

A Night in the Senate.
WASHINGTON, March 4, 1854.
As I entered the Senate Chamber about 10 o'clock last night, I found the new Senator from Maine, Mr. Fessenden, making a most gallant onslaught upon the Nebraska conspirators. It was a speech that they will remember—manly, caustic and defiant.

It was glorious to see the little band of faithful men in the Senate made larger and stronger by such an addition, and deeply sensible, I know, are his compeers of the strength and encouragement thus brought to their ranks.

All around him were the bullying, bragging majority, flushed with anticipated victory, and some of them, I am mortified to say, beaming drunk. He nevertheless with undaunted courage held them at bay. Twice Senator Butler of South Carolina advanced towards the Senator from Maine with clenched fists and flushed face, as if to commit a personal assault, but this only brought forth renewed and redoubled blows of eloquence and logic from the new Senator. He told the South, what they should have been told in 1850, that if they desire to leave the Union they need not delay their departure an hour on account of the North.

They have fought as one too many times with that bugaboo, to succeed this time. Weller, too, attempted to reply to some of the home thrusts of Senator Fessenden. His usual bombastic fourth-of-July style of oratory was heightened perhaps by too frequent visits to one of the anti-slavery members of the Senate room. Even Douglas could not endure the eloquence of the California Senator, and at last compelled him to give way and yield the floor.

Douglas commenced his speech about midnight and spoke till nearly three in the morning. The reports of his speech which reach you will convey but a faint idea of its violence and vigor. It was made up of personal attacks, mainly, which gave it all the piquancy it possessed. Only those who know Douglas, or those who heard him, can be aware of his low "Short Boy" style of speaking. His sneering tone and vulgar grimaces can't be heard and seen rather than described. To Senator Seward he said in return to a courteous explanation "Ah, you can't crawl behind the free rigger 'dodge.' He always uses the word 'nigger' and not 'negro' as it appears in his printed speeches. To Senator Weller he said, in Bowers style, "Sit down, this is my fight, don't mix in." His whole harangue abounded with such specimens and with frequent colloquies with different Senators.

Among the Senators who were particularly elevated, were Messrs. Butler and Gwin. When Douglas arose to speak, Mr. Butler went to him and put his arm round his neck, and said, "Ah, don't speak, Douglas, to-night; it is too late, you can't do justice to yourself." Gwin—d—ns and by G—ds were heard quite distinctly in the gallery, amid his loud conversation.

Gwin insisted upon Weller's going on with his speech against the enemies and remonstrances of Douglas, exclaiming: "My colleague shall speak. I don't care if the debate lasts a thousand years." "There's Seward," said Gwin, at another time, "he's got the worst principles of any man in the Senate, but he is the best friend to California I know," at the same time slapping Seward on the back.

Sam Houston, a true Temperance man I believe, excited some merriment by having cups of tea brought to him while he was speaking. The laughter among the ladies was caused, I believe, by his manner of pouring the tea from the cup into the saucer and by his seizing the opportunity of occasional interruptions in his speech to quietly enjoy his beverage. He made an eloquent speech widely in contrast with that of Douglas.

The last lady left the galleries about 4 o'clock in the morning at which time the male portion of the audience, also, had become somewhat thin. The Senators were provided with eatables and drinkables in one of the adjoining rooms of Senate Chamber, which they frequently visited. I believe such a scene was enacted in the Senate last night is almost unprecedented, and every person who has the least respect for his country will pray that such scenes may never occur again.

The horrible death of Gardner, the midnight orgies of the Senate, and the repeal of the Missouri Compromise on the part of that body, will together fill a dark page in our history.

Senator Wade.
Senator Wade made a capital argument against the Nebraska bill on Friday night, handling the subject with remarkable skill, and by his ready wit, prompt repartees and pointed sarcasms, reminding his auditors of a gifted son of Ohio, not now a member of the Senate. One or two of his points are too good to be lost. Mr. Badger had drawn a glowing picture of the institution of Slavery, telling, in the course of his remarks, of his good old "mammy," the negro nurse who had nursed him from childhood to manhood, and who, he bitterly complained, he could not take with him into Nebraska, if the opponents of the bill succeeded in securing the prohibition of Slavery therein. Mr. Wade saw no difficulty in the case. Nobody had any objection to the Senator's taking his dear affectionate old "mammy" to Nebraska with him; and nobody would think of interfering to prevent it. The only difficulty that the Senator would meet was, that he couldn't sell her when he got her there. Roars of laughter greeted the peculiarly ridiculous allusion in which this ally placed the Senator from North Carolina. At another time Mr. Wade was arguing to show that slaves were not property in the constitutional meaning of the term. If a man carried his horse out of a slave State into a free State, he did not lose his property interest in him; but if he carried his slave into a free State, the law made him free at once.

