

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1849.

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE BOND BUSINESS.

Our attention has recently been called to an article in the State Gazette, relative to the Board of Public Works, which had heretofore escaped our observation, notwithstanding the fact that we are as close readers as we are sincere admirers of the general views expressed through the editorial columns of that sterling sheet. The article in question insinuated that attacks had been made upon the Board by democratic papers, which attacks the editor did not approve. Now, if a refusal to endorse all the official acts and recommendations of the Board, together with our personal efforts and earnest remonstrances, as private individuals, during the sitting of the Legislature, against the celebrated Bond business, be construed into attacks upon the Board, then we have rendered ourselves liable to the imputation. It is true, we have published one or two communications, reflecting rather pointedly upon the tenacity with which certain members of the Board advocated the anti-democratic and ruinous policy which would have involved the State to an almost indefinite extent, through the issue of \$200,000 to \$500,000 worth of State Bonds, bearing 10 per cent annual interest, redeemable in twenty years, for the prosecution of the Des Moines improvement. As far as relates to the ruinous tendency of the bond policy, we cordially concur in the views expressed by our correspondents; while a regard for truth compels us to admit the truth of his charge, to the effect that the President, at least, if not one other member of the board in attendance upon the sitting of the Legislature, were the originators of at least one, and the main advocates of all the bills before the Legislature, authorizing the issue of bonds.

Let us not be understood now as wishing to censure these members who were induced to vote for those bills, from a false impression as to the local advantages which would thereby be secured to their immediate constituents, nor yet as entirely exculpating them from blame for the act. The task which we have set ourselves down to, is to defend ourselves against the imputation of hostility towards the Board of Public Works, if, as we suppose, we were included in the list of democratic journals whom the Gazette intimates as hostile to some of its acts. Such hostility we do not feel. The members of the Board are our political, and most of them we believe, have always been our warm personal friends. But this fact cannot blind our eyes so far as to believe them invulnerable in all their official acts and recommendations. Neither can it so far alter our blunt our understandings, as to induce us to believe that a course of policy which, in a whig administration, would meet the unequalled censure and merited disapprobation of the democracy of the State, must, as a matter of course, be regarded as free from censure or reproach when advocated by a set of men who have been elevated to place by the high voice of the democracy of the State.

The censurable feature of the bills relative to the Board of Public Works, (which, as every member and looker-on here last winter well knows, was strongly advocated by certain of its members, was a clause, introduced with the most perverse perseverance, upon its successive repudiation, into three several bills) authorized the issue, in advance of the sale of the lands, of bonds of the State, predicated upon the Des Moines grant, equal to \$1.00 for every acre of land contained in said grant. These bonds were to be redeemable in twenty years, and were to bear an interest of 10 per cent per annum. As it is not to be expected that the State would be able to pay an interest of from \$200,000 to \$500,000, on \$200,000 or \$500,000 worth of bonds, the natural consequence would have been doubtless in a few years, a debt of several millions of dollars accumulating yearly against the State, without the hope of ultimate redemption.

Thus much we deem necessary to say, in justification of any remarks of ours which may have been construed into wanton and unprovoked censure, by those unacquainted with the facts which have called, and called loudly, too, we think, for the expression of sentiments of decided disapprobation from us as conductors of a public, and especially a democratic journal, looking to the future financial credit of the State and to the well-being of our party.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—There was a fire at Watertown, New York, on Sunday, which destroyed the principal business houses in the place, including the Surrogate's Office, Postoffice and contents. The Northern and Southern Mails were destroyed. One life lost. The entire loss is estimated at \$200,000 of which \$120,000 is covered by insurance.

THE CREVASSE AT FORTIER'S PLANTATION.—We learned last evening that the work at this place had been abandoned as hopeless, and the water allowed to take its course. The breach is about 300 yards wide, and in places 20 feet deep. Some four or five plantations have already been ruined, and there is every prospect of many others sharing a like fate. —N. O. Bulletin.

THE TWO NORTHERN COMMISSIONERS OF THE BUFFALO AND MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD COMPANY write from New York, that they have arranged with some capitalists at the east, for a large portion of the stock from Lima, Indiana, to Chicago. At the Indiana line, they expect to connect with the Southern Railroad from Monroe. —Det. Com. Bulletin.

