THE WABASH EXPRESS.

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WHOLE NO. 882. | TERRE-HAUTE, INDIANA, MARCH 2, 1859. | VOL. XVIII. NO. 13.

☞ As a writer in the *Journal* of the 22d inst., has treated the subject of a settlement of the outgoing and incoming Treasurer, with more plausibility and decency than those who usually contribute to its columns, we take great pleasure in answering some of his arguments. The writer admits that it is proper for the retiring officer and his successor to settle—so do we. But why should they settle—"for the security of the successor" grant that? How is this to be done? By "making a memorandum," says the correspondent. But what kind of a memorandum? Can a better memorandum be made than to state the amount due on the precept? Will anything else make the successor safe? We say no. Will anything else make the retiring officer safe? We say not, because he should be credited with the amount of unpaid taxes, and that is the only way it can be ascertained with certainty. So far so good.

Has the county no interest in the matter?—We think it has, and we think the county ought to know just how much money the retiring officer has received. How will you tell? Will you take his word for it? We think the writer for the *Journal* would hardly say yes to that proposition. How then, can it be known, except by a settlement with the Auditor, to whom he must account by law? And how can he settle with the Auditor? In the way pointed out by law, which is for the Auditor to take from his precept all unpaid taxes, leaving the Treasurer chargeable with the remainder. Can anything be more simple? We think not. The county knows by this method to a dollar, how much the retiring officer has received. These unpaid taxes thus taken from the precept, will be the amount to be charged to the successor, and for which he must account—can anything be more easily understood than this? The accounts of the two men are separated, and if a defect occurs, the Auditor can put his finger on the man, and the county knows where to look for its money. The writer admits that there must be some confidence between the retiring officer and the successor, to do the business. We do not approve of this confidence idea. We do not approve of his idea of losing sight of the officer, and dealing only with the office. We rather suspect that is the way the State offices are managed. The office seems to be minus a large sum of money, but it is not exactly known where it has gone.

We are challenged to the production of any law authorizing a new duplicate in case of the resignation of the Treasurer. We will find that law when the writer finds a law authorizing a Treasurer to resign his office. We know of no special law for either, but the one condition produces the other, and when we find a statute which says the Auditor shall keep an accurate account current with the Treasurer, we very naturally infer, that it is the duty of the Auditor to ascertain how much such man who assumes the duties of the office *is to be charged with, or credited with*, and we do not exactly comprehend how this can be done, except by a *settlement* in the way herein mentioned. But the new duplicate troubles this writer. We say that the power to collect taxes depends upon the assessment roll in the office of the Auditor, and while the Treasurer would not be authorized to collect except he have a copy of it, yet he may have fifty copies and each be good. The law does not require the Auditor to write any directions in the copy, or even to attest it with his seal. The direction to the Treasurer is in the statute, and is to collect the taxes of the persons named in his copy of the duplicate. Suppose his copy should come up, would every person's taxes be paid, for the simple reason that there is no law authorizing the Auditor to make copies like the last one? Hardly, we think. We assert, as a legal proposition, that if the copy of the duplicate in the hands of the Treasurer, in the custody of the Auditor, shows that the taxes of A. or B. are unpaid, the Treasurer, after his annual settlement has a right to levy the amount without regard to the time when the copy was made, because the taxes are due and unpaid according to the assessment roll in the Auditor's office, and the right to levy depends upon that fact, and whether the Treasurer would or would not be trespasser, would depend upon the validity of the original assessment roll. We assert further, that where there is no limitation upon the power of the Auditor to make copies, one copy is as good as another if it is correct.

But for the motive, the writer assigns to the Auditor, for making a new duplicate. We insist that the Auditor is the financial accountant of the county. He moves the whole machinery of the county in the assessment and collection of the revenue, and it is his duty to see that it is all correct. He certainly has a little discretionary power, where the statute is silent, and the financial interests of the county demand attention. It may cost the county something to keep a correct record, but it will cost much more *not to keep one*, and we can't see why this writer and his friends, are so much afraid of a correct record; or do they desire to shift the responsibility of this embarrassment off the shoulders of the County Commissioners—where it only can rest—to the Auditor who is only acting for the public good?