Mr. Butler, interposing, said: "Yes, but they won't stay with you; they will come back to us in spite of you."

instances it is rumored that their interests will also be united. It is rumored that the *Chronicle* and *Transcript* of Warren are soon to be blended—and identified in interest as well as principle. Let the "liberal press" of the State of Ohio take firm ground in opposition to the extension of human bondage, and the *menials of darkness* will cover before their influence. No more quarrelling about names—no more quarrelling about parties, or party achievements of principle and freedom—*Buckeye State.*

THE OHIO STAR

LYMAN W. HALL, Editor.
MR. HELEN B. BOSTWICK, Regular Contributor.
RAVENNA,
Wednesday, March 15, 1854.

GRAND MASS CONVENTION.

To the People of Ohio Opposed to the Introduction of Slavery into Nebraska.

At a meeting held by citizens of Columbus, at all parties on the evening of the 14th ult., the opinion was expressed that a Convention of the People of Ohio should be held, to make known their views upon the proposition now before the Senate of the United States to repeal the Missouri Compromise, and by act of Congress to open up to Slavery the vast territory lying north of 36 deg. 30 min. North latitude, and which is by law now free. On consultation with gentlemen from different parts of the State, the 22d DAY OF MARCH has been agreed upon as the time for holding the Convention. The undersigned desire to meet this call in the spirit in which it was made and would therefore recommend to our fellow citizens of all parties to unite in this Convention.

The question to be presented for consideration is one in which every FREE CITIZEN to whatever political party he may belong, has a direct personal interest, and in which the right and honor of every Northern and Western man is involved. We earnestly invite the PEOPLE to come up IN MASS from every county, city, village and township in the State.

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| E. R. Eckley, | Wm. Lawrence, |
| P. G. Somers, | H. W. Smith, |
| L. S. Sherman, | J. S. Wright, |
| J. M. Starnes, | R. B. Price, |
| John McClure, | Ed. B. Cleaver, |
| W. B. Kewth, | W. F. Herrick, |
| Leister Taylor, | A. E. Segor, |
| Edwin H. Shibley, | James Towley, |
| A. D. Burton, | Chas. C. Jennings, |
| A. Logus, | S. Finley, |
| Wm. Goodfellow, | Wm. H. Upson, |
| Wm. F. Evans, | N. S. Townsend, |
| Thos. D. Austin, | John A. Foot, |
| W. P. Morris, | David Allen, |
| Joshua Judy, | J. J. Worthington, |
| J. J. Gurley, | |

The following eminent gentlemen have been invited to be present and address the People of Ohio on the 22d instant:

- Hon. Thomas Ewing, Lancaster, Ohio;
- " D. K. Carter, Madison, Ohio;
- " S. P. Chase, U. S. Senate;
- " John P. Hale, New York City;
- " Thos. Corwin, Lebanon, Ohio;
- " Thos. H. Benton, St. Louis, Mo.;
- " Bollaugh Storey, Cincinnati, Ohio;
- " J. Brinkerhoff, Mansfield, Ohio;
- " Wm. H. Seward, U. S. Senate;
- " Smit. Houston, U. S. Senate;
- " Chas. Reeselin, Cincinnati, Ohio;
- " Benj. F. Wade, U. S. Senate.

Go to Columbus.
Will not the opponents to the great Administration measure, Douglas Nebraska Territorial bill, in Portage County, go up in godly numbers to the People's Convention at Columbus, next Wednesday?

We feel that it is almost an insult to ask the question, as it implies a doubt of the patriotic devotion of the good people of the County to the great interests of freedom.

We shall feel discouraged and mortified indeed, if Portage County is not largely represented on that occasion.

