

ON BITS,

To Be Read by Gentlemen Only!

We cut from our exchanges the following sayings in regard to one ladies:

HOOPS.—A lady in Auburn was in her garden the other day, when she suddenly rushed into the house exclaiming that she was attacked by a snake, and fainted, when it was found that one of her hoops had given way and caused her fright.

Why should a little boy be careful to watch the conduct of his papa's sister?—Because the Bible says, "Consider the ways of the aunt and be wise."

A CRUEL "PARENT."—On Friday last, Miss McBride swore out a warrant in Albany, N. Y., against her father for stealing her earrings to bet on a dog fight!

A clergyman was censuring a young lady for tight lacing. "Why," replied the arch Miss, "you would not recommend loose habits to your parishioners?" The clergyman, thus outwitted, smiled thoughtfully.

Of all the projects of reformers and enthusiasts, no one has done so much to enlarge the sphere of woman in a practical way, as—HOOPS.

The only way to cure a boy of staying out nights, is to break his legs, or else get the calico he runs with to do the housework.

A little boy once said to his grandmother. "Grandmother, I hope you will die first." "Why so my child?" "Because I can stand troubles better than you can." This hit from an affectionate and brave boy occasioned great laughter.

WOMEN'S CHARMS.—Pleasure is to women what the sun is to the flower; if moderately enjoyed, it beautifies, it refreshes, and it improves; if immoderately, it withers, it deteriorates, and destroys. But the duties of domestic life, exercised as they must be in retirement, and calling forth all the sensibilities of the female, are perhaps as necessary to the full development of her charms as the shade and the shower are to the rose, conforming its beauty, and increasing its fragrance.

In giving advice to young ladies in the choice of a husband, a modern writer utters the following oracles:

The man who doesn't take tea, but takes snuff, and stands with his back to the fire, is a brute, whom I would not advise you, my dears, to marry upon any consideration, either for love or money. But the man who when the tea is over, is discovered to have had none, is sure to make the best husband. Patience like his deserves being rewarded with the best of wives and the best of mothers-in-law. My dears, when you meet such a man do your utmost to marry him. In the severest winter he would not mind going to bed first!

A NEW DISCOVERY.—The following was communicated to the Boston Evening Gazette by a correspondent of that paper. We hope the discovery will be of benefit to our feminine readers:

"For the benefit of your lady readers who wear hoops (and who of her sex do not?) permit me to communicate a valuable discovery, by which they are enabled to sit down, even in a circumscribed space, without producing those awkward and unsightly protuberances on each side, and the frequent bulging out in front of the skirt like an inflated balloon. The remedy is simple; the lady has merely to lift the hoop behind when taking her seat, so that it is brought into nearly a perpendicular position, and the sides fold snugly over close to the figure. One of the largest and loveliest of her sex hit upon this happy idea."

PRETTY LARCENY.—The belle of a romantic little village about forty miles northwest of Toledo was stolen from her father's house a few nights since. The thief was an athletic young man, with black eyes and comely features. The young lady's venerable father pursued the thief in the morning, and on arriving at —, found his lost daughter, who introduced the thief as her husband. The old gentleman swore violently for some minutes, when, the thought suddenly striking him that he was acting absurdly, he became amiable and said; "Blessings on ye my children!" The children accepted the old gentleman's blessings, and have since accepted a few hundred acres of his extensive estate.—Toledo Commercial, June 28.

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN ON THE SLAVE TRADE.—The Tribune calls the attention to the fact, that the President of the United States has remitted the fine imposed upon Captain Smith, in New York, tried some time since for implication in the slave trade:

"He was charged with a capital offence, and the case was perfectly clear against him; but to avoid the chance of his getting off by some quibble or pretense set up by him, of not being a citizen of the United States, the prosecution accepted a plea of guilty for a minor offence. Un-

der this plea he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment and a fine of \$1000.—During his imprisonment he freely boasted to those who visited him of his connection with the slave trade, and his special relish for the business. His term of imprisonment having expired, the President has remitted his fine and set him free."

