of which is not the *Chief*. This variety must be pleasing to the readers of that sheet. But last week was its regular sick week.

☞ The Topeka *Blade* has the back-bone to oppose the voting of bonds to another railroad project in that County, for which it is being soundly berated. The bonds will probably be voted; but the people will conclude the *Blade* was about right, when they return to their cool senses.

☞ We have received the first number of the Junction City *Tribune*, published by Theodore Albord and H. N. Farey. It is an eight-column sheet, well got up. We trust there is a demand in Junction for this new venture, and that the boys may make it win.

☞ George N. Sanders, who was notorious during the war for his Canada peace negotiations, in connection with Horace Greeley, died last week, in New York.

☞ Gov. Osborn is travelling over the southern part of the State, in search of the Benders. They bend mostly in the direction of the United States Senate.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(For the Chief.)

Troy, Kansas, August 3, 1873.

Sol. Miller, Esq.—*Dear Sir*:—In your issue of the *Kansas Chief* of July 24th, an editorial appeared entitled "Decline of Methodism," which most undoubtedly (whether intended or not) cast unjust aspersions upon the M. E. Church as an organization, the Kansas Conference and Bishop Scott inferentially, and Doniphan County Methodism most especially; and trusting in that spirit of "fair play" which characterizes journalists, I most respectfully request a place in your columns, in order that, in a plain but courteous manner, I may defend my church and people; a request which I doubt not your sense of justice will lead you to grant most cheerfully.

I will premise by saying, that no Bishop or Conference sent me here for any political purpose whatever; that I went here for any political purpose whatever; that I never heard of your town until my name was announced in connection with it as the pastor of the M. E. Church; that I am not now, nor do I expect to ever become, a voter in this State, as I am now making my arrangements to remove to Iowa; and as I came to Kansas last March, I have had no opportunity (had I even any disposition so to do) to take any part in those disgraceful squabbles, which have been the reproach of our political party in this County, and other sections of the State, rendering Kansas politics an anomalous thing, an enigma that we new-comers can with difficulty comprehend. Furthermore, as regards the bitter and unseemly controversy which has raged for months between you and the editors of the "*Republican*," I have nothing to say, but what scores of good citizens are saying: that "it is neither pleasant nor entertaining reading;" and certainly both papers would rise in the estimation of all people of correct taste, by henceforth ignoring personalities, and substituting items of a more elevating character. I say these things in kindness, and hope they may be received in the same spirit.

But to return to the article I propose reviewing—you remarked:

"It seems that this great, wide-awake, go-ahead church, that was wont to be always on the alert, and that served for so many years as the very outpost and picket-guard of advancing civilization, is actually on the decline, and so alarmingly on the decline, that their papers are discussing it; and the Preachers' Association of the church in New York City has had it under advisement."

Then you add: "One writer on the subject gives his views thus:" Then follows a very severe and caustic article, accusing our leading men, both lay and clerical, of grasping avariciousness, venality and cupidity, which prompt them to prostitute religion to aggrandize themselves, from "*Dr. Newman, who endorses Pomeroy as a God-fearing Christian*, down to the exhorter at the evening prayer meeting, who tells with such unction how much religion has improved his prospects, &c."

Now, my friend, I admit that you are much better versed in Kansas politics than I am, or ever desire to be, but in regard to Methodism and the Methodist Episcopal Church, I presume I am quite capable of teaching you some things that you are evidently ignorant of.

You certainly are far from being posted, or you would never have written what you did, or endorsed the bitter article which you quote, written (as you are well aware) by no friend of Methodism, nor appearing in any Methodist paper, but which you say "*Hits the nail squarely on the head.*" That is, provided you desired to treat our church with that fairness which should ever characterize a public journalist, whose mission is to teach truth, and give public sentiment a correct bias.

Now, sir, I emphatically deny that Methodism is on the decline, and furthermore, I deny that the Preachers' Association of New York City, ever had such a question as the decline of Methodism before them for discussion, apart from their own city, where it seems that Methodism has not kept pace during the last two decades with the increase of the population; though neither numerically, socially, intellectually, or spiritually, has there been any actual decline.

True, in New York City, we have a Preachers' Association, which meets weekly for the purpose of conferring in regard to their pastoral work, and the best methods of building up the cause of Christ. It is also true, that an animated discussion did transpire at one of their meetings, with regard to what some considered the humiliating fact, that during the past 16 years, we had not increased relatively with the population—our numbers in the city being but little in excess of what they were 16 years ago; but nobody (as I am aware) discussed or thought of discussing "*The decline of Methodism*," either with reference to the State, Nation or World at large; though some of the secular papers, whose reporters were present, saw proper, with characteristic carelessness, to so state the matter, and thus caused considerable discussion among newspapers upon this subject.