It is important that we leave nothing undone, calculated to strike terror into Northern Dough-faces. A great and determined State Convention in Ohio, giving utterance to the loud and indignant voice of the people, may be decisive of the whole question. Let us of Portage County, feel our share of the responsibility, and in large numbers go up to Columbus, with alacrity, enthusiasm and vigorous and determined purpose.

Deception.
Fraud and deception, is the order of the day with this pro-slavery administration and its abettors in wickedness. Badger's amendment to the Nebraska bill, was designed to deceive and hood-wink the people—it was contrived as a sort of swivel upon which certain tender-footed, Northern administration men could swing round into acquiescence with the iniquitous bill—and certain of that stripe in our midst, some of the Portage County officials, are thus swinging themselves around on Badger's amendment, as Cass did in the Senate. It is a feat god-send to the Saranic "organ," and now that the claim of popular sovereignty in Nebraska is exploded, affords another idea, for that delectable sheet to harp upon. To show how utterly fraudulent this amendment of Badger is, let us quote what Senator Douglas said in his speech upon the introduction of his Nebraska bill, which the *Scintilla* has published. In that speech, delivered on the 30th of last January, speaking of the condition of Nebraska at the time of the admission of Missouri, he said:

"Slavery did not exist in, nor was it excluded from, Nebraska. It was never known in Nebraska. There was no code of laws upon the subject of Slavery either way: first, for the reason that Slavery had never been introduced into Louisiana, and established by positive enactment; it had grown up there by a sort of common law, and had been supported and protected. When a common law grows up, when an institution becomes established under a usage, it carries it so far as that usage goes, and no further."

Meeting in Freedom.
The proceedings of a meeting held in the township of Freedom, on the 11th inst., to remonstrate against the Nebraska bill, and to take action on the subject of Temperance, have been handed us for publication. The crowded state of our columns compels us to a brief abstract.

The meeting is said to have been addressed with spirit and effect, by Mr. John Baldwin, of Freedom, Mr. J. G. Esail, of Knox Co., and Mr. Charles Brown of Beres.

Strong anti Slavery resolutions were adopted. We select the two following:
1 Resolved, That we the citizens of Freedom will stand out in opposition to the Nebraska bill so long as we have a voice to express our indignation against it.
2 Resolved, That we believe it to be the duty of every person desiring to live in a free, prosperous and virtuous community, to manifest his disapprobation of that infamous bill.

Resolutions were also passed upon the subject of Temperance, calling for Legislative action, to suppress the traffic in ardent spirits &c.

Detroit Municipal Election.
An election for city officers came off in Detroit on the 7th inst. The Nebraska Territorial question was made a distinct topic, on the candidates for Mayor, Mr. Hyde being opposed to it, and Mr. Patten being in favor of Douglas' bill. There was a full vote, and a high state of excitement in this home of free men. Cases and yet Mr. Hyde was elected by over 1,000 majority, in a city which usually gives from eight to ten hundred democratic majority. A significant fact, and what accounts for this great change is that the Germans generally voted for Hyde.

If this is a sample of what we may expect in the free States, we certainly need not despair.

A Self-coupled Non-truth Teller.
The "Stanic," Douglas-Nebraska "organ," of this County, is not only shameless in its falsehoods, but is getting so careless in its disregard for truth, that it almost weekly says itself in a flat lie. For example—the *Scintilla* of last week says: "Three weeks ago the African organ proposed to publish the speech of Senator Douglas on the Nebraska bill if we would publish that of Senator Chase. To this proposition we readily assented."

Now, reader, that it may be seen how deliberately the "Stanic" falsifies the record, we will quote the "ready assent" as follows: "A PROPOSITION.—The Uncle Tom Advertiser proposes to publish Douglas' speech on the Nebraska bill if we will publish that of Chase. Now, we intend to publish the latter whether that sheet does the former or not. We intend to do more—to publish all that those two Senators may say upon the question in the Senate; and it matters little to us whether that journal does the same or not."

So far, as is seen, from assenting to our proposition, he threw it back upon us with scorn, avowed an original purpose of his own, to publish Mr. Chase's speech, and didn't care whether we published Douglas' or not! Of course we were absolved from all obligation, and we would not so far sacrifice our self respect, as, under such circumstances, to perform a work of supererogation. If the *Scintilla* had accepted our proposition, and made it a condition that we should publish Douglas' speech, if he published Chase's, we of course should have done it.