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Thursday Morning, July 2, 1857.

T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Republican State Conventions.

FOR GOVERNOR. DAVID WILMOT, of Bradford.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER. WILLIAM MILLWARD, of Philadelphia.

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT. JAMES VEECH, of Fayette, JOSEPH J. LEWIS, of Chester.

By an act of the last Legislature, the number of Jurors to be hereafter summoned by Coroners and Justices of the Peace in cases of Inquests upon the bodies of deceased persons shall not be more than six to attend any one inquest.

A Convention of the County School Superintendents of Pennsylvania, has been called, by Mr. Hickok, efficient State Superintendent, to assemble in Reading, on Wednesday, the 22nd of July next, at 10 o'clock, a. m., for the purpose of consultation with regard to the present condition and future prospects of the Common School system of this Commonwealth. The Convention will be one of special importance; and composed, as we may pre-suppose, of a body of highly educated gentlemen, engaged in the noble work of popular education.

KANSAS.—The Kansas Free State Legislature met at Topeka on the 11th inst. Gov. Robinson's message recommends an immediate and thorough reorganization of the government, a modification of the laws, and the memorialization of Congress. He examines the inaugural of Gov. Walker, contends that the Topeka Constitution was the only clear expression of the popular will of Kansas, and believes that incompetent neighboring States no longer exercise sovereignty in Kansas. He also declares it impossible for free State men to vote at bogus elections; and, in conclusion, will maintain the position of resistance against usurped authority at all hazards and at all times.

Supplement to the School Law.

An Act supplementary to the Common School Law, was passed at the late session of the Legislature. It provides for Auditing the accounts of School Treasurers and for increasing the minimum School Tax from 50 cents to one dollar:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the borough and township Auditors, in addition to the duties now imposed upon them by law, to settle annually the accounts of the School Treasurers of the different school districts in this Commonwealth, and that either party may take an appeal as is now provided for in other cases of settlement of accounts by township Auditors. Provided, That this Act shall not apply to the city and county of Philadelphia.

SECTION 2. That hereafter the tax imposed by section thirty of the Act approved May eighth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, for the regulation and continuance of a system of education by Common Schools, on trades, professions, and occupations, or on single freemen, shall in no case be less than ONE DOLLAR.

Approved May 21st, 1857.

HON. JAMES THOMPSON.

As this gentleman has been nominated by the Buchanan Democracy for the Supreme Bench, we will recall a portion of his political history, which shows that he is unworthy the votes of freemen.

In 1848 Mr. Thompson was a candidate for reelection to Congress in this District. The contest was warm, and the result doubtful. There was a large number of Free Soil Democrats in this District and without the votes of them he could not be elected. He for that purpose wrote the following letter.

ERIE, Pa. Sept. 8, 1848.

GENTLEMEN—Yours of the 27th ult. has just been handed me, and as I certainly recognize your right to make the enquiries therein contained, I hasten to reply.

When the first territorial bill for Oregon, that was passed was reported, I offered as a minority report, the following as an amendment to the twelfth Section of the bill.

"Provided that neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in said Territory except for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." (See Journals of 29th Congress, pages 1240 and 1245.)

This proviso I of course voted for; it passed the House, but did not pass the Senate. In Feb. 1847, the same bill being under consideration, containing a Section reenacting the ordinance of 1787 which prohibited Slavery in the Territory I voted against striking it out, and voted against an amendment recognizing the Missouri Compromise.

At the session of Congress that has just closed, I voted against the Clayton Compromise and also against the Missouri Compromise, and for inserting and retaining the above, reenacting the ordinance of 1787 and making it applicable to the Oregon Territory.

You will therefore see I have shown by my votes, my belief in the power of Congress to prohibit Slavery in the Territories—I have no doubts whatever, of the power and the right of Congress to do so.