☞ The editor of the Memphis Eagle and Enquirer says: Joe Lane is a man whom we love, and next to Gideon J. Pillow, we believe him to be the truest representative of the old Jackson Democracy in the Union; and yet we guess that neither of them will get fifty votes in the Charleston Convention. In fact we do not think that any honest man ought to get more than that number of votes from such a piebald concern as that will be.

☞ Geffrard, the new President of the republic of Hayti, is a man somewhat advanced in years, his hair is gray, and he has the appearance of having seen a good deal of life. He is at least fifty years old. His manners are very popular, and is a favorite with the people. He is nearly black, but still has some white blood in his veins. He was at one time Governor of Jacmel, but Tolonque being jealous of his popularity and afraid of his influence, withdrew him from that post.

For the Express.

Bayard Taylor.

Mr. Taylor is a beautiful talker, but we imagine he is no speaker. This is a great misfortune for the distinguished traveler, for if he was a good fluent speaker, with the stores of information he has, he would be one of the foremost men of the Union.

The above incorrect and absurd paragraph I clip from the Terre Haute Union of a few days ago. All who heard Mr. Bayard Taylor deliver his lecture have no use for imagination in forming an opinion of the manner in which the lecture was delivered. The Union "imagines" Mr. Taylor is no speaker. What a strain of the imagination! How ridiculous and how wanting must the Editor have been for material to form a paragraph, to publish such a piece of imagination, so much at variance with truth and universal opinion. Public sentiment gives Mr. Taylor great credit for his lecture; indeed, no person ever delivered a lecture in this city that was more universally popular. There were some, to be sure, like the Union Editor, who supposed, that Mr. Taylor not having been a loud mouthed politician, but one who has acquired fame in another department than politics, and thus surpassed many who are still struggling for a name, but will never get it, in the political world, he consequently could not be much of a speaker. But there are many wise persons, wise in their own estimation, who are often much mistaken. "Great thing a man wise in his own conceit, there is more hope of a fool than of him."

To be petulantly critical, I might say that Mr. Taylor may have had a slight superfluity of gesture, but no more than Mr. Prentice had in his lecture. Such is very apt to be the case when the lecture is delivered extemporaneously, except it be by a person well practiced in speaking. Mr. Prentice, we all know, has never pretended to be a speaker or a lecturer, although he spoke his lecture very well here. Mr. Taylor is a young man with many less pretensions than the Editor of the Union, but tells the narrative of his travels with a graphic power, clearness and beauty, that few who criticise him can equal. His description of "Life in the North" was most captivating; his pictures of Arctic scenery required no *imagination* to see them; they were so vividly drawn that they stood before you with the sublimity of reality; you felt as he proceeded that what he described was around you; so charmingly was everything portrayed, that you were led captive by the richness of his language and the scenic presence of the scene described. The best proof of success is the effect produced upon the audience, and I have yet to meet the first person who heard the lecture that does not express the purest delight. All speak of it in glowing terms, as having been handsomely done, imparting much information on a cold and cheerless region, rendered extremely interesting by the fascination the brilliancy and extraordinary descriptive power of the lecturer. Is the man who does this, "no speaker"?

None but the captious could find fault with the style of delivery. So insignificant would be any imperfection the most punctilious could point out, that it would be more creditable to say nothing than to speak. Mr. Taylor rightly understands the correct style of delivering a *lecture*. He is much better posted in that respect than some Editors on the Wabash, and can come nearer the easy and graceful manner appropriate for a lecture, than Editors who "lose the" he is "no speaker."

Mr. Taylor would have looked exceedingly rich if he had commenced by taking off his coat and soling up his sleeves, laying aside his cravat and unbuttoning his collar, and giving himself the attitude of "Ajax defying the lightning," proceeded in a voice that might have been heard at Mackville to cut and thrust and slash, as though he were defending himself from a tribe of Cossacks.—The sensible portion of his audience would have thought him a fool to do so when they came to hear a *Lecture*. Perhaps the Editor of the Union would have been highly pleased with such a display—but no person of taste would. If that is the kind of speaking he appreciates, I refer him to Ex Gov. Wright, Gov. Willard and the corpulent Editor of the Terre Haute Journal, all of whom furnish rich chapters of that style of oratory. I would refer to the Editor of the Union himself, but I have heard him in his palmy days, in the days of Fillmoreism, when his heart was full and his brain on fire, and all that appeared necessary was for his mouth to open and eloquence would issue in a flame—but, alas, I could not say of him as Prentice said of Tom Marshall, that "his faculties too illimitable almost seemed to pestle the stars," and I forbear.

