demands, not the labor of slaves, which need to be watched and defended, but voluntary, enlightened labor, stimulated by interest, affection and ambition. It needs that every man shall own the land he tills; that every head shall be fit for the helmet, and every hand fit for the sword, and every mind ready and qualified for counsel. To attempt to aggrandize a country with slaves for its inhabitants, would be to try to make a large body of empire with feeble sinews and empty veins.

Mr. President, the expansion of territory to make slave States will only fail to be a great crime, because it is impracticable, and therefore will turn out to be a stupendous imbecility. A free Republican Government, like this, notwithstanding all its constitutional checks, cannot long resist and counter-act the progress of society. Slavery, wherever and whenever, and in whatsoever form it exists, is exceptional, local, and short lived. Freedom is the common right, interest, and ultimate destiny, of all mankind.—All other nations have already abolished, or are about abolishing slavery. Does this fact mean nothing? All parties in this country that have tolerated the extension of slavery, except one, has perished for that error already. That last one—the Democratic party—is hurrying on irretrievably, toward the same fate. All administrations that have avowed this policy have gone down dishonored for that cause, except the present one. A pit deeper and darker still is opening to receive this Administration, because it sins more deeply than its predecessors.—There is a meaning in all these facts, which it becomes us to study well. The nation has advanced another stage; it has reached the point where intervention, by the Government, for Slavery and Slave States, will no longer be tolerated. Free labor has at last apprehended its rights, its interests, its power and its destiny, and is organizing itself to assume the government of the Republic. It will henceforth meet you boldly and resolutely here; it will meet you everywhere, in the territories and out of them, wherever you may go to extend Slavery. It has driven you back in California and in Kansas; it will invade you soon in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Missouri and Texas. It will meet you in Arizona, in Central America, and even in Cuba. The invasion will not be merely harmless but beneficent, if you yield seasonably to its just and moderate demands. It proved so in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the other slave States, which have already yielded in that way to its advances. You may, indeed, get a start under or near the tropics, and seem safe for a time, but it will be only a short time. Even there you will found States only for free labor to maintain and occupy. The interest of the white races demands the ultimate emancipation of all men. Whether that consummation shall be allowed to take effect, with needful and wise precautions against sudden change and disaster, or be hurried on by violence, is all that remains for you to decide. For the failure of your system of slave labor throughout the Republic, the responsibility will rest not on the agitators you condemn, or the political parties you arraign, or even altogether on yourselves, but it will be due to the inherent error of the system itself, and to the error which thrusts it forward to oppose and resist the destiny, not more of the African than that of the white races. The white man needs this continent to labor upon. His head is clear, his arm is strong, and his necessities are fixed. He must and will have it. To secure it, he will oblige the Government of the United States to abandon intervention in favor of slave labor and slave States, and go backward forty years, and resume the original policy of intervention in favor of free labor and free States. The fall of the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa determined the fate of Mexico, although sore sieges and severe pitched battles intervened before the capture of the capital of the Aztecs. The defeats you have encountered in California and in Kansas determine the fate of the principle for which you have been contending. It is for yourselves, not for us, to decide how long and through what further mortifications and disasters the contest shall be protracted, before Freedom shall enjoy her already assured triumph. I would have it ended now and would have the wounds of be done by offering further resistance, nor by any evasion or partial surrender, nor by forcing Kansas into the Union as a Slave State, against her will, leaving her to cast off slavery afterwards, as best she may; nor by compelling Minnesota and Oregon to wait and wear the humiliating costume of Territories at the doors of Congress, until the people of Kansas, or their true defenders here, shall be brought to dishonorable compromises. It can be done only by the simple and direct admission of the three new States as free States, without qualification, condition, or compromise, and by the abandonment of all further attempts to extend slavery under the Federal Constitution. You have unwisely pushed the controversy so far, that only these broad concessions will now be accepted by the interest of free labor and free States. For myself, I see this fact, perhaps, the more distinctly now, because I have so long foreseen it. I can, therefore, counsel nothing less than these concessions. I know the hazards I incur in taking this position. I know how men and parties, now earnest, and zealous, and bold, may yet fall away from me as controversy shall wax warm, and alarms and dangers, now unlooked for, shall stare them in the face; as men and parties, equally earnest, bold, and zealous, have done in like circumstances before. But it is the same position I took in the case of California, eight years ago. It is the same I maintained on the great occasion of the organization of Kansas and Nebraska, four years ago. Time and added experience have vindicated it since, and I assume it again, to be maintained to the last, with confidence that it will be justified ultimately by the country and by the civilized world. You may refuse to yield it now, and for a short period, but your refusal will only animate the friends of Freedom with the courage and the resolution, and produce the union among them, which alone are necessary on their part to attain the position itself simultaneously with the impending overthrow of the existing Federal Administration and the constitution of a new and more independent Congress.

Mr. President, this expansion of the empire of free white men is to be conducted through the process of admitting new States, and not otherwise. The white man, whether you consent or not, will make the States to be admitted, and he will make them all free States. We must admit them all free; otherwise, they will become independent and foreign States, constituting a new empire to contend with us for the continent. To admit them is a simple, easy, and natural policy. It is not new to us, or to our times. It began with the voluntary union of the first thirteen. It has continued to go on, overriding all resistance, ever since. It will go on until the ends of the continent are the borders of our Union. Thus we become colaborers with our fathers, and even with posterity throughout many ages. After times, contemplating the whole vast structure, completed and perfected, will forget the dates, and the eras, and the individualities, of the builders in their successive generations.

It will be one great Republic, founded by one body of benefactors. I wonder that the President of the United States undervalues the Kansas question, when it is a part of a transaction so immense and sublime. Far from sympathizing with him in his desire to depreciate it, and to be rid of it, I felicitate myself on my humble relation to it, for I know that Heaven cannot grant, nor man desire a more favorable occasion to acquire fame, than he enjoys who is engaged in laying the foundations of a great empire; and I know, also, that, while mankind have often deified their benefactors, no nation has ever yet bestowed honors on the memories of the founders of Slavery.

