

Pioneer & Democrat.

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TERMS OF THE
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The Legislature.

This body, for a week or more has been assembling daily at the Capitol, but without a quorum. A number of members of the House, who have been absent on visits to their families returned to the city yesterday; and there is no doubt but a quorum will be found in their seats this morning. The attendance of members during the holidays, shows a large majority of those who have remained at their post to do business to be Democrats, while the Republicans, all most to a man have absented themselves, and without asking leave of absence. This is a sufficient refutation of the falsehoods of the *Minnetonka* concerning the Democratic members.

The Pre-emption System.

We are glad to see that the Hon. M. G. MURPHY, Senator from Scott county, has introduced into the Legislature, and secured its passage through the Senate, of a Memorial to the United States, protesting against further sales of public lands in Minnesota, and asking that the remainder of the national domain in this State, may be absorbed by pre-emption.

In this measure, Major MURPHY, has but consulted the wishes of nine-tenths of our people. We hope he will succeed, in securing for his reasonable and just proposition, the approval of President BUCHANAN.

Suppression of Important News in Order to Lie Successfully.

The *Minnetonka*, in referring to the fact that the PIONEER AND DEMOCRAT is invariably ahead of its contemporaries in the publication of news, attempts to break the force of our statements as to the receipt of telegraphic news, by the following assertion:

But, as to the alleged news itself, we have a word to say. It consists of Foreign News purporting to have been brought by the Steamer *Persia*, arrived at New York on the 25th of December from Liverpool. We have looked it carefully over, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it substantially, and a portion of it word for word, the same news brought by the *Adriatic* at New York on the 21st. Let any person refer to the foreign intelligence received by the last named steamer, and compare it with the *Persia's* alleged dispatch, and the coincidence (?) will strike them as forcibly as it did us.

The news by the *Adriatic* was telegraphed to Prairie du Chien expressly for this paper, and published on Sunday morning, the 27th of December. The same news appeared in the *Minnetonka* on the following Tuesday—only two days after its appearance in our paper.

The *Persia* arrived at New York on the 26th. Her news was telegraphed to Prairie du Chien for this paper; it was published on Friday morning, the first inst., in the PIONEER AND DEMOCRAT; and was received in Saint Paul, in the Chicago papers, by mail, on Saturday night last, but was SUPPRESSED by the editor of the *Minnetonka* (the "author of the Sunday caucus lie") in order that he might indulge his natural proclivity for falsehood and slander, by asserting that the *Persia's* news published by the Chicago papers on the 27th ult., and by the PIONEER AND DEMOCRAT on the first, was "the same news brought to New York by the *Adriatic* on the 21st," and published by us on the 27th.

We don't think any comment is specially required after the above exhibit. It shows the editor of the *Minnetonka* in the same light he figured before the public, while floundering in the meshes of his Sunday caucus falsehood—the authorship of which is destined to be the distinguishing exploit of his editorial career.

Willie A. Gorman, Attorney at Law.

By reference to a card printed in our advertising columns, it will be seen that Ex-Governor GORMAN, announces himself as about to engage in the practice of law in our various courts. Governor GORMAN commenced the practice of law in Indiana in 1834, and continued it successfully for the period of eighteen years, and up to the date of his removal to Minnesota. The ability of Governor GORMAN is well known to the people of our State, and we have no doubt he will find the change from politics to law not only agreeable but remunerative.

Kansas Matters.

By the St. Louis *Republican* of the 22d ult., we have Kansas advices to the 22d, the day after the election was held on the slavery proposition submitted by the Lecompton Convention. The returns of the election are meagre, but it is rendered certain that the Constitution with slavery has been carried by a large majority. In the Free State localities, at Lawrence, Topeka, &c., the polls were not opened. We judge that none but pro-slavery men voted.

Secretary DENVER has assumed the Governorship of the Territory, and issued an address in which he exhorts citizens to appeal to the ballot box for the settlement of difficulties. He makes copious extracts from the President's instructions as indicative of the line of policy he designs pursuing. He also states that Mr. CALHOUN invited him and the presiding officers of both Houses of the Territorial Legislature to be present at the counting of the returns of the election held on the 21st.