I have on all occasions voted to exclude Slavery from the Territories belonging to the United States now, and shall continue to do so, convinced that no compromise is necessary either to persons, the Union, or required by any Constitutional mandate. I shall, as I have already done, vote against all compromises by which Territory now free shall become Slave Territory. I may add that this is not new doctrine to me. I have uniformly so voted, on all Territorial bills and shall continue so to do; and I shall vote for the ordinance of 1787 to be made applicable to the Territories of the United States, or of any other words of prohibition that may be equivalent thereto.

This doctrine of prohibiting Slavery in Territories was first introduced by me, after the acquisition of the new Territory and applied directly to the Territory, yet others do not hesitate to claim much for adopting a principle they never suggested, and forgot those who did so.

Respectfully Yours, JAMES THOMPSON. S. J. Goodrich, G. W. Scofield, J. D. James, G. Merrill, T. Clemmons, L. Arnett.

In the above letter Judge Thompson put himself unreservedly on the platform of the Free Soilers, and thus secured their votes and his election. Mark the pledges which he made to the men opposed to Slavery extension in this District:

"I have on all occasions voted to exclude Slavery from the Territories belonging to the United States now, and shall continue to do so."

No Free Soil man—no Republican asked more than this. But how did James Thompson redeem the above pledge? He had scarcely taken his seat in Congress when he became the most servile tool of the Slave Power in all the North. He not only voted to organize New Mexico and Utah without excluding Slavery therefrom, but he voted for the Fugitive Slave Bill, the most odious and most inhuman act that was ever presented to Congress.

Judge Thompson not only voted for this Liberty crushing act, but as Chairman of the Committee which had it in charge, he called the previous question on presenting it, and thus put the gag on any discussion of its monstrous injustice. Compare his conduct on this occasion with the statements and promises made in the above letter, and then say if you can, that he is fit to be a Judge of the Supreme Court. What can he know of justice and honor, of truth and equity. This letter taken in connection with his course in Congress after he got there, shows him to be an unprincipled, and untruthful demagogue. If that is the stuff out of which to make a Judge, then vote for James Thompson, the nominee of the Buchanan Convention—if not remember him at the ballot-box. This is the first time he has come before the freemen of this District since he acted as the tool of Slavery in putting the Fugitive Slave Bill through under the crack of the plantation whip. We shall learn in October what is thought of such treachery by a free people.

Mineral Wealth of McKean.

The late discoveries of large bodies of coal and iron in McKean seem to have damaged the mental faculties of some of her citizens. We are permitted to print the annexed correspondence under promise not to print any of the names. The first letter which we publish verbatim was received at one of our land offices. We congratulate the Citizen on the discovery of gold in that county. Can you spare us a nugget or two? We suppose you are using gold nuggets for quads by this time.

May 6th 1857.

Me—I now take my pen in hand to inform you that there is a man in this place that has found lead on your land and other minerals and he holds himself in readiness to mine all the minerals that are in the earth he says their is minerals on your Lands and on the — Lands and he says that he will show the owners of the land that he will show them where there is precious minerals and for his share he must have one half of the minerals and one half of the land pertaining to the precious minerals he is at present here in this place and wishes that you would answer this as soon as possible for he thinks that he shall not stay here but all time while and he holds himself in readiness to do as he her has in all things if you and the owners agree to this the proposals ind without any charge for his discovery if there is nothing discovered and he says that he can purify stone coal and

take all the sulphur out of all oars in the same manner as he has stated. This is my request you keep this as a secret for their is a gold and Silver mine in this County and he says that it very rich and I have seen the upman of the oar and he says that he does not want more than to months to open these mines in good weather these to mines that is in the last mentioned is not on your land please keep this a secret so as if you want to get the land that you can have a chance to get the land if you want the same if you come to Lafayette come to Mr James Johnson and then you can learn all the particulars. We as witnesses John Scroggs James Johnson Direct your letter to John Scroggs Lafayette McKean Co PA

REPLY. COUDERSPORT, POTTER CO, PA., June 30, 1857.

