

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES for 1844. FOR PRESIDENT: MARTIN VAN BUREN, of New York. FOR VICE PRESIDENT: RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Kentucky.



THE FREE TRADER.

Ottawa, Ill., Friday, December 8, 1843.

Gov. DAVIS, the agent of the canal bondholders, arrived at this place on Saturday last, and remained at the Fox River House until Tuesday. The Gov., accompanied by Messrs. RYAN and SWIFT, left this place for Aurora, on Fox river, from whence they will proceed to Lockport. Gov. Ford has not yet arrived.

The Canal—Our State Debt. We are truly sorry to see such respectable papers as the Shawneetown Gazette and Belleville Advocate join hands with the Alton Telegraph and kindred prints to thwart the noble effort that is now being made to restore the credit and honor of our state. We earnestly invoke those papers, before they proceed too far in their present course, to examine the ground they are on a little more closely, and we are confident if they do, they will entertain different views from those they appear to hold at present.

Congress assembled on Monday last. We hope to receive the proceedings of the first few days for our next paper. The proprietors of the Missouri Republican propose issuing about the 1st of January next, and to be continued until after the presidential election, a paper to be called 'The Mill Bay,' which will advocate the election of Henry Clay to the presidency.

As the season for packing pork has just commenced and many enquiries are made respecting the prices that will be paid during the season, we give below such information as we have in our possession of the prices paid in different sections of the Mississippi valley: Quincy, Ill.—The Herald of the 24th ult. says: 'Farmers, bring your pork to Quincy if you wish to get the best prices in the State. A lot of thirty-four hogs, weighing 300 lbs. and upwards, were this week sold to Messrs. Holmes & Wood of this city, for three dollars a hundred, cash up. This is the market for you.'

Illinois. The Register of the 1st inst. says: 'Pork is looking up, and though we continue former quotations would remark that the tendency is upward. We also hear of some new operators for such wishing to pack largely. We give rates for cash below which are paid freely. Hogs weighing 175 to 200 lbs. \$1.75 200 to 225 lbs. 2.00 over 250 lbs. 2.25'

Mississippi has gone for the democrats by some 3 or 4,000 majority, electing their governor and a majority of the members of the legislature. Florida has also gone democratic. The river at this place was frozen over on Monday night last, and next day footmen walked over the ice. Last year the river closed on the night of the 18th of November. Notwithstanding both rivers are frozen over, and 'hoary winter' had spread his white mantle over the prairie, no severe cold weather has been felt the present season in this section of our beloved Illinois. The past autumn, however, has been a sorry one—one of rain and sun, 'sine, storms and snows, fizzes, and frosts'

ount to \$70,000, and this sum an additional tax of 8, or say 10 cents on \$100 would more than raise. Are the people unable to pay this tax? It would be but 25 cents on \$100, and in 1841, a year of unexampled hard times in this state, the people paid 30. Besides, it would raise the whole amount of our taxes to but about 4 per cent, while in a number of states and in the territories north of us they greatly exceed that. The truth is, a refusal to pay such a tax, and to make so small an effort to retrieve our broken faith would be taken for what it really would be, an evidence that the people of Illinois have no intention to pay their debts, and that they are repudiators. And is there any one that would have us fall under so foul a reproach! Let the wretch be marked, that honest men may avoid him!

Whig Resolves. The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the 'democratic' whigs of Peoria county, held on the 29th ult.:

Resolved, That the true issue between the whig and the locofoco party is, a tariff for revenue with incidental protection by the whigs, and no tariff and no protection and the revenue to be raised by direct taxation by the locofocos.

After the passage of this resolution, we presume the managers of the meeting had no difficulty in getting through the one that follows it, in which it is resolved that Clay's 'love of country is superior to his love of power,' and the next one still, declaring Peoria to be a whig county. Can it be at all surprising that the next step these venacious whigs took was to form a 'Clay Club,' the object of which is to collect and disseminate 'facts' in relation to the approaching presidential contest?