If the Editor of the Union were to travel—and his columns show that he ought to travel—say, as much as Bayard Taylor, and return to Terre Haute and give an account of his journey half so well as Mr. Taylor, this community will acknowledge a very great improvement in the "foremost man" of the Terre Haute "Union."

UPLAND.

For the Express.

Mr. Hudson:—I have been looking over your charges against the City Treasurer and his answers. I see nothing in his answer but hard names. He must think his readers a very silly set of people, if he supposes they will be satisfied with such answers. It does not appear very clear to me what the settlement of estates and your private character have to do with his duty as City Treasurer. It does not appear in his explanations that he called on a single person for taxes. I went to his office and paid all the tax charged against me in 1857 and I do not think it exactly the thing for an officer to take an illegal tax of one man because he does not know it is illegal, and then turn round and say he could not even ask another man, equally ignorant, for his tax, because it is all illegal. It is neither honest nor executive. JUSTICE.

☞ The terms of twenty-one United States Senators expire on the 4th of March next. The new Senators have already been chosen in nineteen States, leaving New Jersey and Minnesota still to elect.

[For the Express.

Mr. Editor: In your paper of yesterday appears a communication from his Honor, Mayor Patterson, in relation to the delinquent tax list of 1857, attempting to excuse not only the Treasurer in his malfeasance in office, but also himself and the Common Council in the neglect of their duty, in relation to this same affair—in not requiring the Treasurer to settle his accounts and return his precept according to law, or holding him and his sureties liable on his bond for official neglect—in which hundreds, if not thousands of dollars are lost to the city, which deficiency the willing tax payer has to make up. It is nowhere attempted to be shown that the Treasurer used the means that the law gave for the collection of the taxes on the duplicate. Where is the man that saw a dollar's worth of property advertised and sold for sale for the collection of the taxes in question? Where is the man that ever saw or heard of the Treasurer, either in person or by proxy, attempt the legal collection of the taxes on the duplicate of 1857? Where is the man, *Mayor, Clerk, Councilman*, or anybody else, that ever saw a legal return of the delinquencies of 1857? Notwithstanding the care in his behalf to prevent the delinquency of all concerned, certified that on the 19th of April 1858, six weeks after he should have made the legal return of the duplicate, he, the Treasurer, made and filed with him—*what?* his delinquent list under oath? no! not that, but a statement of disbursements and disbursements for the fiscal year. Well, suppose he did. Will that we are not doing—that may have been substantially true and the charge of official neglect also true. You should be careful, *Joe*, how you give official certificates calculated to mislead the people.

But, Mr. Editor, let us come to the excuse offered by his Honor, the Mayor, for not putting the delinquent list of '57—in to the duplicate of '58—and see what a pretty fix his *Honor* has got into. It would be uncharitable to say that his Honor would wilfully and knowingly state an untruth to cover up official blunders of himself as well as others under his especial supervision, for the charter, as well as the circumstances, makes it the especial duty of the Mayor to see that all the other officers of the corporation do their duty, or to bring them to strict account for neglect thereof. But sir, there is a screw loose with his *Honor* somewhere, for he gives as a reason that the delinquencies of '57 were not carried forward into the tax of '58, was on account of the School tax of 12 cents on the dollar (a very *large tax that, Mr. Mayor*) for School purposes, and put upon the duplicate for that year, making the assessment illegal—showing a very great lack of knowledge upon the part of his *Honor* of what had been done. And some kind friend telling him the true state of things he takes back statement No. 1, and makes No. 2—in which he gives as a reason, that in 1856 a tax of 15 cents on the dollar (*that was an awful big tax, Mr. Mayor,*) was levied for School purposes, and the delinquent tax of 1856 was carried on to the duplicate of 1857, inhibiting the legal collecting of that assessment. Now, his *Honor*, the Mayor, was the *legal* adviser of the Board during the year 1856 and most of 1857—and to him the Board looked to steer the ship of State, so far as the City was concerned, clear of the rocks and shoals of legal technicalities in the transactions of the Board after the decision of the Supreme Court that he refers to, which was in Feb. 1858. The Common Council of the City, his *Honor*, the Mayor, presiding, on the 18th of May, by an order entered upon the record ordered the Treasurer to proceed to collect the delinquent taxes on the duplicate of 1857—by that very act recognizing the taxes as legal, notwithstanding the Treasurer had made no return of the delinquent list according to law. Well, the Treasurer reports on the 24 of Nov following, that he had levied upon certain delinquent lots, and had offered some of them for sale and others he was enjoined from sale. Now Mr Editor, has not the Mayor made bad worse by his lame attempt to cover up the blunders of Mayor, Council, Treasurer, Clerk and all hands in relation to the finances of the City?