A convention of the Free State men of Kansas was to have been held at Lawrence, on the 23d. The question to be decided by the Convention, was the expediency of going into an election for State officers. Many favor such a course with a view to crush the State Government. STANTON's name was mentioned for Governor.

A letter dated Lawrence 21st, says Gen. LANE has gone to Fort Scott, with the avowed intention to destroy that place and exterminate the pro-slavery settlers on the Shawnee reservation, and carry the war into Missouri. General LANE is a fool.

The Kansas Legislature adjourned on the 17th.

Upon the 14th inst., a law passed both branches of the Legislature, providing for the organization of the Territorial militia.

This law repealed all the militia laws enacted by the last Legislature. The new organization takes place under the supervision of a board of officers, consisting of one major general, eight brigadier generals, one adjutant general, one inspector general, one quartermaster general, one commissary general, and one surgeon general. These officers are elected by the Legislature. The governor of the Territory is a member of the board, and is commander-in-chief of the militia.

The military board has power to organize, equip, drill, and put into a serviceable shape the militia of the Territory. A majority of the board are empowered to call out the militia in any emergency, and to act independent of the commander-in-chief.

This militia bill, after passing both branches of the Legislature, was sent to Secretary STANTON for his approval. After considering the matter two days, Mr. STANTON returned the following answer:

To the House of Representatives of the Territory of Kansas.

GENTLEMEN: Herewith I return the bill entitled "An act to organize and regulate the militia of the Territory of Kansas," which was presented yesterday for my approval, but from which I am compelled to withhold my sanction.

No necessity seems to me to demand a re-organization of the militia at the present time; and such a measure is not, in my judgment, legitimately connected with the general purpose for which the Legislative Assembly is now convened. Moreover, I am deeply impressed with the importance of avoiding everything which, at this critical juncture of affairs, might serve to irritate the minds of the people, and arouse apprehensions, such as might naturally be engendered by any military movement whatever.

Looking to the provisions of the bill itself, I dissent from that part of it which provides for the election of general officers by the two houses of the Legislative Assembly. If any change should be made from the present mode of appointment, I am of opinion that the officers in question should be elected by the people, or by those who are liable to be called into service under the law.

But the most fatal objection to the proposed law, and that which is entirely conclusive to my mind, is to be found in the seventh section, which authorizes "a majority of the military board to call out the militia in any emergency." By the organic act, the Governor of the Territory is made commander-in-chief of the militia, and is charged with the duty of seeing the laws faithfully executed. The proposed law would virtually depose him from his position, and would place him in the power of a board composed of the general officers of the militia, including himself it is true, but in which he might at any time be overruled by the majority.

In my judgment such a law would be in direct conflict with the organic act, and would therefore be null and void. If, however, it might be considered legally valid, it would be hostile to the acknowledged principles of civil liberty, which require the subordination of the military to the civil power. To confer upon a majority of the general officers of the militia, the power to judge of the occasion when the military force of the territory should be called into action, would be to establish a military despotism of the most dangerous and pernicious character.

With these objections I return the bill in question to the House in which it originated.

FRED. P. STANTON.

Lecompton, Dec. 13, 1857.
Secretary STANTON's veto was expected by all parties. The Legislature upon receiving his refusal to sanction it, passed the bill over the veto by a two-thirds vote.

—All that the extra session of the Legislature accomplished, may be stated as follows: The repeal of the law calling the Lecompton Convention; the passage of the militia law; a law to punish election frauds; and a law submitting the Lecompton Constitution to the people.