I have always believed, Mr. President, that this glorious Federal Constitution of ours is adapted to the inevitable expansion of the empire which I have so feebly presented. It has been perverted often by misconstruction, and it has yet to be perverted many times, and widely, hereafter, but it has inherent strength and vigor that will cast off all the webs which the ever-changing interests of classes may weave around it. If it fail us now, it will, however, not be our fault, but because an inevitable crisis, like that of youth, or of manhood, is to be encountered by a constitution proved in that case to be inadequate to the trial. I am sure that no patriot, who views the subject as I do, could wish to evade or delay the trial. By delay we could only extend Slavery, at the most, throughout the Atlantic region of the Continent. The Pacific slope is free, and it always must and will be free. The mountain barriers that separate us from that portion of our empire, are quite enough to divide us too widely, possibly to alienate us too soon. Let us only become all slave-holding States on this side of those barriers, while only free States are organized and perpetuated on the other side, and then indeed there will come a division of the great American family into two nations, equally ambitious for complete control over the continent, and a conflict between them, over which the world will mourn as the greatest and last to be retrieved of all the calamities that have ever befallen the human race.

The Free Press

GEO. W. & G. G. BENEDICT,
Editors and Proprietors.

☞ For terms see last page. ☜

BURLINGTON:
FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 19, 1858.

REPORTS OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Majority and Minority of the Kansas Investigating Committee of fifteen, appointed by the House of Representatives, have been given to the public through the papers, although not formally laid before the House. The Majority Report, prepared by Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, is a singular report for an *investigating* committee. It substitutes, for the information which the House intended to elicit, a lengthy argumentation for the admission of Kansas with the Lecompton Constitution, differing little from the general run of Lecompton arguments, unless it be in the brazen hardihood of its assertions, that no State has presented itself for admission with a cleaner record than Kansas, and that the Constitution is acceptable to at least four-fifths of the voters of the Territory. The Report closes with a prolonged and attenuated threat of disunion unless Kansas is admitted under the Lecompton Constitution. It would not have been complete, or of a piece, without such a conclusion. As some one has said, "It was as much to be expected as the negro who brings up the rear of a target company's parade; and is of about as much relative consequence, and elicits the same gentle laughter."

The Minority say, in their Report, that, with the exception of the call upon Mr. Calhoun, proposed by one of the minority, and an inquiry as to the appointment of the delegates, the majority have resisted successfully every effort at inquiry by either of the minority, while they themselves have elicited nothing relative to the matter of inquiry not already before the country. They say that the committee, by an adjournment *sine die*, brought its labors to a close, having, in the opinion of the minority, failed to execute the order of the House, and also to accomplish any one purpose for which the committee was raised; that there has been ample time to procure all the information sought by the House; that there are scores of prominent citizens of Kansas, of all parties, now in Washington, who could have given the most weighty evidence touching all the points of inquiry embraced in the resolution—particularly in relation to the most monstrous frauds perpetrated at the election on the 21st of December last. The minority think there [illegible] the means returning to the House with no information but what was already in the possession of each of its members when the investigation was ordered.

The Journal of the Committee, kept by Mr. Harris, the chairman, is appended to the Report. We copy from the Courier and Enquirer, the following remarks upon the facts shown in the Journal.

An examination of the journal shows that every effort to set the Committee at the work for which it was appointed was blocked by a majority of one; the committee consisting of fifteen members, eight of whom were Slavery Democrats, fearful of any examination into the stupendous frauds which have been perpetrated in Kansas, and determined to force the Lecompton Constitution upon her and the country by all means and at all hazards.

The first attempt made to ascertain the facts connected with the formation of the Lecompton Constitution was in the form of a Resolution to obtain copies of returns and votes, census and registration of votes and returns of elections in Kansas since October 1856, with evidence as to the validity of those returns. Of this resolution the majority allowed only the word "Resolved" to stand, and inserted after that a direction that copies of certain laws and registrations of voters, about which there was no dispute and no lack of information, should be procured. The Yeas on the amendment were Messrs. Stephens, Letcher, Winslow, White, Anderson, Quitman, Stevenson, and Russell—8; the Nays, Messrs. Harris, Morrill, Wade, Bennet, Walbridge, Adrain, and Buffington—7.

The next attempt was a Resolution to procure copies of the returns of the Kansas election of the 4th of January last upon the Lecompton Constitution. This resolution was at once laid upon the table—Yeas, Messrs. Stephens, Letcher, Winslow, White, Anderson, Quitman, Stevenson, and Russell,—8; Nays, Messrs. Harris, Morrill, Wade, Bennet, Walbridge, Adrain, Buffington—7.

It was next proposed that the Committee should inquire into the validity of the law providing for a Constitutional Convention in Kansas. This proposition was also laid upon the table, the same eight forming a majority. A resolution directing Governor Walker, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Stanton, and Mr. Henderson to be called before the Committee "to testify to all such facts as they have knowledge of, and to procure all such documents, papers, votes and returns as have any relation to the election of Delegates to the Lecompton Constitutional Convention, or to any election subsequently held in the Territory of Kansas," was, in effect, indefinitely postponed by the same majority of eight.—After such an exhibition of the settled purpose of the majority to use its mere numerical force to quash all investigation, and to defeat entirely the purpose for which the Committee was appointed, as this of setting aside a proposition to bring before the Committee the most important witnesses in the case; witnesses, too, who derived their knowledge as officers of the Government, and by the appointment of the very James Buchanan whose Message, according to the construction of Mr. Speaker Orr, was referred to the Committee,—after the exhibition of such a determination, we wonder that the minority of the Committee continued their useless efforts. There was evidently nothing more to be done. The question had been settled before the first sitting of the Committee: there was to be no investigation by this body appointed to investigate. Still the minority went on. Resolution after resolution did they bring forward, all directed to the object of the creation of the Committee, and one by one were these resolutions slaughtered by the same majority of eight, who walked up, presented and fired with the regularity and indifference of platoons of Spanish soldiers at a military execution after a *pronunciamento*. Fifteen resolutions, some concise and others very comprehensive, but all mere resolutions of investigation, were thus defeated by a majority of one or (Mr. Letcher being once absent) by a tie vote, and any investigation being found utterly impracticable by the minority, the farce was brought to a close.

