ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1855.

VOL. I., NO. 50.

Minnesota Times.

OFFICE-TIMES BUILDING, SAINT ANTHONY STREET NEWSON, MITCHELL & CO.

THE WEEKLY TIMES is published every Tuesday, and furnished at \$2 per annum in advance. TT In connexion with the WEEKLY, we publish a DAILY, at \$6 per year.

RATES OF ADVERTISING IN THE WEEKLY.

of the Times being much wider and longer than a papers, we are obliged to charge a few ar. We will publish the same amount of hed in either of the city Weeklies for the

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1855.

REPORT OF J. Ross BROWNE .- We give up our columns to-day to the Report of J. Ross Browne. the secret agent of the Government, who visited our Territory some months since. We forbear which, if be heard. We consider, however, the main portion of Mr. Browne's article correct. As to the combination which exists here, no body will deny

The War Eagle arrived yesterday forenoon. She left Galena Sunday afternoon and was detained at Lake Pepin, Monday night, in conscquence of a storm. She left with about 350 passengers .- Reports having been run into on her downward trip by a little stern wheel boat, to the small amount of \$2,000. She will leave to-day

The steamer City Belle, Capt. Lodwick, arrived at our Levee early yesterday morning. She left Galena Saturday evening, and reports the river on the rise. The clerk informs us that she had a considerable freight, but from his replies in regard to the number of passengers we are led to believe that but few came up on the City Belle .-

UPWARDS OF 5,000 !- From a close estimate emigrants have reached our shores since the opening of navigation. Most of these persons have not remained in the city, but have gone on to farms. Visitors will be coming along about the first of May, and then there will be busy

RIOT IN CHICAGO. - We learn from a gentleman who came up on the War Eagle, that quite a riot was in course of progress in Chicago, when he came through. A large number of citizens were armed, and several fights had taken place. The military had been ordered out. The difficulty arose from the enforcement of the Liquor Law in

FIRE NEAR ITASCA .- We learn from Mr. Geo. II. Oakes, that a fire occurred near Itasca last week. ing prairie, the flames sweeping every thing be-

ANOTHER FIRE AT ST. ANTHONY .- During the thunder storm on Monday evening, a barn belonging to Turner of St. Anthony was struck by lightning and consumed, together with two horses which were in the building at the time.

two young men from Philadelphia, will open in a short time a Drug Store, in the room formerly occupied by Wm. Brewster, in Third st.

A GERMAN PRESS .- We learn from Mr. Spiel, who has just returned from the East, that a genthem in Chicago contemplates starting a German Press in this city in a few week The Blackbawk, crowded with freight and

a large number of passengers, left for St. Peters yesterday. This snug little craft is doing

SEVENTY TEAMS. - A gentleman from Sauk Rapids informs us that he counted on the road between St. Anthony and Sauk Rapids, seventy em-

Swine .- We presume there is a law to prevent swine from running at large in our city. Last summer hogs were a great annoyance to pedestrians, but we hope this summer they will be re-

Nothing conduces so much to health as cleanliness. Remove the filth from your stores and dwellingsscrub out the dirt in the allies-put on a new bib and tuck, and look respectable.

THE SNELLING HOUSE .- This establishment is now crowded with strangers. Mr. Bissell knows how to serve up a good dish.

An effort was made in New York to hold two of the instigators of the murder of Poole to bail in the sum of \$20,000. It was unsuccessful. Others were held to bail in the sum of \$10,000

C. C. Hoffman is opening a very fine as sortment of all kinds of Boots and Shoes. Persons in want would do well to call on him.

Strangers should bear in mind that there is a law against using fire-arms within the city limits. We make this announcement because we observed several persons firing guns near our office vesterday. Look out for the penalty.

To Book MERCHANTS .- Merchants visiting Galena, should by all means call on J. N. Waggoner, who has every thing in the Book and Stationery line which is needed, for proof of which please consult our advertising columns.

McLagan & Stillman .- This firm is now ready for the spring trade, and thus far they have done an excellent business. See card.

RITCHIE & Co.—These gentlemen have laid their Spring stock of Goods, and are prepared to furnish their customers with the latest and best styles of hats and caps. Observe their card.

THAT SHOWER .-- That glorious thunder storm of Monday evening, allayed the dust and purified the air. Nature was all a glee yesterday-on a regular bust.

The Luella arrived last evening, crowder

The Reserve Lands-Report of Mr. Browne.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 28, 1855. HON. R. McCLELLAND, Secretary of the Interior. Sir:—On the 11th day of September last, that portion of the Fort Snelling Reserve lying on the left bank of the Mississippi river was offered at public sale under Proclamation of the President, a copy of which is hereby transmitted. In accor-dance with the notice thus given, the sale took place at Stillwater on the day aforesaid, and was attended by a large concourse of people interest-ed in the purchase of the lands: and all the lands offered for sale, were bid for and purchased at the

minimum price established by law.

In a letter dated the 18th of September, the Register and Receiver of the Land office at Stillwater, notified the Commissioner of the General Land office of their belief in the existence of a combination, which prevented said lands from being sold for more than the minimum.

