



ASHLAND: Wednesday Morning, Feb. 20, 1856.

Democratic Presidential Electors.

SENATORIAL ELECTORS. WILLIAM KENNON, Jr. of Belmont. ALEXANDER P. HILLES, of Meador.

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTORS. 1st. Sheldon J. Kellogg, of Hamilton. 2d. Henry F. Sedam, of Hamilton. 3d. David Clark, of Montgomery. 4th. J. H. Thomas, of Darke. 5th. Edward Foster, of Williams. 6th. Michael H. Davis, of Clermont. 7th. William Drosson, of Warren. 8th. William Keshner, of Clark. 9th. George E. Jones, of Seneca. 10th. Levi Dungan, of Seneca. 11th. Alfred McVey, of Fairfield. 12th. Jacob Stry, of Franklin. 13th. John Tift, of Huron. 14th. John C. Myers, of Ashland. 15th. Joseph Burns, of Coshocton. 16th. James M. Geyrold, of Morgan. 17th. Benjamin P. Springs, of Noble. 18th. Alphonso Hart, of Portage. 19th. Henry H. Dodge, of Cayuga. 20th. George G. Gilbert, of Adams. 21st. George Cook, of Harrison.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET FOR 1856. For Judge of the Supreme Court. RUFUS P. RANNEY, of NEWBURN COUNTY.

For Member of the Board of Public Works. WAYNE GRISWOLD, of TICKETON COUNTY.

For State Commissioner of Common Schools. H. H. BARNEY, of HAMILTON COUNTY.

LYCEUM.

Let everybody bear in mind that Rev. Nass, of Wooster, will lecture before the Lyceum next Saturday evening. There should be a crowded house, as it will in all probability be one of the best lectures of the season.

THANKS.

To Hon. J. P. COWAN, of the Ohio Legislature, for pamphlet copies of Gov. MIDDLEBURY'S Annual Message, and Gov. CHASE'S Inaugural Address. Also, to S. P. McKEAN, Esq., of Washington City, for Gen. Cass' great speech on our relations with Great Britain, and other favors.

A. S. COX'S LECTURE.

The lecture of Mr. Cox on "The peculiarities of American Humor," at the Lutheran church, on Wednesday evening last, was much better attended than we expected, but the attendance was nevertheless by no means large as it should have been. The audience appeared to be highly pleased with the lecture, and testified their approbation by frequent rounds of applause. Mr. Cox is evidently a good judge of human nature, and has displayed considerable ingenuity in composing his lecture so as to suit the peculiar taste of all classes. The lecture abounds in eloquent passages, and the illustrations, with a few exceptions, could not have been bettered. We are glad to learn that the Lyceum not only cleared expenses, but has a small sum left. Now that our people have got wakened up to the fact that it really does pay to attend a first rate popular lecture, we hope the experiment will be tried a second time. What say you, gentlemen of the Lyceum? Can't we have another lecture during the winter?

KANSAS AFFAIRS—PRESIDENT FIERCE'S PROCLAMATION.

Our exchanges are rife with accounts of meetings held in various parts of the country to send "material aid" to Kansas. Both money and arms are being raised in every direction to send to the Free State settlers, and in some places companies are organizing to go into the Territory and fight if necessary. This, to some, may seem all right and proper, but to our mind it is only hastening the consummation of the very mischief they wish to prevent. We hope no such movement will be started in this County. Let our people content themselves with minding their own business. The more the people of the North engage in this foolish anti-Slavery crusade, just so much the more will they alarm the fears and rouse the spirit of resistance in the breasts of the people of the South. The true policy to be adopted by the people of the North in order to secure the freedom of Kansas, is that of conciliation. In this connection we desire to call attention to the Proclamation of President Pierce, which we publish in another column. It will be seen that both Northern intensifiers and Missouri border ruffians, are likely to receive pretty rough treatment in the future, if they are guilty of armed interference with the affairs of the people of Kansas. The pledge of the President that "no attempted insurrection in said Territory, or aggressive intrusion into the same, will be resisted not only by the employment of the local militia, but also by that of any available forces of the United States," is certainly all that any body but a fool or a fanatic can ask. Every body knows that the Free State men are in the majority in Kansas, and if left to frame their institutions without foreign interference, Kansas cannot but be a free State. The President stands pledged, not only in his special Message on Kansas affairs, but again in his Proclamation which we publish to-day, to put down, in the future, all such improper interference. What ground of

Freedom in the North can ask more? Again, does not the following paragraph from the Proclamation commend itself to our readers as eminently wise and judicious? "I call on the citizens, both of adjoining and distant States, to abstain from unauthorized intermeddling in the local concerns of the Territory, admonishing them that its organic law is to be executed with impartial justice; that all individual acts of illegal interference will incur condign punishment; and that any endeavor to intervene by organized force will be firmly withstood."