Surely such outrageous proceedings as this journal brings to light were never before known in a committee of a high parliamentary body. For the numerical strength of

the majority were used not in decisions as to whether certain alleged facts were indeed facts, or to the value and significance of admitted facts, but in the stifling of all inquiry of any kind whatever. We see a committee appointed to investigate declaring that there shall be no investigation; an expected source of light perverted into a cloud of impenetrable darkness. The committee returned to the House, in the language of the introduction to Mr. Harris's journal,—almost our own words of Friday last—"with no information but what was in the possession of its members when the investigation was ordered except the speculative reasoning and casuistic lucubrations laid down by the majority in their report;" but of the facts in the case, nothing, absolutely nothing. We mistake greatly if this insulting and tyrannous proceeding will be successful. It is too much for the subservience even of those who have been bought with the price of official patronage. It can hardly be but that the investigation will yet be had, and with investigation comes victory for truth and right.

THE OFFICE HOLDERS OF VERMONT.

Many eyes opened widely at the list of office holders of Vermont, under one department of the Federal Government, which we copied from the Watchman the other day.—Not only were the people in these parts unaware who were their servants, but even the Democracy were to a considerable extent, as it proved, ignorant both of the value of the "spoils" appertaining to their party, and of the favored possessors of the same; nay more, as we are credibly informed, some of the office holders themselves knew not that they were such.

We have recently been favored with a cursory perusal of the Blue Book for 1857, and from that and other sources we are able to add to the information now before the public, several facts of general interest which it is right that the public should know.—The office holders of the Government are the servants of the people. They are paid with the people's money, and surely the people have some right to know how and by whom that money is earned.

Among the attaches of the Custom House in this place, as given in the Blue Book, are

Patrick Payne,	Boatman,	pay	$340
Thomas Payne,	"	"	$180
Patrick Haye,	Porter,	"	$180

We are informed by several Democrats who are in a position to know, that these are three unnaturalized Irishmen, who are in the employ of Judge Smalley, as his gardener, ostler and laborer, respectively, who say that they did not know that they were officers of the government, have not rendered service or received pay as such, and have signed from time to time receipts for their salaries, without knowing what they were putting their marks to.

We believe that very few were aware that our townsman, John G. Saxe, added to his titles as Poet and Lecturer that of Deputy Collector and Custom House Inspector,—and some, we know, have been puzzled to conjecture at what time of the year he earns his salary of $600, as such.

The Postmaster of this town appears to hold a very comfortable berth, that is—if there are no drawbacks in the shape of wear and tear of conscience &c. The Blue Book tells us that Mr Danforth receives as Postmaster a salary of $1,723,11. He is allowed two clerks, whose salaries are paid by the Government. M. H. Stone, pay $525, and M. Thompson, pay $275. Mr Thompson is a compositor in the Sentinel Printing office. His place in the Post Office is course [illegible] a [illegible]

In addition, Mr Danforth received, as publisher of the Sentinel, in 1857,

For advertising in the State Department	$211
" " " Post Office "	250
" publishing Laws	147
	608

On the whole, Mr Danforth must draw upon Uncle Sam's funds to the amount of something over $2,500 per annum—a cogent Lecompton argument.

As we have intimated, these facts are either taken from the record, or are given to us by Democrats of unquestioned standing. We give them as of general interest, and not likely to be given to the public in any other way. As matters go in this wicked world, Republicans cannot very well complain, if Mr Smalley's gardeners and the Sentinel compositors are paid by the government directly. If Democrats are not suited with the arrangement, it is for them to look to it. We surely have no quarrel with any whose names we have given, and we shall be happy to publish for them any offsets, in the way of assessments paid for the support of their party, here or elsewhere, to which they may be entitled.

We subjoin an additional list of Vermonters in office, compiled by Mr. Walton from the Blue Book.

In the Department of the Interior, I find E. E. Fisk, clerk (land office) at $1,200; J. H. Lane, examiner in the Patent office, $2,500; Wm. F. Hall temporary clerk, Indian office, paid by the piece; S. G. Heaton, pension office, $1,400; Charles F Warner, Burlington, and B F Blodgett, Bradford, pension agents, receiving two per cent. of money disbursed if it does not exceed $1000 to each agent. Total number about 1400; Vermonters 8.

In the War Department: R. J. Ashley, Vancouver, paymaster's clerk, $700; Sylvester Churchill, Inspector General (Brigadier General, brevet); Lyman H. Stone, Assistant Surgeon; Wm F. Smith, 1st Lieut. topographical Engineers; Albert V. Colburn, 2d Lieut. Cavalry; Justin Dimick, Major (Col. brevet) 1st regt. artillery; Truman Seymour, 1st Lieut. (Capt. brevet) ditto; Amos Beckwith, Henry W. Closson, 1st Lieuts. ditto; Edward R. Platt, 1st Lieut. 2d regt. artillery; Henry A. Smalley, 2d do. do.; Henry S. Burton, Capt. (Maj. brevet) 3d regt. artillery; Darius R. Ransom, 1st Lieut. do.; John W. Phelps, Capt. 4th regt. artillery; Hannibal Day, Maj. 2d regt. infantry; Henry C. Hodges, 1st Lieut. (Adjutant) 4th regt. infantry; Gustavus Loomis, Col. 5th regt. infantry; Henry R. Selden, Capt. do.; Newman S. Clark, Colonel (Brig. Gen. brevet) 6th regiment infantry; Isaac Lynde, Seneca G. Simmons, Capts. 7th regiment infantry; George Wright, Colonel, 9th regt. infantry; John McNab, 1st Lieut. do.; Cadets at West Point—Edwin H. Stoughton, 2d class, James M. Warner, 4th class, Orville E. Babcock, 4th class.