BISHOP DOANE, of New Jersey, has failed for \$220,000, and is said to be able to pay but a trifling per cent. upon his liabilities. The fortune of his wife, formerly Miss Perkins, of Boston, is said not to be involved in this calamity. Her income is about \$12,000 a year. —N. Y. Post.

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More Heads On.

We understand that information has been received of the removal of the highly popular, able and efficient land officers in this city, and of the appointment in their place of Gen. Easton Morris, editor of the Republican, as Receiver, and Doctor Jesse Bowen, whig elector, as Register. During the period of time which neither here nor there. They were democrats, and must give place to Gen. Taylor's partizan friends, as hundreds have done before them throughout the country during the two past months.

As to the gentlemen who have been appointed to fill these offices, we have nothing to say against their capacity or their honesty. But in relation to one of the selections, (that of Doct. Bowen) he is a loud-mouthed, brawling politician, and has been an aspirant for office at the hands of the people in this State for a long succession of years, without once meeting with success. He may make a good officer, however, as far as the bare discharge of his duties is concerned; but he is entirely too overbearing and dictatorial for us to suppose that he will give anything like the universal satisfaction that his successor has always given.

The office, in his hands, will be used almost exclusively as an electioneering machine. Although he is notoriously unpopular, even with his own party, still whigs who have business with his office may get along with him. Democrats, however, must make up their minds to the excessive annoyance of his natural disposition to obtrude politics into everything, in connection with his overbearing disposition. While we are disposed to give the Taylor administration the full length of rope asked for, his is one of those extremely obnoxious appointments which calls for a check from a democratic Senate.

As to Gen. Morris, although thorough and radical whig, we think we may safely say, that if the democratic incumbent must be removed, no appointment which could have been made from the whig ranks would have given such universal satisfaction as his will give. And in this expression of our own personal satisfaction at our cotemporary's good fortune, we merely echo the sentiments of almost every man, democrat as well as whig, in town. He will also make an efficient, as well as an obliging and gentlemanly officer. His appointment is understood to have been procured through other influences than that of the notorious dictator, Fitz Warren, in contrast with whose character, that of Gen. Morris is in direct opposition.

Whining.

In connection with the information which we this week give our readers, informing them of another instance of Gen. Taylor's violated pledges—a clear case of proscription for opinion's sake—we disclaim the imputation of "whining," which has been thrown out against us in regard to similar announcements. We do not whine; for we are not at all disappointed in Gen. Taylor's course, in unblushingly violating, and thus early, the only distinct pledge which he made to the people. The democratic incumbents of these offices do not "whine" at sharing the fate of the host of good and true men whose heads have fallen before them. But if the whigs, after their cowardly refusal to announce "removals," as such, openly and above board, think to deter us from informing the people of their treachery, by absurdly constraining our faithful expositions into "whining" at the fate of our democratic friends, they will be very apt to find themselves disappointed in their expectations. We regard Gen. Taylor's promises before, and his performances after election, as a gross fraud upon the American people, as base in design as it is ungrateful and unblushing in its perpetration. As such we shall always speak of it—not deeming that the exalted position of the perpetrator of the fraud should be a bar to a just expression of honest indignation, but on the contrary, imposes upon him obligations of a higher nature, to set an example of good faith, honor and probity before the people whom he has so basely betrayed.

In view of Doctor Dictator's appointment, it has been suggested that the city council have the streets widened before his return from Washington. We don't believe he can expand much more, however; if he does, a whole deputation of "our friends from the western border, who are not in the habit of hearing political speaking," might safely "pass between him."

WAGON-BUILDERS, blacksmiths and others in this and Iowa, Linn and Cedar counties, who are in want of iron or other hardware, will find it to their advantage to call on our friend Sanxay, in preference to going to the river towns. Of iron he has some fifty or sixty tons, and as it was brought here by steam, he can afford it as low if not lower, than can be bought on the Mississippi. Try him.

Kissing the Rod.

