Indiana State Sentinel.

WEEKLY EDITION.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

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The State Debt Bill.

We perceive that there are apprehensions of a vague kind in the minds of some persons, who have not given the proposed amendments a particular examination, that these amendments propose to change the important features of the original bill. For the purpose of setting this matter in its true light, we propose to analyze the amendments, for the purpose of discriminating between those provisions which are purely matters of detail, and those which are new.

The first *nineteen* sections of the amendments providing for the issuance of certificates, the subscriptions to the canal fund, distribution of the trust funds, mode of electing and removing trustees, selection of bankers, security of the stock and funds, and calls for instalments of subscriptions; are merely *details* of the original act, *with the exceptions following*, viz: that the amount of the cash subscription, the time when it shall be closed and the time when the act shall take effect are changed; and a further priority is given to subscribers; also a less amount of bonds surrendered, is made necessary, for the act to take effect, and provision is made for exchange of sterling and 6 per cent. bonds, and that all or any of the trustees may be instantly removed for misconduct or inefficiency. The 20th, 21st and 22d sections relate to *details* of no special importance. The 23d section provides that in the sale of lands, the *majority* of the trustees shall decide as in other cases. The 24th section amends certain sections of the original act, all of which are details of no special consequence, *excepting* amendment J, providing that the State shall fix the salary of the trustee appointed by her, and the subscribers shall fix the salaries of the trustees appointed by them; and amendment K. striking out the provision in sec. 28 of the original act requiring the trustees to keep bridges in repair, it being understood that no such obligation now rests upon the State. The 25th section is *detail*, relating to the mode of exchanging bonds, excepting that it may involve a small expense. The 26th section *in furtherance of the new subscription*, provides for raising further funds by the subscribers among themselves, and an extension of time not over two years, if necessary, for the completion of the canal. The 27th section guaranties the sacredness of the trust; and the 28th is the same as the 20th section of the original act.

Thus it will be seen that the *important* provisions of the new bill are,—for the division of the principal of the debt under sec. 32 of the original act,—the priority to subscribers,—the change of the subscription,—the exchange of sterling and 6 per cent. stock,—the power of a majority of trustees to act in all cases as in the 17th section of the original act, without the exception there mentioned,—and the mode of fixing the salaries of trustees.

It is represented that the *priority* to the subscribers asked for, is necessary to bring in those bondholders who are inclined to avail themselves of the benefit of advances made by others, without bearing their proportion of the burthen. If sufficient time is allowed for *all* bondholders to come in, there can be no objection on the part of the State to this provision.

It will be seen that all the changes proposed, relate to the canal part of the arrangement. If the amendments are adopted, the result will be *the equal division of the debt, principal and interest, between the State and the canal, and the completion of the canal, without occasioning any increase of taxation*, above that contemplated in the original act.

Great Flood.

We alluded, in our paper of Saturday, to the great quantity of rain which had fallen during the two preceding days; but we did not then half realize the extent of what may be truly regarded as a great calamity. This has since been made manifest in the overflow of every stream in this vicinity, and the inundation of the town. The waters have never been known to be so high before. Some of the principal streets of the town were changed into canals of rapidly running water; and damage has been done by the filling of cellars, &c. But the most disastrous effects have occurred in West Indianapolis. For the width of a mile, the whole is inundated, and the water surges over the National road in a raging torrent. The high grade of the road has been washed away in some places, and several houses have been lifted from their foundations and floated across the road down stream. The East bank of the river, in the vicinity of the graveyards, has been washed away to the extent of fifty feet or more, and is still wearing away rapidly, and the water is within a few feet of the fence of the lower graveyard.

The Canal is broken in several places. The Aqueduct over Fall creek is either washed away or very much damaged,—reports being contradictory. The culvert at Pogue's run is entirely gone, and the run has made a clear breach through the canal at that place. Immense quantities of the canal banks are washing away at other points.

We have heard of families some miles distant from town, who had retreated to the roofs of their houses, where they had to remain for many hours for the want of the means of rescue. Some are reported to have been drowned; but we are not in possession of well authenticated facts on this point.

Our worthy citizen, Nicholas McCarty, will be a great loser, as he had many thousand bushels of corn in the river bottom; but he will not lose his all as many others will.

All the inhabitants of West Indianapolis and its vicinity, with a single exception, were obliged to evacuate their houses, and in most instances before they had time to remove their effects. A large amount of these will be destroyed or greatly injured; and the sufferers are of that condition least able to repair the loss.

From the best information we have been able to obtain, we suppose that not less than twelve inches of water, on a level, fell during the space of forty-eight hours.

TAMPICO.—There are, at present, about 800 American troops at this place, enjoying quiet possession. It contains some 15,000 inhabitants, and it is from here that the famous Tampico Guarda Costa, of Resaca memory, came. On one side of the town there is a river, on the other a lagoon. In a word, it is susceptible of the very strongest defence. There are several works here, which, together, command the town and approaches.