We are informed by Mr. Danforth that our article on Vt. Office-holders above contains an erroneous statement respecting Mr. Thompson who has not, as Mr. Danforth states, drawn pay as Post Office Clerk, from the Government, since 1850. Our statement was drawn directly from the Blue Book. The error is in that. We have also been favored with a line from Judge Smalley, complaining of our article as a "gross, unprovoked, and evidently malicious attack" upon him, and informing us that we have been the "medium to communicate to the public the impotent spleen and malice of a few pretended 'dark lantern' Democrats." We have not the slightest personal feeling in this matter. If the facts are not so, we shall be very happy to be convinced of it and to convince our readers.

Sad Fatality. Miss Sarah Barnard, aged 21 years, only daughter of Geo. W. Barnard Esq., a wealthy merchant of Boston, was burned to death in that city on Saturday last, her clothes taking fire from a grate before which she was standing. Before any effective aid could be rendered, in the absence of her parents and the fright of the domestics, she received injuries which caused her death almost immediately. Doubtless she inhaled the flame which so burned her lungs as to take life instantly.

XXVTH CONGRESS.
FIRST SESSION.

In the House on Thursday a second struggle on the Lecompton question commenced. Mr. Harris desired to present the reasons why the Kansas Investigating Committee had failed to perform the duty assigned it—which explanation he offered as a matter of privilege. The Speaker decided it was not a privileged question. Mr. Harris appealed. Mr. Stephens moved to lay the appeal on the table. This motion was lost, by a majority of fifteen. This result, though owing in part to the absence of part of the Lecompton force, alarmed the administration men, as several South Americans, on whose support they have counted, voted against them.

Among the noticeable speeches of the week, have been one in the House by Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, in which he took the ground that under the Lecompton Constitution, the people of Kansas would have no right to change their Constitution until 1864; and one by Mr. Polk, of Missouri, who settled the Kansas question to his satisfaction by denying the fact of invasion from Missouri, or fraud at the polls in the Territory. Mr. Polk's stock of brass must be large. Of course, the country will accept Mr. Polk's say-so as final in the matter. Mr. Hamlin, of Maine, made an able effort on Wednesday, in the Senate. The *Times'* correspondent says "Senator Hamlin's speech is the ablest senatorial effort of his life. His vindication of the laboring classes of the North, against the aspersions of Senator Hammond, was a splendid success."

In the Senate, Friday, speeches on the Kansas bill were made by Messrs. Chandler of Michigan, Hunter of Va., and Kennedy of Md.

The House passed the Consular and Diplomatic appropriation bill, and the Senate bill authorizing certain U. S. officers and men, engaged in the expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin, to receive medals from the British government.

The chair announced the pending question to be for the appeal of Mr. Harris of Ill., (taken on Thursday) from the decision of the chair that it was not a question of privilege to present the doings of the Kansas committee to show their failure to execute the orders of the House.

Mr. Harris defended his position, and Mr Stephens of Ga. replied. The question was further debated by Messrs. Harris, Grow of Pa., English of Ind., and others, several plans being proposed.

A motion to lay the appeal on the table was negatived by a vote of 109 to 111.

Mr. Harris inquired of Mr. Stephens whether objection would be made hereafter to a minority report. Mr. Stephens replied that there would not. Mr. Harris then said he would withdraw his appeal, and let the majority take the chances for their report. After this drawn game the House adjourned to Monday.

Washington, March 13.

Senate. Mr. Wade spoke on the Kansas question, defending the North from the charge of aggressions upon the South, and contending that the aggressions were all the other way. He in this connection, charged that the seizure of Texas, and her admission into the Union, in violation of the Constitution of the United States, was an enormous aggression upon the rights of the North. [illegible] the laboring men of the North, [illegible] the Carolina Senator's aspersion that they are slaves. A discussion, animated in the extreme, then arose, in which Senators Mason, Bigler, Wilson, Broderick and Pugh took part, on the question whether the Enabling act, as reported by Mr. Douglas, did or did not in its original draft contain a clause providing for a submission of the Kansas Constitution to the people, which clause was alleged to have been stricken out at Mr. Douglas' house in a consultation held there by the Committee on Territories. Mr. Douglas was not in his seat, and the subject was dropped till he should be present. The House was not in session on Saturday.

In the Senate on Monday, Mr. Mason of Virginia, spoke at length. He argued that Slavery is the normal condition of the negro.

He referred to Mr. Seward's threats that there should be no more Slave States. But he would tell that gentleman the battle was not fought—not won. It is but just begun, and the direct issue is—You shall have no more Slave States. "I do not know how it will result; but if the vote on Kansas is to consign all who give it to political death, it will take no prophet to foretell how long this Union will last."

Mr Mason was followed by Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, and others. Ineffectual attempts were frequently made to adjourn. The Lecomptonites were determined to maintain a continuous session, until they could force a vote on the admission of Kansas, unless the Opposition would agree to the vote being taken before the expiration of the present week. A proposal, to have the vote taken next Monday, was rejected by the majority. The contest became one of mere physical endurance, and a night session was the result.

Our despatch says that the offer to close the debate on Monday was finally accepted.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ELECTED.

The following temperance candidates for County Commissioner, are reported elected:

Addison County,		Ira Gifford.
Chittenden	"	Jas. Mitchell.
Lamoille	"	W. Terrill.
Franklin	"	R. H. Hoyt.
Caledonia	"	John Morse.
Windsor	"	Crosby Miller.

The following Counties have elected by small majorities what are mildly called the "liberal" candidates,—men opposed to the faithful execution of the Prohibitory Law:

Rutland County,		Barnes Frisbie.
Washington	"	Mr. Kent.
Orleans,	"	Mr. Simpson.
Orange	"	——— ———
Windham	"	John Roberts.

In some of these Counties no printed votes for the Temperance candidates were distributed, and in all there appears to have been a culpable remissness on the part of the friends of the Law.

