

# THE ATHENS POST.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENN., FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1850.

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*W. J. Anair*

## TERMS:

THE POST will be published every Friday at \$2 per year, payable within three months from the time of subscribing \$3.50 in six months—or \$3 if payment is delayed until the expiration of the year.

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## THE POST.

ATHENS, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1850.

**POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.**—Were our country filled up like Germany, one hundred and seventy-two persons to the square mile, the population would be five hundred millions. Europe contained one hundred and eighty-three millions of inhabitants in 1807; in 1848 they had increased to two hundred and sixty-two millions three hundred thousand in the same area. Excess of population, enormous taxation, and the scarcity of subsistence has driven millions to America within the last twenty years. At a former period, religious persecution banished thousands from other wise happy homes. In a few months we will have the decimal census of the United States for 1850, and we have seen a calculation, making the population represented twenty-one million twenty-seven thousand five hundred and twenty-seven, and giving the Eastern States twenty-five, the Middle, including Delaware, fifty-eight, Western, free, fifty, Southern, or slave, seventy-eight. Representatives in Congress, at one member for one hundred thousand persons, two hundred and eleven, which is too small a number for the transaction of business, and one representative to one hundred thousand constituents by far too few. Eighteen hundred and fifty-one will bring us a decimal return from the United Kingdom, which, in 1841, contained twenty-six millions eight hundred and thirty-five thousand one hundred and three inhabitants, and may give a return of nearly thirty million persons, notwithstanding an emigration of more than a million in ten years.—*National Intelligencer.*

**Reappearance of Cholera in New-Orleans.**—The New-Orleans Board of Health report 149 deaths by Cholera for the week ending March 23, the whole number of deaths being 234.

**A GOOD DIVIDEND.**—The Directors of the Mechanics' Bank of Augusta, have declared a Dividend of Ten per cent. out of the profits of the past six months.

**STILL BETTER.**—The Directors of the Brunswick Bank, (Ga.) have also declared a Dividend of Fifteen per cent out of the last six months' profits.

**ASTOUNDING IF TRUE.**—We are informed that there will shortly be brought before the public a new locomotive, in which the requirements of either steam, fire, air, or water, will be dispensed with; its power of traction, while effective, will be perfectly safe—by it one-half at least of the present working expenses will be saved. Advocates will exert a powerful influence on all nations. Distant parts of the world, where steam ships, from the expenses of fuel, have not been, will soon be reached with facility. This motive power will advance all nations by a larger stride than ever steam has yet made.—*Mining Journal.*

Eight millions of dollars are annually paid (according to the Mobile Advertiser) for freights in shipping our cotton crop to Europe—that is \$5 per bale on 1,600,000 bales.

The Elephant Columbus, which killed its keeper at Philadelphia about two years since, had one of his vicious fits again on Saturday, during which he seized his keeper, and threw him a distance of fifteen feet, fortunately without inflicting any serious injury. An animal so dangerous should be killed at once.

A watchmaker in Liverpool has succeeded in drilling a hole through a six pence edge-wise. The diameter of the hole in the coin is the four thousandth part of an inch in size and barely sufficient to admit a fine hair.

Nothing is more impressive than mystery; even "Junius," himself, as an author, would have been forgotten long ago, if people had known who he was.

## SENTENCE OF DR. WEBSTER.

Dr. Jno. W. Webster, has been convicted of the murder of Dr. Parkman, and sentenced to be hung. The following is the sentence as pronounced by Chief Justice Shaw:

"John W. Webster: In meeting you here for the last time, to pronounce that sentence which the law has affixed to the high and aggravated offence of which you stand convicted, it is impossible by language to give utterance to the deep consciousness of responsibility, to the keen sense of sadness and sympathy, with which we approach this solemn duty. Circumstances which all who hear may duly appreciate, but which it may seem hardly fit to allude to in more detail, render the performance of this duty on the present occasion, most unspokeably painful. At all times, and under all circumstances, the feeling of indescribable solemnity attaches to the utterance of that stern voice of retributive justice, which consigns a fellow being to an untimely and ignominious death; but when we consider all the circumstances of your past life, your various relations in society, the claims upon you by others, the hopes and expectations you have cherished, with your present condition, and the ignominious death which awaits you, we are oppressed with grief and anguish; and nothing but a sense of imperative duty imposed on us by the law, whose officers and ministers we are, could sustain us in pronouncing such a judgment.