The reader can see that this was not the case. He snatched his fingers in our face, flouted our proposition, didn't care for us, or what we did, he should publish Chase's speech any how, and didn't care whether we did, or did not publish, and now he turns around, and in the next breath says, that to our proposition he "readily assented!"

Was ever bold, unblinking falsehood more apparent? And yet, reader, this is a sample of that specimen of humanity, who grinds upon the *Satanic "organ,"* and with whom we have to come in weekly contact.

Verily this Samuel D. Harris, Junior, Esquire, is—*Samuel D. Harris, Junior, Esquire*—and we regret to be obliged to say so bad a thing of a neighbor!

Let the People rule.
How often has the *Scintilla* reiterated the statement that Douglas' bill simply left the people of the territory to enact their own laws, and establish their own institutions, a statement to which the provisions of the bill itself give a flat contradiction. Look at one. Mr. Clayton, the Whig Senator from Delaware, moved to strike out that portion of the fifth section of the bill, which allowed foreigners, having filed their preliminary declaration to become citizens of the United States, the privilege of voting and holding office. The object of this amendment could be no other than to keep down free labor and free laborers, and to exalt the slave power. There might be ten thousand Germans, more or less, in Nebraska, owning farms and paying taxes, and yet five hundred slaveholders, more or less, could shape the laws, and establish the institutions of the territory.

Is this what the *Scintilla* understands by popular sovereignty—giving the people power over the formation of their own laws and institutions?

CAN SLAVERY EXIST IN NEBRASKA!—It is often asserted that it cannot, and that no practical issue is now before the people; but the Washington correspondent of the *New York National Democrat* said, on the 24th ultimo: "In a conversation which I had this morning with Col. Johnson, the accredited representative here of the people of Nebraska—and who, by the way, is a fair specimen of the indomitable pioneers of the West—he informed me that there are already some hundreds of slaves in that Territory. About a hundred are owned there, and the rest owned by people in Missouri, who lease them to settlers in Nebraska. So it will be seen contrary to the general impression on the subject, the question is one of immediate practical importance."

Interesting Letter from Iowa.
The following valuable letter, from Col. Dwyer, our old and highly esteemed fellow-townsmen, has been handed to us by the gentleman to whom it is addressed, for publication. It will be read with interest by the old friends of the writer, and by all who think of seeking homes in the fertile west.

MR. PLEASANT, IOWA, Feb. 11th, 1854.
O. P. Dwyer, Esq.
Dear Sir:—Yours of the 21st ult. has been duly received; and in reply allow me to say, that your interrogatories are not regarded by me as troublesome. But I fear, that, in consequence of my short residence in Iowa, I shall not be able to answer them satisfactorily. I trust, however, that in so much as I shall fill short, you will take the writ for the deed.

The impression made on my mind of Iowa, must, necessarily, be imperfect; but I may say, generally, that I am well pleased with the country—that my expectations have been fully realized. You will perceive by glancing at the map of this State, that its eastern and western borders are bounded by the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The eastern slope is drained by the Des Moines, the Skunk, the Iowa and Cedar, the Wapetons, the Makequots, and the Turkey rivers, and their almost innumerable tributaries—presenting a fine body of agricultural lands as can be found in the world. The surface in general, after leaving the vicinity of the Mississippi river, is neither flat nor hilly, but gently undulating, dry, and of all appearance almost exhaustless fertility. The country is very well supplied with timber, the prairie predominating. But a marked characteristic is, that the soil is all good. There are no waste lands, almost every acre is susceptible of profitable culture.

The rivers above named afford an almost incalculable amount of water power. The Des Moines river is now in process of being slack-watered by means of locks and dams, from its mouth to the Racoon forks, a distance I should judge of about two hundred miles. For this purpose, Congress has appropriated about 1,250,000 acres of public lands. This will, at least, furnish an immense amount of water power. All the other rivers named, and many others of smaller volume, are equally valuable for this purpose. Besides this, the waters of the Mississippi itself, are so confidently told by competent engineers, may at comparatively trifling cost, be brought to bear on the eastern border of Iowa, viz: Keokuk and Davenport.