Liquor Law in Essex.—On Thursday last, a drunken Frenchman was arrested in Essex, and taken before Justice Halbert, before whom he disclosed that he obtained his liquor of David Tyler, Hotel keeper, of Essex Junction. The matter was brought to the notice of State's Attorney Hard. Mr Tyler was brought up before Justice Hill, Friday, plead guilty to ten offences, making him a common seller, and was fined $100 and costs.

The Town of Essex, at the March meeting, voted to request the County Commissioners to appoint no Agent for the sale of liquor in that town for the coming year; and, as the Temperance men of the place are determined, by a rigid enforcement of the Prohibitory Law, to prevent, as far as possible, the illegal sale, the prospect is, that those who want rum there, will have to go outside of Essex for it.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.

Mr. Hawkins, in the *Vermont Chronicle*, speaks encouragingly of his labors in this State. He says:

> "I have found the people wide awake in the cause, and prompt and ready to re-organize Temperance Societies every where. I have thus far, met all my appointments promptly. The audiences have, as a general thing, been large—many coming from three to seven miles. I have spoken in thirty-one places, and obtained on the pledge, in eleven places, one thousand one hundred and thirty-two names. In all these towns, without exception, they adjourned the meeting to an early day for the purpose of forming a Temperance Society. In Williamstown 144 signed; in Waterbury 210; in Charlotte 184; in Hinesburgh 130; in Richmond 102; in Underhill 90; in other towns ranging from 30 to 70. I am really of opinion that there is not a State in the Union in which the cause is in so healthy a condition as in the State of Vermont.
>
> "I find in the towns I have visited, a growing and decided disposition to enforce the law. In many places all the necessary arrangements are now made to make the *rum-sellers* feel that they shall not be permitted to trample on the statute with impunity."

In Brookfield, a Total Abstinence Association has recently been formed, mainly through the efforts of a man, who, with the habit of drinking, had good sense enough to resolve to break off the use of liquor, and influence enough to induce his associates to join him in the effort at reform. "The result," says a correspondent of the Northfield *Messenger*, "has been that about 300 signatures have been obtained to the pledge, and among them are the names of most of those in this part of the town, who have been accustomed to use spirituous liquors as a beverage."

The following sensible advertisement appeared in a late Christian *Messenger*:

I WANT WORK

And will not drink any more Rum from this time. Harvey Benton.

Witness, George Sturtevant.
Northfield, Feb. 24, 1858.

That man should have all the work he wants.

Four barrels of liquor were recently seized in the depot at Roxbury, Vt. It was directed to the Town Agent at that Town, but as he would not own it, and no owner appeared, it was turned out. The *Repository* understands that it is common all over the State for liquor dealers to have their barrels directed to some Agency.

Of the liquor sold in Buffalo, N. Y. the Advertiser, of that city says:—"The brandy is poison, the whiskey of that variety known as "hardware," strychnine would improve it, and the gin is kept in *glass bottles* simply because *it would cut through the staves of a barrell in fifteen minutes.*"

New Name for an Old Thing. A colored woman was called to testify in court in Worcester the other day in trial of damages by the collision of two carriages on the highway. To the question whether one of the parties was intoxicated, she answered that she did not know, but "*he went as though he had a bill of sale of both sides of the road.*"

The power of the rage for strong drink was forcibly illustrated at one of our Pittsfield saloons the other day. It seems that a certain old soaker had been building a "bob sled" for the proprietor, wetting his whistle pretty freely at the bar "on account" as the work went on. At last the barkeeper remarked—"What, —— you here again? Why, you've drank the sled all up except the pole, now!"

The customer wasn't taken back for a moment, but leaning resolutely over the bar, exclaimed—"Well, look a here, old fellow, give us the pole, will yer?" And the pole was swallowed.—*Berkshire County Eagle.*

Post Office Espionage and Robbery.—John P. Hale writes to the Independent Democrat, at Concord, N. H., that large numbers of public documents sent by him to his friends in New Hampshire recently, have failed to reach the persons to whom they were addressed. He has confidence in the integrity of the postmaster at Washington, who assures him that they were promptly forwarded, and it follows that they must have been detained either in the Boston post office or in the various post offices in New Hampshire to which they were directed. Mr. Tappin of the House of Representatives from New Hampshire complains that the documents forwarded by him to his constituents are also missing. This is villainous.

From California.—The steamship Star of the West, from Aspinwall, with the California mail of Feb. 20, and $1,279,184 in treasure, arrived at New York on Monday.—In the California Legislature, a bill to suppress mobs and insurrections had been introduced, and had excited much angry discussion. It was specially aimed at the Vigilence Committee. The impression, however prevailed that it would not pass. Several murders have been perpetrated.

The Sacramento slave case was decided on the 11th, and the slave was handed over to his claimant. The decision is generally condemned by the press.

John Tyler undertook to force his party to accept his measures, in lieu of their own doctrine. Down he went. Millard Fillmore undertook to incorporate the Fugitive Slave Law into the Whig platform. Down he went. Franklin Pierce underook to incorporate the enslavement of Kansas into the Democratic platform. Down he went. Mr. Buchanan can read the Future in the Past. The fate of his predecessors will be his.

Mexican News.—Late intelligence from Mexico is to the effect that the condition of affairs in the country is growing worse and worse; civil war is raging in four or five of the States; and the disaffection towards the new Zuloaga Government seems to be gaining strength every day. The Government was in the field with six thousand men and twenty-seven pieces of artillery, and it was supposed that a battle would soon be fought. Several of the prominent military men of the country, including Alvarez—who was at the head of three thousand cavalry—were in arms against Zuloaga, whose downfall was considered certain.

Poisonous Liquor. The Brandon Advocate says that in Crown Point, N. Y., recently, three men called at a public house for liquor. The keeper of the house tapped a new barrel to supply them; they drank and two of them died, almost instantly; the other barely escaped with his life. There was probably a little too much strychnine put in that time.

The Watchman says that the ladies of Montpelier have been enjoying the few days of pleasant weather, with which we have recently been favored, in the initiatory lessons in skating. Also that the scarlet or peasant petticoat, which the ladies take especial pains to exhibit by the modest lifting of the outer dress, is to be seen daily in the streets.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1858.
SHELBURNE.