On the 4th of October they were instructed by the Commissioner to report the facts and circumstances going to show the existence of such combination, with the testimony they might be able

stances going to show the existence of such com-bination, with the testimony they might be able to procure on the subject. In a letter of the 9th of December, these gentlemen replied that their "belief in the existence of the aforesaid combina-tion was based mainly upon public rumor," &c., and "that the utmost harmony prevailed during the sale." The commissioner in a letter dated February 2d, 1855, c.nsures these officers for having in their communication of Sentenber 18th having in their communication of September 18th, by implication at least, charged the purchasers at the sale therein referred to, with being guilty of an offence against the laws of their country, for which, if convicted, each would have been liable rema k until the parties implicated, have time to to a fine of one thousand dollars and two years

without any tangible foundation. A copy of this correspondence is herewith submitted.

It is provided by the 4th section of the Act of March 31st, 1830, regulating the sales of public lands, that, "If any person or persons shall before or at the time of public sale of any of the lands of the United States, bargain, contract or agree, or shall attempt to bargain, contract or agree with any other persons, that the last named person or persons shall not bid upon or purchase the land so offered for sale, or any parcel thereof, or shall by intimidation, combination or unfair management, hinder or prevent any person or persons from bidding upon or purchasing any tracts of land so offered for sale, every such offender, his, her, or their aiders and abettors, being thereof duly convicted, shall for every such offence be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars, or im-

prisonment not exceeding two years, or both at the discression of the court." I desire to call your attention to several important facts connected with this subject, and to submit for your consideration, such proofs as are in my possession, tending to show that such a combination did exist; that the Register and Receiver at Stillwater could have obtained the proofs but the proofs are the contractions of the contraction of the con we think we can safely say, that upwards of 5,600 had they performed their duty; that no investigation under official instructions has taken place; and that if these siles are confirmed the govern-ment will be defrauded out of three hundred thousand dollars, which of right belongs to the people of the United States and not to the citizens of Minnesota.

The act of March 3d,1807, securing the governto which has not been recognized, or persons causing such lands to be occupied, surveyed &c., until

sale certain lands within the Reserve on the left freely with many persons on this subject, who at-

stroyed. Our informant did not learn the name that long previous to the sale, these pretended well that force was intended, should it become that long previous to the sale, these pretended claims had been in the possession of speculators living in St. Paul, and that the actual value of

The portion of the Reserve offered for sale, lies and derives its value from the proximity of these towns which are but nine miles apart. these lands bordering on the town of St. Paul, were held at two hundred dollars an acre, previous to the sale and are now much more valua-ble. The average value of the whole tract is at least eighty dollars per acre. I consider the value n important point, tending to show the existence of a combination to prevent the government from deriving more than the minimum price. No preemption or other rights were recognized by law. nd free competition was invited by the terms of

the proclamation. To suppose that the land agents and speculators who were present, were prevented from bid-ding from motives of personal frientship for the claimants holding possession of the lands, would be to east an imputation upon their character as business men, not compatible with the known repntation of land speculators throughout Minnesota.

I respectfully submit a copy of a protest sign d by Lyman C. Dayton, and filed in the G neral Land Office, showing that on the 8th day of August—a month previous to the sale, Charles R. Rice sold to sud Dayton, forty-seven acres of land within the reserve, for the sum of \$1,937, which land the said Rice bought at public sale on the 11th of September, for \$1 25 per acre, or

In the agreement accompanying the protest (a copy of which is also submitted) Mr. Rice "binds himself to the amount of the consideration paid to him, to use his influence and do every thing for the protection and securing of the claim to the said Dayton, as if he alone was interested, and said Dayton, as if he alone was interested, and it is also agreed that the said Dayton pay or cause to be paid, a pro rata expense of obtaining title to the lands, he to incur all the risk in the premises, and possession of said land to remain in the said Rice until title is obtained as aforesaid."

In its relation to the Government, this case stands upon precisely the same footing as all hands at high prices, ranging from forty to seve

ral hundred dollars per acre, previous to the sale. I contend therefore that the following facts are 1st. That a portion of the lands sold at the government sale for \$1.25 per acre, or about \$60 in the aggregate, was sold one month previously at private sale for about \$41 per acre, or \$1,927

n the aggregate.

2d. That if Mr. Dayton was not aware of the existence of a combination and was not deterred from bidding by that knowledge, it would have been to his interest to bid from \$1 25 per acre up to the amount which he actually paid, because he could thus have obtained without risk and directly from the government a tract of land for which he

March 31, 1830. 3d. That Mr. Rice bound himself in consider ation of a pro-rata share of the expense from Dayton, to "use his influence and do every thing in his power, to secure the claim," when the only process required by law was for the said Dayton to bid more than any other bidder.

