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A Remarkable Letter

From a country churchman to his friend in the city on the subject of the late Episcopal Convention:—

OCTOBER 7, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Your remark that "the Bishop's friends are injuring the cause of religion by defending him" calls for some reply. I regret to hear that such is your opinion, though of course I could not but expect that you would naturally sympathise with that party in the church which is supposed to sympathise with you on doctrinal subjects. But, nevertheless, I am confident that on mature reflection, you will change your opinion; and I am sure the time is not far distant when the sober and sensible men of all denominations will perceive that they have been deceived in this whole matter, and that nothing could be more "injurious to the cause of religion" than the triumph of those unholy principles by which the enemies of the Bishop have been actuated from beginning to end. By the enemies of the Bishop I do not mean the Ecclesiastical Court, but those men in the city by whom these difficulties were commenced, who got up the trial, trumped up the witnesses, and were from the first determined to destroy the Bishop by fair means or foul. These are the men to whom I refer, and concerning whom I shall have more to say hereafter. "The Bishop's friends." No doubt the Bishop has his friends—those who know him well, and are sincerely and warmly attached to him, who are intimately acquainted with his private life and character, and think him a man of great purity of mind and heart, who are conscientiously persuaded that he is entirely innocent of the charges brought against him, and who honestly believe that he is persecuted for righteousness' sake. Such friends he has, and they are increasing every day. But nevertheless these friends made no movement to obtain a vote of the Convention expressive of their views, and, therefore, in this sense, it is not true that they are "defending him." They might have introduced a resolution declaratory of their solemn belief in his innocence, and complaining that the inherent rights of the diocese and convention had been trampled on and despised. They might have moved that the sentence of "indefinite suspension" is a nullity, as it certainly is, or that the suspension is ended, and therefore requesting the Bishop to resume his duties. Any of these resolutions would not have violated a single article of the constitution or canons of the Church, and had it been the object of "the Bishop's friends" to defend him, no doubt some such movement would have been made in the Convention. Indeed I was expecting a movement of the kind. I thought it due both to the diocese and the bishop, and though at a distance from the scene of the excitement, and therefore, perhaps, not as well able to judge as others, yet I took upon all this talk about the destruction of his usefulness as mere twaddle, cant and hypocrisy. I believe that the trials of the past have had a tendency to purify and elevate his character in the estimation of the world, that the meekness and patience with which he has borne them have tended to soften the hearts even of his enemies, and that he could now resume the sacred duties of his office with tenfold energy, power and influence.

But, nevertheless, it may be that the Bishop's friends took a wiser course; and if you will look at it a moment, you will perceive at once, that it was most mild and conciliatory. What did they do? They refrained from any expression of their own strong views and feelings in his behalf, excepting by an occasional reference to him in their speeches; and for the sake of peace and harmony they made this absolute sacrifice of their rights and privileges. Then they introduced a series of resolutions which were founded entirely upon compromise, which expressed their acquiescence in the decision of the court, which provided for an Assistant Bishop, and which opened the way for the quiet withdrawal of the present encumbent. What more could have been asked of them? But the opponents of the Bishop were not satisfied with this. They were determined either to declare the diocese vacant or to force the Bishop immediately to resign, and by uniting upon one or the other of these contradictory courses—contradictory, because if the diocese be vacant the Bishop cannot resign—they not only defeated the measures of peace and reconciliation, but in my humble judgment they did infinite service to the Bishop himself. His friends are now released from the obligation of attempting any further measures of compromise, and are bound to act upon their own independent views of of justice and right. They may now insist upon his restoration. Every principle of Christianity demands it. He has now suffered all that the most unrelenting and persecuting spirit can demand; and the time has now come when truth, justice and mercy all require that the sentence of suspension be revoked. When that is done, then the Bishop is at liberty to resign, but I see not how he can resign before with any regard either to his own honor or the interests of religion and the church. So far, therefore, as the measures proposed in the convention by "the Bishop's friends" are concerned, I think you must acknowledge that your opinion was hastily formed, and that they were by no means "injurious to the cause of religion."

