

There was a time, not long past, when politics did not enter into the local elections in the town of Wilmington; when the administration of our municipal affairs was openly conducted for the good of the whole, by men chosen upon grounds totally irrespective of their political leanings.

Need we say how the case is now changed. From the highest functions of our town government down to the useful but slightly unpopular duty of dog-killing and hog-catching, all must be discharged upon strictly Know-Nothing principles.

As an instance of how these bogus victories are manufactured for political effect, we may refer to the election here on Monday last for Commissioners of Navigation, a thing never before mixed up with politics, nor ever dreamt of being "Peoples' Tickets," "Citizens' Tickets," "Old Tickets," and "New Tickets," but not party tickets.

With the getting up of the opposition ticket, the Democratic party had nothing to do. No organization of that party has ever yet been made with reference to municipal elections.

From this last specimen of a K. N. "victory" here, proclaimed abroad by the K. N. organs, we may judge of the character of such "victories" elsewhere, and understand what value to attach to the accounts of such "victories."

The Democratic party is reluctantly forced to this course, with the view of rebuking this intolerant political interference in our local affairs, and it will be rebuked.

WHAT AN IDEA!—A gentleman yesterday suggested to us the propriety of saying something about the "Hard Times." Now, we publish a newspaper, with a sprinkling of politics, and we can't say that "Hard Times" comes under either caption.

Through travel on all the great Railroad lines is as nothing. Pleasure travelling is almost at an end, and even the merchants forbear their usual trips.

It all this results in a curtailment of the tremendous extravagance of the last few years, it will be well—if it forces attention to agriculture, it will be still better.

As for Lover's book, it has no sort of claims, either from novelty or interest. Lover ought to stop trying to write stories, and confine himself to songs and paintings. It is poor, very poor.

A Town Subscription.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the town of Wilmington, at office May 10th, 1855, present, His Honor the Mayor, John McRae, H. P. Russell, I. Northrop, W. S. Anderson, T. W. Brown, A. A. Brown, W. L. Beery, the following order was passed:

Ordered, That on the 7th day of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., polls will be opened, and remain open until 6 o'clock, P. M., at the Court House in the Town of Wilmington, to determine the sense of the citizens on the question of authorizing a subscription by the Commissioners of said town, of a sum not exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, to the capital stock of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad.

This is a matter of too grave a character to be passed over lightly—too momentous in its consequences to be made the subject of passionate discussion or party electioneering.

From the first we regretted that the amount authorized by the bill was so large, because the maximum is the amount which is always looked for in such cases, and individual effort is relaxed precisely to the extent that reliance is placed in corporate subscription; and this not only here but along the line of the proposed road.

We know the advantages which the town is expected to realize from the construction of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Road, and we agree, in the main, with even the most sanguine. We understand, or think we understand, what is meant by patriotism and public spirit, and, if we know ourselves, are willing to submit to any sacrifice that their requirements may render necessary.

Some time ago, when this question was first agitated, we expressed our views at some length, and we can see no reason for change, but on the contrary feel strengthened in the convictions then entertained.

The position in which we, as individuals, feel ourselves placed is simply this. We want to vote for a corporate subscription, but cannot feel justified in voting in the affirmative upon the proposition submitted to the people of the town.

As usual, some very strange assertions, one of which, totally unsupported by proof, is that a majority of the voters of the town have seconded the motion of "Sam" for an exclusive K. N. ticket for any local office.

As for the "American" party, we presume, a dyed-in-the-wool abolitionist. Not only do we not know what the Herald asserts, but nobody else knows, for the simple reason that the fact is the other way.

Now, the truth is, that Senator Wilson never made any such speech, nor did the Boston Telegraph ever report his having done so, as the following extract from that reputable paper will clearly show:

The Wilmington Herald improves upon itself—it glids refined gold and paints the lily. Its article of Tuesday in reply to ours of Saturday last, is a step in advance of its article of Friday last, in which it denounced the Democratic Convention at Clinton as ignorant, impudent and arrogant, and demanded of free citizens of North Carolina how they dare do this and that, or say what they thought, openly, in the face of day, with the doors wide apart, and afterwards publish their doings to the world.

But for the amusement of our readers we propose making a few more extracts from our delectable contemporary. Conscious, no doubt, of the folly of its course, and smarting under the exposure of that folly by its quotation in the columns of the Journal, after elaborate preparation, much cogitation and serious deliberation, to say nothing of furious indignation, it comes out, three days after, in an article commencing as follows:

"That pink of candor and fair dealing—that self constituted judge of the ridiculous, absurd and foolish, (a position however fairly its own from its natural gifts for the station) that very impartial, correct and truth loving sheet, the Wilmington Journal, is welcome to such capital as its miserable demagogical article of Saturday last can make for the spavined, wind-blown party of which it is the appropriate mouth-piece."

Sorry we cannot, even in irony, return the compliment contained in the first clause. We think we are a pretty good judge of the ridiculous, absurd and foolish. We love to shoot folly as it flies, and with the Herald for a neighbor, we need never be out of practice for want of an appropriate mark.

The attempt to get over the charge of antagonism in principle to the provisions of the Constitution, which has been brought against the Know-Nothings, lame as it is, we presume, the best that could be made after long trying.

Now, Virginia is a very different matter—"a horse of another color." Even the man that professes to "know-nothing" can still tell you all about that. You will be confidently assured at every street corner almost that Henry A. Wise will be beaten.

