

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad company commences in Athens on the 1st Monday in January next.

We learn that the Superintendent of the Georgia railroad has given orders to the Agents of the road not to receive any money in payment for freight or passage except bills payable at Charleston, Augusta and Savannah. If this be true, it is a perfect outrage upon the traveling public, and a disgrace to the former noble reputation of the commonwealth of Georgia, who do, or should control the affairs of that road. This is monopoly with a vengeance, and shows a willingness to depreciate in value the issues of the Tennessee Banks, and that too, greatly to the inconvenience of travelers and shippers of Produce and Merchandise. If such is the game that is to be played, the sooner the Rabun Gap line is completed the better for the people of East Tennessee; whether it intersects the E. T. & Ga. road at Cleveland, or Athens, or Sweetwater, or Philadelphia, or London, or Lenoir, or Knoxville—let it be completed!

The Union County Jail at Blairsville, Ga., was recently destroyed by fire, consuming a man named JASON GLADEN, an inmate, who is supposed to have set it on fire that he might make his escape.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.—Some of the Tennessee Press are out in favor of Col. M. P. GEARY for Governor at the next election; and we notice a correspondent of the Nashville Whig advocating the claims of Col. M. M. BRIEF of DeKalb county, for the same honors. Others will no doubt be brought forward when the proper time arrives for the people of Tennessee to choose their Executive Officer.

Hon. JAMES C. JONES gave notice in the Senate, on the 12th of his intention to introduce a bill asking for three years credit on the duties on Rail Road Iron.

Henry A. Wise. The Abingdon Democrat in hoisting to its mast head the name of Mr. Wise for Governor, after opposing his nomination before the Convention, melts into his support in this wise: "We are enjoying the happy consciousness of the verity of the Proverb, 'Blessed is he that expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed.'"

W. T. LOWE, Esq., has resigned the office of Post Master in this place, and Mr. B. F. DAVIS has received the appointment. Mr. LOWE made an efficient officer, and, with the aid of BEER THICKEY, who is of himself a brick, has given general satisfaction. The Post Office is now kept in the house opposite Mayo's Hotel, where Mr. DAVIS will be pleased to wait upon the public.

"She is no Terror!" "It was to a beautiful town" overlooking the surges rolling columns of the majestic Tennessee, that the chilling winds of November came and with them an angel of comfort—Mistaking her mission the merchantmen fled from her presence and were not! She sought not to destroy, but asked only a small pittance that "caloric and light" might dwell in the tabernacle of the Priests. Her mission was ended—the merchantmen returned—all was still!

But scarce had her smiles and tears passed, as light winds pass o'er lakes, to ruffle, not to destroy, their glass, e'er the more austere winds of December came whistling through the "lattice gate" and beheld two angels stood at the entrance! The earth rolled on as usual—but it was more than Blackstone could comprehend or Meigs Digest. So our present hero sought refuge behind the door. Seeing he was frightened the angels said, do thyself no harm—we are no terror—we only come to receive whatsoe'er thou wilt, that the cold breath of winter may be excluded from the Temple, and light abound!" He gave. They retired. While he realized the truthfulness of the poet when he said:

"He who fears and gets away, May have to rue another day, But he who gives his dollar or dime, May attend the church at any time."

Mr. BADGER of N. C. reported a bill in the Senate, on the 13th, to increase the compensation of Judges of the Supreme Court, and members of Congress.

The Church Grove Temperance Society at Beverland Church, recently passed resolutions in favor of repealing all license laws, and the enactment in lieu thereof a prohibitory law; they also pledge themselves to vote for Temperance candidates for office if such come before the people. From the signs of the times it seems that they are not alone in this great work of reform.

Col. D. P. HULLY has sold out the entire office of the Knoxville Statesman to JONES E. HELMS & A. B. SMALL. The Col. retires with our best wishes.

