THE JOURNAL.

SPRINGFIELD, (Ill.) FEBRUARY 3, 1838.

NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR,
Hon. CYRUS EDWARDS, of Madison County.

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR,
Hon. WM. H. DAVIDSON, of Wabash County

FOR CONGRESS—Third District,
Maj. JOHN T. STUART, of Sangamon County.

The Vandalia Register has copied from this paper an article condemning the interference of certain members of the board of public works in the movements of parties in this State. Our object in writing that article has been fully answered in its extensive republication. We shall here dismiss the matter with a remark or two. The Journal stated that the Vandalia Register had on more than one occasion claimed the system of Internal Improvement as a Van Buren party measure. This the Register denies in the following language:

"We positively deny this assertion of the Journal. We defy him to point to a solitary sentiment of ours which even looks to such a course."

If any reader should consider this declaration of the Register of any consequence, by examining that paper of the 6th of March last, he will find the following editorial remarks on the subject of the Internal Improvement law:

"WE LOOK UPON IT [THE LAW] AS A VAN BUREN PARTY MEASURE. There CANNOT BE A DOUBT THAT IT OWES ITS EXISTENCE TO THE STRENGTH AND FIRMNESS OF THE VAN BUREN PARTY."

This is a full warrant for our statement.—No comment is necessary.

The same paper contains a column of balderdash about the State House. It says our delagation pledged themselves to build it without expense to the State; that it is estimated to cost one million; and makes numerous other statements in regard to it, all of which, with those noticed, were derived from the prolific imagination of the writer. We cannot spare room or time to bandy words with the Register. We turn it over, as usual, to our friend Hodge, who, it appears, fully understands the nature and propensities of the man.

BEAUTIES OF THE EXPERIMENT.—The Vandalia Free Press of the 27th ult. states, that "two wagon loads of specie under an escort, left that place for St. Louis last week." We find the following remarks in the 'Madisonian,' which are exceedingly applicable in the present case: "There can hardly exist a doubt that for years to come, the receipts at the Land Offices will far exceed the expenditures in many of the States. These surplusses under the sub-treasury scheme and the specie circular, will be taken away and transported to other States in specie. Are the Representatives and People of those States prepared to give their support to a measure which must operate most oppressively upon them?"

NO DIVISION.

The whig papers of this District have all responded to the nominations of JOHN T. STUART for Congress; CYRUS EDWARDS for Governor; and WM. H. DAVIDSON for Lt. Governor. Thus have perished the hopes of the Loco Focos.

ANECDOTE.—A solitary delegate from one of the northern Counties, on his trip to Vandalia, overtook an acquaintance on the road and proffered to make a Delegate of him and pay his expenses to the metropolis for the sake of his company. But they "fell out by the way," and the original delegate coming off second best in the fight, refused on their arrival, either to appoint his companion, or to furnish the needful as agreed on.—The pseudo delegate returned in great wrath.

THE BENEFITS OF THE SUB-TREASURY SYSTEM.—A sub-treasurer residing in this State, in the shape of an Indian Agent, is said to have enjoyed the benefit of the deposits to the amount of about $60,000 over and above the amount of his salary!

EVACUATION OF NAVY ISLAND.

The Buffalo Star of Jan. 15, announces that "Navy Island has been evacuated by the patriots—the cannon belonging to the State surrendered—and the patriot army dispersed." This statement is confirmed by other accounts. But where the patriots have gone is a matter of not so much certainty. It is known that a force has been raised in Michigan and Ohio to enter Canada near Malden; and some suppose that the troops at Navy Island have gone to join them. All, however, is uncertainty. Of the western expedition, it is said, that it has taken possession of Whitewood Island, near Malden; that the schr. Ann, sent to reconnoitre the fort, was fired on under its guns, taken, some of the crew killed, and the prisoners sent off for Toronto. We have the details of the organization of this western force, under Gen. Sutherland, in type, which we have not room.

CONGRESS.

The Mississippi contested election has occupied the attention of the House some three or four days; and was still under discussion on the 18th January. In the course of this debate Mr. Prentiss and Mr. Gholson got into a personal controversy, which, it was feared, would lead to an affair of honor.

Mr. Prentiss, one of the newly elected members from Mississippi, appeared on the floor, and it is said, made one of the most able and eloquent speeches ever heard in the House. It occupied the most part of two days, and drew forth an unusual number of hearers—among them most of the Senators. Although the honest men of all parties agree in the opinion that Messrs. Bliss and Word are the rightful and lawful members of the office of Representatives from Mississippi, yet this is no criterion by which to judge of the final decision of this question.—If the loco focos are strong enough in the House, they will be deprived of their seats.

