

# THE EAGLE.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

DECATUR, INDIANA.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1869.

THE NEWS.

Much destitution exists among the poor in Montreal, and soup kitchens have again been opened.

Horace Greeley publishes a reply to Senator Morton, arguing that his plan of resumption has already been tried and failed.

A large sale of condemned ordnance stores took place at Fortress Monroe, recently, consisting of old cannon, muskets, saddles, etc., damaged during the war. They brought fair prices.

During the past few days several witnesses for the United States have been before the Grand Jury, at the instance of the District Attorney, for the purpose of giving evidence on which to base a new indictment against John H. Surratt.

A loaded shell exploded and demolished a furnace in Ford & Kimball's iron foundry at Concord, New Hampshire, fatally wounding one workman and slightly injuring a visitor.

A sleighing party at Jackson, Pennsylvania, last Thursday, while going to an entertainment, endeavored to cross a pond on which the thick ice immediately let the sleigh through. Thirty people are reported to have been drowned, none but the driver escaping.

The transactions in stock at the Union Stock Yards, of Chicago, last year, amounted to \$65,000,000.

The total receipts of articles received in the Chicago market last year amounts to \$297,550,000.

The Tammany Hall General Committee re-elected the officers of last year.

Hon. M. W. Bates, ex-United States Senator, from Delaware, died at Dover, on Friday.

About thirty clerks and attaches were removed Saturday from the Custom House at New York.

During last year, 4,410 new buildings were erected in Chicago at a valuation of \$20,540,000. There are now nearly 40,000 new buildings standing in the city.

General Sibley, and a body of infantry, left Atlanta, Saturday night, for Savannah, to preserve peace. The new Mayor and City Council were installed Saturday.

The Minnesota Legislature convened last Monday. Messrs. Ramsey, Donnelly and Wilkinson are canvassing their chances for the United States Senate, though the former has the inside track.

Hoping you feel as easy as I do, I remain,  
Yours Muchly,  
JOHN C. HANSON,  
Assessor's Clerk.

## VIOLATION OF U. S. REVENUE LAW.

An Assessor's Clerk on the Rampage.

Wants to Refund Black Mail Levied.

### A Conscience Thief.

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE,  
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, 11th DIST. IND.  
ANDERSON, DEC. 26, 1868.

MR. H. W. KOVER:

SIR:—I received a letter from one Wilson, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, this morning, asking the Assessor about \$30.00 and note you gave of \$30.00. I supposed the thing was settled; he says you told him that you had made the proper report to the Collector, that you were making a still, and also giving notice of who the still was for. When you say so you know you are lying; if so the papers in the office would show for themselves. When I go to Decatur, on my next trip, which will be on the 7th of January, 1869, I will expect to pay you back your money, and give you up your note, and the thing or case will stand where it did before. In my agreement with you, I promised to suppress my evidence in the case, and not prosecute for the sum of \$65.00, if nothing more was said about it by you. But when a man goes to work and deliberately lies about me, as you have done, I can have no compunctions of conscience of proceeding against him to the full extent of the law. What! Mr. Hanson proceed to prosecute! Indeed! Oh yes, he says he will "willingly" refund the amount you paid me and then you and all of the same ilk can look out." People in this section generally look out when in the presence of individuals having the enviable reputation of Mr. Hanson.

John C. Hanson, as Assessor's clerk is a public character; as such we have reviewed his conduct, in such a manner as we conceived to be our duty. As John C. Hanson we care nothing about him; as Assessor's clerk, we feel an interest in him. We may have made plain statements, but we felt judging from his letter to Mr. Kover, that it was necessary to portray him in strong colors, or he would not see himself as others see him. Having said this much we leave him, and address his principal.

If the Ku-Klux mob a negro, or burn his cabin, or lynch a carpet-bagger, the Jacobin press is filled with denunciations of what it is pleased to term the lawless and revengeful spirit of the southern whites. That press, however, has no anathemas for slaughtered and arson committed by Brownlow's mercenary and criminal gangs or the desperate and merciless "militia" now devastating Arkansas and murdering and lynching her citizens. Had five negroes, instead of five white men, been taken from the jail at Marion and shot to death, there would have been such a combination of wails and malevolence in the Jacobin party as would have made "the welkin ring." As it is, the reports of the murders are printed simply as matter of news in the columns of the radical press.

Not many days ago, four notorious and hardened criminals, whose outrages and crimes had kept a county in Indiana in alarm and terror for years, and who had repeatedly and with success defied the penalties of the law, were taken from the jail, at New Albany, in that state, and murdered by a party of lynchers. The atrocity sent a thrill of horror through every person possessed of a heart and respected law. Senator Trumbull, with commendable promptness, introduced a bill in the United States Senate to guard against the repetition of such crimes.

In Arkansas, as good men as can be found in the state have been murdered by the militia, and this has been done daily for weeks.—Why does Mr. Trumbull's heart stir with emotion in contemplating the lynching of desperadoes, and why is it still and unaffected in reading of the barbarities of the Arkansas militia?—Chicago Times.

Here is our respects to Mr. Hanson. He evidently seeks notoriety, and we feel disposed to gratify him through our columns. In a former number of our paper we had occasion to remark our opinion of a miserable sneak of an informer, and all that we had to say there and then, Mr. Hanson, by his confession, in his letter given above, will consider personally applicable to himself.