Railroad Accident. A young man named THOS. SMITH, Conductor on one of the Freight trains on the Georgia road was instantly killed at Madison on the 13th, while in the act of coupling an East Tennessee & Georgia car to one belonging to the Georgia road—the Georgia car being lower, the couplings missed, when he was crushed between them. He was an Odd Fellow, and his remains were conveyed to Rome for interment by a Committee of the Order.

The Male Academy at Tapscroville, Johnson county, Tennessee, was recently destroyed by fire. It caught from a large fire left burning in the second story by the larger scholars, while they were below reciting their lessons.

The Blakely Family.

We announced last week that the Blakely Family would give a Concert here about the 1st January. The Nashville Union & American bears testimony of their ability to interest their audience, in the following manner:

"The Blakely troupe gave their last concert in this city, on Thursday night. Their concert has been attended by large and fashionable audiences, and the opinion is universal that no similar troupe which have ever visited us equals this either in instrumental or vocal melody.—Mr. HUBBARD, as a violinist, is a star of the first magnitude, and would by himself draw crowds to a concert. The selections are from the highest range of music; and altogether their concert are among the most delightful to which we have ever listened.—The Blakelys leave here for a short tour to Murfreesboro', Shelbyville, Fayetteville, Pulaski, Huntsville, Winchester, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Athens, Loudon and Knoxville, and will return by our city, again to delight the lovers of music here. To our readers in the towns named we beg to introduce the Blakelys as well merited crowded houses. No company that has ever visited those places can be at all compared with this."

We learn from the Whiz Standard, Trenton, Tenn., that a difficulty occurred in that place on the 6th inst., between two young men—ELIJAH BRIGHT, jr., and CLYDE PEXX, in which the latter received two shots, one in the thigh, the other in his left breast; it is thought he will recover. Seven shots were discharged—four by BRIGHT and three by PEXX. BRIGHT was required to give bond to appear at the Circuit Court.

As Christmas is rapidly approximating, we would suggest to our young gentry the propriety of casting about in search of appropriate donations for their friends, and especially for the ladies. Santa Clause, the generous old soul, will be on hand if you will invoke his service, for he is even now engaged in taking the dimensions of the stove pipes and chimneys that he may "descend with his bountiful supply of gifts." In the mean time, let the ladies "look out"—some of them may receive a present similar to the one Mary Stalins did the time Maj. Jones was "on hand." But enough. May our readers all enjoy the richest blessings a happy people can enjoy!

The following are the Officers of the Virginia Grand Lodge of Masons for the ensuing year:

- M. Wor. James A. Letcher, Grand Master. M. Wor. John S. Caldwell, D. G. Master. " " German B. Gill, Grd Sec'y. " " P. B. Stark, " Jun'r Warden. " " John Dwyer, " Secretary. " " Th. U. Dudley, " Treasurer. " " J. Robin McDaniel, Grd Sr. Deacon. " " Lewis B. Williams, Grd Jun'r " Rev. P. G. Robert, Grand Chaplain. Bro. John Lester, " Pursuivant. " " Emanuel Seman, " Steward. " " Jesse Reed, " Tyler.

The Printer's Appeal "New Year! New Year! is really here, and we must pay our funds; and in your ear, we say, 'You are a man of business, and you are a man of honor; but we declare, 'tis here and there, and adds up something tall.

"Lalor is high, we'll tell you why that the demand is great; printers who try for station high, are sure to win the heat; and thus you see pushed up as we, with work above our growth, have to pay free to make things 'gee, and cast aside all sloth.

"Not every one beneath the sun, can spend his fins in toil, and let debts run and print for fun, till they are in the soil. We know full well that some people tell, that printers never eat, but that they swell and live quite well, on what they'll some day get. Say, is it just that when we trust our paper out to men, till paid we must live on a crust, or 'go on tick' again? And some folks think that paper, ink, type and work costs us much, but without think our press will sink, and our ruin wrought.

"We now implore as being poor, and needy as can be, that you'll be sure to fork us o'er the trifle owed by thee. And we will then believe you men, with hearts with love imbued; and then again our brains and pen will labor for your good.