On the 11th January, the new Sub-Treasury Bill was brought before the Senate, and ordered to be printed. Its features are somewhat different from the one which passed that body during the special session—if any thing more objectionable. It was made the special order of the day for the 30th January,—when some sharp shooting may be expected. We have no fears of its becoming a law. It will not even have the same support which the former project carried with it. Mr. Rives has already declared his opposition to the bill.

On the 23d, the Senate was principally engaged in the discussion of a bill to prevent steam boat accidents. It contains many strong provisions which will be likely to effect the desired object. The bill was passed and sent to the House for concurrence.—In the House there was a warm discussion on bills making appropriations for guarding the northern frontier and Florida war. There was no definite action on these bills.

On the 24th, the bill appropriating one million for the Florida war, was taken up in the House. It elicited a sharp debate. Mr. Thompson, of S. C. defended the administration, but opposed the violation of the flag of truce in the case of Osceola. The appropriation bills before the House yesterday were finally passed. The bills appropriate $1,000,000 for the Florida war, and $600,000 for the defence of the northern frontier. Both bills are but partial appropriations.—The Senate and the House were engaged with bills for increasing the army of the United States. The bills will pass today.

Middlesex Bank, of Massachusetts; the Wealth Bank of Boston; and the Men's Bank, of Penn., it is said, have failed. Several Banks in Boston have determined wind up their business.

NAPLES LATERAL RAIL ROAD.—The Naples paper refers to the 33d section of the Internal Improvement law for the authority for constructing this road. That section had escaped our notice. It gives the Commissioners full power for constructing the road in question. The latter part of that section thus reads:

"Provided, That in cases where any county or other important trading town, cannot be reached with the main line of rail road, by a judicious and economical location, it shall and may be lawful for the board of commissioners of public works to construct a lateral branch of the said main line to the said town calculated for a single track only, when the distance from the main town to said line shall not exceed five miles, if in the opinion of the board the interests of the State will not be compromised or injured thereby."

HELP.—The "TEST," has taken the place of the "Advocate," at Rushville. Its politics are whig.

NEUTRAL.—Proposals have been issued for publishing "The Beardstown Telegraph and Farmer's Magazine," by John B. Fulks.

The Ohio river on the 25th Jan. was in good navigable order. The Illinois is closed.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

ADDENDUM—TO CONSERVATIVE, No. 2.

In looking over the loco foco paper published here, I discover that my last number has called forth a very ill-natured, and to my judgment, a very silly article from Mr. Douglass. Mr. D. has either mistaken my object, or designs to lead me from it. If the latter, he will not succeed for more reasons than one. In the first place, I am on terms of friendship with him, and wish to remain so. As to his abuse of [illegible] it, as the fulmination of [illegible] gain to give up my name wo[illegible] lic attention from what I consider a very important object, to a more personal difficulty between him and me.

My object was not to assail him; nor would I have even referred to him, if it had been possible to avoid it. I did not even mean to charge him with culpability in contracting the land office. Under ordinary circumstances, I would regard such a transaction as culpable; but I hold if a man is flattered out of his senses, he is no more responsible than when he is insane from other causes. My object was, and still is, to stay, if possible, the strong adverse current which is now setting against the cause of equal rights. Taking advantage of the destructive schemes of the loco foco party, as a weapon against the whole; the high-toned blue-light federalists have swept State after State from our ranks, till we are left with a mere fragment of strength among the people; but which, if prudence be used, may be again swelled to a majority ere the present term of Mr. Van Buren expires. This being the case, my object is to snatch back from the federalists, this Congressional Disttict, into whose grasp it is almost gone. But, in these trying times, instead of some man of talent and acquaintance with the people, and possessing other suitable qualifications, presented as our candidate; we have a young man who is not only the very spawn of that loco focoism which has crushed and destroyed our party in New York and several other smaller States; but who was actually foisted upon the party by the influence of a land office. That this last was the fact, Mr. D. denies; but I believe it to be true for what appears to me to be the best of reasons. It is not my purpose to denounce him: but I will say to him, that when he explains to me why he, that I heretofore called the man of expedients, felt so deep an interest in procuring his nomination, as to attend the primary meetings out of his own county; to have all the appointed delegates pledged to him before he would appoint them; to tell a falsehood in the Convention which he knew must be detected within a few hours at most; to communicate to a land officer in the north, urging him to be a candidate, and then deceiving him; and, lastly, to go to Vandalia at a most disagreeable season to procure the nomination of Colonel Stephenson, to appease his friends, whose complaints it was feared might be sufficiently loud to drive the Peoria nominee from the track—I say, when he will explain all these things, I pledge myself then to furnish him with some others which he knows to be in my possession, and which will readily enough occur to him on reading this.

I now again say to the Democratic party of this District, that if they wish their principles to continue in the ascendant; if they wish to again, as they have heretofore done, defeat the designs of the federal party; if they wish to preserve true democracy as well in reality as in name, some other candidate must be placed upon the track. I have already given it as my opinion that a Convention fairly gotten up would be the proper method of bringing such a candidate before the people.