To this verdict, upon a careful revision of the whole proceedings, I am constrained to say, in behalf of the Court, that they can perceive no just or legal grounds of exception. Guilty! How much, under all these circumstances, which cluster around the case and through our memories with the retrospect, does this single word import; but the willful, violent and malicious destruction of the life of a fellow man in the peace of God, and under the protection of the law, yet of one in the midst of life, with bright hopes, warm affections, mutual attachments, strong, extensive, and numerous, making life a blessing to himself and others. We allude thus to the injury you have inflicted, not for the purpose of awakening one unnecessary pang, in a heart already lacerated; but to remind you of the irreparable wrong done to the victim of your cruelty—in sheer justice to him whose voice is now hushed in death, and whose wrongs can only be vindicated, by the living action of the law. If, therefore, you may, at any moment, think your case a hard one, and your punishment too severe;—if one repining thought arises in your mind, one murmuring word seeks utterance from your lips, think of him, instantly deprived of life, by your guilty hand; then, if not lost to all sense of retributive justice—if you have any compunctious rising of conscience, you may be ready to exclaim, in the bitter anguish of truth, 'I have sinned against Heaven and my own soul,—my punishment is just. God be merciful to me a sinner.'

God grant that your example may afford a solemn warning to all, especially to the young. May it impress deeply upon every mind the salutary lesson it is intended to teach, to guard against the indulgence of unhallowed and vindictive passion; to resist temptation to every selfish, sordid, and wicked purpose; to listen to the warnings of conscience and yield to the claims of duty, and whilst they instinctively shrink with abhorrence from the first thought of assailing the life of another, may they learn to reverence the laws of God and society, designed to secure protection to their own. We forbear, for obvious considerations, from adding such words of advice, as may be sometimes thought appropriate on occasions like this:—it has only been our province, on occasions like the present, to address the illiterate, the degraded, the outcast, whose early life has been cast amongst the vicious, the neglected, the abandoned—who have been blest with no means of moral and religious culture,—who have never received the benefits of cultivated society, nor enjoyed the sweet and ennobling influences of home. To such an one, a word of advice, upon an occasion so impressive, may be a word fitly spoken, and tend to good; but in a case like this, when these circumstances are all reversed, no word of ours could be more efficacious than the suggestions of your own better thoughts, to which we commend you.

Against the crime of willful murder, of which you stand convicted,—a crime at which humanity shudders,—a crime everywhere, and under all forms of society, regarded with the deepest abhorrence,—the law has denounced its severest penalties, in these few, simple, but solemn and impressive words:—"Every person who shall commit the crime of murder, shall suffer the punishment of DEATH for the same." The manifest object of this law, is the protection and security of human life,—the most important object of a just and paternal government. It is made the duty of this Court to declare this penalty

against any one, who shall have been found guilty, in due course of the administration of Justice, of having violated this law. It is one of the most solemn acts of judicial power which an earthly tribunal can be called upon to exercise. It is a high and exemplary manifestation of the sovereign authority of the law, as well in its stern and inflexible severity, as in its protecting and paternal benignity. It punishes the guilty with severity, in order that the right to the enjoyment of life, the most precious of all rights, may be more effectually secured. By the record before us, it appears that you have been indicted by the Grand Jury of this county, for the crime of murder, alleging that on the 23rd of November last, you made an assault on the person of Dr. Geo. Parkman, and by acts of violence you deprived him of life, with malice aforethought.

This is alleged to have been done within the apartments of a public institution in this city—the Medical College, of which you were a Professor and Instructor, upon the person of a man of mature age, well known, and of extensive connections in this community, and a benefactor of that Institution. The charge of an offence so aggravated, in the midst of a peaceful community, created an instantaneous outburst of surprise, alarm and terror, and was followed by universal and intense anxiety to learn, by the results of a judicial proceeding, whether this charge was true. The day of trial came, a court was organized to conduct it—a jury almost of your own choosing was selected, in the manner best calculated to insure intelligence and impartiality.—Counsel were appointed to assist you in conducting your defence, who have done all that learning, eloquence, and skill could accomplish, in presenting your defence in its best aspects. A very large number of witnesses were carefully examined, and after a laborious trial, of unprecedented length, conducted as we hope, with patience and fidelity—that jury have pronounced you guilty.