I come now to the consideration of their conduct. Of course I can only judge of this from the newspaper reports, and from what I know of the ordinary occasions of disturbance in such bodies. I am willing to acknowledge that the unparalelled scene of disorder and confusion exhibited on Saturday, according to the reports, was most "injurious to the cause of religion." Every good man must mourn over it, and every churchman must feel himself disgraced. But who were the authors of this confusion? Who were the men who created this disorder by their passionate speeches, their unwarrantable attacks on private motives, their multiplication of resolutions and amendments, and motions to adjourn; their many expedients to resist and to stave off a direct vote on the report of the committee, and their determination at all hazards to drown the voice of the majority, and obtain a triumph. Who were these men? Evidently they were the opponents of the Bishop; among whom you recognise the names of many political demagogues, well known and marked in your city as political managers, most adroit in all party manœuvering, and who brought their peculiar tactics to bear on the convention. What was the object of these men, as manifested by their extraordinary course on Saturday? Evidently it was not to promote the honor, dignity and peace of the church; not to act as her faithful and exemplary sons, but to carry their point by storm, to extort from the Bishop a resignation; to secure this object every principle of propriety and justice was sacrificed; and because on that occasion they were sure to be defeated by the direct vote of a full convention, they were determined that no vote should then be taken, but that the convention should adjourn over until Monday. They knew that many of the unterrified and conscientious members of the church from the country would be obliged to return home; that in the meantime an opportunity would be afforded for the application of the screws; that possibly some of the clergy might be so worked upon as to yield to their embraces, as in fact was the case; and hence the noise confusion and disorder so disgraceful to religion. We regret the manifestation of such a wicked and malignant temper on the part of men who profess and call themselves christians, and especially in that branch of the church of Christ which has hitherto been distinguished for its order, quietness and peace. But for this you must not blame the friends of the Bishop. So far as I am able to judge by the reports, they seem to have set an illustrious example of patient endurance under the severest provocations. Their characters were assailed, their motives impeached, and every appeal was made to their passions, their hopes and fears, which the ingenuity of man could invent; and yet in the midst of all they remain unmoved and unterrified, not returning evil for evil, or railing for railing. To my mind, therefore, they exhibit a spectacle of moral firmness and resolution truly sublime. I refer more especially to the clergy—the country clergy—those who have no connection with the miserable *cliques* which have been formed in the city—who have no ambitious desires to be gratified by the destruction of any Bishop or any man—who are quietly laboring in their parishes as faithful stewards of the manifold grace of God, and who have been taught by the discipline of a holy and self-denying life to defend the oppressed at all times and on all occasions.

Some two years ago, when these difficulties commenced in the New York Convention, and when Puseyism and Popery were the alarm notes, then one of the vilest of your city papers—the *Courier & Enquirer*—attacked the country clergy as under the influence of the Bishop and afraid to act contrary to his wishes. But the Bishop is now prostrate; his power is gone, the popular cry is against him, and yet these same country clergy are as true and faithful as ever almost to a man. You may depend upon it, therefore, that they are acting upon principle as humble Christians, that no earthly power can terrify or drive them from the fearless discharge of their duty.

But more than this—the country Clergy are the principal sufferers from the present unhappy state of things in the church. Their parishes are weak, their incomes small, they are surrounded by watchful foes, are obliged to maintain the services of the church in the midst of prejudice and obloquy, and hence they feel to a much greater degree than the clergy of the city, the deleterious influence of all those attacks upon the church with which some of your city papers have abounded. These wholesale attacks scarcely noticed in the city, or only noticed as the ebullitions of party spleen, are eagerly seized upon in the country, and read from house to house by all the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Campbellites, Seekers, and Mormons in the neighborhood. And coming as they often do from men, who profess to be the friends of the Church, though in fact they are her bitterest foes, and have no other interest in her than that of money and wealth; they constitute one of the strongest obstacles with which the missionary has to contend in his exertions to establish the faith once delivered to the saints. Hence these clergymen are veterans; they cannot be frightened by the clamorous, nor driven by the threatenings of your political managers; they have learned to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and even in the Convention, though the weapons of their warfare are not carnal, yet they are ready to fight under His banner against all the delusions and artifices of the world, the flesh and the devil. I honor them, therefore, for their stability and faithfulness in the late Convention and I believe that eventually their cause will triumph above all opposition.

But more than this, the country Clergy are not ignorant of the secret springs and movements in all this hostility to the Bishop. They know who are the troublers of Israel, and what these troublers want, and what they are hungering and thirsting for like a set of voracious conquerants. They know that personal quarrels among some of the Clergy of the city are at the bottom of all this trouble. They knew the learned Doctors of Divinity who first quarrelled in the *Churchman*, disputing which was the greatest, and were driven from thence by the fearless editor; who then quarrelled in the *New World*—who then wrote anonymous letters—who then denied the authorship of their own epistles—who then quarrelled with the Bishop because he would not interfere to settle their disputes—who then sent for the Bishop of Western New York, and because he found himself in too much of a hornet's nest to do any good, they quarrelled with him—and now, like Herod and Pilate, their personal resentments are all merged in opposition to one of the best men of the age, in the vain hope that his destruction will enable one or the other to triumph. Let these learned Doctors settle their private disputes. Let them become reconciled to each other, and act like brethren of the same household of faith, and then we believe that they will be satisfied with their Bishop, and will know how to love him and to stand by him through evil and through good report. But men who are faithless to each other cannot be faithful to him. Men who are always at war with each other, must be expected to be at war with him; and now, because the other Clergy, who live as brethren in offices of love, cannot enter into their disputes and participate in their resentments they storm and threaten and rage. They roar like bears, and mourn sore like doves.

I beg you, my friend, not to be carried away with their professions of piety. You may depend upon it that the secret history of all this hostility to the Bishop remains to be written, and when it is written the Bishop will come forth as gold, tried and purified by the fire.