THE CONSERVATIVE.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

BOOK KEEPING.—VICE No. 1.

Mr. Editor—Did you ever learn the above science? If you have, I hope you never practice it. If you have NOT, I hope you never may:—that is, in the sense in which I use it;—with it is connected, (and to which as a science it is indispensable) that none more practised art of borrowing. Why, sir, there are men that would borrow the shirt off your back. But I more particularly allude at this time to the art, trade and mystery (to me) of book-borrowing-and-keeping. I have suffered sorely from this most vicious of petty vices; and therefore can speak feelingly; and well I know that there are many more who have suffered similarly.—"Oh reform it altogether."

I have lent, with the redoubled assurance that I should not wait a moment for it—that at a given day or hour, the complaisant borrower would return said book, pamphlet or newspaper.—But alas, sir! out of fifty volumes lent, not three have been returned. What is to be done? I have asked again and again—I have hinted;—but what good does that do, at a professional?—they know what you are driving at. I have sent a note and messenger to a twelve month delinquent, and what do you suppose I got?—My Book? No indeed:—"Mr. ——— is just reading the last chapter and will return it this evening."—Good, very good;—but that is the end of it. A valuable volume was returned me some days since (a miracle!) with a thousand thanks for the use and an equal number of apologies for the abuse, which [illegible] of two large grease spots on the [illegible] thumb and finger impression, as large as life, and almost as natural, on every other page,—in addition to which was a broken back, a loosened leaf, and sundry dog ears. Now, sir, I contend that any man, woman or child, that could coolly and deliberately borrow such a book, or any book, and return it in such a condition, or in any worse condition than when borrowed it, are not the folks to be trusted in other important matters; and as for myself I hold to no doctrine that goes to prove to the contrary. A plague upon them;—if they would only return them when they say they will, or when they do, if they would return them in as good condition, it would be some consolation—but neither the one or the other ever happens.

Oh, all ye who have borrowed books on hand—gather up your volumes, and restore them to their rightful owners, and rest assured that your consciences will be easier and your rest sweeter, when you have done so. I have opened an account, and headed it in my book—"Donation Account," and every book I lend in future I shall charge to that account, and consider it gone.

EDGAR.

SMALL MATTERS.

A personage of the name of Andy Ramble in a long communication in the loco foco organ here, declares that in his opinion Mr. May has made a somerset; and that too because the administration is going down. If Andy Ramble is not a man of straw, he should at least have a post office for this discovery.

The same paper talks most alarmingly about a communication in its columns, said to be written by the Peoria nominee: "Let the Junio," says the loco foco, "remove the nuisance before the hideous wretch, that the people may behold a blasted and disappointed office seeker!" This is very charming, to be sure.

This same paper notices Mr. Clay's course on the slip-jacket bill in the Senate. [illegible] many amendments to the bill which changed its character, and then voted for it. Thereupon, Mr. Loco Foco.

THE PERPETUATION OF OUR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Young Men's Lyceum,
Springfield, Jan. 27, 1837.

"Resolved, That the thanks of this Lyceum be presented to A. Lincoln, Esq. for the Lecture delivered by him this evening, and that he be solicited to furnish a copy for publication."

Attest: JAS. H. MATHENY, Sec'y.

As a subject for the remarks of the evening, *the perpetuation of our political institutions*, is selected.

In the great journal of things happening under the sun, we, the American People, find our account running, under date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era.—We find ourselves in the peaceful possession, of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions, conducing more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty, than any of which the history of former times tells us. We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them—they are a legacy bequeathed us, by a *once* hardy, brave, and patriotic, but *now* lamented and departed race of ancestors. Their's was the task (and nobly they performed it) to possess themselves, and through themselves, us, of this goodly land; and to rear upon its hills and its valleys, a political edifice of liberty and equal rights: 'tis ours only, to transmit these, the former, unprofaned by the foot of an invader; the latter, undecayed by the lapse of time, and untorn by [illegible] ourselves, [illegible] and love for our species in general, all imperatively require us faithfully to perform.

How, then, shall we perform it?—At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it?—Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never!—All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.

I hope I am over wary; but if I am not, there is, even now, something of ill-omen, amongst us. I mean the increasing disregard for law which pervades the country; the growing disposition to substitute the wild and furious passions, in lieu of the sober judgement of Courts; and the worse than savage mobs, for the executive ministers of justice. This disposition is awfully fearful in any community; and that it now exists in ours, though grating to our feelings to admit, it would be a violation of truth, and an insult to our intelligence, to deny. Accounts of outrages committed by mobs, form the every day news of the times. They have pervaded the country, from New England to Louisiana;—they are neither peculiar to the eternal snows of the former, nor the burning suns of the latter;—they are not the creature of climate—neither are they confined to the slave-holding, or the non-slave-holding States. Alike, they spring up among the pleasure hunting masters of Southern slaves, and the order loving citizens of the land of steady habits.—Whatever, then, their cause may be, it is common to the whole country.