☞The hurricane which occurred in Cuba on the 11th October destroyed 1275 houses and injured 1038.

Common Schools.

We sometimes ask ourselves the serious question, whether all the zeal professed by members of the Legislature in behalf of common schools, is sheer affectation. It is apparent that *some of them* hate colleges so cordially, that they would go out of their way to kick a Sophomore, and would injure the school fund for the sake of ruining a college; and it would seem that the same dislike actually exists against the common schools, and that, like Jack Cade, they would be glad to catch every fellow who can read and write, and hang him with his inkhorn by his side. True, so far as *professions* go, these men love the very moss that grows on a log school house, and nobody but themselves desires to see the children of the people instructed; but let a proposition come up for the benefit of common schools, and they are among the very first to oppose it.

We will give a single instance. A proposition had been introduced into the House, to "change the present law in relation to the time of making returns of the number, attendance, &c., of children in the common schools." The present law provides for these returns to be made in the winter, after the close of the session of the Legislature. If the time could be changed to the fall, and a provision adopted to compel the proper officers to make the returns, the Legislature would be fully informed on the subject, and could act intelligently; while as the law now is, these returns are not made, and the Legislature are left in ignorance of the actual condition of the schools of the State, and of the state of its funds. Yet the committee on education reported it inexpedient to change the time of making reports, and the House concurred in the report of the committee. We hope in common charity, that the House were not informed in regard to the object of the proposed change, but they should inform themselves before they act upon a question in relation to which their constituents will hold them to a strict account; the question of giving efficiency to the common school system. It is our belief, as we have before stated, that a few additional provisions will effect this object; and we shall look with interest to see if the Legislature will discharge its duty in this respect, or whether its action will evaporate in mere professions.

THE ANTI-WAR DEBATE IN THE STATE SENATE.—We very much regret that our reporter in the Senate omitted to sketch the debate which took place in the Senate on the 31st ult., on the subject of the Mexican war, and which sprung up on the question of printing a report of a standing committee, presented by Mr. Read, concurring in the sentiments of the Governor's message on the subject. But in order to exhibit the position taken by some of the Whig Senators, and also for the purpose of correcting an erroneous statement of the speaker, in regard to the State Sentinel, we extract from the State Journal of the 4th inst., the remarks of Mr. Holloway, as follows:

Mr. Holloway remarked, that no expressions of toryism and federalism could deter him from expressing his opinions. It was true that he was bound to the Whig party by "hooks of steel," but when that party should depart from the path of honor, justice, and duty, he would be bound to the party no longer; and he believed the declarations of President Polk and James Whitcomb, that the territory of the United States was invaded and blood shed upon American soil, to be untrue in every respect. Mr. H. declared that he believed the declaration of war to have been unholy, and though he was willing to engage in a just war, in defence of his country's rights, he could never sanction one that was unjust and unholy as the present war. Mr. H. then spoke of the effects of the present war upon the prosperity and perpetuity of this republic, which would, if the conquest of the territory of Mexico should be completed, rend this Union into fragments. He believed it but carrying out the foul conspiracy of Aaron Burr, by Samuel Houston and President Polk, and would end, at last, in the dissolution of the Union. He was opposed to spending the money of the people in printing a report that presented a false issue before the people.

Mr. Holloway made some further remarks in answer to the Senator from Vigo. He then spoke of our rights to the disputed territory upon the Rio Grande, and showed the condition of Santa Anna when he was forced to sign a treaty with Texas. He then spoke of the position which the Editors of the State Sentinel, in March, 1844, assumed in regard to the annexation of Texas—men who were the head and shoulders of the Democratic party, and who wielded more influence than any half dozen politicians of that party—and also, in respect to the proceedings of a Democratic meeting in this city, denouncing the authors of that measure, and asserting their determination to resist the traitorous design, *even unto to death*—and then taking the whole back in the short space of a few months! Here Mr. H. read from an article in the Sentinel and declared that whatever Senators might think of his views upon the subject, he was not the man to solemnly asseverate certain principles, and then back out from them, or take them back in the short space of a few months."

The remarks of Mr. Holloway, in the second paragraph of the above extract, in relation to the State Sentinel and the Resolutions passed by the Democratic Club in 1844, are based upon a total misapprehension of the real sentiments which were intended to be expressed by each. So far from opposing the annexation of Texas, they emphatically condemned the policy of Tyler, in his supposed attempt to turn the question into a Presidential hobby, for his own benefit, as calculated to *prevent* or *delay* annexation, and to lose us the whole or a part of Oregon also. The latter result did happen, and as we now think, as a consequence of Tyler's folly in relation to the Texas measure.

