

# The Union.



JUNCTION, KANSAS,  
SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 1863.

## THEIR PURPOSES.

We confess astonishment that Forts Warren and Lafayette are not brought into exercise as often, at least, as the safety of our Government demands. Indeed, when we consider the peril that surrounds the Nation, it is a matter of astonishment that the latter is not brought into requisition while such rebels as VALLANDIGHAM, and followers, exist in the North. We feel grieved at the tendency of things; not that we doubt the ultimate result—for we have faith in our cause, however much the weakness of man may impede—but that rebels and rebel sympathizers are afforded the same protection due loyal men, we consider but a mockery of that which we are fighting to sustain. When men can get up in the halls of Congress, and with perfect safety argue a division of the loyal States, and a re-organization, excluding New England, to gratify the rebels—and denouncing those in charge of the Government as traitors—free speech becomes a farce, and grounds given to believe that a rebel is as good as a patriot. We desire that a distinction be made. Otherwise, there will be no grounds for hope, confidence will fade away, and all will soon be lost.

We say we are astonished that the Administration should allow the Copperheads of the North to go undisturbed in their unholy task of arraying a party against the Government—of disturbing that unity which is essential to success. There can be no mistaking their purposes. They are as foul and damnable as the rebellion they seek to aid.

The part that our Representative, COSWAY, has taken in these efforts to obstruct the Government, is humiliating to every citizen of the State. Kansas, that entered the fight with Freedom on her banners, and whose people have exhibited unequalled devotion and fortitude, is basely betrayed in that hour in which her long-desired policy is being adopted as that of the Nation. Mr. COSWAY has made a speech in the House of Representatives, which will do more to encourage the rebels than anything else that has been said in Congress. His speech was an effort to prove that "subjugation is impossible, compromise undeniable, and separation inevitable." There might be some extenuation for a slave-driver in giving utterance to such language, but that it should come from one whose radicalism was ahead of all others, is strange. If not an enemy to the Government, he is certainly a coward.

The Legislature should denounce such action on the part of our Representative. Let MARTIN F. COSWAY sink into oblivion with the seal of condemnation on his brow.

## OUR TOPEKA CORRESPONDENCE.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, Feb. 4, 1863.

EDITORS UNION.—Since your hurried transit by this cheerful spot, I cannot say that any very stirring event has transpired. Day following night, and wind following storm continually around these historic precincts. This is the place where it *blew*, and then it *blew*, and then it *blew* again. 2xk is a lovely climate—about two feet thick always. There are cheerful institutions in 2xk—sociables, festivals, dances and billiards; also several other festive institutions—a tiger show and an exhibition of Albinos, or children of the White Eye. The Legislature is not much of a show. There are only a few baboons, and those are rather small. That is, there is no great amount of gas about it; pretty solid body; very intelligent and earnest, and a hard working set of men.

And they need to be. When the State owes \$195,000, and the Territorial debt of \$80,000 is coming up for settlement, and the U. S. tax of \$71,000 must be paid, and we know not what demands will be made on our finances during the next year; at a time, too, when Railway Systems are to be devised, Public Institutions located—when a State House ought to be built, and agents sent to look after our sick and wounded soldiers; and bridges are to be erected, and salt works and manufactories fostered; at such times the best brains and nerves and backbone we have ought to be used.

Now the first thing is *finance*. The first thing in that is, the taxes. It may well be a matter of pride to the Western Counties that they have responded so fully and promptly to the call of the State. Dickinson is square, Davis nearly if not quite, Riley ditto, Lyon ditto, and other frontier counties in a similar condition; while Leavenworth, Douglas, Atchison and other populous and prosperous counties, which are making vast gains from the war, although we are losing our young men by enlistments, present the shameful contrast of "paid 33 per cent," "delinquent 66 per cent." For so these average.