A fire occurred in Trenton on the 2d. inst.—loss, about 3,000.

During the coldest part of last week, we paid London, our sister city, a visit. The Citizen all seemed to be satisfied that the blasts of freezing winter were blowing freely upon them.

We called at the fashionable Hotel kept by G. W. Mayo, Esq., and found among numerous satisfactory accommodations, what is not to be seen at every Hotel—large blazing fires. In this respect, as well as many others, friend Mayo claims decided preference; which is a matter of no small consequence to a traveler chilled with winter's icy hand.—(Gazetteer.

ATLANTIC, TENNESSEE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.—The Stockholders in the above Company are informed that the Stock necessary to secure the privileges granted in the act of the State of Tennessee incorporating the said Company, (viz. 3900 shares), has been obtained, and they are requested to attend at Jonesborough on the 1st day of January 1855 either in person or by proxy for the purpose of electing Fifteen Directors for the ensuing year.

A. E. JACKSON, Central Commission- J. S. GAILES, ers. S. E. GOODSON, Dec. 15, 1854.

AGRICULTURAL NOTICE The State Agricultural Bureau will hold a meeting at the State Capital on the Second Wednesday of January next, being the 10th day of the month, at 10 o'clock. The Bureau consists of the Governor ex-officio, one member from each of the grand divisions of the State, five from Davidson county, and one delegate from each county society holding a charter from the State Bureau.—Business of much importance to the success of the Bureau will come before it at the proposed meeting; and the county societies are urged to send representatives. It is also suggested to the friends of agriculture in the counties where societies have not yet been organized, that they may organize on the first Monday in January, elect delegates to the State Bureau and send their applications for charters by such delegates.

By order of the Bureau. E. G. EASTMAN, Secretary.

California Correspondence.

We take pleasure in publishing the following portion of a complete and necessary preparation for the winter season, as it is a very well paid bill, walked half a mile, called for a private breakfast, found something we could eat, but it might have been better. This Village is quite a romantic place; the houses are all built upon the bank of the river, and are made of small poles which stand erect with one end in the ground, and the most important rooms are lined upon the inside with thin domestic. A short distance behind the village the ruins of the castle rose in wild magnificence, but owing to our short delay, I did not have the pleasure of visiting it. Here we saw the inhabitants of the Isthmus dressed in their native costume, which consisted of a shirt, usually of some gay color, with one or two tufts upon the bottom, and a loose low necked body of a different color all fancifully trimmed with ruffles, ribbons, lace, beads, &c. which upon the whole was quite becoming to them with their glossy black hair, either plaited or hanging loose over their bare necks and arms. At this place, which was some 90 miles from Greytown, we got on board of the J. Ogden and sailed up the river some twelve miles, during which time we saw some Alligators, Monkeys and Parrots, with which the Isthmus abounds. From the J. Ogden we went on to the Central America, about 30 miles below San Carlos a small village at the entrance of lake Nicaragua.

Ever night had thrown her sable mantle o'er the world we were far out upon the lake, which is 60 miles wide and 180 long. What a glorious sunset we had upon the lake! There were mountains of fleecy clouds lingering along the Western horizon, and these were transformed into masses of burnished gold by the lingering rays of Sol, as if loth to bid adieu to the enchanted scene, and as we came in view of a lovely island, upon which a lovely mountain rose bidding defiance to the waves, I was led to exclaim, O, sweet peaceful scene of azure lake, and green clad mountains, so wonderful lovely in your aspect, that it seems like heaven almost, and as if grief and care could never enter here.

A few hours after dark the distant sound of thunder was heard, and the lightning played fantastically upon the bosom of the lake, but all at once it seemed as if the heavens and earth were combining, the continued roar of thunder made the vessel tremble, while the heavens seemed on fire, and the waters lashed to fury, but our little bark rode proudly on amid all this commotion, and in a few hours the storm abated, the waves as if buried under the water, and not a sound was heard, save that made by the wheels of the steamer as she moved along.