Livingston County. The special election in the above county on the 20th inst. for probate justice and treasurer and assessor resulted in the choice of ANDREW McMILLAN, late representative to the state legislature, over Augustus Fellows.

By the way, it appears that 'democratic Little Livingston' is beginning to be best with quite a sprinkling of worldly prosperity. A dry goods store has recently been opened at Pontiac, the county seat, and the people can now sell their produce and do their trading there on as good terms as they formerly could by going from twenty to thirty miles. And they not only can but do it. This at least we infer from what a friend says who writes from there, 'Pork is being bought here with a vengeance. 974 head, averaging 200 lbs., were sold here in one day last week.' The facts, little Livingston is 'coming out.'

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'Young Harry Clay to the mill has gone, By the roadside you'll find him; The corn bag, white, he is perched upon, And his shirt tail streams behind him!'

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Alton, Ill.—The Telegraph of the 21st inst. says: 'Between 3000 and 4000 hogs have been slaughtered and cut during the past week, commencing with our day of publication—the price varying from \$1.50 to \$2.34, according to weight. The weather having been very unfavorable since our last, but few hogs have been brought in. About 800 are on hand, not yet slaughtered.'

Chillicothe, Ohio.—The Advertiser of the 24th ult. says: 'Light hogs under 300 lbs. \$2. 200 lbs. and upwards, \$2.25. Superior lots \$2.50.'

Cincinnati, Ohio.—The correspondent of the Missouri Reporter, under date of Nov. 23, says: 'Three to four thousand hogs have been packed since our last week's report, which were sold at all prices, from 2 25, 2 37, 2 50, 2 62 and 2 75. The weather for the most of the week was so unfavorable for slaughtering as to cause the price to drop a little and the hogs to accumulate, as we have now in the pens, and within half a day's drive of the city, 10,000. But the weather has now changed, and is as fine as could be desired by the packers, in consequence of which a brisk business is doing, and hogs are selling readily at 2 50 to 2 62 for good average lots; a fair quotation for extreme prices is 2 25 to 2 75. (Our Boston friends have been the earliest operators this season, they are usually the latest, preferring the fact, because the fattest hogs, which come in about Christmas.)'

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They say, the fact of an interesting family near Detroit, Ill., not far since stood the only paper which was at the time and family, and solely on the ground that the paper did not afford the expense. The paper, they say, was just published just \$1.50 per year.

Foreign News. The steamship Caledonia arrived at Boston on the 20th ult., in 15 days from Liverpool. The news she brings is not very interesting. Trade continues good. The manufacturing districts are all fully employed at remunerating prices. The price of cotton has receded. Great exultation is manifested by the anti-corn law journals at the result of the election in the city of London for a member of the house of commons in place of Sir Matthew Wood, deceased. The Tory candidate was Mr. T. Baring, while the opposition brought out Mr. Pattison, a wealthy merchant, of moderate talents and influence, but pledged to support the entire abolition of the corn laws, on which ground the whole power of the 'League' was brought to bear in his favor. Mr. Baring joined issue on the point; and at the close of the poll the vote stood, for Mr. Pattison, 6,552; Mr. Baring, 6,387; majority against the corn laws, 165. The result gives great elation to the anti-corn law agitation all over Great Britain, and the work will be pressed with increased vigor. Ireland continues quiet. The country is extensively occupied by troops—in fact, the whole available force of the British Army has been thrown into it—the agitation, somewhat subsided in tone but equally effective in action, continues—the repeal coffers are swelled by thousands weekly—two or three men of mark have joined the movement just at the moment it became critical—and the proceedings against the agitators, in connection with the unhappy blunder of the government short-hand writer, coupled with other matters, lead to the belief that the whole affair has been managed in a very Irish way.—The short-hand writer is to be hanged. He is a total stranger in the country—was sent to Ireland to report the speeches for the government, unaccompanied by any person upon whom he could rely for being made acquainted with the personal of the chief actors, and the consequence is, that he has been harassed by interested parties into making Mr. Barret, of the Pilot, deliver a violent speech at some repeal meeting, at which that gentleman, according to satisfactory evidence, was not present.