That same Douglas county that ever has refused to pay her share of the tax, when she could do so with impunity—that county which is the home of Lane and Robinson, of Stevens and Morrow; and which sends to every Legislature one or more men foisted into office by fraudulent ballots, and which claims to have Senators, Governors, the State Capitol, the University, the Railroad system, and the Military Organization spring from her limits—that county is here in full force. Mr. Beam seems to be an honest man; but Mr. Thorp has proven enough fraudulent voting to convince the Senate that he ought to be removed. And to-day the sentence of expulsion was passed on the victim of Douglas county machinations, and the intended victim is duly installed.

And Douglas county is striving for the University too. Her lobby, including Messrs. Leggett, Blood, Ludington and Horton, are planning every way to force a result on the State that the people do not wish. What they fail to effect in the House, is to be attempted in the Senate. What cannot be done fairly is to be done obliquely. False rumors are circulated, bullying and bravado are resorted to, and I shall be greatly deceived if I do not have something to reveal in my next.

The prospect seems fair, however, that the State University will be located at Emporia; that the Agricultural College will go to Manhattan. Other public institutions are claimed for Wyandot and Baldwin City, etc. Whether these locations will be made, or whether all will be postponed a year is uncertain.

Railroad matters are simmering. The Lane Bill is not satisfactory to all, nor can any practical system be devised that would be. The counties next to Missouri are uncompromisingly hostile to the next tier west; while the eleven Henderson Amendment representatives will never combine with the ten Atchison and Western road men. Nor do the nine Leavenworth delegates agree with either. It seems that this vexing question is put on the table by common consent, while the finances of the State are under consideration.

The Western members are winning credit by the sensible course they pursue. They are all quiet, working members, except, perhaps, Senator Strickler, who is not always quiet. However his speeches are never long. Brief and to the point, his remarks are always heard with attention. The West has a reliable delegation and need not fear that her interests will suffer in their hands. NIX.

## FREE SCHOOLS.

It is to be feared that some persons do not sufficiently value Public Schools. They may place a somewhat higher estimate upon schools in general; they may be the friends of education; but they choose to have the whole matter left to the discretion of parents, and not thrown, as a burden, upon the whole community. This view of education formerly prevailed; but a gradual change has been wrought in public sentiment, and it is now deemed wise to lay a tax upon the whole community for the support of Free Schools. I think this system is an excellent one, and should commend itself to all wise and benevolent statesmen, and to all good patriots. In this country, we attach great importance to democratic principles. We insist upon it that the mass of the people shall rule. Cotton is not king; money is not king; learning is not king; social position is not king; but we, the people, are the sovereigns. Directly or indirectly, we will make and unmake the laws according to our pleasure. In this foundation of our political institutions, we will submit to no dictation from any quarter. It is thus evident that our Government will be wise or unwise just according to the degree of intelligence and moral virtue in the great mass of the community. It is not enough that we have a few, or even a considerable number of wise and able men among us. They may be overruled by an ignorant and depraved community. Even a small number of unprincipled men may hold the balance of power between contending political parties. Thus there can be no real safety to republican institutions, only as the great mass of the people understand and exercise the rights which belong to them under our form of government. Hence it clearly follows that all men should be educated. The public welfare demands Free Schools. It is distinctly for the good of the State that all citizens should be able to read and write; for unless they are able to do this, they cannot intelligently exercise the elective franchise. We then have just the same right to tax all the community for the support of Free Schools that we have to tax them for any other purpose that most obviously conduces to the public welfare. It is not true, then, that parents alone are responsible for the education of their children, and have a right to do as they please in the matter. They are but parts of the Nation; and thus they, and all others, are bound to pursue such a course as will tend to the general good.