More anon.

TAX PAYER.

Singular Sport.—The Vincennes Gazette says: "Mr. George D. Pollet, Sr., informed us yesterday that on Saturday, (which was a very warm day,) as he was walking through his pasture he heard the leaves rattling, on all sides, and looking for the cause he discovered innumerable grasshoppers, alive and kicking as if they were enjoying an August sun, and fresh, juicy grass. This was indeed a singular sight, and one never seen before, in this region during the month of February, by the oldest inhabitant."

We learn from the Evansville Enquirer that workmen, in digging in the earth in that region, have discovered a great number of locusts working their way toward the surface of the earth. Taking these circumstances with the daily croakings of the frogs, we would naturally conclude, not only that winter had passed, but that we may expect during the coming summer insect life to unusually abound upon the face of the earth.

☞ The Lafayette Journal of yesterday says that John Cullen, a brakeman on the freight train, of the Lafayette Railroad, was killed at Culver's Station on Thursday afternoon, while engaged in coupling cars. He was climbing up between two of the cars, and in some way fell, and was run over by six of them, crushing him horribly.

☞ The wife of Gen. Miramon, who has lately become President of Mexico, is said to be a regular trump card. She notified her husband—a young man of twenty seven years—that he must fight his way into the Presidential chair, or she would not live with him.—What a woman cannot do, it is not expedient for a man to undertake.

Letter from Nebraska.

Nebraska City, Feb 14 1859.

Mr. R. N. Hudson—*Sir*: As there seems to be a great inquiry throughout the country, about the newly discovered gold mines of Western Nebraska and Kansas, in regard to the existence of gold—the amount of wages made in the mines—the best route, &c., I thought a few lines from the Border, and one of the main starting points over the plains, might be of interest to some of my old friends in Terre Haute.

It is very evident, from the numerous letters of inquiry received by citizens of this place, from all parts of the country, that there will be a very heavy emigration for the gold fields in the Spring.

The principal routes to the Nebraska gold mines are four in number, viz: From Omaha, from Nebraska City, from St. Joseph, (by the Leavenworth trail,) and from Kansas City, via Arkansas river and Bent's Fort. The Council Bluffs and Omaha route crosses the Papillion, the Elkhorn, and Loup Fork, three large and bad streams, and a great number of smaller lines, and the Platte, the worst river to ford in the west, and is a distance of 600 miles.

The St. Joseph and Leavenworth route crosses the Nodaway, the Grasshopper, the Nemaha, the Walnut, the Big Blue, the Sandy, the Little Blue, and many other tributaries of the Kansas river, at points where there are no bridges, and which are difficult to ford. This route is from 650 to 700 miles.

From Kansas City, the route leads up the Kansas and Arkansas rivers, over a bad and very round about road, it is a feasible, and the best route for emigrants from Texas, Arkansas and Southern Missouri. From Kansas City to the mouth of Cherry Creek, the road is about 600 miles.

The road from Nebraska City, which is the most western point on the Missouri river, runs upon a "divide" between the southern tributaries of the Platte, and the northern ones of the Kansas, and crosses but one stream of more than a few inches of water on the whole route. It is well ibidered and water for camping purposes, and has an abundant supply of grazing the whole distance.—This route is about 500 miles—the road has not been measured, (or has any other) but judged from the time of travel. Ox teams came from the mines to Nebraska City this winter, in less than thirty days. This route, I think, is much the best, and would advise all who think of going to the mines from that place, to take it. Fort Kearney must be a point where the most of the emigrants meet, and according to a table prepared by Surveyor General Burnett, of this city—the Fort is 168 miles west, and one and a half miles south—The traveled road of last year is never 200 miles.