MORE DEVELOPMENTS OF CRIME AT THE WEST.—Some new and very important disclosures have recently been made, involving the character of men heretofore unsuspected, of which we are not now at liberty to speak. Sufficient to say that a little leaven is leavening the whole lump. Every day is developing new facts. The whole gang have lost confidence in each other, and every one is hurrying to disclose, lest some one speak before him. Sterns, taken from the Michigan penitentiary, is well acquainted in this city, and has thrown a cloud around some men's characters which it would be difficult to disperse. West has been here, too, and has disclosed. Last, but not least, Bridge told his experience under oath before he went to Alton. Birch, Long & Co. think each other has proven traitor, and they are at work disclosing as fast as they can think of things to tell.—The organization of the gang is astonishing. Scattered as its members might be, its powers of calling and collecting a full convention is indeed wonderful. At the meeting which resolved on the murder of Campbell, on a few days' notice, about twenty were present. Father Driskill was in the chair. Various plans were proposed and discussed. At length it was voted that young Taylor Driskill should shoot him. Campbell was commander of the Regulators.—On Sunday night two men rode to his door and inquired the road to Fulton. Mrs. C. came to the door, but they pretended not to understand her, and she called her husband. No sooner did he appear than Taylor Driskill, now in the Oregon jail, shot him. Bridge was with him, and they passed on together. This was in 1841. In consequence, father Driskill and his son William were lynched. Campbell was a universal favorite on Rock River, and was a brave and generous man. Soon after, a class of men distinguished themselves as "friends of law and order," and got up meetings denouncing lynching. It has since appeared that their zeal was all in their own behalf, as the largest portion of them have been proven to be connected with the gang. The chairman of one these meetings has been in the counterfeit business for several years, whilst others are known as advisers, spies and secreters. Last spring a convention was held at Bridge's to determine what had better be done with Mr. Haskell, the Postmaster at Inlet. Finally it was voted to burn him out. Accordingly, the time was set, and one man allotted to burn his house, another his store and another his stable. He had become obnoxious to them in his efforts to put them down, as they had robbed him of a large amount of specie. In a severe thunder storm they went to his house. All stood out doors but Sutton, alias Fox. He entered the house in his stocking feet—and as the lightning flashed, he saw his way to the trunk under the bed, covered with curtains. He took the trunk to an empty house at a distance, where they divided the spoils, of which Bridge got one hundred dollars. As Mr. Haskell proved that Bridge owned that he had received this amount, he got an execution therefor and secured it. It was owing to the wrong form of action that he did not get the whole of it. Owing to the excitement occasioned by their robbery of Mulford, they found it necesssary to scatter to different parts of the country, and so were unable to carry out their design of burning Mr. Haskell's buildings. The Belvidere Post Office was robbed some time ago. As is usual in such cases, there were those to cry "self robbery." The following facts have since come to light. "Favor was a "sight getter," so called. He was driving a stage or a team on the road. He writes Sawyer, the P. M. at Inlet, postage free, to send up a hand, as he had "got a sight." (Fred Favor stood out doors at the Mulford robbery. Sawyer sent up Birch, who knew at whose house to stay whilst surveying "the sight." Birch went back and sent up Sutton, who also knew where to stay. He took the money and divided it with Favor, Sawyer and Birch. Not long before or after this robbery, a very mysterious letter was written to the Department at Washington, signed "Harley Wayne." It wanted Mr. Ames removed from the Post Office but named no successor. It wanted James L. Loop brought before the U. S. Court on *pretence* of violating Ames' franking privilege. But when there this Harley Wayne would make some awful disclosures.—The whole tenor of the letter seemed to be to blast the characters of Messrs. Loop and Ames, which were and are now above suspicion. Nauvoo is the head-quarters of bogus making, though no one pretends that the Mormons have any thing to do with it. The material is brought up in bars from St. Louis; and it is run into money by sundry Englishmen who make dies. One of these Englishmen has moved into Iowa, where he keeps tavern for horse-thieves, counterfeiters, robbers, &c. He undersells the Nauvoo manufacturers, both in bogus and dies. One of the principal counterfeiters lives in De Kalb county. He sells it two for one, but never tries to pass it except to his confidents. He goes East once or twice a year and gets it in Vermont. He brought the Lyons and Owego bank money to this State, a part of which he signed off himself. An Eastern gentleman is supposed to bring out a lot also, as he comes out twice a year, and sees all the big devils. He has recently been out. When out the last time before this, he had a great deal to do with Bridge. He won't come again on the same business! Up to the time of the general alarm of the whole gang, they had two places of rendezvous in our city. One of the keepers since moved to La Salle county, on the Illinois river. He is a brother-in-law of the celebrated Button, alias Butler, recently brought out. It is represented that these men were "true," and that although rogues were at their houses every day in the year, no one was ever betrayed.—Vezy, of Jo Daviess, however, complains that one of them, charged him $100 in bogus for two days board, which he thinks was too high; and Hopkins of Belleview, Iowa, drove a pair of horses to the same place. The landlord told him he was pursued, and made him clear out in the night, saying the horses were taken. Hopkins says the pursuit was all a cheat, and that the landlord got the horses and kept them for himself. A man at Ottawa gave their names to a horse thief taken at Oswego as "men to be trusted." Hank Lane, son-in-law of Bliss has eloped. If caught he should be taken to Dixon, with or without process. Information is also wanted of Baker, who broke Monmouth jail with Tom Atken, who keeps a place of refuge on a little stream emptying into the Missouri, 300 miles up that river. "Big Davis" is somewhere in that vicinity. It was testified at Dixon, that the best bogus ever known was some brought to Chicago from the East in the year 1842. Bigelow and Rose bought a large share of it, and many others got a little. Not a dollar was ever disputed. But one box of $40,000 was sold here. Nine boxes were sold in Michigan, where it was used as banking capital. Great efforts have been made to get some more of it, but no traces of the person who dealt in it have ever been found. Bridge, one of the murderers of Col. Campbell, has gone to prison for seven years. The other murderer Driskill is safe in the Oregon jail. Big Davis is still at large. As soon as he is caught, the work must commence upon the attorneys, tavern keepers, &c., &c., who have long been in the service of this crowd. Their names are all known, and the evidence complete.—*Chicago Democrat.*