We have been opposed alike to the interference of the Missouri ruffians, and the movements of eastern Emigrant Aid Societies. We do not wish to be understood for a moment as favoring the acts of the bogus, border-ruffian, Kansas Legislature, but we ask whether their validity had not better be tested by legally constituted Courts, rather than resist their execution by force of arms? First try peaceful means, and if they fail it is time enough then to talk about forcible resistance. The truth is, the Free State party have never sought the aid of the Territorial Courts to test the validity of the laws passed by the bogus Legislature. The Missourians commenced the war, but the Free State leaders have continued to keep it up by their own indirect acts, until by the whole Union bids fair to become involved in the strife. We ask that calm, sober-minded, honest men, give this subject that consideration which it deserves, and remember that there really is two sides to this troublesome question. We desire to see the good people of Ashland County indignantly frown down these fanatical attempts to dismember the Union, or involve the different sections of the country in a bloody civil war, on account of the local affairs of the people of a Territory in which they are in no wise concerned. The people may expect the leaders of the Fusion party to keep up the excitement on the subject of Slavery until after the Presidential election. Outrages of the most revolting and outrageous character will be heralded forth as having been committed in Kansas, that never occurred. Every prominent leader of the Abolition faction will be called into the field, to harangue and excite the people with tales of the horrors of Slavery. We hope Democrats will everywhere take a bold stand in opposition to the Abolition leaders, who will attempt to excite the passions of the people. Let every Union-loving, faction-hating, national Democrat, boldly proclaim his devotion to the Constitution and the Union. In conclusion, we ask those Democrats who have foolishly strayed into the ranks of the fusion party, to calmly peruse the following remarks from a man whom they once delighted to honor. SILAS WARNER, in delivering an oration on the 4th day of July, 1839, gave utterance to the following noble and patriotic sentiments: "If there be those among us who, misled by a mistaken sympathy or by sudden excitement, upon any subject, are forgetting their obligations to the whole country, to the Constitution and the Union, let us use every effort of persuasion and example to awaken them to a sense of their dangerous error. In respect to all those who, for the sake of private interest, personal ambition, or momentary political success, are willing to experiment upon the public passion, to treat lightly their constitutional obligations, to foment sectional jealousies, and raise up geographical distinctions within the Union, let the attention of all contentance and support convince such that the personal gratification or public service of any living man are not objects of sufficient magnitude to be gained at the expense of the harmony of the country, the peace of the Union, or a single letter in the list of our constitutional duties. If there be any among us (which Heaven forbid) who are prepared, for any earthly object, to dismember our Confederacy, and destroy that Constitution which binds us together, let the fate of Aeneas be theirs, and let the detestation and scorn of every American be their constant companion; until, like him, they shall abandon a country whose rich blessings they are no longer worthy to enjoy."

A GOOD MOVEMENT.

We understand that a subscription paper is circulating among our citizens to ascertain how many will take lots in a new Cemetery, provided an Association is formed for that purpose the coming spring. This is a move in the right direction. There is no use of putting this matter off any longer, as a few years will drive us to it from necessity. The burying ground now in use must be filled up in a few years, as any one must see. Then why not have a good Cemetery at once? Why huddle the graves of our friends together, as if we begrudged them a decent spot in which to sleep their last sleep? Let us have a Cemetery large enough to last for a quarter of a century at least, and ornamented with appropriate shade trees and graveled walks, that will be an ornament to our town and a pleasant place of resort in mid-summer for both old and young. Our sister towns are in advance of us in this respect as in almost everything else. Let it no longer be said that Ashland has no appropriate burial spot, for those who die in our midst.