This matter has before been frequently misrepresented, but we have never thought it worth while to go into a lengthy exposition. We have not time to do it now; but may hereafter, should a favorable occasion present itself. We shall now content ourselves by saying that we were not only always, and without the least hesitation, in favor of the annexation of Texas; but we are now and always have been in favor of the ultimate union with our Confederacy of the entire territory of North America as fast as it may, any of it, be ready to apply for admission

☞We are willing to gratify "the young men about town," by giving them a reasonable space in our columns, either to expose humbug or to excoriate humbuggers. But they should not forget that we require such communications to be brief and sententious in phraseology, and that they shall approximate to something like correctness in *style*. Words ought to be used only to express *ideas*, and they should be pointed and direct. We abominate a long, attenuated rigmarole of mere *words*.

We admit a reply to "Backwoodsman" to-day, more upon the principle of "audi alteram partem," than because of its coming within the rule above alluded to. Such phrases, for instance, as "pass into *transient oblivion* and there study refinement of manners,"—"malevolence of his *surcharged* heart,"—"*propel* his denunciation,"—"extensiveness of visitation,"—"innately operative imaginations," "law woven around," &c. &c.—are perfectly abominable. Let the writer take a piece of good advice from us, and never hereafter attempt to write while riding on *horseback!* He would not *talk* in the way in which he has written his communication. If he had written as he would have *talked*, he would have escaped all these violations of good taste and good sense.

☞In consequence of the high waters the mails ceased almost entirely during the past few days. In some instances large masses of papers have been returned to the post office.

Heads of the House.

BY NEMO.

JOHN YARYAN, the Representative from Union, is a gentleman of very considerable information and ability. As a debater, he is strong in argument and happy in illustration; and whenever occasion requires, he can call to his aid the keen edge of sarcasm with great effect. His vigor of thought enables him to master his subject and enforce his opinions with an energy which few can withstand. He is vindictive in his resentments, and rather liable to prejudice; yet if not under the influence of excitement, his moral sense, naturally strong, eventually gains the ascendency. Few men have in so short a time succeeded in wielding the amount of influence in a legislative body, which he possesses.

BENJAMIN WOLFE, from Sullivan, is a bold, energetic and honorable man. He is probably not accustomed to public speaking, and therefore does not attract much notice upon the floor of the House. Yet he is a man of strong masculine sense, singularly original in his conceptions, fruitful in resources, and decided in his opinions. Obstacles and opposition, instead of dampening his ardor, only incite him to increased effort. His force of will, however, borders on obstinacy, giving him at times the character of a partizan; yet his views are in general liberal, and his intentions are just. Farther experience in public life, will give him an opportunity to exert that influence he is so well calculated to wield.

MAGNUS T. CARNAHAM, from Posey, is also a new member. He is a gentleman of decided capacity, cool and sagacious in judgment, and attentive to his duties as a representative of the public interests. His sense of public duty, arising from his strong moral sense, is his governing principle of action; and he is one of the few, from whose minds the idea of responsibility to conscience and their constituents, is never absent. Such a man will never fritter away in useless debate, the time which should be devoted to the transaction of business.

JACOB B. JULIAN, one of the members from Wayne, is a gentleman of enlarged views and extensive information. There is a justness in his conceptions, which gives to all he says, the appearance of sincerity and earnestness. He is a fine speaker, and is not disposed to destroy the effect of what he has to say, by speaking too frequently. It is very difficult for a person of ardent temperament, who is inexperienced in legislation, to resist the temptation to speak oftener than is profitable; yet it is the surest mode of destroying one's influence. It is to be hoped that a gentleman of Mr. J.'s talents, will be continued in the Legislature, for such men can legislate to good purpose. Such prating coxcombs as two or three—one in particular—in the House, are a perfect nuisance in any deliberative body, and ought to be abated.

☞We copy the following letter from the Rushville (Whig) Republican. Its author is a well known Whig politician who figured somewhat conspicuously in our State Legislature in past sessions. It is a strong rebuke to those who censure our own country on account of the Mexican war, and who thereby "aid and comfort" the public enemy.

ARMY OF OCCUPATION, CAMP CLARK,
Matamoras, Mexico, Nov. 8, 1846.

GENTLEMEN:—This is the day for rest, set apart by law as well as the universal consent of the pious and good. That you may rest from your labors and good works may follow, is the worst prayer I have to utter against you or any living disciple of the immortal Faust. Next to the soldier in point of toil and hardship, illy repaid, stands the printer. American soldiers bear the meridian sun and midnight cold on the sentinel's watch and brave the dangers of the battle-field, to establish and maintain republican institutions. The printer, with a zeal and devotion, worthy only the cause, labors to disseminate far and wide principles calculated to perpetuate institutions thus founded. He has taught man his natural and unalienable rights, and urged him to turn his ploughshare into a sword to assert and vindicate them. He has cheered him in the mighty conflict—shared with him the joys of triumph, and consoled him in hours of adversity. He has heralded to the world, in history and song, the bold and daring achievements of the living, as well as the martyrs in freedom's cause. Art and Science owe him a monument, and christianity is indebted to him her most fervent prayer. For the general weal of mankind hath he labored with a zeal that knows no tiring, without reward of world's gear. We, the American people, pay but little deference to the FORTY-SECOND commandment—"thou shalt pay the printer,"—be it said, too, without paying any high compliment to the liberality, if not intelligence, of the people of republican America.