The minerals of Iowa consist chiefly of lead, iron and coal. Lead is found in large quantities in the northern counties. Iron ore is said to be abundant; and her coal fields are computed to cover an area of 25,000 square miles—almost doubling that of Pennsylvania.

Hence you will perceive that nature has furnished Iowa with the elements of exhaustless agricultural, mineral and manufacturing wealth. We need men and means to develop these native resources, and they are crowding in through every avenue by the thousand. It is believed that both in population and wealth, the State has fully doubled during the past three years.

We have a direct communication with the South by the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and will be connected with the East in a few months at farthest, by means of continuous railroads, tapping the State at Burlington, Davenport, Lyons and Du Buque. The Burlington Railroad is now being permanently located, by way of Mount Pleasant and Fairfield, to the Mississippi river—the Davenport and Lyons roads, by way of Iowa City and Fort Des Moines, to the western side of the State. Besides these, numerous other roads are projected, some of which will doubtless be built.

Among the most important river towns of Iowa, we might name Keokuk, Fort Madison, Burlington, Muscatine, Davenport and Du Buque. Those of the interior, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Mt. Pleasant, Fairfield and Fort Des Moines, with populations varying from one to five or six thousand.

The people of Iowa, as far as my observation extends, are, at least, on an average with the population of the older States, in point of intelligence and morality, and perhaps also in wealth. There is rarely a village or populous country place, without its school houses and churches, furnishing the ordinary educational and religious advantages. And we have very few really poor men here. There are not many wealthy, but nearly every family has enough of the substantial of life and something to spare.

Improvements here cost much less than in Ohio. To illustrate, let us make an estimate. Suppose a man to push a little out of the settlement, and with \$200, to enter 160 acres of prairie land. The breaking up of this he can hire at from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre. To take the highest figure this would cost \$320. Now suppose the rails in the fence to cost \$3.00 per hundred, to enclose this land with a fence nine miles high, staked and ridged would cost, say \$320. Then in all, the 160 acres of land would cost him \$850, every acre reduced to a better condition for culture than could be obtained in any timber country in less than eight or ten years. Besides, if this land should be sowed down in wheat (which the first year after breaking produces an almost certain crop,) and should yield but ten or twelve bushels per acre, this crop alone would pay the entire outlay of capital. While the outlay of cash for breaking the sod and staking can be diminished indefinitely by the laborer, who is willing to perform this labor for himself. From this simple statement it will be readily seen how easily a laboring man, with a few hundred dollars at command, can acquire a competency in Iowa, and why so very few are dependent on the charity of their neighbors for support.

The school system of Iowa is, I believe, something similar to that of Ohio. The permanent school fund will consist of the proceeds of the 16th section in each township, 500,000 acres of land donated by Congress, 6 per cent. of the proceeds of the sales of all public lands sold in the State, fines, forfeitures, &c., which it is believed will reach 2,000,000 dollars at no distant period. The State University is to be supported by the proceeds of 72 sections of land, donated by Congress for this purpose. The public school system seems to be in a healthy condition. Besides which, Colleges are springing up under the auspices of the various religious denominations. The Baptists at Burlington, the Congregationalists at Davenport, the Presbyterians at Du Buque, the Odd Fellows at Iowa City, and the Methodists at Mt. Pleasant, are successfully at work in erecting institutions of collegiate grade. But since I am located at the latter place, I am of course more familiar with the present condition and future prospects of the latter institution, than of any of the others. It is chartered by the Legislature of the State, with ample privileges for university purposes, and has been taken under the patronage of the Iowa Annual Conference, who are pledged to give it their hearty and perpetual support. It is now fairly organized and in successful operation, under the direction of five competent professors and teachers, employed by the trustees. The corporation has procured beautiful grounds and erected one wing of the College buildings—and are now making vigorous efforts to procure the means to erect the main College edifice during the approaching summer.

The town of Mt. Pleasant is a beautiful and

healthy village, containing about 1500 inhabitants, situated about 28 miles from Burlington, on the Mississippi, with which it is connected by a plank road, and is destined to be connected by a railroad in the course of 12 or 15 months to come. It contains six church edifices and the usual public buildings for county purposes. As an evidence of the moral tone of the people of the town, we might remark, that they have voluntarily abolished snuff spirits from the community, as an article of traffic, so that none here deal in it, except the town agents, who are physicians.