FIRE AT WINCHESTER.—The result of the fire on Tuesday last, is the burning of Taylor's Hotel and the building adjoining, occupied as a store by G. W. Hammond, also the range of offices and shops called Hoff's Row, opposite the Court House. The high walls north, saved the buildings occupied by Thos. B. Campbell as a jeweller's shop, and the block adjoining. Wm. Miller's residence, and the whole block south of it were saved, though the fire had communicated to that, and to Mr. Bell's store and several other buidings further up the street. On that side, the goods from the stores of Messrs. Hammond, Peter Miller, Wolf, Streit, Baker, Slagle, Ward, Bell, Breedin, Sperry, Lindsey and Russell; the hat store of Mr. Besore, watch and jeweller establishment of Mr. T. B. Campbell, and the tobacco store of Mr. Atwell; Mr. Ender's barber shop; the furniture of Messrs. Wm. Miller, Geo. W. Baker, Henry S. Baker, Dr. McCormick, all were removed, and many articles misplaced. The goods of Mr. H. F. Baker and of the post office were also removed. On the east side of the street there was a hasty removal of the goods and furniture of Messrs. Aulick, Burgess & Lauck, Anderson, Dorsey, Evans, Tipping, Spangler, Senseney, J. & L. Miller, W. A. Baker, Wall, Keenan, Hensel and Haney. Messrs William Miller, Levering, and Shaw, did not remove their goods from the shelves, but shut up their stores, and are consequently free from damage in this respect. Mr. Kerr's furniture is also safe. The five tenements burnt in Hoff's Row were occupied as law offices and shops, by Messrs. Williams and Barton, J. Tidball, J. Ambler, G. Frost, George R. Long, R. Milton, Wm. D. Gilkeson, J. E. Jackson, Wm. Seemer, and R. Bowen. The haste with which the goods of Mr. Hammond were necessarily removed, caused many of them to be deranged and lost. So with Messrs. Tipping, Dorsey, Senseney, Bell, Wolf, Peter Miller, and others. The Farmers' Bank was in great danger, buildings on each side of it being fired. The one opposite, occupied by Miss Frame, was on fire, and others not far from our own premises were saved by the timely application of wet blankets. The roof of the *Virginian* office was also on fire, as was the cupola of the court house—the latter seriously endangering the Clerks' offices. The loss of property is, as usual, variously estimated. Mr. Taylor had an insurance of $10,000 on his tavern house, one half of the amount which the Messrs. Seevers were to give him for the premises. Mr. Danner had an insurance of $5,000 on his furniture; but his loss will be seven or eight thousand dollars. The boarders at the hotel also met with losses—among whom were Messrs. Hammond, Wood, Moore, Frye, Angel, and others, whose names we have not heard. Mr. Steiner, a journeyman of Mr. W. Anders, lost his savings of several years, in a trunk which was carried out during the alarm. Mr. A. P. Finch lost the books and papers of his establishment, being prevented by the illness of his wife from giving personal attention to his effects. Every body is loud in the praise of the ladies of the town, many of whom displayed not only coolness and activity, but great energy. They formed two lines to hand water, and many were employed in removing goods.

SUPREME COURT, ROCHESTER, Oct. 23, 1845.—No. 4. Jerome J. Briggs ads. The Board of Supervisors of Onondaga. Mr. Briggs concluded in person. Mr. Comstock was heard for the plaintiff. Mr. Lawrence was heard in reply.

The Famous Expedition of Captain Fremont to the Rocky Mountains. The Great South Pass, &c., &c.

We last week gave a plan of the route of the gallant Captain Fremont, over the Rocky Mountains and through Oregon and California, together with two spirited views. We now continue these illustrations of this famous expedition.

Hot Spring Gate. Wind River Mountains.
Devil's Gate. Pike's Peak.

The Hot Spring Gate is a very curious affair. It is on the North Fork of the Platte river, and lies between Fort Laramie and Rock Independence, which is on the Sweet Water river. It has much the appearance of a gate, by which the Platte passes through a ridge composed of a white and calcareous sandstone. The length of the passage is about four hundred yards, with a smooth green prairie on either side. Through this place, the stream flows with a quiet current, unbroken by any rapid, and is about seventy yards wide between the walls, which rise perpendicularly from the water. To that on the right bank, which is the lower, the barometer gave a height of three hundred and sixty feet.