But all this has little to do with the "wars in Mexico." The whole Indiana Brigade is still stationed on the Rio Grande—the first at the mouth, under Col. Drake, the second at Camp Belknap, opposite Burita, nine miles from the mouth, in charge of Col. Bowles, and the third at this place, one half mile east of Matamoras, commanded by Col. James H. Lane, of Lawrenceburgh. This encampment is on the bluff bank of the river, opposite Fort Brown, and is quite a pleasant place. A few days ago Gen. Joseph Lane was notified by Gen. Patterson to hold the troops in readiness to move at short notice up the river to Camargo, and when thus removed, we would form a part of his command destined to assail Tamaulipas del Tampico. This new direction to our army is owing, it is said, to recent despatches from the War Department. If carried out, it will save to the enemy San Luis Potosi, a place of more importance to them than Tampico, for that was the next object Gen. Taylor had in view, after garrisoning Monterey and giving his troops a few weeks' rest. Potosi has a population of forty thousand inhabitants, is in the centre of the richest mining districts in the world, and possesses more wealth than any other city of the same population in Mexico. Their army retired on that place after the contest at Monterey, and is now about twenty-five thousand strong, and fortifying every part of the city. Should the war continue, here will be fought one of the most desperate battles that will characterize the third American war. To reach Tamaulipas del Tampico from this place, we would have to march southward about four hundred and forty miles. The route would be mostly on the lowlands for the first two hundred and fifty miles, mostly good ground to march over; the balance of the distance is broken districts of country, through which an army would experience great difficulties in passing. Since I commenced writing I have been informed that despatches from head quarters passed down the river to-day to Gen. Joseph Lane that will determine the movement of the Indiana boys, quickly. In moving forward it will be on Potosi or Tampico, which of the two, at this hour, is problematical. Personally, I can't say that I have any particular desire for the MUSIC of musket balls or copper grape and canister, but I would like to see the Hoosier lads have a chance at the "bloody Mexicans," just to see what they would do. And permit me to say to you they would do any thing else but run. Let this war terminate when it may, no peace should be concluded by our Government that would yield one inch of the ground now occupied by our army. The conduct of Mexico forbids it; the outrageous character of her laws are such that no human being should be suffered to live under them. Laws are here made by the aristocracy, few in number, and made with an eye only to their personal aggrandizement. The great mass of the people have no share in the law making department of the government, but are made the vilest slaves on the face of the earth by their operation. A debt becomes a charge on the person and a lien on his work and labor at any rate the creditor may fix. A small debt contracted from misfortune makes a man a slave to a heartless taskmaster, and it is difficult for him to shake it off. The debtor is permitted to SELL himself to any one that will buy him, and in this way he can change masters by taking the price of himself and giving it to his former owner, becoming a slave to his recent purchaser, whom he personally likes better than his former owner. Should he die, all the debt remaining unpaid, together with the funeral expenses, is added up, and become BY LAW a charge on the services of his wife and children. Should any of them refuse to render service to their creditor they are imprisoned or sent, perchance, to labor in the mines, by the righteous judgment of some crop-eared Alcade, who increases the severity of the punishment inflicted on the debtor in proportion to the bribe given him by the kind-hearted creditor.

A war of extermination on the makers of such laws and those who administer them, in this enlightened age of the world, is more commendable than the Crusades to redeem the Holy Sepulchre from the hands of the Infidels. We get but little news from the States, especially from Washington City, and consequently cannot even guess what policy will be adopted by the Government, either in prosecuting the war or concluding a peace with Mexico. I believe the war should be prosecuted more vigorously, and peace concluded on condition that our National jurisdiction shall extend from the Rio Grande to the southern extremity of Yucatan, under the name of the Territory of New Leon.

I would gladly give you a description of the surrounding country, its productions, the manners and customs of the inhabitants, and many other smaller matters of interest to the people of old Rush, but I have not time or opportunity, however much I am disposed to do so. I would cheerfully write much more and oftener than I do, but you must remember that I am the only representative in this war in not only Rush, but all central eastern Indiana. Having to represent so large a district of country "in the wars," be assured I have but little time to do any thing else. My duty, first as a soldier, and secondly to accommodate my friends, in the manner most acceptable to them, is now my aim, and to accomplish this, I do all within my power.