Dear Sir:—Your kind favor came to hand in —'s absence, but he instructed me to answer all letters relating to engineering operations of this character and you may depend that whatever I agree to do in your behalf, he will most religiously and faithfully observe. With this assurance you can sit down contentedly under your own vine and fig tree, if you have any, and solace yourself with the contemplation of the vast mineral wealth within your immediate knowledge; and if it is possible for rich men to be happy there is nothing to prevent you from being as happy as any of them.

You may meet me with the argument that this wealth does not belong to you, and that therefore you cannot enjoy it. This I will admit is very true; but you must bear in mind the stupendous fact, that you and James Johnson are the sole possessors of the knowledge of this great wealth, and as both — and myself are Free masons, and always intend to be as far your secret is concerned, you can both remain a couple of undeveloped, and what is better, untaxed millionaires forever. Glorious contemplation!

Philosophers tell us, my dear sir, that the joys of anticipation far exceed in their intensity the joys of actual participation. Now here is an opportunity very seldom offered to "erring mortals here below" as Dr Watts piously calls us, to prove the truth of this grave but very philosophical hypothesis! It was said by a learned French savant that the discovery of a dish was of more importance to the world than the discovery of a planet. "Because" said he, "a dish was something which the world needed for every day use, and we have planets enough already." So, my dear Sir, if you can in conjunction with your fossiliferous friend Mr. James Johnson prove to the philosophical world the truth of the hypothesis which I have stated, you will be immortalized far longer than if you were merely the discoverers of a paltry gold mine. Don't you see?

I regret most heartily, and I am sure every true lover of his country will regret that you and your geological friend Mr. James Johnson have actually discovered a gold mine (not to speak of the silver one) in that county. I regret it, because every day of my life I see accounts in the newspapers of the wickedness which men are "up to" on account of the wretched stuff. Why, my dear Sir, it was only last week that the N. Y. Daily Herald contained a horrible murder, brought about by gold. The circumstances which you have doubtless read, are as follows: Mr. John Smith went into a cake and beer saloon to buy some cake and beer.—After the purchase and sale of the cake and beer was made in a businesslike manner, he took a mouthful of the cake and beer and was in the act of swallowing it, when another man came up and choked him and took ninety-two cents in gold out of his pocket. Now what made him do it? Was it not the gold? Certainly it was! If not what else was it? Now if a man will throttle another for such a small sum in gold, you can imagine, you and your mineral friend Mr. James Johnson, how great an injury you and Mr. James Johnson would be doing to McKean county. Look at California for example. There is no practical piety there nor has there been, since the Vigilance Committee abandoned their heinous exhortations. Why? Because the State is crammed full of gold. Me and the apostle Paul (who used to preach, but not on the McKean Circuit, though it is supposed that he was on his way here when he got stranded at Philadelphia, for which you will "search the Scriptures") he and I agree, when he says that money is the "root of all evil." Indeed, I could fill up an entire new testament in telling over to the world how much trouble I had in my life in getting and spending what little I have had in my day.—Now in view of the testimony of the N. Y. Herald, St. Paul and myself, would you open up that gold and silver mine and thereby ruin the bodies and souls of the people of McKean county? I mean those who don't belong to the church and have not religion and vital piety enough to resist it? I think not. I think you would not. Not at all! Not by no means! If you do open it after what I have said, I shall always doubt your piety, I will indeed.