INDIA, ON THE PEARL OF PEARL RIVER—By the distinguished American Author, Mrs. E. D. N. SOUTHWORTH, author of the "Lost Heiress," etc.

We have received a circular from the Publisher, informing us that the above work is now in press, and will be ready for sale on Saturday, March 8th. A distinguished critic who has read the work in manuscript, thus speaks of it. "Taking it all in all, it is the best work Mrs. Southworth has yet written. The characters are ably drawn, the incidents natural, and the action of the story rapid and absorbing. The two heroines are finely contrasted. The hero is a noble creation; strong of will, earnest in purpose, firm for the right, and persevering to the end in whatever he believes to be justice and truth. We cannot speak in any late work, a character so ideally lofty, yet so faithful to reality." The work, complete in one volume, bound in cloth, for \$1.25, or in two volumes, paper cover, for \$1.00, can be had by addressing T. B. PARSONS, No. 102 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

CHANNING ON CATHOLICS.

We commend the following excellent sentiments of Dr. CHANNING, to the careful perusal of some of his admirers in this vicinity. How nobly, how boldly, and how eloquently these remarks of that great and good man, rebuke the niggardly, narrow prejudices that prevail at the present day. The following is an extract from an article written some years ago, "on the Character and Writings of FENELON." We hope those who deem it their duty to make the proscription of Catholics the corner stone of their political faith, will lay aside this extract for frequent perusal. This proscribing a man for his religious belief is certainly assumed to perform more than God ever required of his hands in his creation—the high Court of Heaven is also capable of deciding who is right and who is wrong. Here is the extract: "We have said, that we welcome the book under consideration, because it came from a pure and gifted a mind. We add, that we do not welcome it the less for coming from a Catholic. Perhaps we prize it the more; for we wish that Protestants may grow wiser and more tolerant, and we know not a better teacher of these lessons than the character of Fenelon. Such a man is enough to place within the pale of our charity, the whole body of men to which he belongs. His mind is broad enough to shield his whole church from that unmeasured, undistinguishing reprobation, with which Protestant zeal has too often assailed it. Whoever remembers, that Fenelon was a Frenchman, and that in its ranks more than one hundred millions of souls, probably more than all other Christian Churches together, must shudder at the sentence of proscription, which has sometimes been passed on this immense portion of human beings. It is time that greater justice were done to this ancient and wide-spread community. The Catholic Church has produced some of the greatest and best men that ever lived, and this is proof enough of its possessing all the means of salvation which the world can desire. It is tempt, in which it is sometimes named, would suspect that Charlemagne, Alfred, Raphael, Michel Angelo, Tasso, Bossuet, Pascal, Des Cartes, were Catholics? Some of the greatest names in art and arms, on the other hand, were Protestants, were born by Catholics. To come down to our own times, has not the Metropolis of New England witnessed a sublime example of Christian virtue in a Catholic bishop? Who, among our own countrymen, was it not a noble and heroic man, who, in our streets under the most burning sun of summer, and the fiercest storms of winter, as if armed against the elements by the power of charity. He has left us, but not to be forgotten. His noble and heroic life, and his noble and heroic death, are a noble and heroic example to all of us. We cannot refrain from making special mention of the supper. We know we speak the unanimous opinion of all who sat down to it, when we say that of the many good suppers gotten up in Ashland during the present winter, none excelled this. The reputation of Mr. and Mrs. MELSHAMER as successful caterers for the public, may now be considered as permanently established. As we still claim to belong to the legal profession, we will in conclusion call the attention of our fair friends to THE LAW OF LEAF YEAR.

Our town was thrown into a high state of excitement on Monday last, by the fact becoming known that the young ladies of Ashland intended to give a Leap Year party on last evening. Over twenty invitations were known to have been received and accepted by as many young gentlemen, and every body was on the qui vive to see the sport. At about five o'clock last evening the ladies drove round town in sleighs and picked up the gentlemen, and all things being in readiness, the whole company started on a short ride to the neighboring village of Orange. We had the good fortune to be one of the party, and we must confess we never enjoyed ourself better. The company returned at 8 o'clock and put up at the Samsel House. Two hours were spent in social chatting, singing, promending, &c., when supper was announced, and the crowd adjourned to the spacious dining hall. There the real sport of the evening commenced, and the most amusing scenes were witnessed. The ladies absolutely refused to partake of any portion of the supper, until every gentleman was supplied. We were under the special care of some half dozen fair ones, who were unremitting in their attentions, and literally gorged us with the good things under which the tables groined. After supper, several impromptu toasts were offered and loudly applauded. Some of them were well worthy of publication, but as they have not been furnished us we must omit them. After the reading of the toasts, the company again assembled in the spacious parlors, and engaged in various amusements until twelve o'clock, when they separated for their respective homes, highly delighted with their evening's sport.