The adoption of a Constitution, legalizing the institution of slavery, in Kansas, will certainly complicate the question of the admission of the Territory. It is well known that four-fifths of the people of Kansas are op-

posed to slavery, and this fact, taken in connection with the refusal to submit the entire Constitution, may produce a change in the policy of the Administration, and result in sending the Constitution, with the slavery clause included, back to the people for their approval or rejection. This will probably be accompanied by the passage of an enabling act, similar to that under which the Constitution of Minnesota was framed. In fact, the following from the Washington correspondence of the New York *Herald*, looks as if a settlement of the Kansas question, on fair grounds, was not quite so far off as we have been assured it was:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—An important movement is on foot which promises an early settlement of the Kansas agitation. It is intended, when the Lecompton Constitution comes on, to take it up by the friends of the Administration, both as a party measure and as a formal assertion of the Democratic principle of Popular Sovereignty. The Constitution will be passed, with a proviso that it shall be presented to the people of Kansas for final acceptance and ratification. It will not be thrown out or discussed, for the provision of final submission to the people will silence the opposition. While it carries the great point aimed at by the Administration, it localizes the Kansas imbroglio, and allows the Kansas people to treat the question as they see fit. There will be no excuse thereafter for the further interference of Congress, and no agitators in or out of Kansas, can rehash it into an important national issue. To guard against such a possibility, and to avoid every excuse for a disruption of the Democratic party, an enabling act will be incorporated in the new bill as an alternative, in case the Lecompton Constitution is rejected by the people of Kansas. This will provide a safe, direct, and unimpeachable mode of framing such a Constitution as the people of Kansas desire, under the formal sanction of Congress, and surrounded with all possible and constitutional and popular requirements.—The movement is a Southern one.

By the mail which arrived last evening, we received the following:

St. Louis, Dec. 29.—Leavenworth, Kansas, dates to the 25th, have been received, giving the vote of that city 238 for slavery and 9 against. Much excitement prevailed. Many Missourians were present, some of whom voted, swearing in their votes. The form of oath administered was, "Are you at this instant an inhabitant of this Territory?" Several Missourians were arrested. Judge Lecompton issued writs of habeas corpus for their release.

Calhoun was burned in effigy.
Ely Moore was shot in the leg by a German.

It was rumored that General Denver had issued an order for the arrest of Lane.

Senators non Priores.

The late disasters in India, clearly traceable to "old fogeyism," will, at all events, have one beneficial effect upon the army, both Indian and British, in showing how imperative the call has been, for some time past, for an improvement in the seniority system. The following anecdote will illustrate our remarks in the most forcible manner:

It may not be generally known that Gen. CORCOS, previous to disarming the Peshawar force, called the commandants of the native corps together, and informed them that he had determined to disarm their regiments. The commandants were (as has been almost invariably the case) violently against it, so much so that the General wavered; and had Brigadier General Nicholson not been present, (who urged the necessity of the measure in his own forcible, straightforward language), this most urgent and wise step would have fallen to the ground.

Did General Nicholson ask the opinion of the commandants of the 33d, 35th and 39th before he disarmed their regiments?—No! He well knew the value of their opinion on this particular point, and how little they could be depended upon.

There cannot be the shadow of a doubt but that the salvation of the Punjab, as regards the army, has been through the energetic exertions and firm will of Brigadier-General Nicholson, and to the decision and knowledge of character displayed by Sir JOHN LAWRENCE, in placing such men as CHAMBERLAIN and NICHOLSON over the heads of a host of seniors, old enough to be their fathers, but lacking, through age or the effect of climate, that foresight, decision and energy, and coolness in the hour of danger, which at all times is so necessary in a commander, not enough to enable him to collect his own ideas, but also to inspire confidence among those about him. As an instance of the evil resulting from the employ of superannuated officers in dangerous posts, it is sufficient to quote the celebrated panic and rout of the 14th dragoons at Chillianwalla, in operation before the Sikhs—the word thrown about, was given by Brigadier Pore (an old man of 70, who had to be lifted on his horse), and from this injudicious order arose a confusion that ended in the disgrace of one of the most dashing and celebrated regiments in the British army, and that before natives who stood their ground well.

NEW POST OFFICE.—We learn from Hon. W. W. KINGSBURY, that the Postmaster General has ordered the establishment of a Post Office at Long Prairie, in the county of Wild, and the appointment of HORATIO P. VAN DYKE, as Postmaster thereof.