It would be tedious, as well as useless, to recount the horrors of all of them. Those happening in the State of Mississippi, and at St. Louis, are, perhaps, the most dangerous in example, and revolting to humanity. In the Mississippi case, they first commenced by hanging the regular gamblers; a set of men, certainly not following for a livelihood, a very useful, or very honest occupation; but one which, so far from being forbidden by the laws, was actually licensed by an act of the Legislature, passed but a single year before. Next, negroes, suspected of conspiring to raise an insurrection, were caught up and hanged in all parts of the State: then, white men, supposed to be leagued with the negroes; and finally, strangers, from neighboring States, going thither on business, were, in many instances, subjected to the same fate. Thus went on this process of hanging, from gamblers to negroes, from negroes to white citizens, and from these to strangers; till, dead men were seen literally dangling from the boughs of trees upon every road side; and in numbers almost sufficient, to rival the native Spanish moss of the country, as a drapery of the forest.

Turn, then, to that horror-striking scene at St. Louis. A single victim was only sacrificed there. His story is very short; and is, perhaps, the most highly tragic, of any thing of its length, that has ever been witnessed in real life. A mulatto man, by the name of McIntosh, was seized in the street, dragged to the suburbs of the city, chained to a tree, and actually burned to death; and all within a single hour from the time he had been a freeman, attending to his own business, and at peace with the world.

Such are the effects of mob law; and such are the scenes, becoming more and more frequent in this land so lately famed for love of law and order; and the stories of which, have even now grown too familiar, to attract any thing more, than an idle remark.

But you are, perhaps, ready to ask, "What has this to do with the perpetuation of our political institutions?" I answer, it has much to do with it. Its direct consequences are, comparatively speaking, but a small evil; and much of its danger consists, in the proneness of our minds, to regard its direct, as its only consequences. Abstractly considered, the hanging of the gamblers at Vicksburg, was of but little consequence. They constitute a portion of population, that is worse than useless in a[illegible] example be set by it, is never matter of reasonable regret with any one. If they were annually swept, from the stage of existence, by the plague or small pox, honest men would, perhaps, be much profited, by the operation.—Similar too, is the correct reasoning, in regard to the burning of the negro at St. Louis. He had forfeited his life, by the perpetration of an outrageous murder, upon one of the most worthy and respectable citizens of the city; and had he not died as he did, he must have died by the sentence of the law, in a very short time afterwards. As to him alone, it was as well the way it was, as it could otherwise have been.—But the example in either case, was fearful.—When men take it in their heads to day, to hang gamblers, or burn murderers, they should recollect, that, in the confusion usually attending such transactions, they will be as likely to hang or burn some one, who is neither a gambler nor a murderer, as one who is; and that, acting upon the example they set, the mob of to-morrow, may, and probably will, hang or burn some of them, for every same mistake. And not only so; the innocent, those who have ever set their faces against violations of law in every shape, alike with the guilty, fall victims to the ravages of mob law; and thus it goes on, step by step, till all the walls erected for the defence of the persons and property of individuals, are trodden down, and disregarded. But all this even, is not the full extent of the evil.—By such examples, by instances of the perpetrators of such acts going unpunished, the lawless in spirit, are encouraged to become lawless in practice; and having been used to no restraint, but dread of punishment, they thus become, absolutely unrestrained.—Having ever regarded Government as their deadliest bane, they make a jubilee of the suspension of its operations; and pray for nothing so much, as its total annihilation. While, on the other hand, good men, men who love tranquility, who desire to abide by the laws, and enjoy their benefits, who would gladly spill their blood in the defence of their country; seeing their property destroyed; their families insulted, and their lives endangered; their persons injured; and seeing nothing in prospect that forebodes a change for the better; become tired of, and disgusted with, a Government that offers them no protection; and are not much averse to a change in which they imagine they have nothing to lose. Thus, then, by the operation of this mobocratic spirit, which all must admit, is now abroad in the land, the strongest bulwark of any Government, and particularly of those constituted like ours, may effectually be broken down and destroyed—I mean the *attachment* of the People. Whenever this effect shall be produced among us; whenever the vicious portion of population shall be permitted to gather in bands of hundreds and thousands, and burn churches, ravage and rob provision stores, throw printing presses into rivers, shoot editors, and hang and burn obnoxious persons at pleasure, and with impunity; depend on it, this Government cannot last. By such things, the feelings of the best citizens will become more or less alienated from it; and thus it will be left without friends, or with too few, and those few too weak, to make their friendship effectual. At such a time and under such circumstances, men of sufficient tal[illegible] to seize [illegible] and [illegible] the last half century, has been the fondest hope, of the lovers of freedom, throughout the world.

