

# ST. CLOUD DEMOCRAT.

JANE G. SWISSELM,

"Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."—EXODUS, CHAP. XIV, VERSE 15.

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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## ST. CLOUD DEMOCRAT

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OPPOSITE THE STEAMBOAT LANDING.

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## AN ORIGINAL AND EXCITING TALK.

The Boys and the Schoolmaster.  
A TALE OF OUTRAGED HONOR AND FEARFUL REVENGE.

BY THE EDITOR OF THE DEMOCRAT.

We have had quite a tempest in a teapot between folks who never should fall out, viz: the printers Devils and the Schoolmaster. All the printing done in Stearns County, which we do not do in person, is performed by a brace of imps, who feel entitled to call us "Aunty."

They are the two lads who took charge of the "Visitor" for the week in which the Printing Co. settled with the Press Gang and got out of our way; and who in that week got up a project for tunneling the Mississippi, invited all the ladies to call to see them; and locked the door against all those who came without gingerbread, advertised for whiskey to grease the press, oil to make mustaches grow, and embraced that opportunity to distinguish themselves generally.

Of course they are wide awake. Well, these two and half a dozen more of the same sort had been planning a debating society for some time. After the district school was organized this winter, they invited Mr. NOEL, the teacher, to cooperate with them and use his influence to get the boys of his school to join their society. He assented. WM. B. MITCHELL, familiarly known as "The Little Devil" of the "Democrat," applied to the School Directors for the use of the School House on Saturday evenings. It was granted.

The Society was organized and called "The Young American Literary Society of St. Cloud."

A constitution was adopted providing that the officers should be elected by secret ballot, every four weeks. Mr. NOEL and WILLEY MITCHELL were the candidates for president and after a thorough canvass Mr. N. was elected.

As his term of office drew to a close caucuses were held and our absence was often asked for in the room behind the office. The important evening arrived. WILLEY, who, by the way, is a little over fifteen, and Mr. NOEL were again the candidates for the highest office in the gift of the young Republic; and when the ballots were counted, WILLEY had twelve, Mr. NOEL three, whereupon that gentleman being in the chair refused to submit, and preposterously resigned his membership, magnanimously wished success to the society; and generously declared his determination not to ask any of his boys to leave the society, on account of the insult offered to their teacher. He demanded that three who had voted for him should rise, that they might be known and had in remembrance.

WESLEY F. MILLER, "The Big Devil of the Democrat," objected to this as unconstitutional; but Mr. N. insisted and the boys arose. WES, deprecating Mr. N.'s resolve to leave the Society, but he declared

During the week Mr. NOEL announced in school his intention to organize a rival society and to take possession of the house peaceably if he might forcibly if he must. His wounded honor must be healed; and he invited all his scholars to join his party, promising to provide lights and dispense with initiation fees. When this was reported to the boys it is said they did some hard talking; of which we were sorry to hear; but they went again to the Directors and learned they had a right to the house. This being ascertained, Young America must, of course, maintain his rights. They promised us before going, that their party would not strike the first blow; and that they would try to be gentlemanly and use no provoking language; but if any attempt were made to expel them from the house, 'they'd see.'

The Office is near the School House; and soon two small boys came running with word that a general fight was breaking out. "We were alone and sent them on down for Messrs. MITCHELL and MILLER, the fathers of four of the boys; and cropping the sock we were darning we caught up a shawl and ran over to prevent blows until the gentlemen should arrive. Going in we found the house half lighted about twenty boys, and two full grown men, all around with heavy clubs and gathered into knots, while Mr. NOEL paced the platform in a violent manner, gesticulating tremendously and declaiming at the top of his voice. He was going to have possession of that house, that he was certain; no meeting should be held there that evening unless he held it.

We went forward and stated that we had come to report for the press and hoped we would not disturb the meeting.

No, there would have been no disturbance, if it had not been for the insolence of Mr. MITCHELL in proposing himself for President—in presuming to run against him, the teacher of the District School.

At the word "insolence" WILLEY sprang toward him. We intercepted; and one of the MILLER's declared that Mr. MITCHELL had not proposed himself, he had proposed him in a regular caucus meeting. He was fairly elected, was president of their society and they were entitled to the use of the House.

We got them all to listen and proposed that the boys should adjourn to the "Democrat Office" where was a room ready warmed and lighted. Mr. NOEL seconded our motion; "but Aunty" says the young President, "Pa says that he and the other two Directors have decided, to day, that we have a right to this house; and he says if I give it up without being flogged and put out, he will flog me when I get home."

"And we, too, Aunty," chimed the two MILLER's, "Father says if we give up our rights without doing our best to maintain them, we have to settle with him.—Mr. NOEL has given us warning for the third and last time that we must go out or be put out; and we are just waiting until they put us out."