Of this spring and gate, Captain F. says:—"Towards evening reached the cut, which we named the Hot Spring gate. On our previous visit in July, we had not entered this pass, reserving it for our descent in the boat; and when we entered it this evening, Mr. Preuss was a few hundred feet in advance. Heated with the long march, he came suddenly upon a fine bold spring gushing from the rock, about ten feet above the river. Eager to enjoy the crystal water, he threw himself down for a hasty draught, and took a mouthful of water almost boiling hot. He said nothing to Benoist, who laid himself down to drink; but the steam from the water arrested his eagerness, and he escaped the hot draught. We had no thermometer to ascertain the temperature, but I could hold my hand in the water just long enough to count two seconds. There are eight or ten of these springs discharging themselves by streams large enough to be called runs. A loud, hollow noise was heard from the rock, which I supposed to be produced by the fall of the water. The strata immediately where they issue is a fine white and calcareous sandstone, covered with an incrustation of common salt."

HOT SPRING GATE.

On the Sweet Water River.

DEVIL'S GATE,

On the North Fork of Platte River.

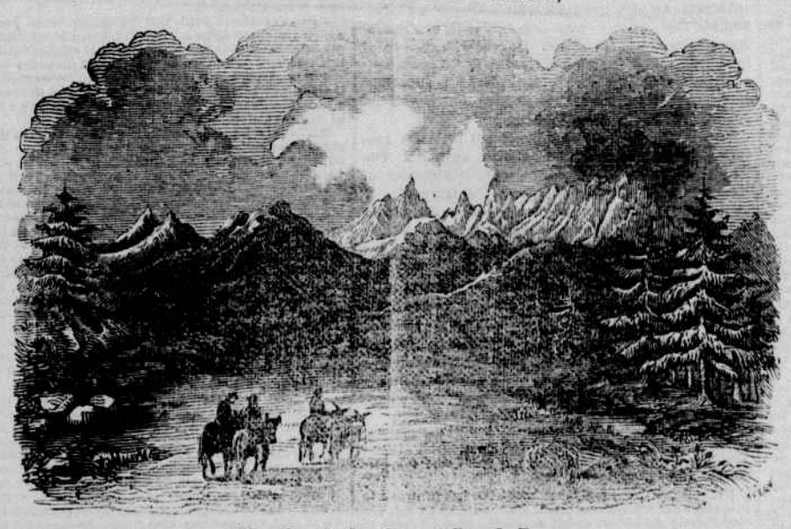
The Devil's Gate is another singular view. It is situated on the Sweet Water River, just beyond Rock Independence, and where the Sweet Water cuts through the point of a granite ridge.

The length of the passage is about three hundred yards, and the width thirty-five yards. The walls of rock are vertical, and about four hundred feet in height; and the stream in the gate is almost entirely choked up by masses which have fallen from above. In the wall, on the right bank, is a dike of trap rock, cutting through a fine-grained gray granite. Near the point of this ridge crop out some strata of the valley formation, consisting of a grayish micaceous sandstone, and fine-grained conglomerate, and marl. We encamped eight miles above the Devil's Gate, of which a view is given in the plate. There was no timber of any kind on the river, but good fires were made of drift wood, aided by the *bois de vache*.

The next engraving is of the Wind River Mountains. These are at an important point. On the southern edge of them is the Great Pass, through which civilization is to advance to people the West to the shores of the Pacific. It is decidedly the most interesting feature in the whole report of Captain F., and a discovery of vast importance to the United States. In speaking of this Pass, Captain F. says:—

The morning of the 13th was clear and cold, there being a white frost; and the thermometer, a little before sunrise, standing at 26° 5. Leaving this encampment, (our last on the waters which flow towards the rising sun,) we took our way along the upland, towards the dividing ridge which separates the Atlantic from the Pacific waters, and crossed it by a road some miles further south than the one we had followed on our return in 1842. We crossed very near the table mountain, at the southern extremity of the South Pass, which is near twenty miles in width, and already traversed by several different roads. Selecting as well as I could, in the scarcely

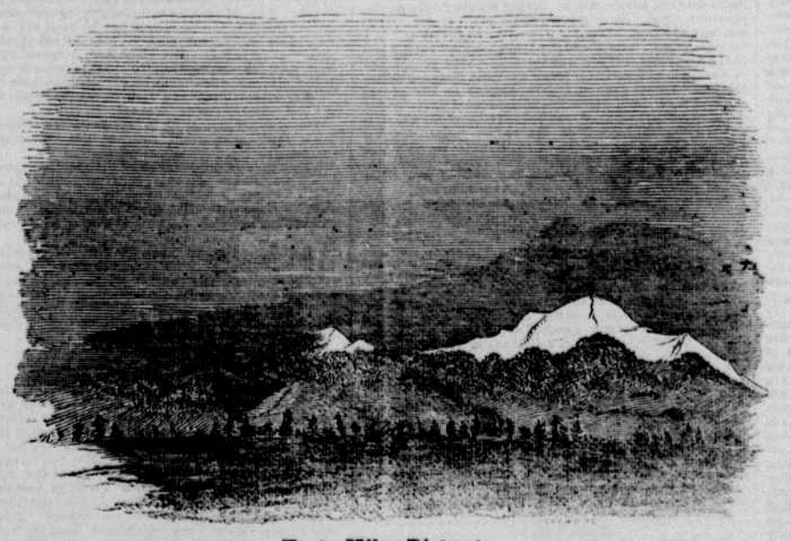
WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS,



North of the Great South Pass.