I know the American People are *much* attached to their Government;—I know they would suffer *much* for its sake;—I know they would endure evils long and patiently, before they would ever think of exchanging it for another. Yet, notwithstanding all this, if the laws be continually despised and disregarded, if their rights to be secure in their persons and property, are held by no better tenure than the caprice of a mob, the alienation of their affections from the Government is the natural consequence; and to that, sooner or later, it must come.

Here then, is one point at which danger may be expected.

The question recurs "how shall we fortify against it?" The answer is simple. Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, *never to violate in the least particular*, the laws of the country; and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of seventy-six did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support of the Constitution and Laws, let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor;—let every man remember that to violate the law, is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the character of his own, and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws, be breathed by every American mother, to the lisping babe, that prattles on her lap—let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges;—let it be written in Primmers, spelling books, and in Almanacs;—let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the *political religion* of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues, and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

While ever a state of feeling, such as this, shall universally, or even, very generally prevail throughout the nation, vain will be every effort, and fruitless every attempt, to subvert our national freedom.

When I so pressingly urge a strict observance of all the laws, let me not be understood as saying there are no bad laws, nor that grievances may not arise, for the redress of which, no legal provisions have been made.—I mean to say no such thing. But I do mean to say, that, although bad laws, if they exist, should be repealed as soon as possible, still while they continue in force, for the sake of example, they should be religiously observed. So also in unprovided cases. If such arise, let proper legal provisions be made for them with the least possible delay; but, till then, let them if not too intolerable, be borne with.

There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law. In any case that arises, as for instance, the promulgation of abolitionism, one of two positions is necessarily true; that is, the thing is right within itself, and therefore deserves the protection of all law and all good citizens; or, it is wrong, and therefore proper to be prohibited by legal enactments; and in neither case, is the interposition of mob law, either necessary, justifiable, or excusable.

But, it may be asked, why suppose danger to our political institutions? Have we not preserved them for more than fifty years? And why may we not for fifty times as long?

We hope there is *no sufficient* reason. We hope all dangers may be overcome; but to conclude that no danger may ever arise, would itself be extremely dangerous. There are now, and will hereafter be, many causes, dangerous in their tendency, which have not existed heretofore; and which are not too insignificant to merit attention. That our government should have been maintained in its original form from its establishment until now, is not much to be wondered at. It had many props to support it through that period, which now are now decayed, and crumbled away. Through that period, it was felt by all, to be an undecided experiment; now, it is understood to be a successful one.—Then, all that sought celebrity and fame, and distinction, expected to find them in the success of that experiment. Their *all* was staked upon it:—their destiny was *inseparably* linked with it. Their ambition aspired to display before an admiring world, a practical demonstration of the truth of a proposition, which had hitherto been considered, at best no better, than problematical; namely, *the capability of a people to govern themselves*. If they succeeded, they were to be immortalized; their names were to be inscribed to counties and cities, and rivers and mountains; and to be revered and sung, and toasted through all time. If they failed, they were to be called knaves and fools, and fanatics for a fleeting hour; then to sink and be forgotten. They succeeded. The experiment is successful; and thousands have won their deathless names in making it so. But the game is caught; and I believe it is true, that with the catching, end the pleasures of the chase. This field of glory is harvested, and the crop is already appropriated. But new reapers will arise, and *they*, too, will seek a field. It is to deny, what the history of the world tells us is true, to suppose that men of ambition and talents will not continue to spring up amongst us. And, when they do, they will as naturally seek the gratification of their ruling passion, as others have so done before them. The question then, is, can that gratification be so to add in supporting and maintaining an edifice that has been erected by others! Most certainly it cannot. Many great and good men sufficiently qualified for any task they should undertake, may ever be found, whose ambition would aspire to nothing beyond a seat in Congress, a gubernatorial or a presidential chair; *but such belong not to the family of the lion, or the tribe of the eagle*. What! think you these places would satisfy an Alexander, a Caesar, or a Napoleon?—Never! Towering genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored.—It sees *no distinction* in adding story to story, upon the monuments of fame, erected to the memory of others. It *denies* that it is glory enough to serve under any chief. It *scorns* to tread in the footsteps of *any* predecessor, however illustrious. It thirsts and burns for distinction; and, if possible, it will have it, whether at the expense of emancipating slaves, or enslaving freemen. Is it unreasonable then to expect, that some man possessed of the loftiest genius, coupled with ambition sufficient to push it to its utmost stretch, will at some time, spring up among us? And when such a one does, it will require the people to be united with each other, attached to the government and laws, and generally intelligent, to successfully frustrate his designs.