"That's it," chimed in JOHN MARVIN, the young Secretary, who is about as large as a minute. "You see Mrs. SWISS, we have to be flogged either here or at home; and we'd rather take it here. Very much obliged to you, and after we are put out, we will come over if we are able. If not you please to see that we are carried across."

All this time the Schoolmaster continued his walk, his gesticulation and declamation from the platform. His party consisting of a man, a boy much stouter than any of the others, and their compliment of boys all kept pretty well together. They had sent out for two stout men and were having free talk.

Mr. NOEL appealed to us to decide the question in dispute, explained that he had thought, upon joining the Society, that he was to be President; during his term of school, his scholars had understood it; and now the outsiders had taken possession and wished to rule the Society. He had signed the Constitution because he had thought it would suit the Society after his term of school had expired; but in the meantime he claimed the right to be President.

We declined acting arbitrator; but told him we had simply come over to prevent a melee until the gentlemen who had been sent for, should arrive, knowing that the boys would not fight in our presence and hoping we could persuade them to come to the office and hold their meetings there in the future; but we thought he should not have signed the Constitution; and gone into an election under it, unless he intended to abide by the result, that General Scott, upon the same principle, might have called out the army and declared that Franklin Pierce was not fit to be President, that he, and his friends had understood, he was to be elected or they never would have had anything to do with the election.

Whereupon he demanded to know if we were in favor of outsiders coming in and interfering with the school and its institutions; and declaring in the most violent manner that he would see if he was not master in that house during his term of school, that no meeting should be held on that evening unless he held it.

He and his friends had seen the Directors that day and they had told him to take the house. This he repeated perhaps a dozen times while we were in; while the boys insisted that they had the grant of the house, and to show they had, they had sent for two of the three Directors.

At this Mr. N. flew into a still more violent passion, and beating the desk with his fists and stamping furiously, he declared that the Directors had no right to dispose of the house, he had control of it during his term of school, he would not put up with the insolence of outsiders, &c., &c., &c., &c., on and on and still to be continued.

He admitted his threat to take possession of the house on that evening by fair means or foul; and the fact that he and his party had come armed an hour before the time of regular meeting, was proof of his determination to carry out that threat.

In about half an hour Messrs Mitchell and Miller arrived.

Mitchell as School Director demanded to know what was the matter.

The boys stated that Mr. NOEL refused to give them possession of the house according to the grant of the Directors, had taken possession of the chair before they came, interrupted all their efforts to organize their meeting and threatened to expel them by force.

Mr. Mitchell went up to the platform where Mr. NOEL was still walking and talking, and demanded to know why he interrupted the meeting.

Mr. NOEL said he understood he was to be president of the society and outsiders had—as he spoke he began taking off his coat:

Mr. Miller here stepped before Mitchell went up on the platform, took Mr. NOEL by the arm to lead him off calling out that the president of the meeting should take the chair. As Miller stepped on the platform Mr. NOEL reached under the desk and drew out a heavy Club. As Miller saw it he saw a blow start in his eyes and ran down his right arm; and springing forward we arrested it at the elbow; and placing ourself so that he could not strike Mr. NOEL without striking us, we kept possession of the right arm while with the left he led the School Master from the platform and placed him in a seat.

The boys called their society to order. The roll was and minutes read, when we made one more effort to get them to adjourn to the office; but Young America had his constitutional rights to defend; and old America was there to see fair play.—Our mission was ended. We had had glory enough for one evening; and went home to finish darning he two pairs of socks we had on hand.

After we left Messrs Mitchell and Noel discussed the subject pretty thoroughly; and were likely to come to blows when Mr. Miller kept the peace. Mr. Owen, another of the directors, arrived; and agreed with Mr. Mitchell in stating that the entire board had decided, the boys were entitled to the use of the house, on that evening.

Mr. Noel said he would resign the school; and Messrs Mitchell and Owen agreed to accept his resignation.

We hope the matter will end here; and that if Mr. Noel continues the school he will organize a society for the exclusive benefit of the school; and choose some other evening for its meetings. We really do not want the trouble of running over every week to stand sentry between two bands of men and boys armed with clubs, and doing such a "tall amount" of talking, and it is not worth his while to try to make those imps of ours come into the traces of implicit obedience, for this is more than we can do with all the aid we can get from gingerbread and nupties.

We sympathise with Mr. Noel who is a worthy young man and very useful citizen.

His position is a trying one. He is from Illinois where the School master is a man of mark; and our schools have been altogether in the hands of young ladies from New England, who had no appreciation of the dignity of their calling, but permitted people to treat them like common folks.