Throughout the whole affair the ladies played their part to perfection. They held the "ribbons" during the sleigh ride, and hurried us along over the hills and through the valleys at 2-40 speed. They "tucked up" their beaus about every five minutes, and manifested the greatest anxiety for their comfort. When assembled in the parlors of the Samsel House, it was excessively amusing to witness the efforts made by the ladies to entertain their male friends. Did a demure young man quietly ensconce himself in a corner, in the vain hope of five minutes, forthwith he was surrounded by a bery of bright-eyed maidens who would set him to talking in spite of himself, or one of them would in the politest manner imagine, offer her arm and solicit the honor of a short promenade with him! Under such circumstances it was impossible to refuse, and the consequence was that everybody enjoyed themselves. Many a poor body, hid away under a Sunday vest, was fearfully irretrievably soiled. Bachelors, from this time forth, must be counted among the things that were, so far as Ashland is concerned. We almost omitted to mention that a goodly number of our older citizens took supper with the young folks. The married ladies of Ashland "know their rights, and knowing dare maintain." It is also due to the ladies to state that they paid all expenses. The only thing we regretted—being a sinner—was the absence of a good violin. Its sound always was music in our ear, and we are firmly of the belief that a good dance prolongs "life, and health, and peace."

THE LAW OF LEAF YEAR.

We suppose no unmarried lady is ignorant of the right she possesses this year to "pop the question" to the bachelor friend on whom she may set her affections, but she may not be aware of a claim, to which an antiquarian correspondent of the London Notes and Queries has called attention. According to this authority, the hard-hearted bachelor who should refuse the fair hand and accompanying heart of the "proposing" damsel, must pay a penalty in the shape of a silk dress of the lady's own choosing. Provided, always, that at the time the "question" is "popped," the "popper" must wear a scarlet petticoat, of which a portion at least must be visible to the "poppee." The writer insinuates that this tradition has some'ting to do with the fact that scarlet petticoats form part of the fashions for the season.

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REPORT OF THE LATE AUDITOR OF STATE.

We have received and perused the last annual Report of Auditor MORAN, exhibiting the condition of the financial affairs of the State. It will be a long time before Ohio will have another Auditor equal to Mr. MORAN in ability and true devotion to the interests of the State. To save labor, we transfer to our columns the following synopsis of the Report from the Cincinnati Enquirer: "We learn from the report of the late Auditor of State, Wm. D. MORAN, that but two officers charged with the collection and disbursement of the State revenue, in 1855, have not fulfilled their trust, and in one of them the cause was fatal illness. This fact speaks well for the honesty of the State officials. The receipts into the Treasury in 1855, from all sources, were \$4,215,854 28, and the \$239,376 15 in payment of interest on the State debt, \$54,009 90, and the cost of the State government, which amounted to \$446,972 90. The legitimate cost of the latter is, however, much less, as \$24,864 96 have been paid toward the support of the five benevolent institutions of Ohio, and toward the erection of the new State House. With these proper deductions the expenses of the State government were but \$1,434,515 75, or \$239,376 15 in excess of the total amount of the State revenue. This may be called, with propriety, an economical State government. The total amount of taxable property in the State is \$860,877,354, of which \$2,013,576 15 is personal property, money and credits, and 1,850 the total taxation was only \$339,000,000, which shows that it has doubled within the last five years. The total amount of taxes levied in 1855 in the State, for all purposes, was \$5,354,511 89, being about \$128,000 less than the taxes of 1854. Considerably more than two-thirds of the taxes, or \$6,190,704, are levied for local purposes by local authorities. This fact the people should remember when discussing the cause of high taxation. Since the 1st of January, 1852, the principal of the public debt of Ohio has been diminished the very considerable sum of \$1,616,461 78. This is in accordance with Democratic policy, which favors the liquidation of the public debt, and the reduction of the body politic. \$844,000, is in the State Treasury, applicable to the redemption of the debt in 1856. In a few years, at this rate, and under the policy which has been inaugurated, Ohio will be entirely free from debt. The Auditor recommends a very sensible reform in the keeping of accounts in the State benevolent institutions at Columbus. He says that the expenditures of the State for the year 1855, so mixed up and confounded with those incurred for the personal and family comfort of the officers, that the former are not distinguishable from the latter. It is manifest that the accounts for each branch of the State, and that it would result to the benefit of the State. In speaking of the law authorizing the erection of new lunatic asylums at Dayton and Newburg, the Auditor complains that the law was designed or authorized for those buildings, and recommends that in future laws of that character a clause should be inserted rendering parties by whom unauthorized expenditures are incurred responsible therefor in their personal capacity.