But let us look at Free Schools in another light. Some great man has said (and I suppose justly) that "knowledge is power." If a common school education is left merely to the will of parents, the result will usually be that only a portion of all the children will receive an education. Some parents are so poor that they cannot bear the expense of private schools. Other parents, being somewhat ignorant or vicious themselves, will not feel the importance of an education for their children. Thus we shall soon have a community in which ignorance, and its usual concomitant, vice, will become more or less prevalent. On the other hand, the educated children will hold a much higher social position. Thus we shall soon have two distinct classes in the community. Everything will rapidly tend towards an aristocracy. We shall be divided. There will be separate and clashing interests. And there will be great danger that between these opposite factions, the Nation will be ruined. In fact, a monopoly of learning is one of the most dangerous monopolies that can exist. To guard against it, we should do all in our power to place our children on a perfect level; at least so far as literary advantages are concerned. Let them attend the same school; let them be rewarded according to their real merits; let them play together; let them all understand that they must depend, not upon the wealth or learning of their parents, but upon their own exertions, for their position in society. It is a somewhat remarkable fact, that many of our greatest and best men have been raised up, from what are considered the humbler walks of life. Our form of government strongly tends to develop the best heart and intellect of the country. It is our wisdom to cherish and not to contract this tendency. Our safety, under Providence, consists in elevating the masses of the people to a high common level. Let the schoolmaster go abroad everywhere; let the schoolhouse doors be thrown wide open to every child; let every man and every woman help forward the good cause of virtuous and universal education, and we shall be a united and prosperous people.

A Free School in Junction is very necessary. Many of our people are poor. Several families have moved into the place, specially for the purpose of giving their children such an education, as they could not procure for them in their former

secluded homes. It would be cruel to disappoint them in their cherished hopes. If the school tax, just at present, is somewhat of a burden, remember it is not half so great a burden as would soon be imposed upon us by the vices of children, growing out of their ignorance. A good Free School is one of the cheapest institutions in the land. W. T.

## MIDDLE AND WESTERN KANSAS.

ES. UNOS.—Being a resident of Middle Kansas, near Fort Riley, since 1853, I claim the privilege of writing for your paper a series of articles on the climate, health, extent, natural resources, obstacles, adaptation, openings for settlement, difficulties to be encountered, causes of the country being sparsely settled, and mode of farming and the result of the same.

Believing that the true mode of developing a country is to give to the public a correct statement of facts, I shall endeavor to do it, though it may be unpalatable to some.

## EXTENT.

Kansas is four hundred in length from east to west, and about two hundred in breadth. Eastern Kansas may properly be said to extend from a line drawn north and south through the Pottawatomie Reserve to the eastern limits of the State, while Middle Kansas is that tract lying west of this line, and extending one hundred and eighty miles to a line running north and south through the main forks of the Solomon river and south towards Fort Larned to the Arkansas.

## CLIMATE.

The climate is a vast improvement on almost any of the Western States. Our winters are mild, lasting usually only about three months, with but few cold days, and little wet and mud. The summer is long, while the nights are cool. We have in the fall, winter and spring, at times, high and disagreeable winds, but these winds disagreeable to us, are not half so bad for either people or stock as the rain and mud all over the Western States.

Taken as a whole this vast tract is well supplied with excellent limestone water, as it is cut from side to side with numerous branches of the Republican, Solomon, Saline, Smoky Hill, Kansas, Neosho and Arkansas rivers. A very large proportion of this entire tract is most beautifully supplied with the best of limestone rock, well adapted for fencing or building purposes. The stone crops out on the brow of almost every knoll and little ravine, apparently inviting the hand of energy to put them in buildings and proper fences.

The timber of Middle Kansas may be regarded as scarce; but time will show that its numerous creeks, cutting the prairies in every direction, and all more or less wooded, will quite well supply the country with all necessary for fuel and building purposes. The traveler, taking a birds-eye view of this section, sees but a very small amount of the timber; for the reason that it is concealed in the valleys and among the hills of the creeks. There is one fact becoming more and more patent every day, and that is, that the ease with which stone can be had here, will very soon place wooden fences and buildings at a great discount. Hence the supply of timber will be ample to meet all necessary wants. SOIL.