The public have been looking on for some time past, to see if the whig party of Iowa would tamely bow to the dictation of Fitz Warren, in his absolute disposition of the general government appointments in this State. That a protest has been made against it by some of the more respectable portion of the whigs of Iowa, appears to be conceded, even by the Hawkeye. That sheet, however, seems to deny the soft impeachment of the Gazette, to the effect that "the whigs have determined no longer to submit to the rule of Fitz Henry Warren," and "mean to set up for themselves." He conjures them to bow the knee, that "thrift may follow lawning." Hear what he says, ye whigs, and open your mouths no more against the Prince of Hog Drivers.

"LOOK OUT."—When loco loco editors begin to praise and commend the action of whigs, it is time for whigs to think of the consequences. If these editors had nothing to gain for their party by such praise they would not utter it. We deny the statement made in the Gazette of yesterday and which follows:—

"The most sensible thing we have heard of for a long time is the determination of the whigs no longer to submit to the rule of Fitz Henry Warren. They say they have submitted to the control of the 'one man power' long enough and hereafter mean to set up for themselves. It is no secret that a large number of the most influential of the party have written in signing and forwarding a protest to Washington against permitting him to exercise any influence whatever in the appointments to be made for this State; and this movement, we are informed, will be followed up in other parts of the State."

"We recommend whigs to adhere to their principles, to stand shoulder to shoulder in their defence and propagation, and not permit themselves to be swayed from their duty by any appointments or disappointments. 'Men are nothing, principles everything.' If this be the true whig motto—as we believe it is—the 'sober second thought' will lead all true whigs to rally around and uphold it, thus discountenancing all profling of 'aid and comfort to the enemy.' With 'Old Zack' for their leader, the whigs can accomplish much, even in Iowa."

DIDN'T HE FEEL CHEAP?—Some of the workmen about the Capital, finding an empty pocket-book, among the rubbish, stuffed it with divers old papers, musty tobacco quids, etc., and, trying it carefully, left the tempting bait near the door.

A stranger who had not yet seen the elephant, happening to drop in soon after, took himself in, in the following manner:—Walking somewhat briskly towards the door, he made a sudden stoop, or rather squat, and without stopping his headway, thrust the prize safely and quickly into his breeches pocket. Passing around to the end of the building and looking carefully about, he apparently thought himself not quite secure enough from observation there to examine into the extent of his good luck; so going down into the river bottom, he went around to the rear of an old building for that purpose. From thence he was soon observed going away with his chin resting upon his breast, and his hands performing evolutions somewhat similar to those of a man who had been using his fingers for a candle-snuffer.

Wonder if he went always experience an unpleasant sensation in the ends of his fingers in future, at the bare sight of a quid of the weed?

It is rumored in town that Wallace and Wilson have been appointed to the Fairfield Land office, and Thos. McKnight, one of the officers of the Dubuque Land Office.

The use of Lime.

The free use of lime as a disinfecting agent, appears to be universally admitted to be one of the best preventives against cholera. The common council of Burlington have provided a supply for that city, and we hope our "city fathers," who have thus far proceeded with commendable promptness in the discharge of their official duties, will expend a small appropriation for the same object. The following extract is in relation to the good effect produced by similar means in St. Louis:

LIME LIME!—A letter from St. Louis dated on Saturday last says:—
"Exhort your fellow citizens to Lime their city in time, and not wait till the scourge is upon them. It has certainly checked the disease in this city at its first furious onset. The city is not all Lime yet, but where it is so the benefit is not only perceptible, but very great, rendering the air sweet, and the infected neighborhoods comparatively healthy. The ministers of St. Louis are very active. Bishop Hawks has not scarcely had his clothes off for two weeks, and has scarcely slept within that time."

AXOS TRUCK, lately elected to Congress from New Hampshire, by the whigs, who took him up after the abolitionists had nominated him, has formally given in his adhesion to the name, as well as the principles of the whigs. He says:—
"The editors who have assigned to me all sorts of opinions, will take my presence here this evening as evidence that I have gone over, hook and line, to the whigs. I am here this evening to be with my friends and my enemies may make the most of it."

JAMES GORDON BENNET has declared his intention of becoming an American citizen, and has taken out his first papers.

CUNNING, VERY.—Speaking of the coming election of a Board of Public Works, the Hawkeye indicates the following policy for its party. It says:—
"In the meantime, as the citizens of the Des Moines Valley are more deeply interested in the improvement than those of any other portion of the State, and as we think they ought to have the principal say in the matter, let them bring out three competent independent candidates, irrespective of party, and let the whigs throughout the State give such candidates their support."