This blunder, which throws an air of ridicule over the prosecutions, has been a good deal canvassed, in no very complimentary terms towards the 'powers that be.' It would appear, however, that the rumor which has been afloat some days, that the prosecutions were to be abandoned, is not correct. The latest accounts from Ireland state that the parties are preparing for their defence. The grand jury had not yet found true bills but no doubt existed that they would do so. A rumor was afloat and generally believed that there were traitors in the camp of the repealers, and that they had offered themselves to the government to secure the conviction of their fellows. It had a startling effect. Meantime O'Connell is confident of the success of repeal, if the people will but follow his advice and commit no violence. At a meeting in St. Auden's Ward he said, 'Give me six months of perfect peace, and I'll give you my head on a block if, at the end of that time, you have not a parliament in College Green!'

Canadian Troubles.—A curious state of things now prevails in Canada. Mr. Jameson, speaker of the council and member of the cabinet, resigned some time ago, but at the governor's particular request, resumed his duties, on receiving the assurance that he might act independently on all questions before the council. So he continued until a week or two ago, when an explosion took place, and he made his resignation absolute. The governor (who it seems appoints the speaker) has since offered it to several who declined the honor; and the council met and adjourn from day to day, having no presiding officer. In this perplexing state of things, rumor is busy with the governor's future course. A dissolution of parliament would only open the way for a new one as refractory as the old. What will be done no one seems able to conjecture. It is even said he will solicit his recall and give up the government. The quarrel, it is understood, originated upon the act fixing the seat of government at Montreal.

New Kind of Wheat.—The Norwalk (Ohio) Experiment says: 'We have at our office, for the inspection of the curious, a specimen of grain called "South American Wheat," raised in this county, and which is said to yield from 80 to 100 bushels to the acre. The head resembles very much, in size and appearance, the fruit of the Shamoa, and the berry seems to be almost entirely farina, with very little hull or bran. It may be planted in drills, or sowed broadcast, (the former method however, is thought to be preferable,) and is said to require far less labor, if drilled, than common corn, yielding double the quantity per acre; and we should judge it to be as nutritious food for man or beast as any grain we raise. We have a few heads of the grain, which we are authorized to dispose of.'

Singular Phenomenon.—The Washington (N. C.) Republican says: 'On Monday night, Nov. 6, between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock, a rumbling noise, sounding like distant thunder, was heard by a number of our citizens, preceded by several sudden flashes of light. We supposed, from the shaking of our house, that it was the shock of an earthquake, but have since been informed, by persons who saw the phenomenon, that it was the explosion of a meteor in the heavens. The explosion took place about 10 minutes after the sudden flashes of light appeared. The weather appeared to be clear, and the moon shone beautifully.'

A beautiful sentiment is the following, delivered at a celebration by the book-binders in Concord, New Hampshire: The late S. Woodworth—His name is hushed, and his 'bucket empty.' Poor in price, yet rich in intellect, his step alone with him the loss of a gem; his step alone with him the loss of a gem. His 'Old Oaken Bucket' still hangs in the wall of memory, and the gifted author will forever draw from its depths upon the gratitude and affection of his countrymen.

How did it get there?—The St. Louis New Era says: 'A gentleman lately exhibited to us a piece of cedar, the history of which is as follows: In digging a well on the property of Smith, Bro. & Co., at Bunker Hill, Illinois, at the distance of fifty feet below the surface, they came to a cedar log, embedded in the earth, and extending across the well. It was cut off; was found to be five or six inches through, and was in a state of good preservation. The town of Bunker Hill, as many persons know, is situated in the middle of a large and level prairie; and the gentleman who has it in possession, who is a bit of a Yankee, wants to know how that log of cedar got down there!'