Selectmen; Lee Tracy, S. S. Nelson, Frederick Fletcher. Listers; L. F. Lyon, J. L. Barstow, Jas. O'Grady. H. N. Lyon, Constable and Collector. Wm. Harmon, Town Clerk, Treasurer and Trustee.

Fatal Accidents.—Levi Langlois, a Frenchman, while engaged in cutting wood in St. Albans, was instantly killed by the fall of a tree.—In Danville, last week, Nicholas Cook, a German, while adjusting a belt in Greenbank's woolen factory, was caught by a hook attached to the drum, carried twice, with great velocity, over the shaft, and thrown upon the floor with much violence. He was stripped of all his clothing—save his neck handkerchief and stockings and injured so that he survived but two days.—In Cornwall, Vt., on Wednesday of last week, a young man named Henry Carter, slid from a hay-mow upon the tooth of a horse-rake, which entered the inner part of the thigh, and passed up into the abdomen, causing a rupture of the rectum. There is no possibility of his recovery.—Mr. Wm. F. Tewksbury of Thetford was killed March 5th. While liberating a yearling confined under a log, the log rolled, carrying them all below. The young man was not much injured. Mr. Tewksbury lived about one hour, his spine being broken. He was 47 years of age, and leaves a wife and two children.

Terrible Tragedy in an Illinois Penitentiary.—The Alton Courier of March 9, gives particulars of a very singular transaction which occurred in the Penitentiary in that place.

A convict named Hall, from Chicago, who is now serving out a second term, formed the the idea of acquiring his liberty in the following method. He watched his opportunity shortly after breakfast, and when no other guard was in the hall surrounding the cells, except Mr. Crabb, whom he knocked down and stunned by a severe blow on the head, then dragged him into one of the lower cells, tied Crabb's hands behind his back, and fastened the cell door by means of a stick of timber, previously put in the cell by some confederate, then drew a huge knife from his bosom, assisted Crabb to rise, put him against the door and threatened him with death unless he was allowed to go at liberty.

This most daring attempt was soon known, and promptly brought Col. Buckmaster and his guards to the spot. The convict threatened Crabb with instant death if any attempt was made upon the door, holding the knife within a couple of inches of Crabb's breast. For upwards of an hour Col. Buckmaster and his guards watched an opportunity to shoot him, but there being but one opening in the door and that quite small, he kept Crabb constantly between him and the opening, so that he could only be reached through Crabb's body.

Thus matters continued until noon, when Crabb made some efforts to open the door, but was immediately cut severely in the hand by the convict. During the day the convict stated his terms of submission to be a revolver, loaded by himself, a full suit of citizen's dress, $100 in money, and to be drove out of town in a close carriage, accompanied by Crabb, to such a place as he should designate; all of which were of course inadmissable. In the meantime, however, Colonel Buckmaster procured a pardon from the Governor, to be used in his discretion; but up to twelve o'clock last night no information of it had been given to the convict. All day the guards were on the watch to shoot the scoundrel, but as he had positively declared he would kill Crabb if he was not instantly killed himself, great care had to be taken for fear he might put his threat into execution. Crabb had no arms whatever, the yard guards not being allowed to carry any, and had nothing whatever to defend himself from any attack of the desperado.

About eleven o'clock last night, one of the guards got a shot at him, but averted his fire upon a change of positions for fear of shooting Crabb.

The entrance to the cell is very narrow, the door of plate iron, with a small grating at the top for ventilation. The door opens inwards, and is very strongly fastened. It is impossible to get at the scoundrel without using great force, which we learn would be [illegible] shot during the night. During the day great fears were entertained that he would kill the guard, and for fear of that active operations were not pushed forward. Those best informed think there is now very little danger of his putting his threat into execution as he must know that death would instantly be his lot.

Yesterday every thing was done that could be done consistently with Crabb's safety. No chance would the convict give for any injury to himself, as he either studiously kept the guard between him and the grating, or laid down against the door and out of the reach of shot. He professed to have no ill feelings to Crabb, but had deliberately planned this method of gaining his liberty, and would kill Crabb and then kill himself, unless he was pardoned, and taken out in the manner stated.

Before our readers see this account this morning, the desperado will either have been taken or killed.

The above account closed on Monday night, at 12 o'clock. A letter written on Tuesday, gives the finale of the affair as follows:

At 9 o'clock, this morning, Rutherford, the State Superintendent and Col. Buckmaster Warden, undertook to get into the cell of the prisoner by stratagem. Breakfast was set at the cell door in vessels of larger size than ordinary, but the convict refused to open the door until the hall was cleared, which, after a brief consultation, was done. The Warden Superintendent and Guards were on each side of the cell, but out of sight and motionless. The convict slowly opened the door nearly enough to admit the food, when a crowbar was instantly inserted. The Warden cried out to Crabb, the imprisoned guard, to fight for his life. He accordingly sprang to the opening of the door, and at length dragged himself through, but not before he was stabbed by the convict nine times, seven times in the back and twice on the arms. When the poor victim was dragged out, the convict barred the door again and refused to yield. He was then given a few minutes for reflection, and the rebel was, after much dodging and effort to get out of the reach of the fire, shot by the Warden. The ball struck his skull just below the left ear, and glancing around, lodged under the skull. He fell instantly, and was dragged out of the cell and thought to be dead, but soon recovered and talked as sensibly as any man could under the circumstances. After the convict was taken out of the cell, his knife, about eight inches long, with a double edge, was found in the cell, and on his person was found, also, another larger knife, with a blade four inches long. Crabb, the wounded guard was immediately taken to the hospital, and his wounds were examined and dressed by the Drs. Williams, the prison surgeon, and Allen. The left lung was found to be twice perforated by the knife. The other wounds were not dangerous.

When the above letter was written, neither the convict nor the guard were expected to survive.

A later account says:

It is stated that every thing was done during the night to surprise the convict into a capture, but that he was vigilant and bloody from one minute's end to the other, and amused himself from time to time by pricking his victim with the point of his knife.