The soil of Middle Kansas is much the same as the eastern portion of the State, except that the very hilly portions are more stony, and the valleys far more extensive and rich. The Republican, the Solomon, the Saline, to not notice the numerous creeks with most beautiful valley land, have each a tract of rich, level bottom lands, ranging from one to four miles in width. And while you find some hilly, rocky land, still the divides between the streams are generally rolling prairies, well suited to agricultural purposes. A very large portion of these lands are still open to settlement. In my next I shall show why they have not been settled, what are their adaptations, the obstacles in the way, how to remove them, &c. H.

## The Leavenworth, Pawnee & Western Railroad.

The Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Republican remarks that Missouri is greatly injured by the order of the President, which fixes the gauge of the Pacific Railroad at five feet. The gauge of the road through Jefferson City west is four feet eight and a half, and thus the connection will be broken at Kansas City.

The same writer, evidently against his will, admits the fine prospects of the Kansas Company. He says: "The Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railway Company is upon the best financial footing, and has better pecuniary prospects than ever before marked the initial of a railroad company in this country."

"Interest upon the bonds held by the Indians in payment for their lands, is now overpaid for some time, and the company is deriving a heavy surplus revenue, which it is expending in constructing the road."

"The construction of all the road is contracted for with Messrs. Ross, Steel & Co., formerly large contractors on Canada railroads, who have now entered upon the work, and expect to have ninety miles completed—to Fort Riley—by the end of the present year. Contracts have been made for the rails with manufacturers in Pennsylvania. All the bridges required are also contracted for with parties in Michigan, who will work them out in the piers, and ship them already to be put up."

THE PRICE OF PRINTING PAPER.—The Philadelphia North American says: Printing paper of ordinary quality sells at this moment from 20 to 23 cents a pound. Its legitimate price is about 9 cents. Between the price of paper materials and the manufactured articles there is nothing like adequate proportion. A large commission house this week received a consignment of rags from Havana. Knowing the exorbitant price of paper, he expected to realize a handsome return to the consignors. He visited successively all the paper makers in this section of country, and corresponded with those more distant. The utmost he could obtain for them was 5 1/2 cents per pound. All the paper mills are stocked with material; waste paper has been thrown upon the market by thousands of tons; and yet the price of paper is kept up by speculation, or something else, to 22 cents per pound. Here is a mystery that requires explanation. Who will give it?

## The King's English.

Lately, in our leisure readings, we found a piece of eloquent English, which we here copy:

"These communities, (the thirteen colonies,) by their representatives in old Independence Hall, said to the world of men: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are born equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' This was their majestic interpretation of the economy of the universe. This was their lofty, and wise, and noble understanding of the justice of the Creator to his creatures. Yes, gentleman, to all his creatures, to the whole great family of man. In their enlightened belief, nothing stamped with the divine image and likeness was sent to be trodden on, and degraded, and intruded by its fellows. They grasped not only the race of men then living, but they reached forward, and seized upon the furthest posterity. They created a beacon to guide their children, and the countless myriads who should inhabit the other ages. Wise statesmen as they were, they knew the tendency of prosperity to breed tyrants; and so they established these great self-evident truths, that when, in the distant future, some man, some interest, some faction, should set up the doctrine that none but rich men, or none but white men, or none but Anglo-Saxon white men, were entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, their posterity might look up again to the Declaration of Independence, and take courage to RENEW THE BATTLE which their fathers began; so that TRUTH and JUSTICE and MERCY, and all the HUMAN and CHRISTIAN VIRTUES, might not be extinguished for the limit; so that no man would hereafter DARE TO LIMIT AND CIRCUMSCRIBE the great principles on which the Temple of Liberty was being built."