If the editor of the Hawkeye thinks to withdraw any portion of the democratic strength of the southern portion of the State from the regular nominees of the Democratic State Convention soon to be held, by an entirely local nomination, he will find himself grievously disappointed in the outcome. The votes of the southern democracy at the August and November elections ought to satisfy old Hawk that they are not to be tampered with.

NEW GOVERNMENT BANKER.—The New York True Sun, after giving an able exposure of the villainous conduct of the management of the United States Bank, previous to the final catastrophe, states that Samuel Jaudon, while agent for the bank in London, received \$344,076.39 for three and a quarter years services. Regular salaries, office expenses and extra commissions make up the immense amount. The True Sun adds:—

"The whigs went out of power, but have again found an available military chieftain, whose sword has opened to them the treasury, and public report announces Samuel Jaudon, Esq., agent and ex-cashier, as the government banker at Washington. A new national bank is out of the question; no person would subscribe to its capital nor any business man acknowledge its expediency. The rigid operation of the independent treasury is the surest safeguard against the gigantic political bribes that attended the old institution, and the existence of a national debt is the only link between brokers and bankers and the government. The cashier of the late national bank being re-established at Washington, the vice president is arranging his plan of a great national paper issue which he announced in his report as comptroller of New York, and a meeting in New England proposes the issue of \$50,000,000 of a stock for railroad to California. These are some of the elements that are called in action in less than sixty days from the succession of the whigs to power, and they will from the meshes in which the old general and his notions of independence will be bundled up and laid away to dry."

A TRUE PICTURE.—The Enquirer, (which has a good article yesterday, which pays the following just and eloquent, tho' unconscious, compliment to the great democratic party that has governed this country, with rare exceptions, from the beginning of our career:—
"We are at peace with the world. Our flag is respected by all civilized nations. The American name never stood higher than at this moment. The present is prosperous, the future is bright with promise. Labor finds abundant employment and remunerative wages. Confidence has once more appeared in our commercial and monetary circles."

These are the fruits of Democratic policy. What will the picture be when the whig administration begins to be felt by the country.—Pennsylvanian.

An historical event is connected with the recent death of Mrs. Gerry, widow of Elbridge Gerry, once vice President of the United States, which belongs to the country. Charles Carroll, of Maryland, was the last survivor of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; the widow of Elbridge Gerry, was the last survivor of those American women holding this relation to the men of 1776, who pledged to the support of that declaration "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors."

CANADA.—The Detroit Free Press says:—
The press distant from the line between the United States and Canada, really believes the stories of Canada sincere in their talk about annexation. It is not looked upon in any other light than a display of demagoguism here on the line. The wrong class of men are pretending to urge it. A month hence no more will be heard of it.

THE NEW YORK RIOT.—The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict justifying the authorities in firing upon the mob; also, expressing an opinion that if a larger number of police had been ordered out a resort to military force might have been avoided.

FROM WASHINGTON.—General Scott has been ordered to resume command of the Army. The head quarters of the Eastern Division is to be in the vicinity of New York City, and of the Western Division in Cincinnati.

A SINCERE.—When Dr. Gwin resigned the office of Superintendent of the building of the new custom house, in Mississippi, he declared that after the arrival of Col. Turnbull, the engineer, the Colonel was able to discharge all the duties of Superintendent. We see, however, that President Taylor has appointed a successor, in the person of John A. Crockett, who will thus receive eight dollars per day for doing nothing.

SOME OF THE OFFICE SEEKERS are down on Taylor for raising the test of honesty, capacity and fidelity. They allege that it was more than was required of him, either at his nomination or election.

THE FASTIDIOUS EDITOR of the Yankee Blade gives the following among other "hints on matrimony":—"Don't be surprised if after you have sailed smoothly eight or ten months on the voyage of matrimony, you are suddenly overtaken by squalls."

Further Particulars of the Saint Louis Fire.

The point at which the fire first started on shore was at the corner of Locust street and Levee.