Martyrdom in China.—Since the heroic days of missionary martyrdom, says a contemporary, we do not recollect to have seen any thing more striking than the following, drawn from a late French paper: The 'Univers' gives the following as an authentic account of the martyrdom of M. Barie, the missionary at Tong-King in China: 'They were for a moment struck dumb by his majestic countenance and extraordinary stature, so imposing in this climate. When put in irons, the confessor took advantage of the eagerness shown by the people to visit him, to deliver freely to them the words of eternal life. His execution was horrid. The executioner, who was half drunk, scarcely knew what he was about. His first stroke of the sabre fell on the ear of the martyr, and cut him to the jaw; the second came upon the top of the shoulders, and the third was better directed, but did not sever the head from the trunk. At this sight the criminal man shrunk back with horror. It required seven strokes before the sanguinary work was finished, during which the holy priest did not utter a single cry.'

Texas Morals. It is fashionable among editors and others in the United States, when speaking of Texas, to refer to it as a country in which the standard of morality ranges somewhere below zero—in which all sorts of knavery is practised with impunity—and in which honesty could have no abiding place. Now, this sort of talk, whether true or not, is naturally calculated to provoke retort; and accordingly we see the Galveston 'Evening News' has taken the matter up, and, if he does not succeed in making out an irreproachable moral character for Texas, he at least shows that her accusers themselves are far from being invulnerable. The following extracts will give an idea of how he 'lets it into' us: 'The standard of moral honesty in the United States is far below that in any savage nation to be found—an alarming assertion, though nevertheless, without doubt a fact. Look, for instance, at the number of attempts made at forgery—the number of successful and unsuccessful attempts at house-breaking—at stealing—at highway robbery, and at the unmentionable variety of swindling operations—to say nothing of the wholesale modes of gambling and swindling in the banking and forty other ways. When was there a forgery committed in Texas? When was there an attempt at house-breaking, at stealing, at highway robbery, or at swindling? The oldest citizen hardly recollects of one. Our police reports furnish nothing of this kind, and our court records are generally bare of them; and yet we are set down by our neighbors as being a lawless set, among whom there is no security of person or property. Many believe such to be the case—an impression has gone abroad that there is nothing moral and honest among the people of Texas. Surely there is or has been something wrong somewhere.'

The New Orleans Courier, an excellent democratic paper, is now issued twice a day—in the morning and evening—at \$12 per annum.

Important.—The Natchez Free Trader says that a splendid opportunity is to be given by the Washington Fair to the mother of the prettiest baby. Every mother in 'them diggens' will be sure to exhibit her monkey.

Death from Diseased Potatoes.—The Utica (N. Y.) Gazette notices the appearance, in that neighborhood, of a singular disease among the potatoes, which has already destroyed thousands of bushels. The kind called 'pinkeyes' are almost universally affected.—The disease first manifests itself by a black spot on the surface of the potato, which rapidly spreads till the whole root becomes soft and worthless. Many farmers have lost their entire crops, the disease in many cases destroying the roots while in the ground, and in others the potatoes, having been carefully stowed in the cellar, apparently free from disease and sound, in a few weeks were thrown away utterly lost.—Some, as soon as they saw the symptoms appear, in order to save as much as possible of their crops, commenced feeding them to their hogs; and in two instances where this course was pursued, it resulted not only in the loss of the potatoes, but also of the hogs; one man losing his whole stock, fifteen in number, and another four out of six, which ate the affected food. If animals are so soon destroyed by feeding on such potatoes, are they not dangerous food for man.

Long Fever.—The Lacon Gazette, of the 21st inst. says: 'This disease for two or three weeks has prevailed in our county to a considerable extent, resulting in a number of deaths. In addition to the deaths of Messrs. Smith and Dunbaugh from long fever, noticed two weeks ago, five more adults have since died of the disease. In all these cases death occurred in about a week from the time of attack. Of the persons seized thus far, we believe, at least half have died. We never knew such extensive mortality in the county, in any season of the year, during the same period.'