The *Christian Register*, of Boston, a Unitarian journal, remarks:

"Some of the New York papers, both daily and weekly, have been discussing the strange question, '*is Methodism declining?*' We should as soon have thought of such topics of debate as '*How do you account for the weakness of the German Empire?*' or '*what has impoverished the Rothschilds?*' If the Methodist church is not progressing, there is no such thing as ecclesiastical prosperity. But the New York skeptics insist that there is a falling off in the rapid increase of this denomination; because in cities, at least, as the *Observer* suggests, it does not address itself so much to the masses, but has built magnificent temples for worship, conformed in ceriminial to the fashion of the times, and become in many of its features, as prim and pretentious as the proupest Presbyterians in the city."

I regret that I have not the "general minutes" for a number of years back, so as to give exact statistics of Methodism in all the large cities of the country. Some statistics I will give, and will vouch for their accuracy. The Newark Conference, New Jersey, occupies territory contiguous to New York. I give a table exhibiting statistics concerning the M. E. Church in all the large towns in said conference, with the exception of Rahway:

	No. of Mem. in 1863.	No. of Mem. in 1873.	Ing. for Decade.
			Per cent.
Newark,	2,655	3,650	37 47-100
Old Jersey City,	860	1,146	33 46-100
Paterson,	705	1,360	93 74-100
Plainfield,	193	324	67
Elizabeth,	403	624	57 83-100
Orange,	250	380	52
Morristown,	270	495	83 33-100
Jersey C. Heights,	340	1,006	188 26-100
Hoboken,	185	261	40 64-100

In Philadelphia we had, in 1850, a membership of about 12,000; in 1870, upwards of 19,000; last March, 21,000. In 1850, had 40 churches and pastors, in 1873, we have 70 churches and pastors. The increase of the entire population since 1850, has been 67 per cent.; the increase of Methodism, 76 per cent. Is this declension?

In Baltimore, we have had great sectional difficulties to encounter, as the M. E. Church sustained the government cordially during the war. We had some 12,000 members there before the rebellion, and we have held our own, and made an increase commensurate with the growth of the city, if you count the M. E. Church South, the M. Protestant, and A. M. E. Church, all as essentially Methodist as ourselves. In Boston, we have made a very respectable advance numerically; although the same causes which have retarded our rapid growth in New York City, operates with almost equal force in Boston; and we defy any enemy of the church to point to a single flourishing city in the United States, where Methodism is weaker to-day than she was 10 years ago.

You may travel in any direction, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Selkirk's Land and northern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and where will you find the settlement where Methodism is not? And everywhere, with few local exceptions, she is bold, vigorous, and aggressive; her banners floating proudly to the breeze, her living soldiers standing in serried ranks, either resting on their arms, or with shouts of victory pressing back the host of sin.

If you will turn to the United States census report, you will find that the Methodists have 21,337 churches, valued at $69,845,121, and with seating accommodations for 6,387,207 hearers. The Baptists have 12,875 churches, costing $39,229,221, seating 3,997,116 hearers. The Presbyterians have 5,638 churches, worth $47,226,732, seating 2,198,900 hearers. The Roman Catholics, 3,806 churches, worth $60,985,566, seating 1,117,212 hearers. The Protestant Episcopal, 2,021 churches, worth $36,514,549, seating 891,051 hearers.

The increase of church property between 1860 and 1870 was as follows, viz: Methodist, $36,760,750; Baptist, $19,429,843; Presbyterian $23,610,373; Roman Catholic, $34,211,447; Congregationalist, $11,742,187; Protestant Episcopal, $14,448,857. Do these figures exhibit a decline? our church property increasing upwards of 100 per cent. in a single decade. I think not.

The membership of the M. E. Church, in 1863, was 881,000; in 1873, we number 1,400,000—an increase of 59 per cent. The population of the country has increased in the same period 36 per cent. Is there any declension here? The M. E. Church South, the A. M. Episcopal, and the Evangelical Alliance, all essentially Methodist, have made great progress in the same period, and this combined Methodist family number in the United States alone, 2,700,000 actual members.

In 1860, the M. E. Church contributed for missions $250,000; in 1872, we gave upwards of $650,000 for the same purpose; and this year, will make a further advance. Certainly there is no declension here. Last year, we gave to the church extension society $137,980.88, and in the past seven years, have given said society $360,000. Now, ten years ago, we had no such society. Here is progress, instead of declension.

Our colleges have also, in the past ten years, multiplied rapidly, and with but few exceptions, have enjoyed, from year to year, increasing prosperity.

In 1869, we had 16,193 Sunday schools, with 169,659 officers and teachers, 1,179,219 scholars; expended to run the schools $439,210. In said year, we had 17,944 schools, 192,197 officers and teachers, 1,250,493 scholars, expenses of schools $498,773.19.