The corner house and three buildings above it fronting the Levee, were destroyed. The flames then crossed Locust street, and swept every house, with one exception, on the blocks fronting the Levee and Main street, and extending from Locust street southward to Chesnut, a distance of three squares. At Chesnut it crossed to the next block south, at the junction of Commercial Alley with this street, and from the Alley to Main down to Market street, burning all except two buildings at the corner of Market street and Commercial Alley. At the junction of Market and Main, the flames crossed diagonally to Market Street House and followed both sides of Market up to Second.

Then crossing Main street, the flames swept every building from Locust to Market street, except the row of four-story fire proof buildings just below Locust, passing up Pine, Chestnut and Market streets the devouring element consumed every building in the two blocks intervening between the streets mentioned and Main and Second, and those on nearly half of the block north of Olive. Here its ravages were stayed in this part of the city.

Before the progress of the flames could be arrested, it was found necessary to blow up one or two houses near the corner of Market and Second, and in doing so, at least three persons were killed. The fragments of one of their bodies were found in the opposite side of the street, one near Walnut on Second, and the thigh bone and a foot belonging to another near the foot of Walnut, some two or three squares from where the houses were blown up. These, with the boy burnt on the Levee, make four that are now at the Police Office.

At the foot of Elm, the fire made another lodgment, and spreading diagonally through this block, swept up to Main, and down Spruce, a distance north and south of two squares, and crossing Main, carried nearly every thing before it up nearly to Third. Three squares west of its starting point at Main, flames crossed Elm, and consumed one fourth of the block north and west of Main. From the foot of Elm, up its southern side, to Second, a distance of two squares, not a house is standing. South Market and Town Hill were saved, but by great exertions were saved. The Police arrested and confined in the Calaboose nearly fifty persons for stealing at the fire.

Various rumors are afloat relative to losses of different persons, and two or three of our valued citizens we believe lost. The streets, which are laid out very narrow, are choked up with fallen walls of houses and destroyed property of various kinds.

LIST OF BARS, FURNISHED.

Taylor	\$2,000
Allen	1,500
Smith	1,000
Rail	1,000
Carlson	1,000
Acosta	1,000
Franklin	1,000
Edward Bates	1,000
St. Peters	1,000
Alex. Hamilton	1,000
Eliza Stewart	1,000
Nathan	1,000
Gen. Brooke	1,000
Borah	1,000
Amor	1,000
Montague	1,000
Timmer	1,000
Stewart	1,000
White Cloud	1,000
Radnor	1,000
Red Wing	1,000
Harlan	1,000
Probie	1,000
Belleville	1,000

Estimated value of steamboat stock \$318,000. Produce destroyed on the landing \$50,000. Cargoes \$150,000. Total, steamboats, &c., \$518,000.

HORACE GREELY says: "There was once a party in this country, to which it was our pride and pleasure to belong, united by a common attachment to certain leading principles touching the proper action of the federal government.—That party was called the whig party."

A young lady, who was rebuked by her mother for kissing her intended, justified herself by quoting the passage:—"Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

The London Punch touches one of the fashionable follies of the day in the following delicate and quiet manner:—"Young ladies should take care not to sit near a piano; for it is a well known fact, that the instrument has caused more dreadful colds than all the thin shoes and draughts in the world. The most beautiful creatures, who were perfectly well and laughing the minute before, have no sooner approached a grand piano than they have been suddenly seized with a sore throat, and have lost in a minute the use of their voice." This complaint is less taking to the young lady grows older, and rarely has any effect in a family where there are several sisters."

PROFANE LANGUAGE is to conversation what thin inch spurs would be to venturing—splitting, shivering and defacing it. It is in bad taste, offensive to a majority and gratifying to none.

Our very manner is a thing of importance. A kind "No" is often more agreeable than a rough "Yes."

An article in a southern paper, announcing a person's decease, says "his remains were committed to that bourn where no traveller returns, attended by his friends."

LETTER FROM GEN. TAYLOR.—Don't start reader; it is an old one, written before the election.

"If I ever accept that high office, it must be untrammelled by Party obligations of any kind."

"I have no enemies to punish, or friends to reward."

Z. TAYLOR.

"Oh she was fair: But sorrow came and left its traces there."

What became of the balance of the business he don't state. [Low. Democrat.]

A Theological Seminary is about to be established at Galena, Ill., under the auspices of the General Assembly of the