On the morning of the 15th we arrived at Virgin Bay, a small village situated upon the lake. Notwithstanding the rain came pouring down in torrents, we passed hurriedly up the village, and partook of quite a hearty breakfast at the United States Hotel, which was kept by a quite an intelligent American lady. The scenes now presented to us was quite amusing. The mules came in by droves, and the greater part of the ladies, and all the gentlemen mounted upon mules of all sizes, and descriptions, proceeded upon their journey. Some of the ladies not wishing to ride the mules, the gentlemen procured a wagon for us, and we started upon a merry journey, and had been so fortunate as to escape the mule ride. We moved quite slowly, and arrived at the half-way house about two o'clock, when we partook of a very good dinner, and when we wished to go on our journey, the mules refused to go, but with great exertions we got them to move, and they died proposed walking, but nevertheless the mules would not move one inch, so the gentlemen dismounted, and placed us upon their backs, and in consequence of my early training I had no difficulty in getting up, and so with all—Some of the ladies sat in the position the ladies of East Tennessee ride, but others fancied, or was compelled to adopt a different mode, among the latter was a Dutch girl, very low, and weighing 150 pounds, which was one of the most comical scenes I ever witnessed. We now had quite a merry ride for five miles, to a village on the shore of the Pacific ocean, called San Juan Delaide. We obtained accommodations at the American Hotel. Our room was quite small, and the only furniture it contained was two chairs they termed beds, but having two and a half or three feet wide, but having slept either upon the floor or bench for two nights previous, I slept quite soundly notwithstanding the rain was coming in our room, and it looked like it had been wet for the last six months. The provisions we got here were dreadful, and were so badly cooked that they were unwholesome, and we were detained in this place for two days. On the morning of the 24 day the proprietor came to us and said both he and his cook were sick, and his provisions had given out, but fortunately for us, the steamer arrived that evening, and in a short time after dark we were sailing upon the Pacific ocean in the steamship Cortes.

The accommodations on the ship were so superior to the hotel at which we had been staying that the first and second days passed by almost as if we were asleep.

On the 26th I had a very severe attack of the Isthmus fever, but good medical aid was soon procured, and under the very kind attentions of my friends I soon recovered, and on the 27th was able to go to the dining saloon.

Owing to the unpleasant weather during our stay upon the Isthmus, many contracted fever, and on the 25th, one spirit took his flight to a world unknown, while the body was consigned to a last resting place in the gulf of California. What a awful scene is a burial at sea! The corpse is sewed up in a blanket, a heavy weight attached to the feet, and is carried upon a bier to the deck, and while the Purser reads a solemn and appropriate prayer, the boat is cast into the water, and a few sighs breathed o'er his watery tomb, and the ship passes on, and in a short time no one seems to remember the fate of the stranger, unless they have a relative on board.

On the 26th we passed two sailing vessels, which were hailed with delight by us as it proved we were not alone upon the mighty deep. Ever the sun on the 26th had set another spirit had gone to the God who gave it, while the waves of the Pacific rolled over his unconscious body.

The 27th was a bright and lovely day, and after sun set the moon rose in all her splendor, and while we stood gazing upon and admiring the scene, a procession slowly advanced, the ceremony read, and another body lay in a watery tomb.

The 28th passed by without any unusual occurrence, but e'er the sun of the 29th had wheeled his golden car many hours upon his daily journey, three more of our companions had gone to that country "from whose bourne no traveler returns," and on the 30th we were called to visit the burial of the seventh and last of our companions.

"The sea is the largest of cemeteries, and its victims are buried without a monument." The graves of all other places have some distinguishing mark, but here it is not the same sun shines, and the same storm beats over the waves roll on, and sing the requiem to the peasant and prince, and all will slumber together until the last trump shall sound, and the waters of the ocean rise, and it matters not where the body is laid, so the soul is prepared to meet its God.

California Correspondence.