Distinction will be his paramount object; and although he would as willingly, perhaps more so, acquire it by doing good as harm; yet, that opportunity being past, and nothing left to be done in the way of building up, he would set boldly to the task of pulling down.

Here then, is a probable case, highly dangerous, and such a one as could not have well existed heretofore.

Another reason which *once was*; but which, to the same extent, is *now no more*, has done much in maintaining our institutions thus far. I mean the powerful influence which the interesting scenes of the revolution had upon the *passions* of the people as distinguished from their judgment. By this influence, the jealousy, envy, and avarice, incident to our nature, and so common to a state of peace, prosperity, and conscious strength, were, for the time, in a great measure smothered and rendered inactive; while the deep rooted principles of *hate*, and the powerful motive of *revenge*, instead of being turned against each other, were directed exclusively against the British nation. And thus, from the force of circumstances, the basest principles of our nature, were either made [illegible] or to become the active agents in the advancement of the noblest of cause—that of establishing and maintaining civil and religious liberty.

But this state of feeling *must fade, is fading, has faded*, with the circumstances that produced it.

I do not mean to say, that the scenes of the revolution *are now* or *ever will be* entirely forgotten; but that like every thing else, they must fade upon the memory of the world, and grow more and more dim by the lapse of time. In history, we hope, they will be read of, and recounted, so long as the bible shall be read;—but even granting that they will, their influence *cannot be* what it heretofore has been. Even then, they *cannot be* so universally known, nor so vividly felt, as they were by the generation just gone to rest. At the close of that struggle, nearly every adult male had been a participator in some of its scenes. The consequence was, that of those scenes, in the form of a husband, a father, a son or a brother, a *living history* was to be found in every family—a history bearing the indubitable testimonies of its own authenticity, in the limbs mangled, in the scars of wounds received, in the midst of the very scenes related—a history, too, that could be read and understood alike by all, the wise and the ignorant, the learned and the unlearned.—But *those* histories are gone. They *can* be read no more forever. They *were* a fortress of strength; but, what invading foemen could *never do*, the silent artillery of time *has done*; the levelling of its walls. They are gone.—They *were* a forest of giant oaks; but the all-resistless hurricane has swept over them, and left only, here and there, a lonely trunk, despoiled of its verdure, shorn of its foliage; unshading and unshaded, to murmur in a few more gentle breezes, and to combat with its mutilated limbs, a few more ruder storms, then to sink, and be no more.

They *were* the pillars of the temple of liberty; and now, that they have crumbled away, that temple must fall, unless we, their descendants, supply their places with other pillars, hewn from the solid quarry of sober reason. Passion has helped us; but can do so no more. It will in future be our enemy. Reason, cold, calculating, unimpassioned reason, must furnish all the materials for our future support and defence.—Let these pillars be moulded into *general intelligence*, [illegible] *morality* and, in particular, *a reverence for the constitution and laws*; and, that we improved to the last; that we remained free to the last; that we revered his name to the last; that, during his long sleep, we permitted no hostile foot to pass over or desecrate our resting place; shall be that which to [illegible] trump shall awaken our WASHINGTON to [illegible] let the proud fabric of freedom fall for want of its basis; and as truly as has been said of the only greater institution, "*the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*"

TO THE CITIZENS OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

The Executive Committee of the Sangamon County Education Society, have procured a series of Lectures to be delivered upon subjects connected with the interests of *Common Schools*. These Lectures are now in progress, and will be continued during the winter, on Tuesday evenings, at intervals of two weeks. They will be published as fast as room can be had in the papers of this town, with the confident expectation that they will be read with the deep interest which the cause they advocate demands from every good citizen.

We publish this week the first part of the Lecture of Rev. Mr. BERGEN, on the "Importance of Primary Schools," to which we earnestly ask your attention. S. M. SILL,
Chairman of Ex. Com. Sangamon Education Society.

MR. SILL—The Lecture which your Committee has requested for publication, was intended more for the ear than the eye. If, however, in your esteem, it will contribute something for the public good in the cause it pleads, it is at your service. Your's with esteem,
JOHN G. BERGEN.

Respected Friends and Fellow Citizens:

WE have assembled this evening, at the request of the Executive Committee of the Sangamon County Education Society;—a request made to the several clergymen of this town, to deliver successive Lectures on the subject of Education. It has devolved on me to open the course. The theme I have selected is, "*the importance of primary Schools.*" A subject which comes home to the business and bosoms of all men.

In reference to man's arriving at the happiest end of his existence in this world or the next; no theme has so high a claim on his destiny as Education. If man comes into the world with fewer instincts than the animal creation, fewer are needed; because he is endowed with nobler capacities, intellectual and moral, as a constituent part of his being. To the happiest exercise of these, education is as essential, as their existence. The poet showed his acquaintance with sound philosophy, as well as with the muse, when he penned the following stanza:

"Consult the moralist, and you'll find
That Education forms the mind;
But Education ne'er supplied,
What ruling nature has denied."