The last sad duty of pronouncing sentence, which is indeed the voice of the law, and not our own,—yet in giving it utterance, we cannot do it with the feelings of indifference, as a formal and official act. God forbid that we should be prevented from indulging and expressing those irrepressible feelings of interest, sympathy, and compassion, which arise spontaneously in our hearts. And we do most sincerely and cordially deplore the distressing condition into which crime has brought you, and though we have no word of present consolation, or of earthly hope, to offer you in this hour of your affliction, yet we devoutly commend you to the mercy of our Heavenly Father, with whom is abundance of mercy, and from whom we may all hope for pardon and peace. And now nothing remains but the solemn duty of pronouncing the sentence which the law fixes for the crime of murder, of which you stand convicted,—which sentence is, that you, John W. Webster, be removed from this place, and detained in close custody in the prison of this County, and thence taken, at such time as the Executive Government of this Commonwealth may, by their warrant approve, to the place of execution, and there be hung by the neck until you are dead—and may God, of his infinite goodness, have mercy on your soul.

**POWER OF STEAM.**—"Is it stam?" said an Irishman; "by the saintly St. Patrick, but it's a great thing intirely, for drivin' things—it put me through one State in a day!—divil wud he in it."

"Nine States?" exclaimed a dozen in astonishment.

"Yes, nine of them, he jabbers, as nisy as a cat 'ud lick her ear! D'yez see, now; I got married in New York in the mornin', and wint wid my wif, Diddy to Baltimore the same day—hould your wist now, and count the states. There was the State of matrimony, which I entered from a single state, and a sober state, in the State of New York, and I wint through New Jersey, Pinskyland and Dilwarer into Maryland, where I arrived in a most beautiful state of jollification! There is nine, by the rod of Moses—count 'em if yez like. Och! but stame's a scrouger!"

Dr. Channing says: "The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution, who resists the sorest temptations from within and without, who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully, who is calmest in storms, and most fearless under menace and frowns, whose reliance on truth, on virtue, on God, is most unflinching."

Will some smart man tell us the difference between cashmere and mere cash.—Who knows!

There is a man in Troy so mean that he wishes his landlord to reduce the price of his board because he has had two of his teeth extracted.

## PROGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following table, showing the period at which the several States have been admitted into the Union, tells more in relation to the progress of the country than could be told in a volume of crude speculation. The first thirteen of the list are the immortal States of the revolution. Vermont was the first State east of the Alleghenies to be admitted, and Kentucky the first State west of them. We are not intimately acquainted with the history of Vermont, but we know something of that of Kentucky and the west; and we undertake to say, that none of the colonies of ancient or modern times encountered more dangers and difficulties than the early settlers of Kentucky, and few of them as many as were encountered in every State now comprised within the Mississippi Valley.

When we remember that at the close of the revolutionary war there was not, probably, as many as one thousand white men in all the western States, and when we consider that a population of sixty thousand souls has been required by law to entitle a State to admission into the Union, the dates at which the States of the great valley were admitted exhibit a rapidity of improvement and advancement altogether unparalleled in the history of nations. But not only has this great valley been populated and reclaimed to the uses of civilization—the greatest mountain barrier in the world has been surmounted by American enterprise, and the foundation of new States laid, fronting on the Pacific, those ancient countries in which science and civilization had their birth-place:

State	Date	Year
1. Delaware.	7 Dec.	1787
2. Pennsylvania.	12 "	"
3. New Jersey.	18 "	"
4. Georgia.	2 Jan.	1788
5. Connecticut.	9 "	"
6. Massachusetts.	6 Feb.	"
7. Maryland.	28 April,	"
8. South Carolina.	23 May,	"
9. New Hampshire.	21 June,	"
10. Virginia.	20 "	"
11. New York.	2 July,	"
12. North Carolina.	20 Nov.,	1789
13. Rhode Island.	26 May,	1790
14. Vermont.	4 March,	1791
15. Kentucky.	1 June,	1792
16. Tennessee.	1 "	1796
17. Ohio.	23 Nov.,	1802
18. Louisiana.	8 April,	1812
19. Indiana.	11 Dec.,	1816
20. Mississippi.	10 "	1817
21. Illinois.	3 "	1818
22. Alabama.	4 "	1819
23. Maine.	15 March,	1820
24. Missouri.	10 Aug.,	1820
25. Arkansas.	15 June,	1834
26. Michigan.	30 "	1837
27. Florida.	7 March,	1845
28. Texas.	27 Dec.,	1845
29. Wisconsin.	29 "	1848
30. Iowa.	"	1849

There are three companions with whom a man should always keep on good terms—his wife, his stomach, and his conscience.

Mr. Wakely, the editor of the *Lancet*, has given it as his opinion that all drunkards are lunatics, and should be sent to the asylum.

It is well to remember sometimes that six feet of earth makes all all men of one size!

THAT AWFUL SQUINT.—Bennett, of the New York Herald, says his "cross-eye," was occasioned by watching the winding course of Martin Van Buren.

