

The True Northerner.

A. C. MARTIN & O. W. ROWLAND,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, JUNE 23, 1882.

For Congressman, 4th Congressional District, Hon. Julius C. Burrows.

Guiteau makes his last appearance on the platform, just one week from to-day.

Van Buren county is entitled to 14 delegates in the Republican State Convention to be held at Kalamazoo, on Wednesday, Aug. 30th next.

The New York Times predicts a Republican majority of 21 members in the next House. And now comes the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, and avers that Republican estimates are dangerously reliable. Just so.

We extend a friendly greeting to L. S. Russell, the recent purchaser of the Advance and are glad to see that he interprets that word in its broadest signification. We presume that, under his management, the paper will prove still more worthy of its name.

The irrepressible Don Henderson floats at the head of his editorial columns, in the Allegan Journal, the following legend: "For President in 1884, Chester A. Arthur of New York." He considerably adds thereto the following very proper proviso: "Subject to the decision of the Republican National Convention." Isn't it a little early in the season Bro. Don? We know that presidential candidates are a kind of fruit that ripens early, but sometimes as a consequence thereof they are subject to premature decay. However it will be quite a feather to stick in your political cap, if you shall have a chance to say that the Journal was the first paper in the State to hoist the name of the successful man.

National Banks.

A great part of the political stock in trade of the Greenback party, has always been to raise a hue and cry against national banks and to try and create a prejudice against these institutions, in the minds of people, who, perhaps, have neither time nor opportunity to investigate for themselves the truth or falsity of the assertions made concerning our national banking system. Just at the present time many of the Democratic papers of the country, evidently for the purpose of courting favor of the Greenbackers, are adopting the same tactics, hoping, no doubt, to effect some sort of a coalition with them, to induce them if possible to unite with them against the Republican party, which they regard as a common enemy. Our Democratic friends are evidently ready to combine with anything or anybody if, perchance, they may possibly secure any share however small, of the political leaves and fishes, and so they join in the cry for the substitution of legal tender government notes in the place of national bank currency, some of the Democratic papers going so far as to say that nearly the entire Democratic party of this State would be willing to stand upon the Greenback declaration of principles, as no doubt they would, if they were anywise sure they could win by so doing.

One great objection to the system of national banks is its alleged cost to the people. Does any one believe that the borrower could obtain money for any less rate of interest, or on less security if the lender were supplying him with government notes instead of national bank notes? Under the present system of banking, parties wishing to start a bank, must own or purchase at least \$50,000 of government bonds. These bonds are a debt which the government has promised to pay and it costs the people not a cent more to pay them, if they are used for banking purposes, than when owned by any one else, but as soon as they are thus used, they make the bank note absolutely secure in the hands of the holder, and it costs the government nothing to redeem the notes in case of the failure of the banks. And these bonds also become at once, indirectly a subject of taxation, which they would not otherwise be. The general government lays a duty of one-half of one per cent, in January and July of each year, upon the average circulation of each bank and an annual duty of one-half of one per cent per annum on the average amount of deposits, and the same duty on the amount of its capital stock over and above that which is invested in bonds. The amount of this tax is over \$3,000,000 per year. The government also has the benefit of all the bank notes lost or destroyed. Thus it clearly appears that the system is not, only, not an expensive one, but that it is a source of large revenue to the government. In addition to all this the shares of the bank stock are subject to State, county, town and all kinds of municipal taxation the same as other property, and a vast sum is received from the banks in this way. There is no other kind of property which, all in all, is as heavily taxed as national bank capital. Strike down this system, abolish the national banks, let the government issue all the currency, and at once is wiped out of existence, for the purposes of taxation, hundreds of millions of taxable property and a vast deficit made in the public revenue, which will have to be filled by taxes on some other kinds of property, and which the people at

large will have to pay. There are many other reasons why the system should not be abolished, but if there were not its economy would be a sufficient reason to retain it, rather than to convert the government into a vast political banking machine.

The following is the paper read by Mrs. H. Randolph at the Farmers Association at the residence of Mr. O. P. Morton, on June 1st. We commend it to the careful perusal of our readers:

SOCIAL CULTURE AND FAMILY RECREATION.

By social culture, we understand the improvement and refinement of society. But as society is made up of individual members, the work of improving it must be an individual work. Our aim in this paper shall be to consider in what true culture consists and how to attain to it. I speak of true culture, for like all other good things, attempts are often made to counterfeit it. As the manufacturer sometimes puts a beautiful and polished finish upon a coarse and shoddy article, so persons often put on the outside appearance of refinement, but a slight acquaintance will reveal the deception.