It will be perceived that Iowa is well situated to profit by the California immigration, which flows through annually. This furnishes a very convenient home market for horses, cattle and all the necessities of an outfit, so that the prices of all such articles range higher than farther east.

There are six land offices in this State, located at Du Buque, Iowa City, Fairfield, Fort Des Moines, Chariton and Kanesville, or Council Bluffs. And there are still large quantities of government land to be entered. But, of course, this is to be found in considerable quantities, only in the new counties. As a general thing the settlers on Congress lands must forego the convenience of society, schools and churches, at least for a few years. But farms in the settled portions of the State, can be procured always as low as the cost of improvement. Improved farms within a range of three and ten miles of Mt. Pleasant, can be purchased at from seven to fifteen dollars per acre.

This, my dear Sir, I believe, about covers the range of your inquiries. I feel a certainty it will prove satisfactory to a very limited extent. You will see the difficulty of giving a complete portrait of a country so large as Iowa, within the ordinary limits of a letter. But such as it is, you are at liberty to make what use of it you see proper. Your Friend, &c.

Church Action.
Action of the Free Congregational Church of Ravenna, Portage County Ohio, against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the extension of slavery into territory now free, at their Chapel, March 9th, 1854.

Resolved, That we hear, with inexpressible pain and concern of the passage through the Senate of the bill organizing the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, by which a vast region consecrated "forever" to freedom by the most solemn and binding compact, is thrown open to slavery.

Resolved, That we solemnly remonstrate, in the name of Religion and Humanity, against the consummation of this great wrong, by the passage of the bill through the House, because it involves the commission of a great sin against God, disregards all the instincts of humanity, violates obligations between man and man, as sacred and imposing as can be made, and no less binding than Constitutional stipulations, inflames sectional feeling, destroys confidence, endangers the peace of the country, weakens the bonds of union, defies the most obvious claims of justice and right, and fearfully provokes upon us as a Nation the lightning judgments of Almighty God.

Resolved, That we improve our christian, brethren everywhere, to re-monstrate, with earnestness and fidelity against the final consummation of this great crime against plighted faith, against humanity and against God, and we pray our Senators and Representatives in Congress to leave no proper means untried to defeat the measure, and ask them to present this our humble but earnest remonstrance to the National Legislature.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the Church, to Hon. S. P. Chase and Hon. J. R. Giddings.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the records of the church, and that copies be furnished each of the village papers for publication.

A High School for the Township.
Mr. Hall—Sir, by the united action of the two boards of education,—that of the corporation and that of the township outside the corporation, a proposition is now before the voters of the whole township to enter into a combination to erect a suitable building for the establishment of a center or high school. I have waited sometime in hopes that some one better qualified than myself to write for the public eye, would come forward and in some of our village papers, advocate the claims of this proposition.

But as no one seems disposed to assume this undertaking, I have concluded to venture a few remarks upon the subject upon my own responsibility.

It appears to me that if this matter could be set before the voters of the township in its true and proper light, it could be fully and to command a respectable majority of their votes in favor of the proposition. To the farmers and capitalists who own the property, there seems to be a great inducement; and the greater the amount which may have been entrusted to their stewardship, the greater seems to be the inducement for them to go in favor of the enterprise. For notwithstanding an account of their being the owners of the property they must of course ultimately be called upon to foot the bill; yet still the increased value of that same property, which must result from the establishment of such an institution will be more than an equivalent for all the money they may be called upon to advance for the prosecution of such a work to its final consummation.

And this I say in reference to the pecuniary benefit they will derive, and from every consideration of the advantage which the establishment of such an institution would afford to educate their children at a comparatively trifling expense to what would unavoidably be incurred in any other course they may incline to take to accomplish this important object. But if there be yet another class of us (as no doubt there may be) in moderate circumstances, who may not feel exactly and entirely able to send our children abroad for an education; to such the present is a golden opportunity to give our votes and throw our influence in favor of the establishment of an institution through the instrumentality of which we may be enabled to educate our children almost free of expense.