At a leisure hour I made a rough drawing of the Rio Grande from the mouth to Matamoras—the situation of towns, locations of encampments, and forts. It is substantially correct, with one exception—the river is not half crooked enough! [For want of an engraver we are unable to present the drawing to our readers.] In navigating it a boat runs to all points of the compass, N., S., E., and W., in a distance of seventy-five miles. Imagine four of the crookedest things in the world, then imagine four more twice as crooked, and then fancy to yourself a large river THREE TIMES as crooked as all three put together, and you have a faint idea of the crooked disposition of this almighty crooked river. There is no drift in it, from the fact that it is so crooked that timber can't find its way down far enough to lodge two sticks together—but few snakes, because it is not straight enough to swim in, and the fish are all in the whirlpools in the bends, because they can't find their way out. Birds frequently attempt to fly across the river, and light on the same side they start from—being deceived by the different crooks! Indeed you may be deceived when you think you see across it, and some of the b'hoys say it is so darned twisting there isn't but one side to it.

I give the Sierra Madre mountains on the dividing line between the United States and Mexico, which is the shortest line that should be assented to by our government. My doctrine now is, that the line should commence at a point on the Rio Colorado of California, about 32¼ deg. north latitude, thence south to the Gulf of California, thence south on the east side thereof to the southern extremity of Yucatan, thence on a straight line due east to the Gulf. This would settle a boundary question now, the terms of which we have in our own hands, that must eventually be settled and perhaps at a time and with powers which would cause us much trouble. The remnant of Mexico left after annexing the Californias, is in such a position that a CROWN cannot rest on it without touching Uncle Sam's shoulders, which he won't allow. He is a gentleman of the old school, and neither he or his people wear anything but plain beavers—no crowns but the crowns of their heads, which are not deemed anti-republican to wear.

Sickness is disappearing rapidly, and at marching orders we could move now with 1500 effective men.

You will hear from me again in a few days.

Yours, GEO. B. TINGLEY.

"Society at the Capitol, or Plate of Fashions."

Under this caption there appeared an article in your paper of the 31st, denunciatory of all the citizens, fraught with a misrepresentation of facts, with manifestations of maliciousness, and portrayals of wrathful indignation, all emanating from the neglect paid by our young laidies to his too susceptible heart. Oh ye Vandals and Goths! ye worse than Saracens! appear before the tribunal of this fearful judge, receive your awful sentence, pass into transient oblivion, and there study refinement of manners, and prudery of deportment, that ye may thereby satiate the wounded feelings and allay the effervescing wrath of an 8 by 10 pettifogger.

The author has shown himself a thorough tactician and a complete executionist, by originating a code of fashions, and without consulting the volitions of the governed, enforcing its adoption. First he makes us monopolizers, whether in banks or with the ladies he does not specify. If it is with the latter, I pronounce it false, save in one instance, and that is where such monopoly will operate as a prohibition to the advances of a scullion in gentleman's apparel. His fashion of cloak-wearing designates one of two things. First, a small cloak, so created through motives of economy or penury, or through unjust apprehension that some itinerant swaggerer might not have learned that lesson which so perplexed our ancestors, namely, that there is an actual difference between meum and teum. The next fashion wrought into being by the writer's most prolific imagination, is a direct libel upon the moral character of our city organizations, and a perfidious or ignorant misconstruction of the motives of our council in the ordainment of those abused laws. No man should construe the passage of these ordinances into a reflection upon either member or stranger. Those who acknowledge the doctrine of human depravity, must admit the following to be substantially a correct rule. The larger the number of a miscellaneous body of men, the greater will be the prevalence of vice; and as a consequence, the stronger must be the laws enforcing virtue and suppressing immorality. This position might be easily substantiated by reference to the laws that govern cities. But why does the backwoodsman in the malevolence of his surcharged heart, propel his denunciations so furiously against these ordinances and the ordainers, unles it be he has violated the injunctions of some one of them, and fears an appliance of the penalty? In his article against the elder ladies of our place, he is most erroneous. There may not be that extensiveness of visitation that the fastidiousness of some might require, yet even they, if they will reflect upon the difficulties that interpose, will be convinced that there is not that deficiency in hospitality and social feeling that they at first premise. The gentleman appears astounded that the mantle of Charity and rights of Hospitality have never been exhibited among us. I for one am willing to state that I never have seen them, and therefore proffer the writer a fair consideration for a sight. If he has them in a tangible form, I would advise him to become an immediate donor to the *new museum* of rare collections. Or, if he is not seized of them, to make affidavit (as he is a man of veracity) that he has cognizance of their existence, and then, oh ye war-gods, he is at once installed the eighth wonder, and his Pa's steadfast hope. In his sixth fashion he omits two very material features. First, that no *citizen* goes to a party without an *invitation*; and second, they always defray the liabilities incurred by going with an invitation. In the seventh fashion, the writer seems to have forgotten that ladies have innately operative imaginations, and that those imaginations, under some circumstances, suggest the propriety of prospective engagements, particularly when a *certain* stranger applies for their hand in the dance. This is done in order to effect a release from the importunities of a *bore*. The eigth, ninth and eleventh allegations are too contemptible to secure the attention of a white man. As to the tenth, that depends upon the man; if he is a nuisance, we declare him as such, and attempt his emotion without granting relief from *stay* laws; but if a gentleman, we attempt by every honorable means to render him happy and contented. I will add one law that he has omitted, and which we have woven around our circle to shield us from the insidious advances of the vulgar and immoral; that law was gleaned from that trite and old maxim, "all is not gold that glitters." Its analization imparts these facts; all who appear decorated in costly raiment, who are graced with refined and polite manners; in a word, whose whole exterior indicates the gentleman, are not in their habits, their feelings, and sentiments, entitled to an enrolment upon that category. Messrs. Editors, I must crave your pardon for thus trespassing upon your columns; but it was an attack that could not go unanswered. In conclusion, (being a person of some inquisitiveness) I would ask if the following constitutes a part of the code that regulates the social department of the citizens of C. First, to go to parties without an invitation, and expect to be greeted cordially by the host or guests. Secondly, to stare at young ladies in such a degree that they are driven from the presence of the starer. Thirdly, to assume a recumbent position in church, snore, twist, grunt and whine, to the infinite amusement of spectators, and mortification of friends, interspersing the whole, by a successful attempt at an exemplification of "the bear in a bee-hive." If they do, I have only to say to our hoosier friends, you never need be at the loss of money or time in travelling to the New York Amphitheatre to see strange sights, and wild animals, only go to Covington, Indiana, and there wondrous of all astounding visions, you may see, yes actually see in tangible form, living, moving and having being, not our tragical and philosophic Jo, but his illustrious compeer and namesake.