We do not propose to defend or apologize for those who are guilty of violations of the United States revenue laws, with the intention of defrauding. But on the other hand, we think, unintentional technical violations of the law, from ignorance, where the Government is not defrauded, should not be prosecuted. The people when they know the law, so far as our knowledge extends have no desire to violate it. And the officers entrusted with the collection of the revenues, if gentlemen, should take pleasure in imparting that information which would prevent these technical violations, instead of mystifying the people and watching for opportunities to prosecute and harass to secure hush money, or the informer's fee. This seems

to be the course of Mr. Hanson. He has informed several different parties in this place that the fees and emoluments of his office were insufficient to support him. That he was obliged to institute these prosecutions to support himself and family. This, to us, would indeed be an humiliating confession. Mr. Hanson acknowledges no duty to the Government. Self is the only party interested. Acting upon this principle, he informs himself of violations of the law, not to prevent frauds upon the treasury, but to put money into his own pocket. Place the highway robber beside such a man, and in our opinion he is the more honorable man of the two. The former takes your money counting all the risks; the latter only when he feels himself safe.

Mr. Hanson talks about "paying back" the money when he comes to Decatur, then he will have no "compunctions of conscience" in prosecuting Mr. Kover, and his friend, to the full extent of their infernal barbarities and excesses. Peaceable and law-abiding men have been murdered in their homes and while at work in their fields. Houses and barns have been burned; and generally there has been a carnival of riot and bloodshed.

A few days ago, we were told that Grant had sent somebody down to Arkansas to see about matters there. On yesterday, came the intelligence of the five murders to which we have referred. From this, it appears that Grant's agent has not yet attended to his business. Are the people of Arkansas dependent upon the will and discretion of the general of the army for the security of their lives and property. If so, let him be held responsible for the task imposed upon him.

If the Ku-Klux mob a negro, or burn his cabin, or lynch a carpet-bagger, the Jacobin press is filled with denunciations of what it is pleased to term the lawless and revengeful spirit of the southern whites. That press, however, has no anathemas for slaughtered and arson committed by Brownlow's mercenary and criminal gangs or the desperate and merciless "militia" now devastating Arkansas and murdering and lynching her citizens. Had five negroes, instead of five white men, been taken from the jail at Marion and shot to death, there would have been such a combination of wails and malevolence in the Jacobin party as would have made "the welkin ring." As it is, the reports of the murders are printed simply as matter of news in the columns of the radical press.

From our knowledge of Hervey Craven, we believe him to be an honest man, and one that will not tolerate dishonesty in his subordinates. Mr. Hanson in his conduct toward Mr. Kover has shown himself dishonest toward the Government, beyond the shadow of a doubt. Knowing these facts, Mr. Craven has a duty to perform, that from our knowledge of the man he will not hesitate in executing, and that is discharge Mr. Hanson.

Washington Correspondent of the Cincinnati Chronicle.

**Annexation of British Columbia and Lower California.**

An old rumor, to the effect that the transfer of British Columbia would be accepted as a settlement in full of our claims against Great Britain, is being revived. That settlement would doubtless be quite acceptable to Gen. Grant, who is known to be favorable to our obtaining possession of an unbroken coast line of the Pacific. Knowing something of the views expressed in the past by the general, I am disposed to believe that an effort will be made by his administration to secure possession of Lower California and the portion of Sonora which, originally included within the Mesilla valley purchase, would, if that had been consummated, have placed the head of the gulf of California within the boundaries of our territory instead of being them, as now, for forty miles up the Colorado river.—The annexation of this territory can easily be arranged with the Mexican government, and the Lower California is already under a sort of sale to a company of American citizens, of whom Marshall O. Roberts and Gen. Butler are prominent members. There is another reason why Mr. Seward will be careful not to excite the ill-will of the incoming administration by any settlement of the Alabama claims, which will not be entirely satisfactory to General Grant. Though Mr. Seward wants nothing (because he is sure nothing can be got) for himself, he is still anxious to oblige his friends or that portion of them that have continued to "hang on the verge" of the republican party. All that element in New York politics are still desirous of having Mr. Evans retain the attorney-generalcy. I find prominent gentlemen who believe his remaining in the cabinet is a foregone conclusion. That will rule Fenton out, probably sustain Courtney, and prevent Spinney from going to the head of the treasury, of which it is believed there is some probability.

James A. Smith, of Jay county, was stabbed to death with a bowie knife, by William A. Gray, says the Jay county Republican.

If Gray is a Democrat, friend Jones forgot to mention it. It, we believe, is his custom, when Democrats commit crimes, to mention the fact. His silence in this case, on that point, clearly indicates that Gray is a Radical.—Such being the fact, the Radical majority in that county will be reduced one vote. Keep tally.

Lord oil is now exclusively used in the light-houses. Sperm has been superseded and petroleum is too dangerous.

Alaska contains about 370,000,000 acres, and was purchased at a little less than two cents per acre.

A vineyard is to be on the battle-field of Chickamauga by a French company.

The negro cemetery at Richmond, Va., furnishes subjects for northern medical colleges.

Thirty thousand Florida oranges are sold in Charleston, S. C., every week.

Peace in Arkansas.

It is but literal truth to say that not a day passes in which there are no reports of murders and outrages by the militia in Arkansas. On Sunday, it took five prisoners from the jail in Marion, in that State, tried them by drum head court-martial, carried them to the woods, and shot them to death. Memphis newspapers report that the names of Doctor McKinzie and John Thorpe, two well-known citizens, were given. Atrocities of this kind are so frequently perpetrated by the militia that they cease to excite surprise, although they add to the horror pervading all the people of the state.

Professedly to preserve order and protect the people, bands of murderous wretches are organized under the name of militia, and under such lawful authority as a carpet-bag state government can confer, are sent marauding through the state. The wicked and bloody work of these gangs of white and black ruffians has been going on for weeks, and the newspapers have been filled with accounts of their infernal barbarities and excesses. Peaceable and law-abiding men have been murdered in their homes and while at work in their fields. Houses and barns have been burned; and generally there has been a carnival of riot and bloodshed.

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