Because a high school once established must be supported by the property of the township. And as but a small portion has fallen to our share, our taxes for its support must of course be proportionally light. But it is said knowledge is power, so also is money. It is therefore necessary in order to carry this important enterprise, that there should exist not only a harmony of feeling upon the subject, but also a harmony of interests between the different classes and conditions of society; the rich and the poor; the man who counts his thousands, and him whose daily toil procures but a scanty pittance for the sustenance of himself and a dependent family. We must therefore appeal somewhat to the sympathies, but more pertinently to the interests of our richer neighbors, with a view to unite all concerned and if possible induce a co-operation of all parties for the furtherance of such measures as may be necessary to secure the accomplishment of the object contemplated by the proposition now under consideration. There can hardly be a reasonable doubt, but the establishment of a high school in our village would prove a great and lasting benefit and blessing to all classes of our community, not only to the present generation, but in all coming time, so long as the same shall endure. But if we neglect the present (available

opportunity to secure those important benefits to ourselves and our posterity, it may, and in all human probability will be many years before we shall again enjoy another opportunity equally auspicious.

There are many considerations, which if duly weighed and pondered must certainly originate a tendency to increase our population, not only by bringing in scholars from abroad, but also by adding much to the attractions and inducements already existing for strangers and others who may be looking for a place of residence, to locate themselves in some part of our pleasant and healthful township. The first question ever asked by persons in pursuit of a spot of earth, which they intend to consecrate by the endearing appellation of home, are,—Have you a good school or schools? Can we enjoy advantages for the education of our children? And the answers to these questions will ever exert a weighty influence in determining their decision as to whether they will stop here or pass on to some other locality.

Now whatever tends to increase our population, and especially the increasing class, tends also to increase and improve our home market, by which the farmer is enabled to dispose of the surplus products both of his farm and garden. It may now be seen at a glance, by the foregoing view of the subject, that the establishment of a central or high school in our village as contemplated by the proposition now before us, will have a tendency either directly or indirectly to the advancement of our interests in at least three important particulars, in which all classes of our community will participate in a greater or less degree. First, it will increase the value of real estate and other property. 2d It will furnish us the means to educate our children at less expense than we can accomplish that great object (which every one must have more or less in view) by any other method we can possibly adopt.

3d It will improve our home market, by which means the farmer will be enabled more advantageously to dispose of his surplus products.

But again, there is still another consideration more important than any yet suggested, and which it would seem must command the approbation of our sober judgment in favor of this proposition. It is this; the union which is proposed between the corporation and the outsiders. "In union there is strength." Now the corporation as such must stand, undoubtedly keep up a high school of some grade, but from the very nature of the case, must be of an inferior order to the one proposed by the union, and so long as they sustain it as a separate organization it must be attended by a greater expense than would be necessary to sustain a school of a higher grade in conjunction with the rest of the township. Interest, therefore, if no higher motive could be brought to bear upon the case, would seem to dictate to the corporation to abandon their present mode of sustaining a high school and still more urgent reasons that we should favor the proposition. Because if we neglect the present opportunity of from any cause to fail to effect an arrangement with the corporation in accordance with the above proposition, we must forever be debarred from the privilege of a high school. For no one need ever hope or expect we shall ever be able to get up a high school as a separate organization.

I say therefore let us come into the union. Let us discard all petty animosities and every minor consideration and unite upon the broad platform of a common interest and common sense for the establishment of a high school of a high order, and which shall sustain a high character, and give us the reputation at home and abroad of being a high-minded patriotic and enterprising community.

But again, with regard to the expense. Prudence will dictate that before we lay the foundation, we should determine the cost. "Whether we be able to sustain it." In the first place, as I understand it, there is a plat belonging to the corporation which would be readily appropriated and freely donated to the township as a site for the building. Hence this item of expense, which otherwise would be not less than \$1000, at least once said, 2dly The amount of the valuation of property now upon the duplicate (as may be seen by due reference) of the township and corporation is somewhere in the neighborhood of a million and a half of dollars; and the proportion of the former to the latter is about 2 to 3. It is supposed however that the recent or new valuation will considerably augment these figures. Indeed it is assumed by some that the above amount will be nearly or quite doubled. It will be borne in mind that it is the new valuation that must be taken as the basis of our calculation upon which to predicate the tax to raise money.