But if you are determined to open these mines I will make you an offer, and I have not the least doubt but that Mr. — and Mr. — will both stand to it, just as I said when I began this letter; and if they don't stand to it, I will do so on my own single, undivided, individual responsibility, as a Christian, a gentleman and a scholar. And I pledge my word further, that every dollar I make in this speculation, that is, if you take me up, shall be devoted to building up churches, poor-houses, jails, orphan asylums, hospitals, penitentiaries and other benevolent institutions. I will also endow a

university for the benefit of "poor but respectable" young men who are "seeking knowledge under difficulties," and who wish to become scientific geologists like your friend Mr. James Johnsoning. Here is my offer:

Ten cents per ton for all the coal you deliver at my office in Coudersport at that price.

Fifteen cents per ton for lead ore.

Ten cents per ton for iron ore.

Thirteen cents per ton for copper ore.

Fifty-two cents per ton for silver ore, warranted.

Seventy-five cents to a dollar per ton for gold ore, according to the quality, all to be above 17 carats fine, warranted not to be plated, galvanized or pinch-back.

Ten cents a quart for rectified benzole with the alcohol taken out, as this is a Temperance community.

I make these offers in round numbers, though the copper would not be worth more than 12½ cents per ton now, since the new cent has come out. All minerals must be examined and approved by Professor Willard Taylor, of Liberty Township, before delivery to me. I will further add that you are to purchase and mine at your own expense. I only propose to furnish you with a market where you can meet with ready sales as long as my money lasts. Let me assure you that the whole thing will be kept as you request, a profound secret. My wife and her friends say that "they won't mention it for the world," so that it cannot possibly get out. If you want some one to help keep the secret over in McKean Co. I think you can have no trouble in finding such a person.

With the kindest assurances that you and your ariferous friend Mr. James Johnsoning have my sympathy, and that I hope you will find a good opening somewhere, and that you will appreciate my view, I remain, geologically speaking "in place," Your Obedt. Servt.

The Free State Men in Kansas.

The devoted and noble band of Free State men, who have so long and earnestly struggled against fearful odds, are again assembled to take council concerning their future course of action. The Legislature, elected under the Topeka Constitution, has quietly organized and is proceeding to district the Territory for judicial and legislative purposes. They are acting as if there were no such individual in the world as Governor WALKER. It seems as if he, with all his vaunting powers and talents, is destined to be not more successful than his predecessors. And he ought not to be, for he is attempting, with the subtlety and intriguing disposition for which he is famous, to compromise away freedom and free principles. His predecessors failed, because they were not sufficiently devoted to the extension of slavery. He ought to fail, because he is devoted to the interests of slavery.

The Free State men, by their present procedure, evince a sublime heroism.—The party who favored their cause last fall was defeated in the national election. Every department of the Federal Government is against them. All the Territorial appointments made by President BUCHANAN are from the slave States.—In short, with all that can ordinarily deter men from action against them, they have coolly met, and proceeded to act as if all before them was easy, hopeful, and promising. This is the very highest species of self-sacrifice, and the strongest evidence of devotion to principle.

Surrounded by men who would use armed force to break up their assemblage in any moment of excitement, they go quietly on in the discharge of their duty, regardless of all personal consequences. For this heroic conduct, they deserve, in an eminent degree, the thanks of the whole country. They have already won its esteem and regard, but they have heightened that esteem and regard by this recent display of virtue and love of freedom. Let them never compromise with wrong and oppression. They hold in their keeping the Thermopylae where liberty and slavery have met in deadly conflict. If they should prove untrue to the trust, the freemen of the world would curse them, and their memories would rot with infamy.—Phil. Times.

THE SALE OF THE MAIN LINE.—The Main Line was sold last night, at 7½ o'clock, at the Philadelphia Exchange, for the sum of seven millions, five hundred thousand dollars. It was the first and only bid made, and it was announced as the bid of J. Edgar Thompson, the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. There was a very large concourse of persons present, and the excitement was quite manifest. The strong feeling exhibited was favorable to the sale, and when its consummation was announced the crowd broke forth in one loud and prolonged shout of applause. The Locomotive opposition to the sale did not seem to meet with much encouragement in that quarter. What will Schnabel and Mott do now?—Philadelphia Sun, 26 inst.