These lands were not subject to pre-emption .-But even if they were, as there appears to be a strong prejudice in the new Territory in favor of the original settlers and claimants, whether their claims be legally made or otherwise, the result would be the same. The purchasers would under the act of September 4th, 1841, possess no such pre-emption rights; most of them being land s and speculators residing in the town of St agents and speculators residing in the town of St. Paul. In the case above referred to, Charles R. Rice has never personally resided upon the land claimed by him, but has employed Mr. A. B. Sloan to occupy and protect the premises, which fact is admitted by implication in the last clause of the agreement between him and Lyman C. Dayton.

I submit in this connection a list of the Lands sold and the names of the purchasers, taken from the records of the General Land Office, together with copies of the St. Paul Democrat and Weekly Minnesotian, containing the business notices of

most of the speculators therein named.

The principal purchaser, William R. Marshall, is a merchant and speculator. Alpheus G. Fuller is an Indian Trader and speculator. George L. Becker is a member of the firm of Rice, Hollins-Becker is a member of the firm of Rice, Hollinshead & Becker, dealers in exchange and real estate. Henry M. Rice is the Delegate to Congress from Minnesota. Charles L. Emerson who obtains five acres of the land purchased by C. L. Rice, is editor of the Democrat, known as the "Rice Organ" and member of the firm of Emerson & Case, land agents and speculators. George W. Biddle is a Dentist and speculator. W. S. Combs is a Bookseller and land speculator. All these gentlemen are residents of St. Paul, and none of them now occupy, or ever actually occupied or

them now occupy, or ever actually occupied or lived upon these lands.

In a letter to the editor of the Democrat, enclosing a copy of the letter of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, of February 2d, on the subject of this sale, Mr. H. M. Rice, the Dele-

gate from Minnesota, states that "the sale is virtually confirmed," and "congratulates the hardy pioneers of Minnesota" upon the result.

I take it for granted that the speculators whose names appear in the above list, are the pioneers to whom he refers. Permit me to state that there exists to my personal knowledge, associations of persons throughout Minnesota interested in the purchase of government lands at the minimum price, and bound by a solemn compact to carry into effect the will of the members. That most of the speculators are connected either by politiimprisonment, and that too upon mere rumor, cal or pecuniary interest with these claim associa-which upon investigation seems to have been tions; that I saw the advertisements of such associations on the trees and public places, calling meetings at stated times and places, and became cognizant of their principal objects by conversa-tion with the members; and that one of these is to secure to such claim into by mutual pledges and by force of arms if necessary, all the rights recognized by the association whether in violation

of law or otherwise.

There are other and more explicit reasons which govern me in the conclusion, that a combination did exist at the sale, and that an attempt has been value of the lands, arising not from cultivation or actual settlement on the same, but from the proximity of certain towns which have sprung up

a the natural course of trade.

Mr. Charles L. Emerson, one of the parties personally and pecuniarily interested, as appears by the contract between Messrs. Rice and Dayton, admitted to me that there was a combination to prevent bidding; that the bidders had clubs on considered them perfectly justified in protecting their claims, and contended that the government had no right, in justice or equity, to more than the minimum price for any of her public lands. — This is the popular doctrine in Minnesota, and is the doctrine advocated in the Democrat and other

ewspapers in St. Paul.

Mr. E. W. Packard, agent and partner of Ly-The act of March 3d,1807, securing the government the exclusive right to the public lands, provides that "persons taking poss ssion of or making settlements on any lands ceded or secure 1 to the United States, not previously sold or the claim to which has not been recognized, or persons causing such lands to be occupied, surveyed &c., until ing such lands to be occupied, surveyed &c., until authorized by law, forfeit their right &c."

Under the provisions of the act of August 16th 1853, reducing the limits of the Fort Snelling Reserve, the Proclamation of the President offers for survey, the Proclamation of the President offers for sulcertain lands within the Reserve on the left.

necessary to prevent competition in bidding living in St. Paul, and that the actual value of said lands for more than twelve months past has been from forty to three hundred dollars per acre.

The post on of the Receive of the Receive of the Receive of the Person of the Receive of the Rece

"the utmost harmony." There was but little en-couragement for a breach of the peace where the claimants and their aiders and abettors were so well furnished with weapons for the prompt pur ishment of any offender. Had there been no con-bination, and no means of intimidation used, there would doubtless have been less harmony.— Where the conflicting interests involved were so important and speculation was at its height, it would not have been singular had there been several breaches of the peace, under a system of free competition.