That same old red jacket.—While Col. Johnson was delivering an address in New Hampshire recently, some one called for the old red jacket—the vest which the Col. had on being a red one, and the same he wore at the battle of the Thames in which he received eleven bullet wounds. The call was responded to by the whole assembly, when the gallant hero very frankly acknowledged that the vest he then wore was 'that same old red jacket.'

Distance to Detroit. Below we give a copy of the distance between Detroit and Chicago by the St. Joseph route. Detroit to Dearborn 10 miles Dearborn to Wayne 8 15 Wayne to Ypsilanti 12 20 Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor 10 40 Ann Arbor to Dexter 10 50 Dexter to St. Louis 10 60 St. Louis to Galesburg 10 70 Galesburg to Keosauqua 10 80 Keosauqua to Barry 6 86 Barry to Smithfield 7 93 Smithfield to Albion 6 99 Albion to Marengo 7 106 Marengo to Marshall 5 111 Marshall to Battle Creek 12 123 Battle Creek to Charleton 10 133 Charleton to Galesburg 4 137 Galesburg to Keosauqua 4 141 Keosauqua to Paw Paw 4 145 Paw Paw to Hamilton 12 157 Hamilton to Keosauqua 4 159 Keosauqua to Bainbridge 11 169 Bainbridge to St. Joseph 10 200 St. Joseph to Chicago 19 219 The conveyance on this route is as follows: By Railroad, from Detroit to Jackson, 80 miles, Stage, from Jackson to St. Joseph, 120 do Steamboat, St. Joseph to Chicago, 69 do Chicago Democrat.

The Canal Loan. The press of this State (and particularly the whig press) are full of speculation as to the probable course of the Governor on the subject of the canal. The whig press mainly seem to wish the failure of that measure, so that they may have something for which to censure the democratic party. And next to that, they hope if it should succeed at all, it may be clogged with some odious provisions about which they can make a great blow for political effect. As for ourselves we have not sufficient information in our possession upon which to form a correct opinion, and we learn that the Governor himself has not yet been furnished with such full reports on the subject as will enable him to judge properly of the ultimate result of the negotiation of our commissioners.

The friends of the canal, however, may remain satisfied that if any thing can be done according to law for the benefit of the canal Governor Ford is just the man to do it: While all others may rest assured that the provisions of law on the subject will be duly adhered to. The Alton Telegraph, the Journal, and some other whig presses, are endeavoring to array party feeling upon the canal question; and wish to profit either by the success or failure of the measure. In this there is such a want of patriotism, and such a disposition to sport with the great interests of the State, as we are happy to see shocks many of the whigs themselves. In conversing with the Governor we learn from him that he is not disposed to consider the canal as a party measure;—that, whatever action he may take on it, he knows he must not only expect censure but fierce denunciation. There he wishes it to rest; not upon the democratic party, but upon himself. As he denies that the canal is or ought to be a party measure, and as he also disclaims acting for the party in whatever he may be called on to do, so he desires that whatever censure may grow out of his proceedings, may be visited on himself alone.—State Register.

Destructive Fire.—On the evening of the 8th, ult., the Penitentiary of Milledgeville, Ga., was discovered to be in flames. The fire originated in the paint, and spread rapidly till it consumed the work shop, steam-engine house, and all the out buildings, except the cells and keeper's office. There were 149 prisoners in the cells, who heard the cry of fire and saw the light. When the walls of the cells became heated, they set up a horrible cry for liberation, till the doors were opened, and they were let out. They were immediately placed under a strong guard, but amid the confusion of the moment one escaped. The fire attacked the building wherein are the cells, several times, but was as often extinguished, though it was with great difficulty that that building was saved. The loss is between \$30,000 and 50,000.