distinguishable ascent, what might be considered the dividing ridge in this remarkable depression in the mountain, I took a barometrical observation, which gave 7,490 feet for the elevation above the Gulf of Mexico. You will remember that, in my report of 1842, I estimated the elevation of this pass at about 7,000 feet; a correct observation with a good barometer enables me now to give it with more precision. Its importance, as the great gate through which commerce and travelling may hereafter pass between the valley of the Mississippi and the north Pacific, justifies a precise notice of its locality and distance from leading points, in addition to this statement of its elevation. As stated in the report of 1842, its latitude at the point where we crossed, is 42° 24′ 32″; its longitude 109° 26′ 00″; its distance from the mouth of the Kansas, by the common travelling route, 962 miles; from the mouth of the Great Platte, along the valley of that river, according to our survey of 1842, 882 miles; and its distance from St. Louis about 400 miles more by the Kanzas, and about 700 by the Great Platte route; these additions being steamboat conveyances in both instances. From this pass to the mouth of the Oregon is about 1,400 miles by the common travelling route; so that, under a general point of view, it may be assumed to be about half way between the Mississippi and the Pacific ocean, on the common travelling route. Following a hollow of slight and easy descent, in which was very soon formed a little tributary to the Gulf of California, (for the waters which flow west from the South Pass go to this gulf,) we made our usual halt four miles from the pass, in latitude by observation. 42° 19′ 53″. Entering here the valley of Green river—the great Colorado of the West—and inclining very much to the southward along the streams which form the Sandy river, the road led for several days over dry and level uninteresting plains; to which a low, scrubby growth of artemesia gave a uniform dull grayish color; and on the evening of the 15th we encamped in the Mexican territory, on the left bank of Green river, 69 miles from the South Pass, in longitude 110° 05′ 05″, and latitude 41° 53′ 54″, distant 1,031 miles from the mouth of the Kansas. This is the emigrant road to Oregon, which bears much to the south ward, to avoid the mountains about the western heads of Green river— the *Rio Verde* of the Spaniards.

VIEW OF PIKE'S PEAK,



Forty Miles Distant.

Our last engraving for this week, is a view of Pike's Peak, seen at a distance of forty miles from camp. It is thus described:—

The view of Pike's peak, at the distance of forty miles, represents very correctly the manner in which this mountain barrier presents itself to travellers on the plains, which sweep almost directly to its bases; an immense and comparatively smooth and grassy prairie, in very strong contrast with the black masses of timber, and the glittering snow above them. With occasional exceptions, comparatively so very small as not to require mention, these prairies are dry where covered with a close and vigorous growth of a great variety of grasses, among which the most abundant is the buffalo grass, (*sesleria dactyloides.*) Between the Platte and Arkansas rivers, that part of this region which forms the basin drained by the waters of the Kansas, with which our operations made us more particularly acquainted, is based upon a formation of calcareous rocks. The soil of all this country is excellent, admirably adapted to agricultural purposes, and would support a large agricultural and pastoral population. A glance at the map accompanying this report, along our several lines of travel, will show you that this plain is watered by many streams.

Religious Intelligence.

The different religious papers that are published in this city form a curious item among the flood of newspaper literature of the day. The different sects and denominations have each their particular organ, and their various disputes and difficulties are conducted with almost as much asperity as those of the political parties in the secular press. We have been looking over those that were published yesterday, and will endeavor to give the spirit of them. We begin with the Episcopalians, and first comes the "Churchman," which has a somewhat lengthy leader regarding the late Episcopal Convention, and as it is the recognized organ of the Bishop's party, it enters into a review of some of the proceedings of the Convention, and makes some remarks, which, it says, are intended chiefly in self-defence, as they have been virtually charged with dissimulation at their alleged tone of exultation in regard to the result of the late Convention, which, they say, they have endeavored to avoid, if they have even seemed to indulge in it.

The Rev. Fletcher J. Hawley sailed last week for Santa Cruz, having accepted an invitation to be an assistant minister in the parish of which the Rev. F. S. Mines is rector.

The "PROTESTANT CHURCHMAN," which is the opposition paper, and the organ of those who do not favor the Bishop, has a leader of nearly three columns in length, in which it goes over all the voting during the Convention, and completely dissects the *Churchman's* remarks on the subject, and closes with the following:—"Our contemporary, the *Churchman*, remarks—'While the shallow brook babbles, still water runs deep.' The still water of these statistics does indeed run deep, and in view of the great moral result at stake, we say most fervently

Labitur et labetur in omne volubilis ævum.

As we cast our eyes over these tables, the spectres which some are still at work to conjure up, disappear, and all mystification ends, whilst at the same time we can find no words which can better express our feelings and hopes, than those which closed Dr. Seabury's editorial after the adjournment of the Convention.

"We are thankful that our hopes have been more than realized. We congratulate the diocese on having passed with safety a perilous juncture. We beseech the friends of law and order and justice to stand firm, and be prepared to follow out their convictions of duty unto the end."

The Rev. Dr. H. Potter, rector of St. Peter's Church, Albany, arrived at this port on the 16th instant, in the packet ship Ashburton, from Liverpool.

THE PRESBYTERIANS come next in order, and the *New York Observer* is their chronicler, and its leader is devoted to the Mormons and the origin of the anti-Mormon war. There is also an article on the explosion of the Fourier phalanx in Pike, Bradford county, Pa., and warning the religious community not to be enticed into entering into any of these associations.