The pretension that the settlement of the cour try is advanced by unfair management of this kind, is entirely unwarranted by facts. All reasonable encouragement should be given to actual settlers who reside upon and cultivate the lands but if the laws governing pre-emptions and pub-lic sales are to be set aside, and government re-serves held open to speculators, then the fact should become generally known under official in-struction, so that all speculators can enjoy an equal chance of securing claims upon the Indian an I other reserves yet unoccupied by white settlers. The constant reference made in Congress and elsewhere to the hardy pioneers of the West, is, in the sense in which it becomes practically ap-plicable, calculated to mislead the public mind. The advantages derived by the class referred to, from the enhanced value of the public lands in the new Territories, resulting from the influx of population are comparatively small. It is the unscrupulous speculators, who never reside upon or cultivate the lands—the non-productive members of the community—who derive the advantage, because they have the capital and means of como nation and wield the political power which ena bles them to represent their interests in Congress and to legalize by special enactments all viola-tions of law in which they have a pecuniary interest. For practical examples, I respectfully re-fer you to an Act passed on the 2nd of March last, and to the Act of 1852, upon which it is based, recognizing certain pre-emption claims in the Fort Snelling Reservation originally made in violation of existing laws, by which the town of lendota is secured to the proprieto:s. Mr. Sibley, late Delegate in Congress, is the principal owner of this town, and there are others, prominent as speculators and politicians, whose names are not material. I also refer you to all the circumstances stated in this communication and to the list of names of the parties interested in that part of the Reservation lying on the east side of the Mississippi, among which will be found that of H. M. Rice, the present Delegate from Minne-

In view of these considerations, I cannot but believe that it is due to the public and to the preservation of the integrity of national legislafrom the government a tract of land for which he paid \$1,927 with all the risk which attaches to a transaction not valid in law. See sec. 5, Act should be instituted; and that all patents for these lands now pending in the General Land
Office, should be suspended until an official report can be made upon the subject, accompanied
by the necessary testimony.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

J. ROSS BROWNE.

George H. Oakes, Esq., from Sauk Rapds was in our office yesterday. He informs us that every thing in that vicinity is in a flourishing condition. The Frontiersman will appear in a

A LUCKY RAG-PICKER.—A rag-picker in San Francisco, while tearing out the lining of an old trunk that had been thrown from the Crescent City Hotel, discovered twenty \$20 pieces snugly stored upon their edges. Some former owner of the trunk had doubtless placed them there for

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1855.

MINNESOTA POLITICS .- Minnesota politics are a onglomeration of the most incongruous elements to be found in the West. There are so many factions and cliques here—so many diverse views so many avenues of temptation, and such a great desire to over-reach and accumulate wealth, that party and personal bitterness are engendered, and all sorts of tricks and falsehoods are resorted to, to defame and injure one another. This is all wrong-it injures those who are implicated-it injures the character and standing of our peoplein fact, it injures the whole Territory. During the past winter, a worse state of politics never existed than held sway over our Legislature, and this fact became so notoriously known, that a Secret Agent of the Government was sent here to investigate matters and report forthwith. That report has called forth a new edition of epithets, and it is to be presumed, from present appearances, that the warfare will be kept up for some time to come. Scarcely has one subject become thoroughly discussed, when another is raised, and wave after wave of billingate is rolled along, carrying with it all sorts of blackguardism, and personal invectives. When these things will cease, there is no telling—certainly not until some of those who are the cause of the disturbance shall learn to respect themselves by refraining from words and deeds which well befit the purlieus of our great cities. The new excitement, caused by our great cities. The new excitement, caused by Mr. Browne's Report, is calculated to awaken old animosities, and to stir up anew the dirty filth of

Minnesota politics. FIRE !-Yesterday morning, a small building in the lower part of the city, owned by a widow woman by the name of Mrs. Mchegan, was destroyed by fire. Several emigrants who had no place to store their goods, had received permission to place them in the building, and it is supposed that some of them dropped a spark from a pipe or cigar, and hence the origin of the fire. Loss to the emigrants, between \$15 and \$20. Loss to Mrs. Mehegan, about \$100.

The alarm last evening was caused by the urning of a chimney on the house opposite the Catholic Church. No damage.

LETTER OF MR. RICE AND OTHERS .- We give the ground to use force if necessary, and were prepared with a boat to carry off any person who might bid more than the minimum; that he presumed nobody would deny this fact, but that he sumed nobody would deny this fact, but that he agent of the Government, concerning the sale of the Reserve Lands at Stillwater. Should any other letters appear on the subject, we should be happy to give them publicity, for it is due to all that the facts in the case should be known.

> SECRETARY ROSSER .- This gentleman denies ever having spoken or written a word to Mr. Browne relative to the sale of the Reserve Lands. He very justly feels indignant that his name should be brought before the public in connection with this Mr. Wiseburg, the gentleman who laid out

a town on the Upper Mississippi, last fall, return-

ed from the East a few days since. He informs

us that large numbers of Germans and other emibank of the Mississippi, "which lands are not subject to pre-emption claims."

In the month of February last I visited these such a combination, but on the contrary was in-The committee a ouncil, to inquire into the propriety of reducing ome of the salaries of the City Officers, reported

> that the salary of the City Physician be paid out of the County Treasury. OMINOUS .- We saw a man in the street yesterday with one hundred dollars. He was immediately arrested by the Mayor. People should be cautious and not carry money in the streets-it is

dangerous business these days. Kentucky No. 2. O. Ames, Master, arriv-I Tuesday evening at our landing, with a light freight from Oquawka, Ill. She left for Stillwater vesterday.

REAL ESTATE .-- Persons who desire to purchase Real Estate, can get splendid bargains by calling on A. Pierse. See his advertisement.