It is not stated in our despatch at what time the convict died, but we learn from other sources that he survived his wounds but a short time.

STATE FAIR AT BURLINGTON.

The managers of the Vermont State Agricultural Society met at Bellows Falls, on Wednesday last, located the next Fair at Burlington, and adjourned.

Congress.—In the Senate, on the 10th, Mr. Hamlin of Me., concluded a very able Kansas speech, and, after an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Stephens of Ga., asked but failed to obtain leave to present the report of the majority of the Kansas committee. He stated that he should take the responsibility of printing it.

Counterfeiters Arrested.—In Chicago last week, a gang of counterfeiters was broken up. A box full of bogus halves and quarters, some finished and ready for circulation, a frame of plaster of Paris moulds, eight in number, chemicals, and a complete apparatus for photographing, with a bank note ready to be copied, were seized. The coins are so near the genuine as almost to de defy the most rigid scrutiny. They have nearly the genuine ring, are about of the same weight, but present, upon close examination, a slightly blurred and leady appearance, and imperfect edges.

For some time past, an unusual amount of bogus coin and counterfeit paper has been manufactured in Northern Indiana and Illinois, but the arrest of this gang, fifteen in number, it is thought will break up the trade for a while.

The Case of Judge Loring.—The Massachusetts House of Representatives has adopted, 127 to 101, an address to the Governor, for the removal of Judge Loring from his office of Judge of Probate for Suffolk County: first, because of his offence against the moral sense of the Commonwealth in the fugitive slave case of Anthony Burns, where he presided as Commissioner, and gave a legal doubt against the negro; and second, because he refuses to obey a law of the State, making it incompatible for a man to hold a State office and at the same time a United States office which requires him to do the business of slave-catching for the Southern planters. The address now goes to the Senate.

MR. SEWARD'S SPEECH.

The closing paragraph of this great speech, given in our columns to-day, is the only portion of it to which we are inclined to take exception. The Pacific States may some day leave the Union and set up for themselves; but that the slavery question will be the cause of that division,—that the dividing line between the future Slave Empire (if we are to have one,) and the Free Republic, will be the Rocky Mountains,—that Ohio, and New England are to be slave States, while California remains a Free State,—the idea that this or anything like it can ever be, seems to us absurd.

But the speech as a whole we heartily admire, and commend it anew to our readers. Its clear fresh review of the facts of the case; its able statement of the causes of the excitement and of the results to follow from the one policy or the other; its scathing rebuke of the majority of the Supreme Court—a rebuke which, coming from one of the first lawyers, as well as a leading statesmen of the land, that Court must feel; its effective argument; its telling rhetoric, all mark it as one of the really *great* speeches of this great contest.

Boiler Explosion.—In Cambridge, Vt. on the 4th, the boiler of the steam saw mill lately erected there by Mr. N. Macoy, exploded destroying the engine house, and injuring several of the 40 or more persons assembled to witness the first revolutions of the large circular saw. Mr. Chauncey Warner was seriously bruised, and the engineer was badly scalded.

For the Free Press.

"THE FOUR BROTHERS."

Mr. Editor:

Offence is taken, I hear, at the communication on this subject, in your paper of the 5th instant. I regret this, because there was no unkind personal allusion made. Indeed it was not supposed that the Islands were owned by any one in our village. My attention was first called to the cutting off of the wood by a gentleman not living in this town, who spoke of it as a loss to Burlington of one of the most beautiful objects to be seen from the town. I agreed with him; and as objects of beauty are often but little thought of until they are gone, so as not to be restored, I hoped an expression of opinion in the newspaper might awaken interest enough to stay the destruction of the wood, and, perhaps, lead to a purchase of the Islands, (they are certainly of very little intrinsic value,) to be kept as objects of beauty on the Lake.

What would not any Burlington man give to see the banks north of the Pioneer Shop covered with the beautiful little Pines, that made them most picturesque objects twenty-five years ago? Alas! somebody wanted them for faggots, and they vanished; and now a stranger approaches the town, on the lake, with a bluff of running sand meeting his eye-! I hope President Wheeler will not take it into his head to use his hedge for that purpose, nor Mr. Cannon to sell his grove of Pines for firing purposes.

Burlington, as yet, is not a place of great beauty to a stranger, except for its "distant views." These are almost unequalled. Among these, the "Four Brothers" were gems—nay, masses of brightest emerald, in the evening sun-light.

CALVIS.

(Correspondence of the Courier and Enquirer.)

WASHINGTON, March 8th.

The Stephen's majority of the Lecompton Committee intend to report a bill for the immediate admission of Kansas next Thursday. They will probably move the previous question on the passage of the bill. It is expected by some however, that they will move the printing of the report, and generously allow until Monday next for its consideration. They intend to cut off debate, and apply the previous question, if not before, on Monday next.

The minority of the Committee meet tonight to compare and agree upon their reports. The five Republican members will sign one, and Mr. Harris and Mr. Hickman another. The course of Mr. Harris has not been such as to command the entire confidence of the Republicans.

The Administration members calculate upon ten majority, and undoubtedly have their men labeled. Burns of Ohio, Humphrey Marshall, and Gilmer of North Carolina, are claimed by sanguine Republicans, as opposed to Lecompton. They will be miserably disappointed. Niblack of Ind., who voted with us on the 8th of February, has ratted back to Lecompton. Horace F. Clark will go with the Administration. Its triumph is certain by ten or twelve majority.

Mr. Green, a messenger from Kansas, arrived on Saturday, with the testimony on the frauds taken by the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature, for their exposure. He has satisfied himself of the adoption of the Lecompton trick here, and says the people are getting in readiness to fight.

Calhoun, it is alleged, has come to the determination to reject the Delaware Crossing returns, and to throw out 700 votes cast at Leavenworth City. This will give the Lecomptonites possession of the proposed State government in all its branches.