These words were spoken by a man who was born in poverty; whose youth was denied the hopeful privilege of education; whose early manhood was spent in the severe task of clearing new land; who by the sweat of his brow gave to labor its honorable crown; and who, having neither riches, nor learning, nor position, but having simply the qualities of a noble man,—learned thus to value men for their simple manhood; to believe in equality, because, standing low himself, it was a doctrine that lifted him to a rightful level with the high; to believe in liberty, because he felt within his own breast that this was God's law for the progress of mankind.

The same man, at a later day, wrote a shorter passage of equal eloquence, and which will never die out of the English tongue, or out of the history of the world. It stands as follows:

"I do order and declare that ALL PERSONS HEREAFTER AS SLAVES WITHIN SAID DESIGNATED STATES AND PARTS OF STATES, ARE, AND HENCEFORWARD SHALL BE, FREE!"

"And, upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God."

The first passage which we quoted was from an argument in which ABRAHAM LINCOLN some years ago vanquished Stephen A. Douglas; the second (need we mention its source?) is from that last great argument with which he is finally to conquer the Slaveholder's Rebellion.—The N. Y. Independent.

## GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

A dispatch from Cairo, dated Jan. 29th, says, The Mississippi flotilla and land forces under Gen. McClelland are now in the vicinity of Vicksburg. A part of the land forces have landed five miles below the mouth of the Yazoo river, on the Louisiana side, and are opening the canal cut last summer. The river is now full enough to pour a good volume of water through the cut. As soon as an opening is made a few days will determine its value. Our gun and mortar boats can approach near enough to shell the city, if that will be of any benefit. Gen. Grant left Memphis on the 27th for the army below. He was accompanied by an army division.

Col. Harrison telegraphs from Fayetteville the success of a scout just returned from Van Buren, having captured the Judy Roan and 300 prisoners, about 200 of whom were paroled. The scout consisted of 150 men of the 1st Ark. Cavalry, and 10th Illinois Cavalry, under command of Lieut. Col. Stewart. No loss on our side. On that of the enemy two killed and several wounded.

An enthusiastic Union demonstration took place at Fayetteville, Arkansas, on the 27th ult. Over 1000 loyal citizens were present. Fifteen home guard companies were organized and will be accounted as Arkansas State militia. Hundreds of the people have signed a petition to Congress to order an election for a member of this State. The citizens having arms in their possession have delivered them up to be used in defence of their home.

Advices from Mexico confirm the reported defeat of 4,000 French, under General Berthier, by 800 Mexicans. It occurred in a fog at 2 o'clock, on Dec. 18. The French were completely routed.

The Mexican General Algrete, with 10,000 men, made a sortie from Puebla, and attacked a French division 14,000 strong at Aconote, eight leagues from Puebla, routing the latter. The French communication was almost cut off. Jalapa and Tampico are abandoned by them.

General Burnside on the 28th ult., informally tendered his resignation as officer of the army. The President asked him not to press its acceptance, inasmuch as there was other work to do. Burnside replied, that whatever such work might be, he hoped it might soon be assigned him. He was willing to take any command, however small, or do any duty, but he was unwilling to wear shoulder straps and draw pay when doing nothing.

The U. S. steamer Aurora on the 10th inst. captured the English steamer Rising Dawn with a cargo of 2638 bushels of salt, and a large quantity of lucifer matches, soap, candles, and gunny bags. She was from Nassau and trying to run the blockade.

The U. S. steamer Ottawa, on the 21st, captured the schooner Peterman, with 90 bales of cotton, trying to run out of Charleston.

On the 8th, the steamer Tropic, formerly the Huntress, of Charleston, while attempting to run the blockade, was destroyed by fire; her crew and passengers were saved by boats from the Quaker City.

## From Washington.

Minister Cameron will soon resign, and Cassius M. Clay will return to Russia, in accordance with a promise made by the President months ago, in case Cameron should resign.

Cameron has asked the War Department to assign him to the command of an African Brigade.