Disfranchisement of the People in Fifteen Counties in Kansas.

Among the arguments used by Governor WALKER, in his address, and referred to by Acting Governor STANTON, in his message (published elsewhere,) is the fact, clearly stated, that the people in fifteen counties in Kansas had no opportunity to vote for Delegates to the Lecompton Convention. Out of thirty-five counties in the Territory, the inhabitants of but nineteen were allowed to participate in the election.

In speaking of this, the latest development of the manner in which the Lecompton Convention was constituted, the Philadelphia *Press* says that the principal argument by which the adoption of the Lecompton Constitution is defended, is, that the people had a chance to vote for delegates, and that those who failed to vote have no right now to complain of the consequences of their neglect. This statement only applies to a portion of the people of Kansas, who, it is true, did refuse to vote. To the people of fifteen out of the thirty-four counties, it does not apply. Partisans of the CALHOUN stamp were appointed as Sheriffs in those counties by the Territorial Legislature, and by designedly refusing to take the census and register the voters they produced such a state of affairs that no person could vote. We advise our readers to carefully peruse that portion of Gov. WALKER's letter which refers to this subject. It strikes at the very root of the Lecompton Convention, and clearly shows that it had "vital—not technical—defects in the very substance of its organization," which could only "be cured by the submission of the Constitution." The people of those fifteen counties did not all refuse to vote for delegates. On the contrary, some of them wanted to elect representatives to the Convention, but were deprived of all opportunity of doing so. In some counties they did their best to remedy the rascally conduct of their Sheriffs by their own voluntary action, and elected delegates from three of the counties on this basis, but they were rejected by the Convention, and the people of the other twelve counties of course clearly saw that it would also be useless for them to act in similar manner.

FORNEY's *Press* concludes an article on this subject, with the following:

If in Pennsylvania a Convention should be called to form a Constitution, and the people of thirty of the sixty odd counties of the State should have no chance whatever to vote for the delegates, and then have no opportunity to vote for or against the Constitution, but be obliged to be governed by it, the case would be exactly similar to that in Kansas.

Such a method of establishing a fundamental law as this was never adopted in any other portion of the Union. It is utterly unprecedented and indefensible, and no sophistry can palliate or justify it. That such an infamous system of Constitution-making should be adopted in a Territory where, above all other places, the principle of popular sovereignty should have been honestly and strictly observed, almost surpasses human belief; and we are astonished that men from any section of the Union can be found to advocate its ratification upon the floor of Congress.

The Sentiment in Kansas.

Of the twenty-one newspapers published in Kansas, but one, the *Leavenworth Herald*, edited by a member of the Lecompton Convention, supports the Constitution submitted by that Convention. The balance of the papers—pro-slavery and anti-slavery, Democratic and Republican—are indignant at the shabby trick by which a Constitution is attempted to be forced upon the people.—We have before us, the *Elwood* (Kansas) *Advertiser*, a neutral paper, which says that "pro-slavery men, except here and there some wild fire-eater, disapprove and even denounce both the Convention and the work of its members. We have not seen a man who fully endorses the Constitution and Convention."

Literary Gossip.

A London paper, the *Athenaeum*, assures us that Messrs. LONGMAN, having taken the advice of the highest authority of the present day, upon questions relative to the English language and literature, have signified their intention of having the word "telegram" henceforth inserted in all dictionaries published by them, and that it will accordingly appear as a recognized term in the forthcoming edition of *Johnson's Dictionary*, which is to be published under the superintendence of Dr. LATHAM.

We suppose that this practical decision will finally close the controversy.

The Governor of Tennessee recommends that a day be fixed, as early as practicable, for a resumption of specie payments by the banks; that, at a designated period, they be prohibited from issuing five dollar notes; and that, in a reasonable time thereafter, the notes be limited to ten, and finally to twenty dollars, and that no notes of less denominations from other States be allowed to circulate in that State. He also recommends that it be made obligatory on the banks to redeem all their notes in specie when presented, and that they be required to keep at least one dollar in specie in their vaults for every three dollars in notes put in circulation.