THE WEATHER.

"We did not fear them once—the dull gray mornings, No cheerless burden on our spirits laid The long night watches dim, not bring us warning That we were tenants of a house decayed. The frost did fairly work on pave and bough; Beauty, and power, and wonder, had not ended. How is it that we fear the Winters now?" Eight weeks of good sleighing! That venerable and much respected individual, the "oldest inhabitant," shakes his head and gravely remarks that this Winter beats his time a good long way. Snow everywhere—in the valleys, on the hills, all through the forests—gardens, meadows, orchards, shrubs, houses—everything enshrouded in one common white mantle. From every point of the compass our exchanges speak of the weather as being the coldest ever known in their respective sections. From Texas we learn that the inhabitants are putting up ice four inches thick, taken from the rivers about Austin. The Brazos is frozen over, and the Indians have crossed the river on the ice with their ponies. A letter to the N. O. Picayune, from Camden, Arkansas, dated Jan. 11, says that Wachita and Red Rivers are both frozen over, and footmen cross on the ice. Stock and poultry are dying in large numbers, and several persons have been frost-bitten. The Memphis (Tenn.) Appeal, of the 8th inst., says that the thermometer stood five degrees below zero for the three days previous, the coldest weather ever experienced in that latitude. In Florida, the orange trees, it is feared, are ruined. In the neighborhood of Louisville, Ky., we see by the accounts that the peach and other fruit trees have been killed by the frost. In North Carolina, thousands of dollars have been lost by the injury done to the pine trees of that region, which furnish almost the only article of trade in that quarter. In Virginia the apricots have been almost entirely destroyed. In Boston the weather has been so severe that, as one of the Boston papers states, the Linden trees which adorn the sidewalks, split with the frost as if a wedge had been driven into them. From the West we hear of Rail Road trains being snowed up weekly, and much suffering has followed. The Rivers everywhere are frozen up, and every branch of business seriously embarrassed.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET.

Current prices for the week. New York, Feb. 18, 1856. Beef—There are sold by the head at a price equal to the value per pound of the estimated weight of Beef in the quarters. The hide and tallow, or "fifth quarter," is not counted in this market, as the best Beef is sold in the quarters. The prices to-day are \$11.00 average for half a cent below last week. But few sales over 12c or under 5c. Sheep and Lambs—Common Sheep \$3.60 @ 7.50; extra Sheep, \$10 @ 12; Lambs \$5 @ 7.50. Swine—Western Hogs, corn fed, large, good quality, live weight, 75c @ 75c; small, do. live weight 5c @ 6c; dead weight, 75c @ 75c; Western small fed live weight 5c @ 5c; dead weight 7c @ 7c. There is a hard time coming for Hog merchants. In fact the price of hogs is declining from the highest prices is about a cent, and the last news from Europe is not calculated to set it up any. None but choice small hogs for city retailing and making nice hams of 8 or 10 lbs each will bring 6c.

NEW YORK SHEEP MARKET.

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PHILADELPHIA CATTLE MARKET.