Mr. E. Muir, of this city, has just returned from the mines, and brings news from Cherry Creek as late as the 6th of January. He says that at present there are about 700 men in the mines, all in excellent health, but very few doing much at digging. The most of them are prospecting and hunting, while others are making money in town sites which they have selected. All have strong hopes of making money next season. One man who went from here last Fall, writes under date of "Cherry Creek, Dec. 24," as follows:

"The more I prospect, the more I think there is gold here. Old California miners say there is plenty of gold here. We have found diggings that will pay from ten to fifteen dollars per day."

A great many have written in the same way, but there is none that know the extent of these new fields; but all agree that the whole country about Pike's Peak and Cherry Creek will pay from $2 to $5 per day with nothing but a gold washer. On the table land, the dust is very fine and has to be gathered with quick silver.

Since writing the above, there has been another arrival from the mines. He lives just below this city, and has returned for his family. He brings some of the dust, and reports that gold is being found in larger quantities, and says, he met a train on their way out about 100 miles this side of Fort Kearney. Thus a letter from a friend of mine—he is making $5 per day at mining.

Respectfully yours,
B. N. SANFORD.

☞ Judge Hughes pronounced his own political funeral oration, very calmly in a speech on the Oregon Bill the other day. He said: "I, perhaps am as little biased by interest, as little trammeled by popular feeling, upon questions of this nature, as any man in this body. I am in a position to be impartial and independent. My race is run. The grass grows green over my political grave, and I speak as a voice from the spirit land. I stood side by side with these gentlemen through the trying scenes of a long and turbulent session, in defence of the principles and integrity of the democratic party. Having fallen at my post in the discharge of my duty, I am content."

A Girl's Word Better Than the Bible.—The Warren (Ohio) Chronicle chronicles a funny story. A young couple, John and Susan, were determined to get married. Parents refused consent. Family record in the Bible said Susan was under eighteen. Susan told John the record was not true—she was eighteen. John believed Susan, and swore before the Probate Clerk that she was eighteen. Father of Susan had John arrested for perjury. Trial was had. Father and mother testified that Susan was not eighteen, mother said she was there when Susan was born, and knew all about it. It looked squally for John. Penitentiary yawned for the victim. Susan stepped up and testified that she told John she was eighteen. Court discharged John, and Susan jumped up and kissed him before the people.

☞ A deputation from Bordeaux has presented an address to the Emperor, proposing the formation of a canal from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, through which French vessels may go from the western to the southern coast of France without passing through the straights of Gibralter.

Ohio River.

On Board Steamer Telegraph, No. 3, Feb. 23, 1859.

Mr. Hudson: Again I am afloat upon the bosom of *La Belle Riviere*, resting softly and securely as we are borne with eagle speed upon the swift steam floating palace, the Telegraph No. 3.

But this river, first so beautiful, is now on a "bender," and has, for the "nonce," laid aside her claim to femininity, like other females when they get their "backs up," and is threatening havoc and devastation to all the humble regions of country upon her borders. As you have already learned, the Ohio is now only eight feet below the flood of 1847, and is in many places far beyond her natural limits.

At Cincinnati boats land at the curbstone on the south side of Front street, while the mail boats and Madison packets load from the 2d story of the buildings on Water street.—The lower ends of the city is submerged, while "Mill Creek's muddy marsh" is now a broad lake, affording a wide field in which the "spotted frog," her lover and friends, may indulge in their aquatic sports.

At Lawrenceburgh all is a sea of water, covering many miles in area, and leaving the town far removed from the surrounding country. The Cincinnati and Indianapolis, and the Ohio and Mississippi Railroads are entirely submerged in that region, stopping all trains before reaching that point.

Aurora is in alike condition, while Rising Sun, Warsaw, Patriot, and those other villages on higher ground are standing close upon the margin of the turbulent stream.

'Tis now a glorious time for steamers, which are are constantly meeting, bearing their rich cargos of sugar, coffee, rice, oranges, bananas, and other delicious products of the far off South.