A CITIZEN.

From the Cambridge Reveille.

Legislative Divorces.

It has excited our risible faculties in no small degree to see the grave Reports and Resolutions of our State Legislature on the subject of Divorces.

The House of Representatives at an early day in the session made a solemn resolve that it was *unconstitutional* for the Legislature to grant divorces; because that power, they believed was vested in the Judiciary. Now, it occurs to us, that even admitting that that power belongs to the courts *exclusively*, (which by the way we should be very loth seriously to admit) that the Legislature exhibits itself in a very ludicrous light to assume a right, that is exclusively by the Constitution delegated to the Judiciary, that of deciding what is constitutional and what is not. Divorces granted by the Legislature are either constitutional or they are not. If they are unconstitutional, then it belongs exclusively to the Judiciary to declare them so, and certainly not to the Legislature.

Again: admitting that the Legislature has the right to decide on the most abstruse and thin divisions of constitutional power, how shall they expect to arrive at a correct judgment on the subject of divorces, which is not named in the Constitution, nor even alluded to in the delegation of powers? Who of that body has ever made constitutional law his study? What number have qualified themselves to cast their votes for the resolution referred to, with a full knowledge of the powers conferred by the Constitution?

It has been seriously argued in the Senate that the marriage contract is a civil one, and that if the Legislature had power to dissolve that contract, they had also power to dissolve any other contract! No one will deny that the marriage contract is a civil one, but it by no means follows that it is such a one that the Legislature may not dissolve. Other contracts are entered into, which have no prescribed form by law, but depending wholly upon what the parties may oblige themselves to perform, then if one party fulfils his obligation and the other refuses to do so, the courts will compel him. This is all right in a commercial point of view, where the terms of the contract is settled by the agreement of the parties and a consideration is passed. But what court has the power to compel the husband to love, cherish and protect his wife? What court has the power to compel parties to comply with the terms of their marriage contract, or by what means shall the husband be made to cherish in sickness and in health; as he has civilly contracted to do, if he thinks proper to abandon her, and leave her upon the charity of the world? In this point of view the marriage contract is not a civil one that may be enforced by the courts, as other contracts. Surely no Legislator who wishes to maintain a reputation for sound judgment can regard it as a civil contract that may be enforced by the courts. The courts have the power when one party fails to perform the duties which by the marriage contract he obliged himself to do, to release the other party from the obligation she had agreed to perform and thus dissolve the contract. But it certainly does not follow, because courts have this power that the Legislature has not the same power.

The marriage contract is not like unto any other civil contract. The Legislature has made for it a special provision—has prescribed solemn forms with certain requisites, and the parties are sworn to cherish, protect, &c. as long as they shall live, and this contract is made by Legislative enactment matter of Record. Thus the Legislature prescribes a kind of contract under which parties may legally marry, and if they do not comply with that form the contract is of itself void. And not only do they prescribe the manner and form by statute, necessary to a legal marriage, but they describe the color, age and qualifications, generally of those who shall be allowed to marry together. Then, if after they have set forth all the requisites to make a marriage contract valid, they have not constitutional power to render that contract void for a noncompliance with its requisites, they must be powerless indeed.

The Legislature has enacted that all contracts relating to reality shall be reduced to writing and signed by the parties—this is a mere form, but a noncompliance with its requisitions render all such contracts void. Then why shall not a noncompliance with the requisitions of the matrimonial contract render it void also, and what clause is there in the Constitution to prohibit the Legislature from declaring it so.