L. D. WILLIAMS.—By an article in the last week's JOURNAL, we notice that one L. D. WILLIAMS, a former resident of Potter county, Pa., has accepted office under the Bogus Code in Kansas, and through professing to be a Free State man, is officiating in Osawatimie, a Free State town in that Territory, as a Bogus Justice of the Peace, and as Probate Judge. It seems furthermore, that the good people of Osawatimie do not desire the services of any of these Bogus officials, and have held a meeting, and politely requested said WILLIAMS to resign. We do not think he will be induced to do so. We never saw the man but once, and that was when he was on his way to Kansas. He stopped over night at a public house in this village, and learning that he was on his way to Kansas, there to settle, and presuming that we should find him a sympathizer with the Free State settlers in their sufferings from the inflictions of Border Ruffianism, we entered into conversation with him in regard to matters connected with the Territory. We had not talked five minutes with him, before we made up our mind that more was to be hoped for in the emigration of the Missouri Ruffians themselves into Kansas, than in that of such "Free State" men as this L. D. WILLIAMS. In short he seemed to us a hypocritical Border Ruffian in disguise. We cannot so much as hope that WILLIAMS will resign. He is a "Bogus" Democrat, a "Bogus" Free State man, and simply fit to be a tool of the "Bogus" Governor and Legislature of Kansas.—Wellsville Free Press.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.—WHISKY EXPLOSION.—We understand that Mr. J. R. Freeland, who keeps a hotel at Conneaut Lake, in this county, purchased from a canal boat, last week, a barrel purporting to be filled with "Double rectified 'Old Monongahela Whisky.'" It was safely deposited in his bar-room, and he proceeded to draw it off into another cask. After taking out some five or six gallons, he heard a strange hissing sound in the barrel, and soon after the bung flew out with a loud report, followed by a lurid flame, shooting up from that opening to the ceiling; then followed a tremendous explosion, occasioned by the bursting of the barrel, the head of which was thrown out with great force, scattering the burning liquid around the room, and knocking down several bottles and demijohns on the shelves, adding their contents to the flammable material. By dint of great exertion the fire was put out but not until the bar-room was scorched and charred, wherever a wood surface was exposed. Fortunately no lives were lost. This explosion is accounted for only by the fact, that whisky is now manufactured almost solely of drugs of a fiery and poisonous nature, and this barrel had an over dose of some of the infamous ingredients.—We understand that a portion of the liquor will be sent into town to be analyzed by some of our scientific men, when we will be able to give our readers some idea of the stuff those drink who take doses of "Old Monongahela" as at present manufactured.—Meadville Journal.

A HINT TO FARMERS.—The protracted and general rains of the last two months render a long and severe drouth in the later Summer or Fall highly probable—such a drouth as, in large districts, consigned last Autumn much of the cured fodder that was needed for Winter and Spring, and thus caused the starvation of many cattle. Now is the time to avert the disastrous effects of a similar drouth this season, by sowing Indian Corn, or some other succulent plant for fall feeding. Two acres thus sown last June would have carried through many a herd that perished or was seriously injured by the famine of last March and April. Let those who sow Corn, drill it and give it space. It almost always sows too thick on rich ground. And let those who can buy Sorghum seed in quantities at a reduced price—(we believe it may now be bought in large quantities as low as four or five shillings per pound)—give this a trial. It is to late now to plant for seed or sugar, but not for fodder.—Give it a warm, rich soil, drills four feet apart, and running north and south (so as to give the sun his best chance at it), and put the seeds at least four inches apart in the rows, and two or three pounds of seed will suffice for a very large area.—We believe this plant will supplant Indian Corn as a fodder crop; but let experience settle this point. Hogs eat it greedily and thrive upon it; and nothing that will eat green cornstalks fails to give Sorghum a decided preference. There has already been enough of it planted for seed; let us now see what can be done with it for Fodder alone.—N. Y. Tribune.