We shoved off from the Queen City at 28 minutes to 1 o'clock, or as a learned contemporary hath it, at 12 and a half of "the clock," and darting like an arrow by the vine clad hills of Ohio and the palatial residences of the Kentucky nabobs, we are now, at 4 o'clock, coming around the point in sight of Warsaw, Ky., which appears as if she had approached the river's brink to lave her feet, or welcome the arrival of the favorite steamer. And now the deep bass whistle of the Telegraph, and mellow tones of the great bell over the forecastle admonish the denizens of Warsaw that they must hasten aboard, if they wish to join the crowds already aboard of this Leviathan of the deep. It also reminded me that there were innumerable pretty women, Kentucky's most beautiful, in Warsaw. I go upon the quarter deck and there, true enough, the balconies and the shore are crowded with ladies, radiant with beauty and with health. How well I remember, years ago, when I spent nearly a week enjoying the hospitalities of this pleasant little Kentucky town, and indulged in innocent flirtations with some of her pretty, laughing misses. The bell rings and we are off, and so is my sheet. J. N. S.

Opposition Ticket in 1860.

The New Albany Tribune says: "The Washington correspondent of the Louisville Courier, has made a wonderful discovery. A particular friend of Senator Crittenden has informed him *confidentially* of a coalition that has been formed by the forces of the Opposition. In brief, it is this: Mr. Crittenden is to be candidate for President, and Henry S. Lane for Vice President. The Republican platform is kicked aside, but Mr. Seward is to go into the Cabinet as chief manager of the new firm. This reliable correspondent has cooked up a very palatable dish and one that we believe a decided majority of the voters in the Union would swallow with evident relish. That ticked can win, and nothing would suit us better than to fight under the banner of Crittenden & Lane, in 1860. The West would come up to the aid of such a ticked, as, in the memorable days of '40, it come to the support of Harrison. Its success would be certain.

Conner's Canal Bill.

A few days since Mr. Conner, Senator from Wabash and Kosciusko, addressed a letter to the Attorney General requesting his opinion on the effect of his bill, now pending in the Senate, in making the State liable for maintaining the Wabash & Erie Canal, &c., The following letter from the Attorney General was received in reply, and will explain itself.

Office of Attorney General, February 23, 1859.

Hon. J. D. Conner—*Dear Sir*: Your note of the 22d inst., enclosing Senate bill No. 212, relating reference to the Wabash & Erie Canal," has been received.

I do not believe that the State is under any legal or moral obligation to resume the debt cancelled, by the transfer of the Canal, and at your request I have carefully examined the bill in question, and can find nothing in its provisions that in my judgment can be construed into a recognition on the part of the State of any such liability, but on the contrary the bill is carefully guarded against any such inference or presumption.

If the Trustees are relieved of the burthen of maintaining the bridges over the Canal, then they must be kept up, if at all, by the several counties the canal passes, as other highways are maintained.

Respectfully yours,
J. E. McDonald, Attorney General.

Oregon.—With Oregon, the Federal Union consists of thirty three States, in eighteen of which slavery is not allowed. The relative positions of the Free and Slave States may be shown at a glance as follows:

	States.	Senators.	Representatives.
Free	18	36	147
Slave	15	30	90
	33	66	237

☞ It has often been predicted that the heavy glass sky lights over the Representatives' Hall in Washington were not sufficiently secure. Early on Tuesday morning of last week, from some unknown cause, a heavy pane fell from the sky light upon the desk and chair of Mr Nichols, of Ohio, who had, a moment before, left his seat.

The Ellsworth Will.

We learn from the Lafayette Journal that the trustees of Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, Ind., have commenced suit in Tippecanoe county to probate a will made by Henry L. Ellsworth, in February, 1851, by which will Mr. E. bequeaths three tenths of his entire estate to his daughter, Mrs. Roswell C. Smith; the same proportion to his son, Henry W.; two tenths to his grand children, Henry C. Ellsworth and Mrs. Ellen E. Rose, now of California, and the remaining two tenths (after paying his daughter in law, Mrs. Jane Peard, one thousand dollars) equally to Wabash College, Yale College, the American Bible Society, and the American Colonization Society.

In May, 1856, Mr. Ellsworth endorsed on this will of 1851, a codicil by which in terms he restorated it, and extended its bequests to all the real and personal property of which he might die possessed. But without the codicil it is said that under the laws of this State, Mr. E's entire estate, real and personal, would pass to the legatees under the provisions of this will.

Wabash College alleges in her complaint that this will of 1851, a copy of which is produced, is now in the hands of Judge Williams of Hartford Conn., that it was the last will and testament of Mr. E.; that at that time the will of 1857 was made Mr. E. was of unsound mind; and that the will of 1857 was not duly executed; that Mr. E. although a Connecticut at the time of his death, was in fact domiciled in this State; that at the time he left this State he continued his principal office here with his confidential clerk, that he left a furnished house, and that he left with an intention (if he was capable of traveling) of returning to this State. These are the principal points in the complaint, and although Mr. E's children are made defendants in this proceeding, they are satisfied that the will of 1851 was the will of their late father.