It will be perceived that although the marriage contract is a civil one, it is not based on the same principles nor the same policy of a commercial transaction. Nor can the clause in the Constitution in relation to impairing the validity of contracts be tortured into a construction applicable to marriage contracts, unless such contract has been entered into as a commercial arrangement, with rights, privileges &c. reduced to writing and signed by the parties; and even in these there has often been Legislative interference without any grave constitutional scruples.

But it seems the present Legislature has by resolutions, committee reports, and otherwise, decided most solemnly that all the former Legislatures of Indiana, and of other States, were ignorant of their duties and constitutional powers, and in granting divorces violated their oaths to support the Constitution. Preposterous! Men of sense can but feel the utmost contempt for such conclusions. But we hope the action of the present Legislature on this subject has been merely an action of *policy*—not serious.

We recollect when Joseph G. Marshall, Richard W. Thompson, Samuel W. Parker, Thomas D. Walpole, Caleb B. Smith and such legal gentlemen as these were members of the Legislature of Indiana, that divorces were granted without constitutional scruples. And for the very good reason that these gentlemen were above raising such flimsy objections, for the sake of getting fees to obtain divorces from the Circuit Court. But now almost every pettifogger who has a fee in prospect should the Legislature refuse to grant divorces, is raising a hue and cry as to the constitutionality of that body granting them.

If this doctrine is to prevail, every person who has married under a Legislative divorce is liable to indictment for Bigamy, one among the highest offences known to our laws. For if the act granting a divorce is unconstitutional, it is of itself void, and void things, says an eminent jurist, are no things. Then again there will be a fine field for litigation with respect to the legitimacy and heirship of children born under these marriages. Is the Legislature prepared to say that all children born under these marriages are illegitimate and cannot inherit, and that all persons marrying under Legislative divorces are guilty of Bigamy, and liable to indictment and punishment in our State Prison. It must be prepared to say this, before refusing to grant divorces on constitutional grounds. For be it remembered that no Legislature nor Court has the power to legalize any past act that is unconstitutional. We have already noticed this subject further than we intended in the commencement. We have fallen on progressive times, and in conclusion must express the hope that our Legislature will not progress so far as to declare the Constitution itself unconstitutional.

A Fandango.

A correspondent of the Boonsville (Mo.) Times, writing from Santa Fe, gives the following unpoetical description of a New Mexican fandango:

"You have, no doubt, more than once seen the low groggery of our large cities, with sanded floor strewed over with quids of tobacco, stumps of cigars, and an occasional stream of amber searching an outlet. Well, imagine the visiters usually found at such a place to be of rather a more quiet order—then add some twenty or thirty dark eyed, dark skinned maidens, each with a cigar between her lips, a glass of wine—perchance brandy or whisky—in her hand, which she would occasionally sip while smoking—imagine this, and you will have a pretty good idea of the room and the company that one finds at a Mexican fandango. The music I cannot describe; a Spanish waltz I would if I could, for it is certainly graceful and pretty. The fair donnas will dance the cotillon when requested, and with much ease and grace too. Their ball dresses resemble ours, with the exception that instead of wearing a bustle behind, it is invariably placed before. Another singularity I observed was that after dancing it was customary to invite your partner to take something to drink! I danced but once during the course of the evening. I assure you that dancing with a lady who answers to every question you ask, 'no comprehende,' is not by any means entertaining or agreeable."

BANK OF ILLINOIS AT SHAWNEETOWN.—In answer to a resolution of the Illinois House of Representatives on the 18th inst., calling for information as to the manner in which the affairs of the above institution have been conducted, the Governor on the following day replied that he had no information which he could communicate. He however recommended that a committee be appointed to investigate the matter.

To Postmasters.

I am directed by the Postmaster General to call your special attention to the multiplied and increasing attempts to violate the law, and defraud the revenue, by writing on the wrapper, margin, or other portions of newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines sent by mail. The cheap postage system has removed every resonable excuse for violating or evading the law, and too much vigilance cannot be exercised by postmasters to detect and punish the offenders; and public sentiment when well formed, will not fail to sustain you in the faithful discharge of this duty, which is as imperative upon you as any other. That frauds of this kind may be detected and traced to their origin, you are particularly instructed to stamp, or mark in writing, every *transient* (by which is meant all not regularly sent to subscribers) newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine, with the name of the office, and the amount of the postage. The wrappers of all such newspapers, pamphlets, or magazines, when they have reached their destination, should be carefully removed; and if, upon inspection, found to contain any manuscript or memorandum of any kind, either written or stamped, or by marks and signs made in any way, either upon any newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine, or the wrapper in which it is enclosed, by which information shall be asked for or communicated, except the name and address of the person to whom it is directed, such newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine, with the wrapper in which it is enclosed, shall be charged with letter postage by weight. If the person to whom the newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine is directed, refuses to pay such letter postage thereon, the postmaster will immediately transmit the same to the office from whence it was forwarded, and request the postmaster thereof to prosecute the sender for the penalty of five dollars, as prescribed by the 30th section of the act of 1825. Suits may be brought either in district courts, or before State magistrates having civil jurisdictions in actions of debt, for this amount under the respective State laws. The name of the sender written or stamped either upon the newspaper, printed circular, price current, pamphlet, or magazine, or the wrapper in which it is enclosed, communicate such information as subjects it to letter postage and the consequent penalties, if such postage is not paid at the place of its destination.