On the morning of the 31st our hearts thrilled with joyful emotion as we were in sight of San Francisco. None but those who have experienced the same feelings can imagine how each countenance brightened as we drew near the wharf, where hundreds of persons had gathered, all hoping to greet some near and dear friend; and as each one would inquire if such and such persons were on board, their voices would tremble for fear of receiving a negative answer. How pleasant it was to see the meeting between friends who had not seen each other for years, but I looked in vain for one familiar face; all was strange to me.

Mr. O'Brien you cannot have the slightest conception how I felt when I placed my feet once more upon land, and passed up the streets of San Francisco. We put up at the Rasette house, and I never saw more neatly furnished rooms, or better accommodations in New York, or any other place. To give you some idea of the vegetables here, I will give you a little circumstance of an Irish potato: I called for a baked potato, and they brought me one of a medium size, I took a portion of it, as much as I wished a friend took a portion of the remainder, and there was a sufficient quantity left for a third person, and all other vegetables in proportion.

We remained in San Francisco until four o'clock, the 1st of November, when we went on board of the Antelope where we found splendid accommodations, and started for Sacramento City.

Mr. O'Brien, this night and the scenery along the Sacramento river was decidedly the grandest thing I ever saw. The sky was perfectly cloudless, not even a speck lingering above the horizon, and the moon seemed to shine with so much more brilliancy than I had ever known it, that I was perfectly enchanted.

We arrived at Sacramento City at three o'clock in the morning, procured a breakfast at a restaurant, and left at five, so I had no opportunity of seeing the beauties of the place.

Notwithstanding the day was beautiful, the ride in the stage from Sacramento to Nevada, 75 miles, was rather fatiguing. We arrived at the pleasant little city of Nevada just after dark, and the many cordial receptions we met with, were sufficient to dispell weariness from any one, and now Mr. O'Brien as we are safely in California. In the first place, the climate is far superior to any I have ever known; the weather decidedly the most pleasant I ever experienced; the vegetable productions are so far superior to yours, that I will not attempt a comparison, the inhabitants are kind, hospitable, and accommodating, and in short I think it the country of the world. There are many curiosities here, of which I would gladly speak, but this letter is now an unparagonable length, I will reserve them for another time.

We all are in good health, and would be pleased to hear from our East Tennessee friends, and will welcome any or you very cordially, should you ever come to California. With many wishes for your future happiness, I will close.

BETTIE K. WALL.

Life's Poetry.

The proudest poetry of youth Is—"Would I were a man!" The golden years that lie between, Youth like a dream would span—" 'Tis in its thought, 'tis in its heart—" 'Tis ever on its tongue; But old the poetry of age Is this—"When I was young!"

Thus in the morn of life, our feet Would distant pathways find; The sun still face to face we greet, The shadows fall behind! But when the morn of life is o'er, And nature grows less kind, The lengthening shadows creep before—

With many a murmur slow and sad, The stream of life flows on; That which we prize not when we had, Is doubly prized when gone! And many a sad and solemn truth Lies written on Life's page, Between the "Poetry of Youth" And "Poetry of Age."

How to Commence Business.

Well, boys, we doubt not that you would like to rise high in the world, and become good farmers, merchants, &c. Here is a good motto for you—Begin at the lowest round on the ladder and keep climbing; here is a story which will illustrate just what we want to say. One of the wealthiest merchants of New York city tells us how he commenced business. He says—

I entered a store and asked if a clerk was wanted. "No," in a rough tone, was the answer, all being too busy to bother with me when I reflected that if they did not want a clerk, they might want a laborer; but I was dressed too fine for that. I went to my lodgings, put on a rough garb, and the next day went into the same store and demanded if they did not want a porter, and again "No, sir," was the response—when I exclaimed, in despair almost, "a laborer?" Sir, I will work at any wages. Wages is not my object—I must have employ, and I want to be useful in business." These last remarks attracted their attention; and in the end I was hired as a laborer in the basement and subcellar at a very low pay, severely enough to keep body and soul together. In the basement and subcellar I soon attracted the attention of the counting-house and chief clerks. I saved enough for my employers in little things wasted to pay my wages ten times over, and they soon found it out. I did not let anybody commit petty larcenies, without remonstrance and threats of exposure, and real exposure if remonstrance would not do. I did not ask for any ten hour law. If I was wanted at 3 A. M. I never growled, but laid everybody to go home, "and I will see everything right." I loaded off at fastback packages for the morning hours, or carried them myself. In short, I soon became indispensable to my employers, and I rose and rose, until I became head of the house, with money enough, as you see, to give me any luxury or any position a mercantile man may desire for himself and children in this great city.