The contest, if any be made, will be made by Yale College, and those in her interest, as her proposition of the state, in case this will is admitted to probate will amount to but a bout $30,000.

Senator Lane and McCarty.

The Indianapolis Journal of yesterday says: "The Hall of the House of Representatives was filled to its limit last night with the personal and political friends of the returned Senators. Senator Cravens of Jeffersonville presided. Judge McCarty analyzed the legal and constitutional principles involved in the Senatorial contest, and denounced in no measured terms the insults heaped upon the sovereign State of Indiana by the U. S. Senate under the plea of *vox populi vox dei*. He had been a Democrat and should still be true to Democratic principles. In obedience to those principles, he recognized it as his duty, and the duty of all honest men, to unite for the complete overthrow of that base party spirit and its baser tools, who, in power at Washington, have dethroned the sovereignty of States and of the people.

Col. H. S. Lane followed him in an eloquent speech of an hour's length. After reviewing the incidents and results of their late mission to Washington, he foreshadowed the principles and platform upon which the people would unite, in 1860, with the enthusiasm and power which swept everything before it in 1840.

The leading principles would be, the non extension of slavery, tariffs for revenue, not for protection, the rights of the people, rather than the benefit of politicians, and an honest and economical administration of the government.

J. W. Gordon and R. J. Ryan were called upon to speak but declined, although they expressed their unalterable determination to overthrow the unscrupulous dynasty which had ruled and cursed our State.

A full report of the address of Col. Lane, we understand, will be published.

Married Gentlemen's Soiree.

This party, which was complimentary to the young gentlemen of the Bachelors Assemblies, came off at the Terre Haute House on Thursday evening. Among the many delightful assemblies and parties that have characterized our city during the winter, this one must be acknowledged as the most brilliant of them all. Never did the beauty of this queenly city appear to a better advantage, "and when music arose with its voluptuous swell" each heart beat faster than the merry tune, and almost to the hour when "gray eyed morn smiles on the frowning night," the light fantastic toe drove the dull hours away. It was a time of conviviality and social good feeling. Each seemed to vie with the other in giving pleasure to the entertainment, and all appeared happy and joyous. Too much credit can not be given to the "married gentlemen" who so generously gave this delightful party. It is but one of the evidences of the social feeling that is so prevalent in this community. It is but an outbursting of that feeling which makes Terre Haute the pride of her citizens, and the admiration of the stranger.

For the Express.

Mr. Editor: Can you tell me whether the tax payers of the county will be charged ten per cent. on their taxes if they are not paid before the third Monday of March, when they have been to the office to pay them and cannot do it? A number of persons have told me that their taxes are as much as they can pay, that they have been to the office to pay them and it was closed, and don't think it would be fair to be compelled to pay ten per cent if they can't have an opportunity to pay. It seems rather hard to be charged ten per cent. just to gratify these men, Mr. Foster and the two Commissioners, Stark and Jumper. It is paying pretty dear for the whistle.

VIGO.

Indiana Historical Society.—A meeting of this Society was held at the State House Thursday evening. They adopted a constitution and elected the following officers:

Hon. John Love, of Evansville, President; Hon. A. R. Line, of Franklin; Bishop Upfold, of Indianapolis; Hon. Hamilton Smith, of Perry, Vice Presidents.

James M. Ray, Esq., of Indianapolis, Treasurer.

John S. Billon, of Indianapolis, Secretary.

Executive Committee—Calvin Fletcher, Esq., Dr. George W. Mears, John Coburn, Esq., of Indianapolis; Addison L. Roache of Parke county, Henry S. Lane, of Crawfordsville.