There are very well-known causes which may operate against Mr. Wise, and cause his vote to be rather an unfair test of the strength of parties in the coming contest. We feel no sort of doubt of the election of the usual Democratic delegation to Congress.

The Herald parades a long list of free-soil papers at the North which, it says, are opposed to Know-Nothingism. Even at the risk of being again charged with ignorance, we must confess to a more limited acquaintance with that species of literature than the Herald seems to possess.

As for the "American" party, we presume, a dyed-in-the-wool abolitionist. Not only do we not know what the Herald asserts, but nobody else knows, for the simple reason that the fact is the other way.

We do not know that Senator Wilson made any such speech at Boston, as the Herald attributes to him, but we do know that he is a delegate to the K. N. National Convention.

The following, purporting to be from the Boston Telegraph, has been going the rounds of the Southern K. N. press for some time past:

SENATOR WILSON DENOUNCES THE AMERICAN PARTY. Gen. Wilson gave the closing lecture of the anti-slavery course, last evening, at the Temple. He explained for himself the position with regard to slavery that he had occupied for twenty years, and called upon all to oppose any party that should try to smother the anti-slavery sentiment.

Now, the truth is, that Senator Wilson never made any such speech, nor did the Boston Telegraph ever report his having done so, as the following extract from that reputable paper will clearly show:

He was one of the first to strike a blow at Judge Loring. He presided over the board of overseers of Harvard University when he was removed from the office of law-professor, on account of his fidelity to the constitution. Then he had no hesitation in joining the "yelping cry of curs" to hunt down Mr. Loring. Now he changes his tactics, in the true spirit of a political jesuit, to operate on the Virginia elections.

We have now gone through all that is in any way material in the Herald's article. We cannot follow it in its tone of vindictiveness and personality. Those only resort to that who feel their weakness on every other point. The Herald, no doubt, thought it smart to speak of this "newly coined American citizen," the fact being however, that were we as old a man, we would also be as old a citizen as the writer of that article.

The state charges against the President have been refuted over and over again, and amount to nothing. NEWS MATTERS, ETC.—The public expectation turns with eagerness to that which it must soon hear, and with comparative neglect for that already within its reach. Sebastopol and Virginia are the main centers of interest. The Steamer due to-day at New York will probably bring news of some decisive operations involving an inevitable sacrifice of human life, which the heart shudders merely to contemplate.

In this position of affairs speculations are mere idleness, and yet, idle as they are, few can help indulging in them. About Sebastopol there is this painful certainty that an assault has indeed been attempted—and it has already been attempted if at all—the destruction of human life must have been awful, no matter with whom the victory remained.

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NEW ORLEANS, May 14.—The steamer Promethea, with dates from California to the 24th ult., one week later than previous advices, has arrived here. There is but little news of interest. The United States Land Commission have confirmed the Webster claim to eleven square leagues of land on which the city of Stockton is located.

Two heavy failures are announced—that of J. Dunbar for \$80,000, and that of George B. Ufer, Jr., for \$100,000. Business generally had been very dull and no arrivals had occurred. Saunders, the forger, had escaped in a vessel bound to China.

The papers record a number of suicides. The Northern Light left San Juan on the night of the 8th inst., for New York, with 350 passengers and \$300,000 in gold. The revolution in Nicaragua was still progressing. Advice to the 6th representative that an impetus had been given to the revolution by the accession of Gen. Marroto to the cause.

Two rich copper mines had been discovered at Costa. Arrival of the Barque Grapshot with the Fugitive Baker on Board. NEW YORK, May 15.—The barque Grapshot returned to this port this afternoon from the Canary Islands, with Baker, the alleged murderer of Wm. Poole. The Grapshot arrived off Palms at eleven o'clock from this port, and laid on anchor off till the Isabella, Jewett here in sight, when she boarded her and captured the fugitive.

Next Thursday week will test the question in Virginia, and set that matter at rest for the present. In this position of affairs speculations are mere idleness, and yet, idle as they are, few can help indulging in them.

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WILMINGTON & TOWNSHIP SOUND P. R. CO. Stockholders' Meeting. The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wilmington and Township Sound Plank Road Company took place in the town of Wilmington, on Monday, 14th of May, 1855.

The meeting was organized by calling Chas. D. Ellis, Esq., to the chair, and requesting DuBuat Cutlar to act as Secretary. The Secretary was appointed to ascertain the number of shares of stock represented, who reported that 229 shares were represented in person and 94 by proxy—total 323 shares—which being a majority of the capital stock of the Company, the meeting was declared ready for business.

The reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer, and Auditing Committee, were then read and adopted. On motion, Resolved, That Article 4th of the By-Laws be amended so as to reduce the salary of the President to two hundred dollars.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a President for the ensuing year, when Nicholas N. Nixon, Esq., was unanimously elected, Jos. M. Foy, Robt. H. Cowan, Edward Kidder, Jos. H. Flanner, Jno. L. Meares, and A. H. Van Kicken, Esq., were appointed to audit the accounts of the officers of the company, and report at the next annual meeting.

Resolved, That the President and Directors be instructed to proceed forthwith to collect all instalments due upon subscriptions to the Capital Stock of this Company. Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting, and the reports of the President and Secretary, be published in pamphlet form, and a copy be sent to each stockholder.

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