Low WATER .- The water on the Little Rapids n the Minnesota River, is quite low, there not being sufficient water to allow either the Black Hawk or the Montello to go over.

The steam propeller Oregon, of Cleveland, exploded her boiler at Detroit, on the 20th, killing thirteen persons and wounding five. She

Weather cold and the sky cloudy vesterlav. Fires comfortable.

A dispatch from New York of the 19th states that Washington Irving was thrown from his horse and seriously injured.

The Common Council, at their late sesion, refused to allow the bill of D. C. Cooley, of \$200, for drafting Fire Ordinance.

The Galena was expected yesterday. The Editor arrived this morning, early.

There was another report in Paris, which nay prevent the departure of the Emperor for the Crimea. It was said that the plague, with all its hideous systems, had made it appearance in the allied army. It had been caused by the great number of corpses which were buried very negligently. The Emperor would not incur the risk of exposure to such a pestilence, in addition to the perils of war, at least so says the London Economist, pretty good authority.

Anthony Burns is lecturing at the East vith the view of obtaining the means to fit him

It is estimated by those who have taken the pains to post themselves up in relation to the matter, that double the amount of ground will be tilled in Minnesota this year than was last.—St. Certainly there will be, and there will be double

the number of persons to till it.

From Australia-Dreadful Shipwreck-Upwards
500 Lives Lost. Letters from Sydney state that a vessel, name inknown, had been wrecked on Bampton Shoals, and 500 Chinese passengers and a portion of the crew were lost. The master and eight men only were saved. These made for Cape Dennis, in a boat, and on landing were attacked by the natives and five of them killed.

Trade in Australia had somewhat improved, but politically matters were unsatisfactory. The prices for wool were flat.

A sailor's letter from the Crimea thus de-scribes the Turkish camps: "Some of these mud huts are highly finished off: for instance, we saw one with a glass window, one with a chimney, and one with a wooden door, to which was suspended, by a piece of string, a large stone for a knocker."

Henry M. Rice's Reply to Mr. Browns WASHINGTON, April 9th, 1855.

Sir: On the 28th ultimo, Mr. J. Ross Brown

Sir: On the 28th ultimo, Mr. J. Ross Browne made a report in relation to the sale on the 11th of September, 1854, of the late Military Reservation at Fort Snelling, the extraordinary character of which report renders it proper that I should take some notice of its contents. It is apparent from the face of the document, that Mr. Browne's chief object was to assault the character and injury the reputation of certain citizens ter and injure the reputation of certain citizens of Minnesota, who have become obnoxious to those whose delinquences he wishes to conceal, rather than to promote the public interests by a truthful exposition of the facts as they are known

In furtherance of this object, he sets out by charging that there was an unlawful and fraudulent combination among a large number of persons, to defraud the Government of the value of these lands: that this combination succeeded by tually confirmed," and "congratulated the hardy pioneers," &c., &c.; and in conclusion, refers anew to a list of the names of the purchasers, and reiterates that "among which will be found that of Henry M. Rice, the present Delegate from Minnesota."

It is apparent from the connection of my name in so many forms, with the sales of this Military Reservation, that the object of Mr. Browne was to point me out to the Department, and to the public, as the chief instigator of a stupendous fraud upon the Government, and one who realized enormous profits from the transaction. Fortunately, the records of your own Department convict Mr. Browne of falsehood on every material statement he has made against me. The records of your own department as well as the records of of your own department as well as the records of the Land Office at Stillwater, where the sale took the Land Oline at Stillwater, where the sale took place, proves that I did not purchase any land at the sale. The same records prove, that the lands mentioned by Mr. Browne, as having been purchased by me at that sale, had been entered and paid for by me at that same office, nearly three years previous. The same records prove that the tract of land, which Mr. Browne says belonged to the military reservation of Fort Snelling, did not belong to that reservation, and was not embraced the military reservation of Fort Snelling, did not belong to that reservation, and was not embraced within its limits. The same records prove, that the tract of land in question was never purchased by me at public sale at any time; but that, after having been offered at public sale, at \$1 25 per acre, when there was no pretext of a combination, and not being sold, for the reason that no one would bid, was struck off to the Government and subsequently entered by me at private sale. and subsequently entered by me at private sale, in the usual manner. In short, the records prove that every statement made by Mr. Browne for the that every statement made by Mr. Browne for the purpose of fixing a charge of fraud upon me, was, and is, absolutely false. The truth is, I was not at the sale in question; had no person there to represent me; had no interest in any of the land to be offered; was not in the Territory of Minnesota at the time of the sale; but on the contrary, hundreds of miles distant, and had no knowledge whatever of the circumstances attending such and the purchasers at the land sale, it is perhaps true, with the halance of his reports.

self and others, when it is obvious that his object was to direct public attention from my enem es, and thereby aid and assist them in covering up adversely to the reduction, but recommended

and concealing their own delinquencies.