Singular Trance.—The *Diario*, of Havana, tells the story of a man named John McIntosh, a native of Litchfield, Connecticut, who one day last month, went out from the farm house where he was employed, in search of a lost bull. Night came on and McIntosh did not return. The following day he was still absent. Then the farmer and all hands became alarmed and went in search of him, but all their efforts being unavailing, they came to the conclusion that he had either fallen a victim to the bears or the robbers. They therefore had masses said for the repose of his soul, and dismissed him from their minds.—However, after seventeen days had elapsed, a pale, weak and emaciated man presented himself at the farm house. This man was McIntosh. He declares that passing along a ravine he had laid down, without knowing why, in the hollow of a rock, and had remained there asleep for seventeen days; although, strange to say, he heard the voices of those who were searching for him, but did not possess the power to answer.

Henry Ward Beecher Challenged.—Rev. James C Richmond, of Milwaukee, an Episcopal minister, who says that in 1847 he challenged the world in support of Episcopacy, which challenge has never been accepted, now renews the challenge to Henry Ward Beecher, and invites a public debate. He concludes his address to Mr. Beecher as follows: "Finally, such is my faith in the power of Truth, that I am willing to oppose my weakness to your strength, to travel one thousand miles, and pay my own expenses, to meet you after Easter, amidst the comforts of your own home, and the helps of your own library, in an moral debate, in your meeting house, in Brooklyn, or anywhere, and show that your Congregational and Presbyterian systems are in a state of schism, and therefore of sin, against the Apostolic Church, or the One Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Queer Trap Action.—The Easton (Pa.) Times says, on Saturday last, a citizen of Phillipsburg, for reasons best known to himself, disposed of his wife, four children, and household and kitchen furniture, for the valuable consideration of fifty cents cash, and a second hand black cloth coat. The purchaser of this valuable personal estate, was a gentleman of some twenty summers, who is a teamster by profession. Whether the wife was consulted in the arrangement is not stated but it is generally believed that the transfer was acceptable to her. The funniest part of the story is, that the husband, after giving the bill of sale late in the evening of Saturday, craved a night's lodgings from the new proprietor of the goods and chattels, and was accommodated with a portion of the bed of two of the eldest children, where he snoozed away quite comfortably until morning, when he left the premises in perfect good humor.

The New Township Law.—The bill changing the present township organization has passed both branches of the General Assembly, and will become a law as soon as published. The House amended the bill somewhat, but not materially. One amendment empowers the present Boards of Trustees to make levies for taxes for this year, and to continue in office till the Trustee under the new system is elected. The Trustee is to receive $1 50 for each day of service, and a proportionate amount for a fraction of day's service. The County Board of Commissioners takes charge of roads, and the Supervisors have charge of the expenditure of the road tax. The amendments were reported to the Senate Friday morning, and all were concurred in. So says the State Journal.

☞ Ann Pamela Cunningham, regent of Mt. Vernon reports that through the indefatigable efforts of the Association, and those of their generous ally—the Hon. Edward Everett—the treasurer has been enabled to pay to Mr. Washington, in addition to $18,000 paid on signing the contract, the first instalment of $57,000 due on the 1st of January, 1858, with the interest thereon; $10,000 on the 13th of December, the 58th anniversary of Washington's death; $5,000 on the 5th of February, and $10,000 on the 11th of February instant, making $25,000 on the second instalment of $41,666 66 due on the 22d of February, 1859; which, in addition to the $15,000 invested by the Association, makes upwards of $17,000 reported up to the 11th of February.

☞ A gentleman who has recently spent some time in Cuba writes to the New Orleans Picayune that forty times the thirty millions asked for by the President would not much facilitate the purchase of Cuba under present circumstances. He doubts, moreover, whether any portion of this country, except the Northern commercial States, is greatly interested in its acquisition, and that it would be injurious rather than beneficial to the South. From his own observation, moreover, he says he is satisfied that, with the exception of American residents in Cuba, and exiles and political malcontents in this country, the people of the island are decidely opposed to annexation to the United States.

☞ Mrs. Dared Everett of Ipswich, N. H., widow of the author of "You'd scarce expect one of my age, &c," recently deceased, left the sum of $4,000, and her dwelling house and lands adjoining, to the Congregational Church of that town, on condition that its members, now divided upon a question of minor importance and worshiping at different places, shall become reunited.

☞ In the Vienna correspondence of the N. Y. Times it is reported that Austria and Russia appear to be on better terms, and it is related that a letter from the Emperor Alexander to Emperor Francis Joseph has been received which the latter considered extremely satisfactory. The pretension of the Emperor Napoleon to play the part of European arbitrator begins, it is supposed, to be regarded at St. Petersburg as somewhat dangerous.