Culture is genuine, not sham, and the foundation of a genuinely cultured character is a heart, out of which is wooed all that is unlovely and unholy, and in which truth, purity and unselfishness are reproduced. An educated mind and refined manner built upon this foundation will round and complete the work.

I suppose the principal object in choosing this topic for our consideration to-day, is to aid us in making our family life more cultivated and consequently more useful and happy.

In building character, as in building a house, it is the part of true wisdom to first lay deep and strong the right foundation. Character building begins almost with our existence. How important then that parents be wise master builders, laying the right foundation early in life, as work rightly done at first is so much better than what is badly done and must be remodeled. And let us remember that character, either good or bad, will be built,—that educating influences are all about us, and the careful study and effort of the wise parent will be to shield his child from the evil by surrounding him with the good, to eliminate from his home everything that will demoralize and corrupt, and bring into it that which is ennobling and purifying. Let us then bring into our homes the best society, the best literature, buy as many beautiful things as we can, counting no effort too great which shall result in making and keeping our hearts and minds pure. The wisest of men said: "Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life." Do not fear to be called extreme in this matter, for it is of more importance than all other things over which we have control.

There are two things we need most vigilantly to guard against—evil companions, and unwholesome and impure literature.

Many of the newspapers and periodicals of our day, (I had almost said the majority of them) and the whole of the dime novel and that class of literature, need to be suppressed as harmful and impure. The detailed reports of court room scenes, the sensational accounts of all the evil done under the sun, whether true or dressed in the garb of fiction, are a curse to society. The reader is made so familiar with crime and impurity that he ceases to abhor it, and very soon has a distaste for anything pure and good. Drive such literature from your homes, as you would the most poisonous of reptiles.

Good society, good reading, study of the sciences, travel and the surroundings of wealth, are all means of culture, but it is not their unalloyed result.

I knew a gentleman some years ago, a graduate of one of the first colleges in our land, well read in history, biography and the best current literature, intelligent in conversation, and in the main, correct in his principles, yet to call him cultivated would be considered a misnomer by any who knew him, because he was so abrupt in his manners. He esteemed it almost a virtue to ignore the rules of etiquette, and was so uncharitable he could hardly speak well of any one. Indeed he had looked at the faulty side of others so constantly that he was nearly blind to their virtues. He lacked the foundation of a loving, unselfish heart, and the refinement of action springing from it.

Were I to define culture in one sentence, I should say, it is the habit of thinking and doing the kindest things in the kindest manner from the purest of motives.

Truly life is a warfare. We need to be constantly watching and praying and laboring lest the evil overcome the good, and at no time is our danger greater than in our hours of leisure and recreation. At such times we are tempted to think we may lower the standard of right a little, and sinken the rein that guides us in the narrow way. But let us beware, for right is right and wrong is wrong, whether we work or play. I once heard a wise pastor say to his people, "Avoid all amusements that slope toward sin, and choose such only as give healthful vigor to mind and body. I think this an excellent rule."

Recreation is any pleasing, restful and invigorating change. The student, wearied with much study, walks or rides out into the broad sunlight, looks from his books into the blue sky and on the green fields and woods, or he works in his garden, or plays ball, or practices gymnastics, not to excess, and finds pleasure, rest and strength in them, and rightly calls them recreation. For neither mind nor body does he feel the need of going into the card or billiard room, to hear the news and nervous excitement of the times, far into the night, breathing the fumes of whiskey and tobacco, and listening to the vulgar and profane usually heard there. It is true, these games may be played at home, without those vile surroundings, and at proper hours, but do they not slope rapidly towards sin? Is there a vile wretch in the lowest saloon in our land, who does not find his chief amusement in these games?

The laboring man, wearied with physical labor, sits down in his easy chair and enjoys a chat with his family, or reads his paper or some entertaining book, or perhaps falls asleep, illustrating the truth of the inspired preacher's words, "The sleep of the laboring man is sweet," or occasionally he spends a day with his brethren of like occupation, discussing topics of mutual interest, and to him those things bring the desired change and are true recreation.

many and varied are the sources of pleasure open to the farmer whose work brings him so constantly in contact with nature in her frequent and beautiful changes. Every laborer should find enjoyment in trying to do his work skillfully, in economizing time and strength, and in making his home and surroundings as cheerful, comfortable and inviting as possible.

The popular amusements of our day usually draw so heavily on time, health and purse, that the man or woman who has any worthy object in life, cannot afford to be amused.

Do not let us then make our lives miserable by constantly fretting because we are obliged to work and mourning because we are not rich enough to live in idleness and have some one to amuse us.

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