He cannot plead ignorance for these false statements, for the facts appear on record, and he refers to those very records, and at the same time falsifies them for the purpose of making his charges plausible.

charges plausible.
It is true, as Mr. Browne states, the sale referred to did take place at the time mentioned: and from his list of purchasers, it appears that there were twenty-three bidders present, who reside from twenty to twenty-five miles from the Land Office, which is located in a city containing about two thousand inhabitants, who, Mr. Browne would have it appear were intimidated by the said twenty-three purchasers "forming the combination."

The Register and Receiver having been instruc-

over \$5000.

It is true, as Mr. Browne alleges, that some of these lands had been cultivated and occupied for "several years past;" and it is also true, that the land is now very valuable! But who made it so? The settlers themselves, by the introduction of in-dustry, capital and civilization into that new and distant region. Seven years ago St. Paul and St. Anthony did not exist; and but little more St. Anthony did not exist; and but little more than six years since the sites upon which they are erected were entered at \$1 25 per acre; much of which is at the present time worth from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per acre; therefore, according to the reasoning of this special agent, the government has been defrauded in these purchases, of an enormous sum of money! and it cannot be perceived why he did not also ask to have those entries cancelled. He does not believe that "land speculators throughout Minnesota, were prevented from bidding by motives of personal friendship for the chimants helding perceives the land? Naither do I. But a sense of honor prevented any but the rightful claimants from bidding. There is a bond stronger than any law, which makes honest bond stronger than any law, which makes honest men respect the rights of their neighbors, and I am glad that that bond is so universally respected throughout Minnesota.

Your agent submits a copy of a protest and

agreement, &c., given him by Lyman C. Dayton, by which it appears that Charles R. Rice agreed to sell said Dayton forty-seven acres of said land for \$1,937, which the said Rice bought for about \$60. It is to be regretted that Mr. Browne, while examining into the private affairs of the citizens of Minnesota, did not ascertain what the improvements on this land cost Mr. Rice. It is well-known ments on this land cost Mr. Rice. It is well-known to every man the least conversant with the west, that claims are sold every day; and that improvements are constantly changing hands upon both the surveyed and unsurveyed lands, and are regarded as property by the local laws. Nor do I know of any law human or divine that binds men in Kansas or Minnesota, to keep possession of their claims and improvements any longer than it may suit their interest or convenience so to do; neither can I see how a man's land, regularly purchased can be taken from him, because his improvements and those of his neighbors have made it worth more than he paid for it. And as to the improvements on the claim of Charles R. Rice, to my own knowledge, they cost him over \$3,000 prior to the sale.

\$3,000 prior to the sale.
Again, Mr. Browne says "there appears to be a strong prejudice in the new Territories in favor of original settlers and claimants." This is true; and I am glad he made the discovery: for it is an and I am glad he made the discovery: for it is an important fact going to show that western men are possessed of a high sense of justice and honor, and will protect their neighbors' rights as readily as their own. Again, by reference to Mr. Browne's report, it appears that he took a general look into the business affairs of the citizens of St. Panl; examined old advertisements in the newspapers, ascertained the residences, occupations and intentions of the people, and "speculated" largely upon the bearing their private acts would have upon national affairs.

And Mr. J. Ross Browne tells you be known of

Hon. R. McClelland, Secretary of Interior:

his own knowledge, by personal observation that a "combination existed;" he saw "notices stuck upon trees, and in public places,"—he saw men determined to protect themselves and he knows that "most of the speculators are connected either by political or pecuniary interest, with these claim associations." I hope this part of his report will not be held sufficient to make out a case of high treason against any of our citizens!

Mr. Charles L. Emerson admitted to this special agent "that the bidders had clubs!" He might have admitted also, and with equal force upon his introduction to Mr. Browne, that the minds of certain persons were strangely affected by certain phases of the moon.

of being a speculator is a truly energetic and industrious contractor and manufacturer. George
L. Becker is also an old resident and had made large improvements upon the land he purchased.

Henry M. Rice was the Delegate in Congress and J. Ross Browne was sent to Minuscota as (Special Agents), neither of them matter, but must be allowed to say that he has been grossly misled by mere rumors.

LYMAN C. DAYTON. "Special Agent"—neither of them were in the Territory at the time of the sale, and neither of them it is believed had any interest in it-cer-

tainly the former had none.
"C. L. Emerson obtains five acres!" Five He is "Editor of the Democrat known as the 'Rice organ.'" A dangerous man indeed! Edits a paper in Minnesota, and is the owner of five acres of land!!! The welfare of the Republic requires that his programs and is the owner of the requires that his programs and the results and the results and the results and the results are the results and the results and the results are results and the results are results. requires that his enormous and growing a pira-tions should be checked—his possessions reduced. This should be looked to!

George W. Biddle is a dentist and—"a land speculator." He would so reely be convicted of the latter charge; to the former he will plead guilty; for he is a dentist—a poor but honest man

guilty; for he is a dentist—a poor but honest man—a mechanie!
William S. Combs is a Bookseller, and the special agent says "a land speculator." If owning a few acres of land makes a man a "land speculator," then Mr. Browne is right, and W. S. Combs must be a "land speculator."
Mr. Browne asserts that they all reside in St. Paul; if he means to restrict this expression to those named, it is perhaps true, with the excep-

Dr. Biddle built a house, plowed, planted, sowed, reaped, and resided upon the land he purchased. He resided on it for months prior to the sale, and continued to reside upon it, until the

winter had set in, when he removed with his family to town to remain until Spring.