The diminution of the revenue of the department under the cheap postage system, and the great and increasing demand for additional mail facilities throughout our country, whose territory now extends to the Pacific, render it absolutely necessary not only that every cent of lawful revenue be collected and accounted for, but that the utmost vigilance should be exercised for the prevention of fraud, and the sure and speedy infliction of the proper penalty upon the offender. This can only be accomplished by the strictest attention of postmasters, who are the sworn agents of the departments, and are bound to see the laws faithfully administered.

W. J. BROWN,
2d Assistant Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Dec. 4, 1846.

☞A Washington correspondent of the Louisville Democrat writes thus—

I learn that one among the reasons suspected to influence Gen. Soott in going to Mexico, was the "fire," *not* "in the rear," but in the "*front*." It is currently reported that the camp at Monterey is a perfect political stumping ground. The whole battle was conducted by whig officers with some solitary exceptions. There were certain democratic officers passed over, while their regiments were sent into the field. No notice has been taken of this subject by the democratic party. We would scarcely permit ourselves to think of it. It is too awful a crime to suppose that it could be committed at a crisis so important and momentous as the present. But the federalists have scented it out. They have quick nostrils for corruption. The Presidency is the ambition of more than one military hero, and Gen. Scott may yet recover the pretensions which a hasty plate of soup so unfortunately injured.

There are many plain facts to be told about the blood spilled at the battle of Monterey. If it may appear that some of the best officers in the army, urged Gen. Taylor to avoid making an attack before sending out spies to survey the strength of the enemy; to take with him from Camargo the heavy artillery by which the city could have been destroyed at a distance; to prevent the effusion of blood which ensued; and that he disregarded all advice; did not anticipate resistance; sent Gen. Butler with his gallant men blindly in advance on the enemy; that Gen. Worth owed his safety to his own policy of sending spies before him, in opposition to Gen. Taylor; and that the first knowledge he had of the enemy's intention, was when a ball from their fort struck the earth within a few paces of his horse—when these and other facts shall be divulged, we shall be led to the conclusion that there was very good fighting at Monteray, but *very bad generalship!* All this is on the predicate *if*; but I would not hazard the statement, had I not received assurances of its probability from a source worthy of credit.

DONATIONS TO THE VOLUNTEERS.—The booksellers of Richmond have presented to the volunteers nearly 200 useful and entertaining volumes for their instruction and amusement whilst in barracks. The operatives in the establishment of the Virginia Woolen Company at Richmond—the most of them young and interesting females—have presented to Capt. R. G. Scott, for the use of the Richmond Volunteers under his command, one bale of scarlet flannels, containing 100 yards, and valued at $145. This truly noble present was accompanied by a note breathing the most patriotic sentiments, and begging the acceptance of the donation as a small token of the gratitude entertained by the donors for the prompt manner in which the captain and his gallant associates had responded to the calls of our country.

"THERE SHE STANDS—LOOK AT HER!"—The Governor of Massachusetts, when a requisition was made on that State last summer, promptly issued a proclamation and general orders for raising the Volunteers required. At the latest dates he had made no response to the new requisition. He seems to have surrendered himself into the keeping of such men as WEBSTER, who oppose and denounce the war. Does he not remember the place in American history occupied by CALEB STRONG? or is he anxious for a similar position? The brave men of the Bay State should now, as in 1813 and 1814, step forward at their country's call, and thus shame their recreant office-holders.—*St. Louis Union.*

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.—As the Volunteers were marching to take the cars from Philadelphia for the West, a feeble looking woman holding a small boy by the hand, pushed into the crowd and waited until a fine looking lad of 18 came by. The mother grasped his hand, imprinted a kiss on his smooth cheek, and exclaimed, "good bye Henry! I am sorry you are going, but *do your duty my son, and don't forget your country's honor!*" This is the right spirit, which every woman exhibits in support of the honor of her country, and it will require a great effort on the part of the eminent orators of the day to cool the courage of the Americans, in defiance of the national honor.

Extract of a letter from a highly respectable firm in Manchester, England, dated Dec. 3d, 1846:

"The hemlock dry hide leather will succeed here as soon as the shoe manufacturers find out how to work it as your Eastern manufacturers do, by the use of the splitting machine, Yankee pegs, &c. The thing is fairly proved by the great success