From the Territorial Gazette. The Oregon Adventurers. We have another letter from our late fellow citizen, M. M. McCarver, who it is well known with several others from this Territory, attached himself to the large emigrating expedition to Oregon which took up its line of march last spring. The letter has been an unusually long time on the way, but it will still be read with interest. The emigrants have doubtless ere this reached their place of destination, on the western slope of the American continent. The distance from Fort Laramie to the gran in the mountains known as the Blue Mountains, is not far from 1,000 miles, and on children make it grow rapidly, or on those who have lost the hair from any cause. ALL VERMIN that infest the heads of children in schools, are prevented or killed by it at once.—And the name of Comstock's is on every boy's or girl's head. Remember this always.

RHEUMATISM, and GOUT, positively cured, and all deranged muscles and limbs restored, in the old or young, by the INDIAN VEGETABLE ELIXIR AND NERVE AND BONE LIMENT—obtainable without the name of Comstock & Co. on it.

The Company for Oregon is now in place, and at present is engaged in crossing Laramie's fork, which is very full. With the exception of one man who had his arm broke by an accidental discharge from a gun while pursuing a Buffalo, all are well. Our roads have been good beyond expectation, particularly for the last six hundred miles; and I do not believe a road equally good and of the same length can be procured in the States. Our cattle and wagons, so far, stand the trip well; indeed the cattle are fattening generally. Many of the men are working cows; I myself have two yoke, and find them better than oxen. There is no heavy pulling which requires large oxen, and cows are decidedly faster and consequently better. You have, too, their milk at night; and in Oregon, I am informed, a good cow is worth as much as a yoke of cattle. Let the emigrants next year fit themselves out with cow teams, and bring loose ones to supply the place of such as get lame. We work them at the wheel and in the lead.

We have now travelled more than one thousand miles since leaving Burlington, and are in full view of the black Hills. Distance to the gap in the mountains about 200 or 225 miles, and Fort Hall 600. The weather has been cool without rain for the last month. Our roads being up Platte river, in the bottom, our cattle could not suffer for water except at short intervals, when we left the river for part of a day.—This, however, we done but seldom, as that river from the point at which we struck it to this place—about 400 miles—has scarcely any tributaries. None of our stock has been stolen since leaving the Kansas river. We are now in the midst of the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, where it will be necessary to keep up a more vigilant watch. At this place we found a few Spaniards with a small cargo of flour, &c., packed on mules from Towee, in the Spanish province, about 400 miles distant. Their prices are \$25 per hundred for flour; sugar, \$2 per lb.; coffee, \$1.50 per lb.; whiskey, \$2 per pint; and every thing else in the same proportion. Emigrants will now be able to judge of the necessity of supplying themselves with the necessaries of life before starting.—They will find it to their interest to load their wagons with such articles as are here mentioned, which they can sell on their way, instead of encumbering themselves with furniture and other heavy loading, which they may be compelled to leave by the way. Mules we find more serviceable than horses, and those coming out should procure them. We will depart from this place tomorrow, after which I shall probably have no opportunity of communicating with you until we reach Fort Hall. Say to those who think of emigrating that the trip to Oregon is not half the hoga-boo it is represented to be. All that it requires is patience and perseverance. Truly, Yours, M. M. McCARVER. Look out for Thieves and Counterfeiters.—Cadwell and wife, the leaders of the gang of thieves and counterfeiters who were taken up in this city about a year since, are now at large, and ready to resume their old business whenever occasion may offer. The husband changed his quarters in the jail for the steamboat Gov. Morehead, which went down on Tuesday evening last, and the wife followed him, the next day on the Lucy Walker. Wherever they go, we would caution the people to be on their guard. Cadwell escaped the penitentiary by turning state's evidence, and his wife escaped both penitentiary and jail, from causes to us unknown, and received \$15 per month of the county, for her support and services, notwithstanding she was found with a large amount of stolen money secreted on her person. Mrs. Cadwell's case clearly proves 'that some things can be done as well as others.'—Arkansas Gazette, Nov. 16. Precise.—The old servant who receives and ushers visitors at the President's house in Washington, is said to be very precise in his announcements. On a recent occasion a gentleman of the name of Foot, with a daughter on each arm, was shown into the President's drawing room, with the introduction: 'Mr. Foot, and the two Misses Feet.'