President BUCHANAN, in a recent interview with Mr. FORNEY, declared that under no circumstances would he be a candidate for re-election.

The Benefits of the Pre-emption System—Information for Emigrants.

Persons emigrating from the Eastern, Southern and Middle States to the West, with the intention of settling for life, should bear in mind one important fact; and that is, to avoid all States and Territories where large bodies of land are held by speculators. Individual enterprise, unless sustained in such localities by large capital, never has had, and never will have, a favorable opportunity for development.

For instance, an emigrant moves to the West, and settles in a county where the greater portion of the land is held by non-residents, for speculative purposes. Every tree the emigrant fells, every rod of fence he constructs, every acre of land he cultivates, adds to the value of the property adjoining his own, owned by a non-resident, who never expends a dime for the improvement of his land. For agricultural purposes, when the speculator sells, at an advance of five or ten dollars per acre, his land is as valueless as when first entered, with land warrants at ninety cents per acre. This great advance is secured, not by any particular superiority the land possesses, but from the fact that settlements and improvements have been made, by bona fide settlers, in its immediate vicinity. Thus, it is by the hard labor of the actual settler, that the speculator reaps his golden harvest.

If, on the contrary, the land owned by the non-resident, was occupied, improved, and cultivated by settlers—by men whose lives will be spent in the improvement of their "claims"—the increase in the value of the land will be equalized among those who are instrumental in producing the result. The capitalist residing in the East, will not be benefited by the hard labor of the pioneer and actual settler.

Now, what we wish to call the attention of individuals to, who design emigrating West, is this fact: Minnesota alone, of all the Western States and Territories, is exempt from the evils of excessive land speculation. Under the workings of the pre-emption law, the government land in Minnesota has been taken up by actual settlers. It is not owned by Eastern speculators—by men who desire to realize a large advance on their land, dishonestly we believe, by the hard labor of the actual settler—but by individuals who have selected their "claims," as life-long homes for themselves and children, and whose interest it will be to improve the country—to construct roads—to till the land—to build churches and school-houses.

One fact, in this connection, is worthy of notice. In 1856, it appears by the records of the General Land office at Washington, a greater amount of land was taken up by actual settlers, under the pre-emption law, in Minnesota, than the aggregate in all the States and other Territories of the Union.

The emigrant from the East, coming to Minnesota, need have no fears of being brought into competition with large land holders. Here, the great body of the farming land is owned and occupied by actual settlers, in quantities rarely exceeding one hundred and sixty acres.

A farm of this size, composed of prairie and timber land, and situated in a healthy locality, with good water in abundance, can be secured by the emigrant, for a land warrant, costing not more than \$160! And every article of produce raised on the farm, finds a ready market, at home for high prices.

Railroad Matters.

The loan of the Michigan Southern Company for the million, for which 70 per cent. of old stock and 30 per cent. cash was to be received, is considered as full. To the list for which 80 per cent. of preferred stock and 20 per cent. cash was to be received, the subscriptions amount to about \$400,000. The advances from Europe with regard to the Illinois Central loan are favorable. The Erie moves slowly in New York; but if the letters by the Canada's mail are encouraging, Mr. Moran, the President, will leave for Europe to press the subscription there. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company have issued proposals for a loan of \$400,000.

The earnings of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Company in November were about \$80,000, and in December promise to be about \$60,000. The strictest economy has been introduced in the working of the road; and the operating in December, it is stated, will not exceed \$20,000. The floating debt has been reduced by funding in second mortgage bonds at par, from \$700,000 to \$70,000, and the concern promises soon to be out of its difficulties with a reserve of about \$200,000 of second mortgage bonds. The south-western branch has been completed to Monroe, where it will rest for the present.

About three o'clock on the morning of the 23d ult., a fire broke out in Moline, Ill., which destroyed buildings and property to the amount of \$25,000. The principal sufferers are W. A. NOURSE, \$8,000; ALONZO NOURSE, \$2,000; H. C. FORD, \$3,000; JOHN PATTERSON, \$200; A. T. CHAMBERLAIN, \$25; C. BANK, \$200.