And should the above assumption prove correct, a tax of two mills on the dollar is all that is necessary to raise the sum embraced in the proposition now under consideration. But again, there are some objections to the proposed school, which seem to require a passing notice. It was suggested at the meeting of the boards of education, that the benefits resulting from the establishment of such an institution, would be very unequally shared by the people of the township. That those living upon the outskirts would be necessitated to hire their children boarded near the school; that board at Ravenna will be more expensive than at similar schools in the neighboring townships &c. Now it appears to me that most of these objections may be obviated at least to some extent. In the first place a great majority (say four fifths) of the people live so near the village that their children might board at home and attend the school; and this performance would not involve a greater amount of expense than a due regard to their physical health and comfort would absolutely require. Live at the very outskirts of the township, but I calculate that when the weather and roads are good, my children would be able to attend the school the year round and board at home. It would indeed add much to our convenience if we could have it nearer, but from the very nature of the case it cannot reasonably be expected that a high school can be established within a stone's throw of every man's door. Hence the question, shall we neglect the present favorable opportunity to establish a high school and thus reject the advantages which such an institution would furnish for the education of our children, and which would become available to every individual in the township at a moderate expense compared with any other plan we can adopt for the accomplishment of this laudable purpose, and all this because the plan proposed appears to some a little short in some respects of the *ultra ultra* of our desires and aspirations? But further; in respect to the board I am unable to perceive any good reason why board money should be afforded in the neighborhood of a high school at Ravenna as low as at any other place in the county. And if this branch of business should warrant the undertaking, I have no doubt but boarding houses would be established at which board might be obtained as low as at any other seminary of a like character in this section of country.

But one thing more. We are altogether behind the times in regard to providing and furnishing ourselves with the means of education.

and derelictions of duty in this great and laudable work of progress, benevolence and philanthropy, when we should have been the pioneers and set an example for the imitation of others, who had a right to look to us for a precedent in this matter.

Let us no longer delay to commence the performance of our duty, which we owe to ourselves and posterity by taking the incipient steps towards the establishment of a central or high school, tho' it be in becoming deference to, and in imitation of the many laudable examples set us by our more enterprising neighbors. These few brief, cursory remarks are submitted more with a view to elicit discussion, investigation and induce reflection upon the subject, than for any other purpose. If these results ensue, it can hardly be doubted but our labors in this laudable enterprise will be crowned with abundant success.

March, 1854. W. STOCKWELL.
For the Ohio Star.

The Tax Law.
Mr. Editor, you will allow me, through the columns of your paper to call the attention of the public mind to one feature of the tax law, which I do not recollect to have seen discussed in any of the public journals. I allude to that portion of it which allows the property holder to fix the valuation to his own property.

As long as the present constitution of things continues, and different motives govern different individuals, this portion of the tax law necessarily divides community into three classes, and in one form or other results in evil to all.

The first class I will mention are they who from honest, conscientious motives bring forward, and affix as near as they are able a just and true value upon every article required by law to be taxed.

The second are those, who, from some defect in the optical nerve, or from some overgrown or depressed organ in the region of the head or heart are led to view their own property, (especially when presented for taxation) out of the wrong corner of the eye, consequently it seldom appears on the tax list over two thirds of its real value.

The third class are those, who, choosing to free themselves from all unnecessary responsibility in the matter, hand over their property to the Assessor, thereby requiring him to fix a valuation according to justice and equity.

The practical operation of that part of the tax law now under consideration it would seem, calls loudly for its repeal.

Now suppose 50 persons selected indiscriminately from any place in a given locality, were called upon and without consultation were required to appraise as many thousand dollars worth of property of different articles, the several results might vary thousands of dollars, without reflecting upon the motives, the integrity or honesty of the different individuals. It is simply an inequality, resulting from an honest difference of opinion; all of which might be obviated if submitted to a competent Assessor.

Not so with the second class. Many facts might be introduced to illustrate the evil tendency of this part of the subject. I will mention but one, we can easily guess at others. Less than a year ago a neighbor was heard to say, "I bought a horse a short time since for \$75, to match the one I have, he proves first rate, and I would not part with him now for \$90." Curiosity led me to examine the papers in the hands of the Assessor, where both of these horses were sworn into the tax list at \$50 each! I say Mr. Editor who are living in the middle of the 19th century need no temptations of this sort to commit perjury.

It is not time for editors