A SEAM BOAT EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The steamer *Troy*, on her passage from Sandusky to Buffalo, attempted to get into Black Rock, in a storm, to land her passengers, when her boilers exploded, occasioning the loss of some twelve lives, as far as was ascertained, besides a number of persons scalded and otherwise injured.

ST. LOUIS ELECTION.—T. W. Kennett, whig, is elected Mayor of St. Louis, by a majority of five hundred over the Benton candidate.

As length of life is denied to us, we should at least, do something to show that we have lived.

GROWING WHEAT CROPS IN WISCONSIN.—The Watertown (Wis.) Chronicle says:

"The winter has been unfavorable to the wheat crop. The absence of snow has exposed it to our strong wintery winds; while our warm days and freezing nights have seriously affected the tender roots."

AN ACTIVE LEGISLATOR.—Mr. Sawyer, a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, from Berlin, is the stage driver from that town to Action. He leaves Berlin every morning with his stage, and reaches Action in season for the first train of cars from Fitchburg, which arrives in this city about 9 o'clock, giving him two hours to deliver his packages, (for he is known, he runs an express in connection with his stage.) At eleven he is always found in his seat, ready to attend to the affairs of State, so far as Berlin is concerned. He is an interesting Legislator.—*Boston Bee.*

## MACHINE SERMONS, NO. 1.

BY LAZARUS LACHRY MOSE.

"Except ye do better, ye shall be saved under."

This emphatic declaration my hearers, comes home to the heart and gizzard of every mother's son of you. There is no use in salving up your consciences, and plastering them over with the ointment of your good deeds. Depend upon it my hearers, your consciences are like a sponge; when the time comes and the squeeze pinches, they will shrink up, and all those plasters will fall off, and leave your heart as black as a piece of burnt cork.

Some of you my hearers, belong to the "Sons of Temperance," some to the "Old Fellows," some to the "Masons," and many of you "ye wicked generation of vipers," are members of the churches; all very good so far as they go.

But I am afraid, some of you, "Sons of Temperance," send your jugs and decanters in at the back doors of the groceries and have them filled with "blue ruin; and some how or other, I fear that the stopper won't stay in. This course, my dear hearers, will not make your breath as pleasant as cologne. No, miscalled "Sons of Temperance," it will smell as bad to your wives and sweet-hearts as a pole cat in a cabbage patch. "Son of Temperance do not thus make a beast of yourself; stick as close to your pledge as red clay does to a white hog in the gutter, or a sixpence to some of your pockets.

"Old Fellowship," my erring friends and wayward hearers, I am afraid cloaks common fellows under its beautiful name.

Do not forget, my hearers, to be as upright as a dandy's collar, and honest as "old times" in this poor sinful world; act straight forward like a shingle and you will be odd enough; fear God and mind your own business, and you will be found true as cast-steel when the great crash comes.

My distressed hearers, I said some of you were "Masons." Well be masons, good and true. Don't go about building on the sands of your selfishness—if you do, they will tumble down one of these days and you will feel bad: when you build, dig down in your heart to the true grit, then lay the foundation with truth, build up the walls with justice and use the mortar of right, and when the winds blow and the storms come, your house will stand. Some of you have built mightily out of "plumb"—the level of equality some of you never use. Aint you ashamed of yourselves, you poor, miserable, worms of the dust and ashes? To ride rough shod over the humble creatures of God's creation who have not the almighty dollar. Look out old fellows; there is a time coming, when you will have as little on your backs as there is on a sheared sheep or a picked goose.

My impatient hearers, some of you belong to the Church, yes, belong to the Church, and I fear that is all. I am afraid the Church won't save some of you; you have not enough of the salt of godliness to save your bacon. The church can't take a man or a woman to heaven that carries too much weight; some of you I see are pretty well loaded. Look out, or you will miss the straight gate. My mistaken hearers, don't delude yourselves; a long face and a longer prayer are no recommendations in heaven; when you want to know how you stand before your maker, turn your bosom inside out and see how your heart is; that's the place to look at; old don't think that just belonging to the church will make you safe; that is only the sign that you are a christian or a knavish hypocrite, and not the seal of your salvation. It is an awful thing to drop off and find that you are going the wrong way to heaven.

"Thus saith the preacher: Amen."

DEFINITION OF DOGMATISM.—"Robert, my dear," said Jenny, with the deferential air of a scholar, "Robert, what did Mr. Carraways mean when he said he hated dog—dogmatism?"

"Dog was puzzled."

"Robert, my dear," Jenny urged, "what—what in the world is dogmatism?"