H. M. Rice, the Delegate, did write that the sales were "virtually confirmed," and did "con gratulate the hardy pioneers of Minnesota upon the result;" and justice and truth will sustain him in writing that letter, Mr. Browne to the con-trary notwith tanding; and the only regret Mr. Rice has in regard to the matter is, that the citizens of Minnesota should be made to suffer, through the ignorance or corruption of others.

The Special Agent again says, "during his stay in Minnesota, he conversed freely with many persons on the subject, and none denied that there was a combination." This is very probable; and

The Register and Receiver having been instruc-ted to report all the facts, did report that "the utmost harmony prevailed during the sale." In regard to the land itself, I have to state that there is not a single quarter section that was not culti-vated prior to the sale, nor a quarter section that was not otherwise improved, some of which im-provements, upon a single eighty acre tract, cost over \$\times 5000. of Mendota is secured to the proprietors, and that Mr. Sibley, the late Delegate in Congress, is the principal owner of this town, and there are others, "prominent speculators and politicians whose names are not material to mention." Now I cannot see why it is so important that Mr. Browne should make known the names of all the prominent speculators and politicians in Minnesota; such information—the result of his valuable researches—might become vastly important hereaf-ter, as historical reference. In respect, however, to Mendota, it was a county scat in 1849—about one hundred voters reside there. Mr. Sibley has resided there about twenty years, and resided there under the authority of the Government. He, with others, went there when the entire country was a wilderness, and he and others have expendwas a wilderness, and he and others have expended probably over one hundred thousand dollars upon the land. And had Mr. Browne looked at the law of 1844, (or got some one to explain it to him.) he would have seen the folly of making the allusion to Mendota he did; and again, delicacy should have restrained him—a special government agent—from commenting in such a manner upon any law passed by the Congress of the United States.

He says, "the Government was defrauded out of at least three hundred thousand dollars by this sale." In the entire Territory there was not in the hands of all the citizens, one half of that sum.

the hands of all the citizens, one half of that sum. Where then was the three hundred thousan's dol-lars to come from?

use its power to deprive men of the moner, labor and time they have expended—to say nothing of the hardships they have had to encounter in settling the Great West; neither am I willing to believe that this administration will countenance the report of a Special Agent who has evidently traveled outside of the common courtesian of life for port of a Special Agent who has evidently traveled outside of the common courtesies of life, for the purpose of injuring citizens of the country either pecuniarily or in reputation.

Public notice was given in the papers three months in advance, that on the 11th of September, 1854, this tract of land would be offered at public seles at the Land Office is \$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}

ber, 1854, this tract of land would be offered at public sale, at the Land Office in Stillwater, and sold to the highest bidder—notice sufficient to have enabled hundreds of thousands of persons to have enabled hundreds of thousands of persons to have been present had they desired—the sale took place in accordance with the President's Proclamation. The Land Officers' report, that the "utmost harmony prevailed during the sale," the purchasers paid their money—received evidences of title, and returned to their homes. This is the second time obstacles have been interposed to the confirmation of this sale, and it is due to those interested that the question should be speedily settled. Allow me therefore, most urgently, but respectfully, to ask the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, to give it his early consideration. I have the honor to be, with great respect, Your obedient servant,

HENRY M. RICE.

MESSAS. EDITORS:—In the report of J. Ross Browne, Esq., which was published in your columns yesterday, there were statements made as emanating from our firm; which I consider it my duty to correct, that the facts as they exist may be fully known, and the rights of others be unprejudiced by an "cx parte" report.

It is true, as was stated in the document above referred to, that I purchased from Mr. Charles R. Rice, in August last, a portion of his claim situated upon the former Military Reservation of Fort Snelling, for the sum of \$1,927, or about \$50 per acre. But the price that I paid was no criterion to judge of the general value of lands upon the said Reservation, as Mr. Browne has assumed it to be, for the land which I purchased was at least six times more valuable than any other that was sold, as it had been cultivated for years, and had a dwelling house and other valuable improvements

his introduction to Mr. Browne, that the minds of certain persons were strangely affected by certain phases of the moon.

"Two wagon loads of clubs were found upon the ground." Perhaps they were cut upon government land! If so, he should have reported this fact to the timber agent! It seems to have been unfortunate that those settlers did not invited. States Treasury \$40 per acre for the lands, \$1.25 being for the land and the balance for the hard labor and righteous earnings bestowed upon it by the enterprize, and industry of American citizens.

Mr. Browne further says that "William R. Marshall, the principal purchaser, is a merchant and a speculator."