Plain Speaking.—In the House of Representatives, on Wednesday last, Mr. Haskin, of New York,—a democrat, dyed in the wool—in the course of a spirited speech, proclaimed, without rebuke or denial from any quarter—that "If it were not for EXECUTIVE PATRONAGE, he did not believe there were ten Northern Democrats who would vote for the Lecompton Constitution. He considered the attempt to admit Kansas under that Constitution, THE MOST STUPENDOUS FRAUD that Congress had ever been called upon to consummate."

Liquor Law. In Brattleboro, last week, G. W. Brilton was fined $20 and costs on a 2d conviction for violating the Liquor Law.

An Editor in Luck. The citizens of Rockingham have elected Mr. Hiram Atkins, editor of the Bellows Falls *Argus*, Pound-Keeper of that town.

Religious Intelligence.

Fourteen persons were admitted on profession of their faith to the Pine Street Methodist Church in this place, last sabbath, making the total number of admissions during the recent protracted meeting 25.

Six persons were baptised at the Baptist Church in this place, last Sunday. Mr. N. P. Foster, who is at present supplying the pulpit, writes to the Watchman & Reflector: "The church here are anxious for a pastor; may the Lord grant them one after His own heart. Burlington is one of the most desirable of our New England villages—much the largest town in the State, and should be supplied with an able and devot d Baptist minister."

Mr. Foster also says of the revival in Jericho: In all probability more than 50 have been brought into the liberty of the gospel, some of whom were regarded as past hope. Many have united with other societies.

Rev., W. B. Lyonis writes from Westford to the Northfield Messenger: "We have been enjoying a gracious work for about three months past. It has been rather slow in its progress, but I trust genuine and lasting in its effects. There have been, we judge, some twenty to twenty-five conversions, some wanderers reclaimed, and the Church, which before was very low and almost discouraged, has been greatly revived and encouraged."

We learn from the St. Albans Messenger that ten individuals, nine of them heads of families, united with the Congregational Church in Swanton, last Sabbath and six joined the Congregational Church at St. Albans Bay. A very large number have already united with the Methodists at the Bay, and the interest still continues unabated.—We are informed that several have also united with the Baptists in East Swanton. In Fletcher some 30 or 40 conversions are reported, and also there are indications of general interest in the subject of Religion in other parts of Franklin county.

At the Episcopal Clerical Convocation at St. Albans last week, the Bishop administered the rite of confirmation to twenty-six individuals.

The Religious revival in Rutland still continues. "Altogether, says the Herald, there have been, as we are informed, over one hundred conversions in our village since the revival began."

There is considerable religious interest in the Baptist Church at Saxton's River. Some twelve or fourteen persons are to be immersed at that place on Sunday next.

Among the places in Vermont where special religious interest prevails, in addition to those already noticed, are Norwich, West Fairlee, Morrisville and Barnet.

For the Free Press.

THE KINGS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Some gentleman in Congress has lately inquired "Whether we are in the eighty-second year of the Republic, or whether we are inaugurating a monarchy, and bringing in James the First?" James is not exactly the first, but rather the second. James is the "Amon" of the Kings, who succeeded to the reign of Manasseh. They both did evil in the sight of the Lord and made Judah to sin with their idols; using enchantments and dealing with familiar spirits and wizards. But the Lord said, by his prophets: "Because Manasseh hath done these abominations and hath done wickedly, behold I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever heareth it, both his ears shall tingle. I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down."

If any desire to learn the fate of wicked Amon, they can find it in II Kings, xxi. They may take courage, also, from the fact that Josiah succeeded Amon, who did right in the sight of the Lord, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

Foreign News.—Letters from Paris indicate a better feeling between France and England. The trial of the conspirators was begun on the 25th. A verdict of guilty was rendered, and a sentence of death was pronounced on Orsini, Rudio, and Pierri. Gomez was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

Canton was captured on the 29th of December by the English and French forces and Yeh and the Tartar General taken prisonerrs. A commission, consisting of two Englishmen and one Frenchman, was appointed to the supervision of the Government.

In the assault there were numerous hand-to-hand encounters. The British lost 100, and the French 30 in killed and wounded.

A large amount of treasure was captured, but plunder was forbidden.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Granite State has issued her commentary on Lecompton in a shape not to be misunderstood. The Republicans have made "stampede gains" throughout the State, electing all the members of the Council, three quarters of the Senate, two to one of the members of the House, and re-electing Gov. Haile by 5000 majority, a gain of two thousand on his majority of last year. The total vote is larger than last year.

For the Free Press.

"THE FOUR BROTHERS."

Mr. Editor.—In reply to the communications which have appeared in your paper, in regard to the Four Brothers, we would say that] we have *suspended the cutting of the timber, for one week,* for the purpose of giving those interested in preserving the beauty of the islands an opportunity to purchase them. The islands are for sale, and we will contribute for their purchase as liberally as any one.

M. A. EVARTS,
HIRAM S. WHITE.

Burlin gton March 12, 1858.

Fires.—The dwelling house of Mr. Simon LaFrancis, of Ripton, was burned on Saturday night the 27th ult., near midnight. His children were taken from their bed in a chamber after the bed was in flames, but fortunately, none were injured.—The dwelling house of Mills A. Lord of Norwich, was burned on Friday of last week. Loss $2000—insured for $600.

Dangerous Mistake.—In Fairlee, on the 4th inst. some Epsom Salts was procured by the wife of Mr. N. Baker, and a dose taken. The consequent pain led to an examination of the medicine, when it was found to be *Saltpetre*, instead of Epsom Salts. An emetic was immediately given, and the patient was relieved. Too much care cannot be used in dealing out and taking drugs.

Photo-Lithography.—By a recent invention made in Boston, a lithographic stone is made to receive a photographic impression, by the simple action of the rays of light, without any intervention of the pencil of any artist, in such a manner that it can be printed from; and exact lithographic copies of the object represented may be obtained from the stone.

Death of Mr. B. G. Brigham. We understand that Mr. B. G. Brigham, of Fairfax, died yesterday, of congestion of the Brain. He has been a prominent Democratic politician, in this state, for many years.