Mr. CRAMPTON, the British Minister at Washington is spoken of as likely to receive the honor of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. He will thereby be entitled to be called Sir FREDERICK CRAMPTON, instead of plain Mr. CRAMPTON.

For the Free Press!

Uniformity of School Books.

Messrs. Editors:—Sir: You, and all others, who will take the pains to investigate the present system of Common School instructions, will be constrained to acknowledge that it is defective. An: that defect consists in the irregularity of the books used. Some of the teachers of Common Schools are compelled to teach five or six different Arithmetics, to say nothing of the heterogeneous multiplicity of reading books, &c. In penning a few disconnected ideas on this vastly important, though too much neglected subject, I would not presume to be thought capable of advising the experienced of this prospering land. But should I be able to cause them to consider the paramount importance of removing this time honored impediment to intellectual improvement, I shall have realized my most extravagant expectations. I am much pleased with an article on this subject, from the pen of the California Superintendent of Common Schools. In which it is stated that California has legislative enactment authorizing the establishing of a regular course of school books. And the Superintendent not only advises the commissioners on this topic, but goes on to enumerate the particular books of the various sciences to be adopted in the public schools. Had Tennessee adopted a regular course of study when she established her present system of Free Schools, she would in all probability have saved Gov. JOHNSON the trouble of informing her legislators, that in an "educational point of view," she is surpassed by all her sister States, Arkansas excepted. Now if we are not amid the golden sands and glistening mountains of California, do we not as much need a regular course of instruction?

The heretofore and the untutored respond, yes! Echo reverberates, yes! yes!

But one old Foggy says, custom has established the present course, usually followed in our Common Schools. And in the language of the Declaration of Independence "customs should not be changed for light and transient causes." Hold! old Foggy, are you not a little too fast? Are you right sure that custom has established any regular set of text books for our Common Schools? I trow not. But a regular course is just what is needed and what must be had, ere the rising generation keeps pace with the present rapid march of Science. Again you seem to intimate that this is a light matter. Is it not a great barrier to education? Which alone is capable of elevating the intellectual, above physical man. Of the heretofore and the untutored respond, yes! Echo reverberates, yes! yes!

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For the Free Press!

Uniformity of School Books.

Messrs. Editors:—Sir: You, and all others, who will take the pains to investigate the present system of Common School instructions, will be constrained to acknowledge that it is defective. An: that defect consists in the irregularity of the books used. Some of the teachers of Common Schools are compelled to teach five or six different Arithmetics, to say nothing of the heterogeneous multiplicity of reading books, &c. In penning a few disconnected ideas on this vastly important, though too much neglected subject, I would not presume to be thought capable of advising the experienced of this prospering land. But should I be able to cause them to consider the paramount importance of removing this time honored impediment to intellectual improvement, I shall have realized my most extravagant expectations. I am much pleased with an article on this subject, from the pen of the California Superintendent of Common Schools. In which it is stated that California has legislative enactment authorizing the establishing of a regular course of school books. And the Superintendent not only advises the commissioners on this topic, but goes on to enumerate the particular books of the various sciences to be adopted in the public schools. Had Tennessee adopted a regular course of study when she established her present system of Free Schools, she would in all probability have saved Gov. JOHNSON the trouble of informing her legislators, that in an "educational point of view," she is surpassed by all her sister States, Arkansas excepted. Now if we are not amid the golden sands and glistening mountains of California, do we not as much need a regular course of instruction?

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