Now, Mr. Marshall is simply a merchant, and his character for integrity will compare favorably with that of any man, either east or west.—He is universally respected; and for that reason, poor men solicited him to go and bid off the lands upon which they had settled, to save them from the expense of attending the sale. Not one foot of land was purchased for himself, but he attended the sale and bid it off for the sole purpose of accommodating the poor. An! had Mr. Browne cxamined the records, with the same care he expense of attending the sale. Not one foot of land was purchased for himself, but he attended the sale and bid it off for the sole purpose of accommodating the poor. An! had Mr. Browne cxamined the records, with the same care he seems to have bestowed upon advertisements in newspapers, and "motices stuck upon trees," or with the willingness he gave ear to the idle gossip of idle persons, he would have found that a farthing for the services he rendered them.

Alpheus of Euller's for the services he rendered them.

Alpheus of the general Mr. Browne is as mutch mistaken as the is in other statements which he had made in this report, as it was furtherest from my thoughts to bid upon the land, considering as I did, that hose who had made the claims, cultivated and resided upon themfor years, and in many instances of the capacity of the services he rendere

A Card from Gov. Gorman.

EDITORS MINNESOTIAN: - SIRS: Your correspondent from Galena, says "Gorman and Rosser through the Aid of Robert J. Walker's and through the Aid of Robert J. Walker's and Guthrie's man, J.Ross Browne, have been endenyoring to rip up the reserve land sales of last September." This is wholly without foundation as Mr. Browne never consulted with me on the subject, nor did he mention it in my presence to my recollection. I think the same result would be produced at fifty other land sales of said lands, unless the Government would use force, and even then, I doubt whether any man would offer to bid against an actual settler. But I must be allowed to say that I believe Mr. Browne's action in the matter has been in accordande with his honest convictions of public duty. As great injustice is convictions of public duty. As great injustice is done me by your correspondent, I will thank you to publish this note.

W. A. GORMAN. St. Paul, April 24, 1855.

at the sale in question; had no person there to represent me; had no interest in any of the land to be offered; was not in the Territory of Minnesota at the time of the sale; but on the contrary, hundreds of miles distant, and had no knowledge whatever of the circumstances attending such sale.

With these facts before you, what confidence, may I ask, sir, can be placed in the statements of your agent, making charges of fraud against my and the demonstration of mutual consideration and regard was of no ordinary character. We learn that an official report of the proceedings of the meeting, will shortly be published.—St. Louis Herald.

No piece of news was ever carried such a vast distance in so short a time as was the death of the Emperor of Russia. It took place at noon on the 2d of March, and in an hour or two, it was known in nearly every part of the European con inent and the British Islands. On the 3d of news. She reached Halifax at noon on the 15th. and by the close of that day, there was scarcely a town in the United States where the great event was not known. Thirteen days had sufficed to carry the intelligence over the two continents and one broad ocean. There was never a more strik-ing illustration of the wonderful working of elec-tricity and steam as a means of annihilating dis-tance.

AN ASTOUNDING FACT .- We are informed on good authority, says the Baltimore American, that the following circumstances really transpired in that city, on Low street, near Exeter:

A card party played for various stakes until one of them-a woman-becoming in her lan-guage "dead broke," offered to stake her infant child against a dollar upon the issue of another game. The proposition was agreed to by her opponent, who was a childless mother, and, being favored by fortune, the conclusion of the game found her winner of the babe, a bright, healthy male infant. The child, we learn, was delivered without a murmur, to the winner, and we judge from the heartless conduct of the unnatural paled | rent, that her offspring will find in its new custodian a home as happy as the one from which it was so ruthlessly staked and lost.

A JUST VERDICT. - The Quincy, Ill., Herald, says that the Grand Jury refused to find a bil against John Pigg, a lad about fourteen years of age, for shooting and killing a man named Pile The circumstances are, that Pile had quarreled with his wife, and threatened to beat her-she escared to the house of the boy's mother, was followed by Pile, who made demonstrations to whip her, when Mrs. Pigg interfered, saying that no woman should be whipped by a man in her house. Pile then struck the mother of the boy several times in the face, when the lad seized a shot gun I cannot believe that this administration will and shot him down, from the effects of which Pile died the next day. The neighbors persuaded the boy to go to Quincy and surrender himself, which he did, and the case being investigated, the jury

refused to indiet him. Benton after all is a man full of spontane

Benton after all is a man full of spontaneous greatness. They tell a story eminently characteristic of him.

A man in the George Law interest, approached him last session, while he was walking in Pennsylvania avenue, and said:

"Good morning, Mr. Benton."

The salute was returned.

"I see the mail steamer billia un to den."

"I see the mail steamer bill is up to-day."

"Benton, couldn't you be prevailed upon to go for the employment of more steamers by the government?"

"Aye, on one condition—that they could be used to transport such rascals as you are to some listant penal colony!"

THE LARGEST LIBRARY IN THE WORLD.—It is said that the Bibliotheque Nationale, in the Rue Rich elieu, at Paris, contains at the present time, four teen hundred thousand volumes. These are most ly in handsome binding of colored leather, enriched with gilt, and are placed in solid wall from floor to ceiling, with net work for protection as high as the hand can reach.