As on the one hand, the mere fact of the existence of a faculty will not ensure the best exercise of it; so, on the other, Education can not give original faculties or principles. On [illegible] exercise of their original powers, while one class of writers has attributed too much to original formation, another, it must be allowed, have claimed too much for Education. While some have held that some men are born poets, or philosophers, or artists; others have asserted that there is no difference in the genius of men, no adaptation by nature to excel in any branch of science or art; and have claimed for education, the sole province of producing these. Unbiassed judgement will undoubtedly conclude, neither class of these ultra writers have given the whole truth. If according to analogy in nature in all her other works, there be original difference in the stamina of minds, and an adaptation to excel in one branch of learning or business more than in another, there is no less reason why education should have its proper and perfect work. The diamond is in the rock, nature's product; but to evince its highest value it must be polished by the hand of art. The talent to excel in poetry; oratory, the abstract sciences, or the fine arts, is in the original formation of mind, but it is education, and in it I include all the varying circumstances of life which brings it out to view, matures and perfects it. These seeds of genius are confined to no land, or clime, or race of ancestry, or age of the world, or blood of nobility; they are found in the rude cabin, as in the gilded dome; among the children of our frontier land, as among those who breathe where cities shine in ancient splendor or colleges have stood for ages on classic ground! And they require but common culture, to cause them to expand and flourish.—*That culture, the People of America, owe it to duty, to themselves, to their children, to coming ages, to give.* I speak not of building colleges; I speak not of universities, where the learned languages, or what is called, the learned professions, may be acquired! These have their place—a place of no ordinary magnitude. Let them be built and endowed. On this, there is but one sentiment among all enlightened nations. The records of antiquity, the history of all modern times, existing facts in Europe and, in our own beloved country in all the States, speak but one language—*Let them be established*;—not for privileged orders, not for the sons of aristocracy, or wealth; or weakest of distinctions which erring man has claimed, scent from noble blood or titled ancestry. Let them be built and so endowed, that their advantages may be obtained by all classes and orders of citizens; by the sons of the poor as of the rich! Here is [illegible] here is benevolence!—here is [illegible] State legislation, which will carry out the great principle of our chart of rights, in its legitimate bearing, *that all men are by nature equal.* Let not the State by authority, let not public opinion, let nothing put a restriction on any youth forbidding him access to any branch of science or art—be it the dead languages for instance or any other. Let the avenues of a finished education be open to all;—let the son of every man feel, if he can, that he can ascend the topmost height of the hill of science, drink the limpid waters at their fountains, and pluck the floweret from the freshest, fairest, fullest, highest bought! Reverse this order, and make, for example, the knowledge of the learned languages accessible to the clergy alone: It will not require the spirit of prophecy to foresee that but a few generations need pass, before the dark ages would revert upon the world, with all their dire consequences of priest-craft and king craft, of tyranny, nursed and cradled again in the lap of common ignorance, then called the mother of devotion!

It is this common culture; it is this common education I speak of. *Bring it* to every man's family; let him see *the door is open for his son!* And such is the fact. Our country presents it. Here we have no privileged orders. Our colleges and academies are opened and conducted on the broad and common plan. We know no distinctions here, but those which arise from talents, attainments, right conduct and useful life. The highest place in learning, station, or office, may be attained by the son of unpretending poverty, or obscurest birth, as by the descendant of the rich or renowned.

But how shall the public mind be waked up to this all-absorbing theme? How shall the inert mass be made to move and act, in this plain, every day, yet momentous business? How shall every parent be made to feel the importance of having his children educated? How will you get a school-house built in every settlement where there are twenty families? Where will you procure teachers? How shall it be brought to pass that every child, not to say in our whole country, but in *our State*, aye! in our county, or town—how that they shall be all taught the first rudiments of general knowledge! How! A theme worthy the most profound statesman, the most enlarged philanthropist, the most ardent lover of his country!—a theme which has occupied such minds,—and is occupying them, with a range wide as our vast territory, minute as individuality, and with an ardor untiring as the sun in his circuit of the heavens.

Let Lyceums be formed;—let the advantages of universal education be discussed in them—be seen and felt by all who attend them. Let *associations* be formed; call them Lyceums or any other name, where this and kindred subjects shall be discussed. It will do a part.—Let all men make it a theme of conversation in their circles. What if lawyers and preachers should occasionally give set lectures upon it in their neighborhoods! What if they should make appointments for that purpose out of their immediate vicinity! What if school teachers should invite their employers and others to hear a lecture they would give! What if a general conversation should then ensue on the subject in the school room! What if Justices of the Peace, or, in short, any man in his neighborhood, should invite the citizens to meet in a private house or a grove and should talk to them on this theme! What if books, pamphlets, newspapers, tracts, teeming with this subject should be scattered through all the settlements! Would not this do much? The public mind must be moved. Every child must be educated. The vast evil of thousands in our happiest country, who can neither read nor write, must be remedied. Despotic governments may flourish without it; but a republic cannot long *even exist without general intelligence and virtue.*

(To be continued.)