Mr. Noel is not exactly the teacher we would expect to see in a country where the New England element is so large as it is here. No teacher can give entire satisfaction so we have not complained; but in the week we sent our little daughter he taught her to "sit down" and "sit still," informed her the garth is round; and wrote a copy in her writing book stating the "the Rose is the most fragrant of flowers."

We do not think sitting still is good for young children, believe the garth is very much flattened at the poles; and are quite certain there are other flowers more fragrant than the Rose. For instance, the whole Cactus tribe of bloom is a flagrant insult to good taste and propriety in choosing to grow upon the backs of vegetable monsters. Other flowers are liable to the charge of fragrant, but the Rose we think particularly free from this property. Then Mr. Noel's utter want of self-government is a great difficulty in his way of governing others; and much as we respect him for mathematical acquirements, for proficiency in the oratorical art, and for having been at College and for good behavior in the general affairs of life; we do not fully approve him as a teacher.

### CHAPTER II.

Mr. NOEL did not resign his school, but, Napoleon-like, is determined to win the battle or die upon the field. The honor of the District Schoolmaster has been outraged. Young America has chosen a Printer's devil before him. He is to take a terrible vengeance; for he has friends, yes friends, Sir, who will stand by him, and next Saturday he and they are to come in full force, expel these imps of darkness who have endeavored to consecrate that house to the service of their father, by daring to vote against a gentleman who has been at College, and who understands "the oratorical art," and who, alone, in the Society of Young America, is fit to preside.

The case is exciting and the excitement tremendous. Cudgels should be replaced by fire arms; Government muskets should come out; and messengers be dispatched for troops and munitions of war, while women, in wild agony, should besiege Heaven with prayers to stand by the right, and defend the sacred cause of learning and religion, in the person of the Schoolmaster.

It will never do to have it go abroad that here, in the City of St. Cloud, in this latter half of the Nineteenth Century, the "devil" has prevailed over the Schoolmaster!—that the Young American insolence which could induce a set of boys to stand by their written Constitution, when the Schoolmaster says that, in signing it, he supposed, of course, it was to be null and void so long as he consented to honor the Society with his membership! It will never do, we repeat, Gentlemen it will never do to have it appear on the page of History that the men of St. Cloud are thus indifferent to the claims of place and power. To arms, then, we say—Sound the kettle drums, and beat loud music on the bottom of an old tin pan, while Mr. NOEL brings suit against everybody in general and several people in particular.

Alas! there is the rub; this suit which is to be brought, and which must bring us upon the witness-stand, before his Honor, Judge HAMLIN! There, doubtless, one of those lawyers who owe us a political grudge, (C. C. ANDREWS, perhaps,) will be set to sifting our inmost soul.—When he removes his white hat from his ebony locks; draws up his tall figure to its utmost proportions; and, severe in youthful majesty, demands our reasons for going to the scene of action on that eventful evening; when he obliges us to confess that our "big devil," upon hearing that Mr. NOEL was forcibly to expel them, had threatened a form of resistance which would have been rather summary—that we had seen enough of the boy to know he might be roused to a point where he was not safe, and that our errand was to prevent Mr. NOEL's getting hurt; when he demands our reasons for springing between Messrs MILLER and NOEL, and we are compelled to own, again, that it was the fear MILLER would strike him so as to send him clear through the wall; and when our majestic cross-questioner comes to demand the reasons for our interest in Mr. NOEL, will he and will the world believe it was pure benevolence?

Alas! we will certainly be ruined, like poor "Da-ne-nan-i-nan-dy," who went out in the storm night to meet her lover and was cast into the sea.

We just fancy we can hear Mr. A.—'s summing up of the case, and the sublime peroration with which he will overwhelm us! His picture of a lone vidder woman, her heart overflowing with all the tender susceptibilities of her sex; picture herself all alone, in silence and solitude, not saying nothing to nobody, with those two pairs of socks upon her knee, and darning diligently, when excited messengers rush in with word that the fight has begun—she drops those two pairs of innocent socks upon the carpet, seizes a shawl and rushes out, through darkness and storm, to seek the battle field; aye, plunges through the untrodden snow, which, like that on Linden, still lay bloodless, flies out into the midst of armed men, for what? Aye, your Honor, to what motive can we attribute so unwarranted a proceeding? Simply, as she herself acknowledges, to prevent a young, agreeable, highly intelligent, and rather handsome gentleman, from coming to bodily harm; in other words, to throw herself, for his protection, between him and "the devil"!!!!

Again, on that eventful evening, she casts herself between him and a blow—for what?—your Honor, and Gentlemen of the Jury. Aye, that's the question!