Conway's speech in the House denouncing Lincoln, and prophesying the success of the pro-slavery Democracy at the next presidential election, was an effort of remarkable power and force, and commanded universal attention. Members from all parts of the House were clustering around him. It took the broadest, radical anti-slavery grounds, was merciless in exposing the shortcomings of the Administration. The fact that Lovejoy objected to allowing him extra time to finish his speech, is a good indication of the feelings of the Republicans as a party entertained of the policy of saying such things, and to the tendency of his teachings. The speech, however, will challenge general attention as a production of remarkable vigor. The three points of the speech were, that conquest is impossible, compromise undeniable, separation inevitable.

Senator Wilson introduced an important bill, providing for the organization of a volunteer force for the several States, to be called National Guards of the United States, to consist of 200 regiments of 12 companies, each company of 100 men, divided among the States pro rata. Enlistments can embrace men between the ages of 21 and 45 years, citizens of the United States. Any part of this force may be ordered into the service of the United States by the President during any war, invasion, or rebellion.

The Committee on the conduct of the war was authorized to inquire into the circumstances of the recent successful intermeddling of General Franklin and his officers with Burnside's plans, by which the President was induced to countermand a forward movement.

## The War Power.

Grosvenor P. Lowrey, Esq., of the New York Bar, has published an able answer to the sophistical pamphlet of Judge Curtis on the War Power. His conclusions are tersely and summarily stated as follows:

"First, Abraham Lincoln, as Commander-in-Chief in time of war, embodies all the executive war powers of the nation. Second, These powers are extra-constitutional, having their origin in the nature of things, and are recognized as an established code by all civilized nations. Third, Principal among them, is the right to end war and obtain security for the future, by destroying the cause of the war. Fourth, The Proclamation in question is intended to have that effect, and is considered necessary to that end by the nation, speaking through its supreme military authority. Fifth, The ownership of slaves is to be distinguished from the right to own slaves. Sixth, The former was not one of the constitutional relations which bound this people, and therefore, to destroy the ownership of slaves will not render a restoration of the Union, under the Constitution as it is, impossible, any more than the destruction of the ownership of horses will have that effect.—Seventh, The military power, acting through emancipation, does not pretend to destroy the legal right to own slaves, and is not, therefore, obnoxious to the charge of annulling or repealing state laws. Eighth, It is not against the laws of war to do a necessary act, even though it is possible, or in extreme cases of necessity even probable, that some unhappy consequences may come to innocent persons. Ninth, It is by no means a necessary consequence of freeing slaves that harm shall come to non-combatants and innocents; and such accidental result, should it ensue, will be chargeable solely upon the enemy who might have averted it. Tenth, In short, the right to free all persons held as slaves in rebellious states, on the 1st of January, 1863, is a valid war power; it is one necessary to be exercised; and its exercise is not forbidden by the Constitution or the laws of war."

## From the South-West.

The steamer Ruth arrived at Cairo, on the 28th ult. Troops are being daily transferred to Wayneport and sent to Milliken's Bend. General Grant was expected to leave on the 27th. Gen. Joe Johnson has command of the whole Western Department, and is massing an immense force at Vicksburg, and in an emergency it is believed he can concentrate 150,000 men in its defence. The rebels are determined to stake everything in their endeavor to hold that place and Fort Hudson, and keep open the communication to Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. The fortifications at Port Hudson are complete. The rebels feel great confidence in their ability to hold these two strong points. The latest advices from McClelland and the squadron say they had reached Young's Point, twenty miles above Vicksburg.

Information has been received in Washington that the Central Railroad, from San Francisco to Nevada, will be carried on to success. Out of three millions of subscriptions required, four hundred thousand were got in Sacramento in one day. Two million dollars are set down as the share of San Francisco. The yearly cost of freights to Washoe, in Nevada, is estimated at six millions. The entire length of the railroad will be two hundred and seventy miles, and the highest grades over the mountains will be eighty feet to the mile. The road is to be part and parcel of the great Pacific Railroad.

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