Philadelphia, Feb. 18, 1856. The markets were pretty well supplied yesterday and to-day, and a small advance took place in the price of best quality beef. Beef Cattle—There were about 100 head offered, and sold at from \$5.75 to \$10 per 100 lbs. Some few fine steers sold at \$1.50 @ 1.00 lbs; 450 of this number arrived at Wm. L. Torbert's Avenue Drive Yard, principally by Pennsylvania Railroad; 100 of these were a prime lot of Obolsters, brought in by Messrs. D. Miller & Shallenbarger, of Chester County, David Walsh had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs. Sheep—The arrival of Sheep at Torbert's amounted to some 5000 head, which were principally owned by Messrs. Gross, Dietrich, Alcom, Dodds & Davis, Connel, &c. Cows and Calves—Are scarce, though they had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs. Hogs—This market is not so well supplied, the sales having amounted to only 1000 head, for which \$1.75 to \$2 per 100 lbs was obtained. Some few fine steers sold at \$1.50 @ 1.00 lbs; 450 of this number arrived at Wm. L. Torbert's Avenue Drive Yard, principally by Pennsylvania Railroad; 100 of these were a prime lot of Obolsters, brought in by Messrs. D. Miller & Shallenbarger, of Chester County, David Walsh had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs. Sheep—The arrival of Sheep at Torbert's amounted to some 5000 head, which were principally owned by Messrs. Gross, Dietrich, Alcom, Dodds & Davis, Connel, &c. Cows and Calves—Are scarce, though they had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs. Hogs—This market is not so well supplied, the sales having amounted to only 1000 head, for which \$1.75 to \$2 per 100 lbs was obtained. Some few fine steers sold at \$1.50 @ 1.00 lbs; 450 of this number arrived at Wm. L. Torbert's Avenue Drive Yard, principally by Pennsylvania Railroad; 100 of these were a prime lot of Obolsters, brought in by Messrs. D. Miller & Shallenbarger, of Chester County, David Walsh had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs.

CONDITION OF JAMAICA.

A Southern gentleman, writing from Kingston, Jamaica, to the New Orleans Picayune, gives a sombre account of the dilapidation which negro emancipation has produced in that colony. He says: "Kingston, which once counted eighty thousand prosperous inhabitants, who resided more in a great accumulation of beautiful gardens than in densely built squares, now contains only about forty thousand poverty-stricken people, composed in a great measure, to use the expression of an English gentleman resident here, of liberty-crippled negroes." The white population has largely diminished and is rapidly disappearing. The colored population presents the most marked contrasts within itself. The young men look hale, well-fed and joyous; and the young girls, if at all good looking, give evident tokens of prosperity in their dress and adornments. The middle-aged of both sexes seem every where wretched and old. The old are images of haggard want and despair. He observed women loading ships and coal, watched over by a dozen stately fellows. The experiment with coolie labor had been a failure.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF TURKEY.

An interesting statement of the financial condition of the Turkish Empire has been published. It appears that the Turkish army consists of 103,066 men, after deducting 2,359 forming a contingent maintained by the British Government, and that the cost of this effective force for one year amounts to \$2,320,000. The corps of Redifs actually under arms, (after deducting 7,741 forming the British contingent) amounts to 96,086, and as regards pay and rations they have been placed on the same footing as the regular troops. The expenses of the war for 23 months, (from May 27, 1853, to September 27, 1855), amount to \$7,400,000—a sum which includes one of \$370,000, value of ammunition and war-stores furnished to the Allies. The amount required by the War Department for the next year is \$4,345,000, and to meet immediate wants an application is made to the loan commission for an installment of \$628,000.

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THE ASHLAND UNION.

Our town was thrown into a high state of excitement on Monday last, by the fact becoming known that the young ladies of Ashland intended to give a Leap Year party on last evening. Over twenty invitations were known to have been received and accepted by as many young gentlemen, and every body was on the qui vive to see the sport. At about five o'clock last evening the ladies drove round town in sleighs and picked up the gentlemen, and all things being in readiness, the whole company started on a short ride to the neighboring village of Orange. We had the good fortune to be one of the party, and we must confess we never enjoyed ourself better. The company returned at 8 o'clock and put up at the Samsel House. Two hours were spent in social chatting, singing, promending, &c., when supper was announced, and the crowd adjourned to the spacious dining hall. There the real sport of the evening commenced, and the most amusing scenes were witnessed. The ladies absolutely refused to partake of any portion of the supper, until every gentleman was supplied. We were under the special care of some half dozen fair ones, who were unremitting in their attentions, and literally gorged us with the good things under which the tables groined. After supper, several impromptu toasts were offered and loudly applauded. Some of them were well worthy of publication, but as they have not been furnished us we must omit them. After the reading of the toasts, the company again assembled in the spacious parlors, and engaged in various amusements until twelve o'clock, when they separated for their respective homes, highly delighted with their evening's sport.