THE ROMAN CATHOLICS also have their organ, which is the *Freemen's Journal and Catholic Register*. They find cause for congratulation in the Ronge movement in Germany, and conclude their remarks as follows:

"Whatever may be the fact in reference to the followers of Hermes, one thing is very evident, that the present religious troubles will act efficiently in separating the diseased portions from the healthy body; and by binding together without serious diminution, in indissoluble bonds, the members of the long suffering, but now emancipated, Catholic Church of Germany."

On the matter of Dr. Reese's removal, they say but the following:

"Dr. Reese, County Superintendent, was formally removed, on last Thursday evening, by a vote of the Board of Supervisors of 11 to 5. We will give the particulars next week."

They also give a curious edict of the Emperor of China, in which the Catholic religion is made the especial object of persecution.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Reynolds, Bishop of Charleston, on his return to his diocese from Europe, remained in our city for a few days as the guest of Bishop Hughes.

This short synopsis comprises almost all the interesting items in the religious world of literature.

THE FUTURE HOME OF THE MORMONS.—Nooka or Vancouver Island, on the northwest coast of North America, we have it from good authority, is to be the final destination and home of the Mormon people. This Island is about 300 miles long, and 75 to 100 in width. It is separated from the main land by a long, narrow strait, and lies between the 47th or 48th and 51st or 52d degrees of north latitude, extending along the coast in a northwest direction. The boundary line between the American and British possessions in the northwest, will probably pass across the Island. The English, we believe, have one or two trading posts on the Island, but for the most part, it is inhabited by Indians, of not a warlike disposition. It is a long journey, but can be accomplished. If the Mormons do emigrate to that distant land, they will be out of the reach of harm from white men, and may enjoy their peculiar notions in quiet, until the devil breeds his own discords and confusion among them. We understand from the same authority, that companies are rapidly organizing at Nauvoo, for an early start in the spring. The church authorities and leading men will go out in a very large company, and without doubt the remainder will follow.—*Quincy Whig.*

CAP-AU-GRIS.—This point on the Mississippi is yet destined to become a place of considerable trade. It has long been neglected and overlooked by the merchants of Lincoln, but they seem suddenly to have waked up to the importance of its location, which will soon command the greater portion of the trade of the county. Within the last few months, three mercantile houses have been established at that point, all of which will be conducted by enterprising and business men. They propose to purchase with cash or goods, all the produce which they can obtain; thus they will not only be enabled to do a mercantile business, but will confer a great benefit upon the citizens of the county, by affording them a ready market for all their surplus produce. Hitherto the merchants of Lincoln have been of very little benefit to the county. There is also a new tavern just opened at Cape-au-Gris, and it has the prospect of another store soon. It has now two taverns and three strong mercantile establishments. It only lacks a few mechanics to make it a flourishing village. A shoemaker, a blacksmith and a carpenter would do well there; a doctor might also locate himself to advantage at that place.—*Bowling Green Banner.*

U. S. CIRCUIT COURT—NORTHERN DISTRICT—The U.S. Circuit Court for the Northern District, met at Albany Oct. 21.—Present—S. Nelson, Esq., presiding; Alfred Conklin, Associate Judge. After the charge to the Grand Jury, the court took up the case of Benjamin H. Wood vs. David Anthony—This action was brought to recover damages for the infringement of a patent for "a new and improved plough," granted to Jethro Wood, the father of plaintiff, in 1819, and renewed to his heirs by act of Congress, passed in 1834. Verdict for plaintiff, $400. October 24—The U. S. of America vs. Alexander Price—Mr. Price was indicted for embezzling letters as P. M. Upon being arraigned on the opening of the Court this morning, he plead guilty; whereupon his honor the presiding Judge sentenced him to State Prison at Auburn for the term of ten years. The U. S. of America vs. Thomas Staats, Jr.—The prisoner Staats, was indicted for making and obtaining false proofs, on which he procured a petition for one Goodheart or Goodfaith. His counsel are John K. Porter, Esq., et al. This case is now in progress of trial.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—Our friend, Capt. Jenks, showed us yesterday a sample of wild hemp found in this county. Its fibre is the same as the Manila hemp, though in external appearance it approaches nearer the New Zealand hemp. Its discovery was accidental. A farmer from St. Louis county, being in Capt. Jenks' hemp warehouse, accidentally saw some Manilla hemp, made inquiry what it was, and upon being informed that it was Manilla hemp, said he had produced something exactly like it from a weed on his farm, and that he would send in a sample, which he did; and it proves to be a variety of the Manilla hemp, resembling most the New Zealand hemp; but it undoubtedly belongs to the same genus as the New Zealand, Sisal and St. Domingo hemp, from which all our heavy cordage is made.—*St. Louis Missourian.*

INDIAN DELEGATION.—A delegation of Indian chiefs, of the Pottawattamie tribes, arrived in Baltimore on Wednesday night, by the Susquehanna railroad, on their way to Washington. They stopped all night at the U. S. Hotel, Pratt street, and left at nine o'clock yesterday morning for the capital. Their names are—Mo Beaudien, William Holliday, Pieme Leclerce, Wah-bon-seh, Keah, Half-Day, Me-ah-mis, Sosh-min-ne, Le-quah-Kinine, Na-nan-scuet, White Pigeon. They are from Council Bluffs, on the Missouri river, and are under the guidance of Mr. Richard Elliott, interpreter. The object of their visit is the settling of some business in reference to their lands in the west. They are fine specimens of the true natives of the land.