Now it was the weakness of Topps never to confess ignorance of any thing soever to his wife. "A man should never do it." Topps had been known in a convivial season to declare, "it makes 'em conceited."—Whereupon Topps prepared himself, as was his wont, to make a solemn, satisfying answer. Taking off his hat and smoothing the wrinkles of his brow, Topps said, "Humph! what is dogmatism! Why, it is this, of course; dogmatism is puppyism come to its full growth."

How to DRIVE A HORSE.—As you would save the strength and wind of a horse, drive slow up hill; and as you value your own and the life of the horse, drive slow down hill. But on level ground—if you must drive fast—draw a straight rein and "let him slide."

## TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION.

The following are the remarks of Miss Camron on presenting the Bible to the Polk Division Sons of Temperance, at the celebration at Benton on the 16th March 7

Sir:—I have the honor of being chosen on behalf of the Ladies of Benton and vicinity, to present in their names, to the Polk Division of the Sons of Temperance, a copy of the Holy Bible. They request its acceptance, as a testimonial of the high and approving consideration with which they regard the order of the Sons of Temperance. Its sacred pages are stored with precepts, breathing, not only the purest piety, but also the most elevated philanthropy. In it is found that great commandment, on which is based the order of the Sons of Temperance,—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self."

Be pleased, Sir, to receive this Volume, and may its noble teachings strengthen and guide you onward in the glorious cause in which you are engaged. The banner which you unfurl does not invite to that stern conflict of arms, where foeman contends against foeman in battle array, but it waves its chastened folds over the peaceful contest of self against self. They who come forth victors in such a combat, deserve to wear a crown of honor more splendid than ever decked the brow of a victorious chief.

Sons of Temperance: The pious, the wise, the good, the generous and noble, cheer you onward. Fathers, Mothers, Brothers, Sisters, the moral would cry, on! In so ennobling a cause, let none falter—let all persevere even unto the end.—In conclusion, permit me to express the hope, that your future progress may be most brilliantly marked with Love for the order, Purity of motive, and Fidelity to principle.

Mr. Renfrow replied as follows:

Miss Camron: I feel myself honored on this occasion, in receiving at your hands this, the best of all gifts. Proud am I, that that particular order of men whom I represent, and whom the Ladies esteem so highly, have accounted me worthy the name of a brother and fellow-laborer, in the accomplishment of the great end which we, the Sons of Temperance, propose.—You come as the legal representative of the Ladies of Benton and vicinity, and as such, you bring this Bible which you request us to receive, in testimony of the warm feelings you entertain for the order of the Sons of Temperance. This being your request, suffer me to declare to you in the name of our order, and with you, your fair constituents, that it is with no ordinary degree of pleasure that I comply with the requests of the Ladies on all occasions, but more especially the delightful task which you now impose. With proud satisfaction, we receive at your hands this Volume, and with it we are pleased to have your good wishes, your influence, and your helping hand.

The truths contained in this Book, the genuineness and authenticity of its different parts, its uncompleted preservation, its inestimable value, its divine origin present an inexhaustible fund of materials for our consideration and meditation. It is the only sufficient rule for our faith and practice, and the one by which we should be governed in all our actions. It is alone an infallible guide to our lives and conduct.—This Book we should read and study with prayerful attention, in order to become well informed and wise unto salvation.—The good effects of this Book have been seen and felt in all countries into which it has found its way. It is that, before which, the powers of darkness recede, and the world is made wiser and better. Without the Bible, we know nothing as we should; but with it, God has given us all things necessary to our salvation. It is a beacon light to direct man into the way of righteousness and joy, leading from this wo stricken world to the salubrious climes of ineffable glory. Truly may we say in the language of the Poet,

O! blessed book, of books the best, Dearest gift of God but one; And that surpassed all the rest, The gift of Christ, "His only Son."

And now brethren, Sons of Temperance, what have we to fear? We may come to naught, it is true, but if we do, it will be chargeable alone upon our unfaithfulness, as Sons and brethren; for while we adhere to the principles of our order, which principles are founded upon the precepts of the Bible, enjoining it upon all men to love one another, we may go on—our efforts being crowned with great success. Having the Ladies to befriend us, the Bible to direct, and God to bless and help us, we will unfurl our banner to the breeze, bid defiance to our enemies, go on our way rejoicing, and with the approving smiles of the fair donors of this Book, we will come off more than conquerors!

A friend of ours, who refuses to emigrate to California, gives as a reason, that, "there is more gold in this country than he can gather." A pretty good reason, we think.