OUR TOWN WAS THROWN INTO A HIGH STATE OF EXCITEMENT ON MONDAY LAST, BY THE FACT BECOMING KNOWN THAT THE YOUNG LADIES OF ASHLAND INTENDED TO GIVE A LEAP YEAR PARTY ON LAST EVENING.

Throughout the whole affair the ladies played their part to perfection. They held the "ribbons" during the sleigh ride, and hurried us along over the hills and through the valleys at 2-40 speed. They "tucked up" their beaus about every five minutes, and manifested the greatest anxiety for their comfort. When assembled in the parlors of the Samsel House, it was excessively amusing to witness the efforts made by the ladies to entertain their male friends. Did a demure young man quietly ensconce himself in a corner, in the vain hope of five minutes, forthwith he was surrounded by a bery of bright-eyed maidens who would set him to talking in spite of himself, or one of them would in the politest manner imagine, offer her arm and solicit the honor of a short promenade with him! Under such circumstances it was impossible to refuse, and the consequence was that everybody enjoyed themselves. Many a poor body, hid away under a Sunday vest, was fearfully irretrievably soiled. Bachelors, from this time forth, must be counted among the things that were, so far as Ashland is concerned. We almost omitted to mention that a goodly number of our older citizens took supper with the young folks. The married ladies of Ashland "know their rights, and knowing dare maintain." It is also due to the ladies to state that they paid all expenses. The only thing we regretted—being a sinner—was the absence of a good violin. Its sound always was music in our ear, and we are firmly of the belief that a good dance prolongs "life, and health, and peace."

THE WEATHER.

"We did not fear them once—the dull gray mornings, No cheerless burden on our spirits laid The long night watches dim, not bring us warning That we were tenants of a house decayed. The frost did fairly work on pave and bough; Beauty, and power, and wonder, had not ended. How is it that we fear the Winters now?" Eight weeks of good sleighing! That venerable and much respected individual, the "oldest inhabitant," shakes his head and gravely remarks that this Winter beats his time a good long way. Snow everywhere—in the valleys, on the hills, all through the forests—gardens, meadows, orchards, shrubs, houses—everything enshrouded in one common white mantle. From every point of the compass our exchanges speak of the weather as being the coldest ever known in their respective sections. From Texas we learn that the inhabitants are putting up ice four inches thick, taken from the rivers about Austin. The Brazos is frozen over, and the Indians have crossed the river on the ice with their ponies. A letter to the N. O. Picayune, from Camden, Arkansas, dated Jan. 11, says that Wachita and Red Rivers are both frozen over, and footmen cross on the ice. Stock and poultry are dying in large numbers, and several persons have been frost-bitten. The Memphis (Tenn.) Appeal, of the 8th inst., says that the thermometer stood five degrees below zero for the three days previous, the coldest weather ever experienced in that latitude. In Florida, the orange trees, it is feared, are ruined. In the neighborhood of Louisville, Ky., we see by the accounts that the peach and other fruit trees have been killed by the frost. In North Carolina, thousands of dollars have been lost by the injury done to the pine trees of that region, which furnish almost the only article of trade in that quarter. In Virginia the apricots have been almost entirely destroyed. In Boston the weather has been so severe that, as one of the Boston papers states, the Linden trees which adorn the sidewalks, split with the frost as if a wedge had been driven into them. From the West we hear of Rail Road trains being snowed up weekly, and much suffering has followed. The Rivers everywhere are frozen up, and every branch of business seriously embarrassed.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET.

Current prices for the week. New York, Feb. 18, 1856. Beef—There are sold by the head at a price equal to the value per pound of the estimated weight of Beef in the quarters. The hide and tallow, or "fifth quarter," is not counted in this market, as the best Beef is sold in the quarters. The prices to-day are \$11.00 average for half a cent below last week. But few sales over 12c or under 5c. Sheep and Lambs—Common Sheep \$3.60 @ 7.50; extra Sheep, \$10 @ 12; Lambs \$5 @ 7.50. Swine—Western Hogs, corn fed, large, good quality, live weight, 75c @ 75c; small, do. live weight 5c @ 6c; dead weight, 75c @ 75c; Western small fed live weight 5c @ 5c; dead weight 7c @ 7c. There is a hard time coming for Hog merchants. In fact the price of hogs is declining from the highest prices is about a cent, and the last news from Europe is not calculated to set it up any. None but choice small hogs for city retailing and making nice hams of 8 or 10 lbs each will bring 6c.