THE RESULT OF THE STRIKE IN PITTSBURGH.—The factories are now all at work, with nearly a full complement of hands. A great many new hands are coming in. We were in one of the offices yesterday, when two very fine looking girls applied for work, and stated they had never been employed in any factory. The proprietor sent them into the mill to work, and remarked to us, "I could fill my mill with new hands in a short time, if I chose to do so, and was willing to take the trouble to teach them." He also told us that a great many new hands were applying and receiving places.—*Pittsburgh Gaz., Oct. 22.*

ANOTHER SEA VESSEL.—A fine schooner, of about 180 tons burthen, was at our wharf late on Tuesday evening. She was built at Freedom, Pennsylvania, some 150 miles farther from the sea than the bark Muskingum, which attracted so much attention about six months ago. She is full rigged, and, if we are not mistaken, out and out home-made. Her cables are of American water-rotted hemp, and she is offered to be freighted with the great staple of Kentucky on this her first voyage to New York.—*Maysville Eagle.*

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—We understand that the Electro Magnetic Telegraph, between this city and Boston, will be completed in a few weeks. The workmen are busily employed in putting in the posts. The line will run along by the Boston and Lowell Railroad. The terminus in Boston will be at the Merchants' Exchange, State street. The city authorities have given the company the right to bring the wires to that place—This will be the first magnetic telegraph erected in New England, which speaks well for the enterprise of the Lowell people.—*Lowell Courier, Oct. 24.*

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HEALTH.—We learn from Official Authority, that the health of His Excellency the Governor General continues much in the same state as at the time when the last bulletin was issued.—*Montreal Herald, Oct. 23.*

Varieties.

An animal caught a few days since by some boatmen on the bank of the canal in the county of Chesterfield, and now in the possession of Mr. Robertson, at the public warehouse, seems to be something new in natural history. It is of a grayish color, the hinder part of the legs white, the front dark; is about fourteen inches high, and twenty-five inches from the nose to the tip of the tail—the tail about six inches long. The neck is long, and something like a fawn; the top of the head like a goat, but the general appearance of the head like that of a sheep, except the eyes resemble fawn's. It weighs eight pounds—it has no external ear. Two horns are making their appearance. Its rump and hoofs are like those of a fawn; is a male. The mouth, tongue and teeth are black. It would seem to be about fifteen days old: is perfectly gentle, docile and affectionate, and is fed with milk. It is supposed to be the progeny of the sheep and the deer, and if so the mother must have been a doe, because it was caught wild.—*Petersburg Republican.*

The *Salisbury (N.C.) Watchman* has a story about a snake with two heads, which is said to have been found by Mr. J. G. Templeton and his brother Elam Templeton, on the farm of the latter in Iredell county.—The heads were at each extremity of the body, and were perfectly formed, says the *Watchman*. The reptile measured 5 feet 5½ inches in length, and was of a black color.

There are now a number of gentlemen engaged in surveying and examining the Illinois river, and have been in this vicinity for several days past. We understand that they are to report to the next Congress as to the practicability of constructing a ship canal so as to connect the lakes with the Gulf of Mexico.—*Hennepin (Ill.) Herald, Sept. 27.*

It is stated in the *Nashville Banner* that a boy picked up a beautiful stone in the Cumberland river, which, however, he was willing to sell for a few pennies. It proved to be a pearl, three eighths of an inch in diameter, and weighing 18 grains, and is estimated to be worth $500.

There are now residing in Lowell two worthy and highly respectable book binders, who are twin brothers—they look, act and dress alike—were each married on the same day to twin sisters, who also look, act and dress alike. They all live in one house, and in imitation of some editors, say "our" wife, &c.

Bears are very plentiful in Michigan this fall.—The *Kalamazoo Telegraph* says: A man towards Grand Haven has alone killed seventeen this season, and more or less are daily killed in this county. Their appearance at this time is occasioned by the scarcity of mast in the upper Peninsula.

A gentleman states that by using guano this year his crop of grapes was increased four-fold, and he consequently made four times more wine. He also tried it around his quince trees, the consequence of which was that they produced double their usual quantity of fruit.

A French cook at the Louisville Hotel, who kept a pair of big rattlesnakes in a box in his room, went to his room on Saturday and found one of them at large.—He undertook to kill the snake with a large knife, but the reptile bit him on the finger. The Frenchman whittled his finger down to the bone and then disposed of the pair of snakes for $8. Dr. Holland was the tasteful purchaser. We understand he intends to travel with them.

The small pox has made its appearance in Washington. The Board of Health in that city have taken precautionary steps to prevent its spreading.

Hon. Washington Poe, whig member of Congress elect from the Third (Macon) District of Georgia, has resigned his seat, on account of imperative personal engagements.

Richard P. Bartlett, the young man who was lost from the schooner Surveyor, near Green Bay, has made his appearance. He got lost in the woods, but received assistance from a family near Fish Creek