An International Bridge.

Some person has proposed the building of a bridge between Buffalo and the Canada shore. The length of the bridge would be 3,640 feet, which includes 1,500 feet of trestle work on the Canada shore and about 500 on the American shore, leaving only 1,640 feet as the length of the tube crossing the river proper. The levels of the bluffs, on either shore, vary only a few inches.—Starting from the American shore, there is a viaduct, built on piers of solid masonry at short distances from each other, extending a distance of 500 feet. On reaching the bank of the canal there is a drawbridge from it to a pier, situated on the outer line of the canal, a distance of 80 feet. Here the tube proper commences. The height of the railway track above the water is 60 feet, precluding the necessity of the use of a draw, except for sail vessels. Over the railway track is a carriage way for vehicles and foot passengers. The second pier of the bridge is built upon Black Rock pier. To cross the river itself, the tube is extended in spans of 272 feet each, resting on four piers built on the bed of the river.

The construction of the tube is simple, consisting of a roof-plate and bed-plate of iron connected by diagonal braces and uprights, forming open lattice work sides. The tube is continuous from shore to shore, running on rollers on the piers to allow for the expansion and contraction from changes of temperature, which will amount in all to eight inches. The greatest depth of water in the river is 26 feet, the current running about 5 1-5 miles per hour. On reaching the Canada shore, a viaduct built on piers of solid masonry extends a distance of 1,501 feet across the low lands to the bluff. It is proposed to construct a harbor connecting with the proposed ship canal on the Canada side—that also having a draw across it—in which vessels under stress of weather may take shelter, if unable to make Black Rock harbor. The total cost of the bridge is estimated at \$2,500,000, and English capitalists are prepared to go on and build it, provided they can have a guarantee of the payment of six per cent. annual interest on the capital for a period of fifteen years.—To secure this, the earnings of the bridge must be \$150,000 per annum.

Canadian News.

The Toronto *Colonist*, in an interesting statistical article on the grain crops of Canada West, states that the surplus wheat on hand is not less than 8,000,000 of bushels, and that no facilities exist, unless they are afforded by the Grand Trunk Railway, for the exportation of this produce. Hitherto, Canada has had purchasers for its surplus wheat in every American frontier town, and, indeed, purchasers in the New England States and New York have regulated prices in Canada, but this year, America herself has a surplus crop, probably better saved than that of Canada. This occurrence, so fortunate for the United States, is the means of locking up, for the present, in Canada some two millions sterling worth of produce, for which there seems to be no outlet.

Gov. Walker's Letter of Resignation.

We commend this letter to the careful consideration of every Democrat in Minnesota. The letter goes to the root of the whole question, as to the submission of the constitutions of all inchoate States to the people thereof, and shows that not only the Constitution of the United States and the Kansas-Nebraska bill, but the very nature of our free institutions, (where the people alone are sovereign,) demand such submission. This letter, taken in connection with Senator DOUGLAS' great speech, presents unanswerable arguments against the policy recommended by President BUCHANAN, of admitting Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution.

The American dog Prince, with which Queen VICTORIA expressed herself so well pleased, when he was exhibited at Windsor Castle, is really a noble fellow. He was born in Pennsylvania and is barely a year old, but his height is 37 inches; length 7 feet 9 inches; girth of body 41 inches; of fore leg 13, and of neck 25 inches; weight over 200 pounds. Such is his strength that a man weighing 200 pounds may spring on his back without causing him to flinch.—Prince is valued by his owner at \$1,250.

The Newburyport (Massachusetts) *Herald* of the 23d says: "It is reported that the Hon. CHARLES SUMNER will this week return to Massachusetts, unable to endure the labors and excitement of the Senate. It is probable that he will resign his place before the winter is out, and we should not be surprised if the coming Legislature should elect Hon. N. P. BATES to fill a vacancy so occasioned."

Judge DOUGLAS was in Philadelphia, on Christmas. He was most enthusiastically received. Judge D. and Col. FORNEY made speeches from the Girard House, at midnight, to large audiences.