NEW YORK SHEEP MARKET.

Current prices for the week. New York, Feb. 18, 1856. Sheep and Lambs—Common Sheep \$3.60 @ 7.50; extra Sheep, \$10 @ 12; Lambs \$5 @ 7.50. Swine—Western Hogs, corn fed, large, good quality, live weight, 75c @ 75c; small, do. live weight 5c @ 6c; dead weight, 75c @ 75c; Western small fed live weight 5c @ 5c; dead weight 7c @ 7c. There is a hard time coming for Hog merchants. In fact the price of hogs is declining from the highest prices is about a cent, and the last news from Europe is not calculated to set it up any. None but choice small hogs for city retailing and making nice hams of 8 or 10 lbs each will bring 6c.

PHILADELPHIA CATTLE MARKET.

Philadelphia, Feb. 18, 1856. The markets were pretty well supplied yesterday and to-day, and a small advance took place in the price of best quality beef. Beef Cattle—There were about 100 head offered, and sold at from \$5.75 to \$10 per 100 lbs. Some few fine steers sold at \$1.50 @ 1.00 lbs; 450 of this number arrived at Wm. L. Torbert's Avenue Drive Yard, principally by Pennsylvania Railroad; 100 of these were a prime lot of Obolsters, brought in by Messrs. D. Miller & Shallenbarger, of Chester County, David Walsh had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs. Sheep—The arrival of Sheep at Torbert's amounted to some 5000 head, which were principally owned by Messrs. Gross, Dietrich, Alcom, Dodds & Davis, Connel, &c. Cows and Calves—Are scarce, though they had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs. Hogs—This market is not so well supplied, the sales having amounted to only 1000 head, for which \$1.75 to \$2 per 100 lbs was obtained. Some few fine steers sold at \$1.50 @ 1.00 lbs; 450 of this number arrived at Wm. L. Torbert's Avenue Drive Yard, principally by Pennsylvania Railroad; 100 of these were a prime lot of Obolsters, brought in by Messrs. D. Miller & Shallenbarger, of Chester County, David Walsh had a lot from Chester County, Pa., which brought \$10.75 per 100 lbs.

CONDITION OF JAMAICA.

A Southern gentleman, writing from Kingston, Jamaica, to the New Orleans Picayune, gives a sombre account of the dilapidation which negro emancipation has produced in that colony. He says: "Kingston, which once counted eighty thousand prosperous inhabitants, who resided more in a great accumulation of beautiful gardens than in densely built squares, now contains only about forty thousand poverty-stricken people, composed in a great measure, to use the expression of an English gentleman resident here, of liberty-crippled negroes." The white population has largely diminished and is rapidly disappearing. The colored population presents the most marked contrasts within itself. The young men look hale, well-fed and joyous; and the young girls, if at all good looking, give evident tokens of prosperity in their dress and adornments. The middle-aged of both sexes seem every where wretched and old. The old are images of haggard want and despair. He observed women loading ships and coal, watched over by a dozen stately fellows. The experiment with coolie labor had been a failure.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF TURKEY.

An interesting statement of the financial condition of the Turkish Empire has been published. It appears that the Turkish army consists of 103,066 men, after deducting 2,359 forming a contingent maintained by the British Government, and that the cost of this effective force for one year amounts to \$2,320,000. The corps of Redifs actually under arms, (after deducting 7,741 forming the British contingent) amounts to 96,086, and as regards pay and rations they have been placed on the same footing as the regular troops. The expenses of the war for 23 months, (from May 27, 1853, to September 27, 1855), amount to \$7,400,000—a sum which includes one of \$370,000, value of ammunition and war-stores furnished to the Allies. The amount required by the War Department for the next year is \$4,345,000, and to meet immediate wants an application is made to the loan commission for an installment of \$628,000.

THE ASHLAND