EVENTS OF THE WAR IN CANADA.

From the New York Star.

A Postscript to the Buffalo Journal, of Saturday 13th, 5 P. M. says—

"Pretty warm work may be confidently anticipated. The regular force now opposite Navy Island, will hardly be as peaceably disposed as the volunteers under McNabb."

The patriots on Navy Island had captured a considerable quantity of pork on their way to the British. The latter fired on 150 American militia stationed at Grand Island for its protection under Col. Aljer. About 200 shots were fired at Navy Island from the Canada shore on Friday night. All the shells burst in the air. An assault upon the island is deemed out of the question, but one from the Island on Chippewa is boldly talked of.

Part of the 24th regiment have arrived on the frontier from Montreal, to whose presence the active operations are attributed. It is reported in the Buffalo Advertiser of the 13th, that 8 or 10 on Navy Island were wounded by the firing on Friday night. About 12 o'clock on Thursday night much alarm was produced at Buffalo by the rumor that Gen. Van Rensalaer had landed on the American shore, and was coming up to Black Rock to cross over to Canada at that place.

Gov. Marcy and Gen. Scott immediately repaired to Black Rock, and soon after the artillery and city guards. The rumor proved untrue, and the next day the General and the governor went down to Schlosser. The city of Buffalo is under much excitement from the momentary expectation of a fight between the beligerents.

In the afternoon of Thursday the Governor and the General reviewed the 28th, the 25th, and 7th regiments of artillery of General Ransom's brigade, and afterwards that part of Gen. Burt's brigade of New York infantry in town. Gen. Scott is warmly praised for his vigilance, and the citizens throng around him and look up with pride to the gallant officer as their leader under existing difficulties.

About 100 volunteers came in the cars from Oswego, January 10th, and boldly went over to the Patriots on Navy Island. They had no arms, but plenty of provisions, clothing, etc.

After a short time, however, two boxes directed to Buffalo, and containing 30 or 40 muskets, were stopped by order of Gen. John Jackson, and placed under the control of the militia at Schlosser. He was very much censured for this act, as it is considered the Marshal's business instead of the General's. The General, however, is determined that [illegible] shall not be given up.

January 11.—There was committed at Schlosser, this morning, a disgraceful outrage, by some of the soldiers from the Island. At two o'clock three boats came from Island, containing forty men each, armed with muskets, two pistols, a sword, and boarding pike, who immediately demanded the muskets which had been seized by Gen. Jackson the day before. At this the officer who commanded the militia, drew out his forces, and prepared for action, should they attempt to get possession of them by force of arms.

January 13.—A heavy cannonading was heard last night in the direction of Navy Island. It commenced about ten o'clock, and continued quite sharp for about two hours. A few guns were heard at intervals until five o'clock this morning.

An express arrived at 11 o'clock last evening from Schlosser, bringing the report that a large number of wagons from different quarters, were arriving at Schlosser, for the purpose, it was presumed, of conveying the troops on Navy Island, to some quarter—it was generally believed Lewistown.

The alarm bell was immediately rung, and the troops stationed here, about 500, were marched down the river as far as Black Rock, Gov. Marcy, with Gen. Scott and others, left at half past one o'clock for Schlosser.

Four o'clock P. M.—The report is that there were three men killed and four men wounded last night on Navy Island. Nothing further transpired of any importance.

[illegible] Mutaque Bank of N. Y. has resumed specie payments.

The Treasury notes of Texas like Uncle Sam's shin-plasters, are considerably under par.

ISAAC S. BRITTON is a candidate for Justice of the Peace, vice J. M. Shackelford, resigned.

JOHN C. MAXCY is a candidate for Constable for this Dist.

MARRIED—In the Sugar Grove, on the 18th January by R. Ia Wilson, Esq. Mr. Robert Myers to Miss Elizabeth Offell, both of his county.

The Young Men's Lyceum will meet at the usual time and place. Question—"Ought capital punishment to be abolished?"

ON TUESDAY EVENING, 6th of February, No. 3, of the series of Common School Lectures, will be delivered at the Campbellite or Christian Church, by the Rev. Mr. GRAHAM.

BUSINESS STAND

FOR SALE—The stand now occupied as a grocery, one door east of the Springfield Coffee House—Also a handsome lot one block west of the State House. For further particulars apply to the subscriber at said Coffee House. J