Here it may be added that we have more than once expressed our admiration of Mr. NOEL; that he has called at our office more than once; and that, to all appearance, our interviews have been highly agreeable to both parties.

He is a young gentleman of literary tastes and acquirements, such as might well attract the admiration of a blue-stocking.—We shudder at the inferences which might be drawn—and what will Mrs. NOEL think?

We beg of Mr. NOEL that he will pause and reflect before he destroys his own domestic felicity and our reputation.

Why does he not contest the election? Aye, that is it! Contest the election!—Here is a chance to immortalize himself without injuring his friends. There are mutual charges of fraud, and corruption, and bribery; of offers of chews of tobacco, sticks of candy, remittances of ten-cent fines and fees of initiation, and undue influence. Bring the case before the District Court, and, if necessary, before the Supreme Court. Aye, carry it before Congress, and get the Representatives of the Nation to decide!

Mr. NOEL owes it to himself—to those influential friends whom he says will stand by him—to his constituents—to the Nation—to preserve and defend the purity of the ballot-box—the Minnesota ballot-box. This duty, at one time, devolved on Gov. RAMSEY. He neglected it; and now we call upon Mr. NOEL to stand up for the right—for the dignity of District Schoolmasters, and the preservation of our liberties.

Now is the time to strike the blow which shall hand down his name, as patriot, philosopher, and statesman, to the gratitude and admiration of generations, yet unborn; and we call upon him to embrace the glorious opportunity.

FINIS.

OUTRAGE IN TODD COUNTY.—The Minnesotan of yesterday morning, gives an account of a shocking case of brutality which occurred at Kerrick's camp on Little Elk River, on or about the 13th inst. A young man having been charged with the theft of some money belonging to some one of the party, they deliberately resorted to lynching the supposed offender, in order to extort from him a confession of the theft. After beating him in a most cruel manner, until life was nearly extinct, without eliciting the confession of a crime of which he was undoubtedly innocent, they released him, and he was obliged to make his way to Watab, a distance of nearly fifty miles, though suffering severely from wounds and bruises, and the nearest point where he could find relief. Such heartless, fiendish conduct, deserves punishment, and we hope the wretches who took part in this affair will be summarily dealt with.

LYNCHING IN MINNESOTA.—Late on Monday evening, a crowd collected in front of Vanlyke & Thompson's store, attracted by the cries of a thief, who had been caught stealing some beef from a store, and was immediately arrested. Being an old offender, the crowd determined to summarily punish him for his depredations, and prevent in future the loss of property to the citizens. Accordingly a rope was procured, a noose made and adjusted to his neck, and being thrown over a high post, he was drawn up by the excited crowd. He was left hanging until daylight, when the authorities cut him down and buried him. Legal proceedings will be commenced against the wretches who were instrumental in thus disgracing the name of our State.—Hastings (Min.) Ledger, 30th.

### United in Death.

A few days since, was seen in Portsmouth, Ohio, the solemn spectacle of a funeral, in which were two hearse in procession, bearing to their last resting place the remains of a husband and wife, who, after a pilgrimage together of fifty five years, had together, on the same morning, gone up on that long journey from which no traveller has yet returned. The husband was Mr. Richard Fitzgerald at the age of 87. He died in the house, while his grandfather built, and in which he and his mother were born, and till the last week of his life, he occupied the rooms which were his birth place, and that of his mother. He never entered a rail car, or a stage coach in his life. By his first wife, who died about fifty years ago, he had six children, most of whom arrived at mature years, but have all been dead for the last fifteen years.

### Judgement against Col. Benton.

The Treasury Department has notified the executors of the late Col. Benton of a judgement against the deceased rendered in 1826, in favor of the United States for \$7,000. The Government claims priority in payment. The executors will appeal to Congress for relief on the ground of the insolvency of the estate, the assets being hardly sufficient to pay bills owing for necessities furnished to the family of the deceased.—St. Louis Republican.

Dows East there resides a certain M. D. One very cold night he was aroused from his slumbers by a loud knocking at his door. He went to the window and asked:

"Who's there?"  
"Friend."  
"What do you want?"  
"Want to stay here all night."  
"Stay there, then," was the benevolent reply, and down went the sash.

Two centuries ago, not one in one hundred wore stockings. Fifty years ago, not a boy in a thousand was allowed to run at large at night. Fifty years ago, not one girl in a thousand made a waiting-maid of her mother. Wonderful improvements in this wonderful age.

EMANCIPATION IN MISSOURI.—The slaveholders in Missouri have become so alarmed by the progress of Free State sentiments and practice, that they are about to resort to legal expedients to bind closer to them the treacherous masses are laboring to throw off. A bill prohibiting emancipation in the State has been introduced into the Legislature, with probabilities in favor of its passage.