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REV. J. W. MELLENDER.

The following "sketch" was taken at the late session of the Indiana Conference when we were sketching other great men, but for several reasons it was not then published:

To omit him in a notice of the "prominent" men of the Conference, would be as the performance of Hamlet, with Hamlet omitted. In one sense he is the most prominent man in the body. He swells out into Falstaffian proportions and there's no blubber about it; its solid bone and muscle. He weighs, we judge by the sight of the eye, some 240 lbs avoirdupois. And every pound is permeated by good humor and genial kindness. Large men are said to be proverbially good natured. Now, that this is true generally, we don't dispute, but some of the most sullen, sulky, cross specimens of humanity we have ever seen weighed 190 lbs. John is not so. We question if ill-will ever finds way into his great big heart. It is chock full of generosity and magnanimity.

Do not imagine though, that he is simply what is known as "a good clever fellow." Individually we hope to escape such a title while we live. Ordinarily it means a negative man who does nothing to displease anybody, never decides on anything, always bows, smiles and is "convinced by your last remark." A clever fellow he is, and a good one too, but technically, he is not, and never will be a "good clever fellow."

Mr. Mellender is hard to sketch, big as he is. The negro reported that he had counted all his master's pigs but the spotted one, "that jumped so he couldn't count him." Our subject ordinarily won't hold still to be sketched.

As a preacher, some of his eccentricities have prevented his taking as high a position as his talents warrant. At times he is truly eloquent. Some as moving sentences as we have ever listened to fall from his lips. His pearls are of the first water, but he is not always sufficiently careful in what he says.

His manner is very eccentric—he is gestures are violent, and his body bends in all shapes. His eyes snap and blaze, and his hands fairly fly! Until an audience becomes familiarized with his manner, it is constantly mirth provoking. This is to be regretted. We are confident that there are men high in position who have not and never had, a moiety of his talents. They have a smoother, a more finished manner.

We have heard Mr. Mellender on the subject of Temperance and honestly believe that he has few equals in the State. His charming common sense enables him to present such facts and arguments as most powerfully move plain common sense men. This is a rare gift. Some shoot so high they can't be understood. Others attempt to be very plain and degenerate into twaddle and mere baby talk. He does neither. He presents the whole business as it is, and if he sometimes says hard things it is because it is decidedly a hard business. And he has the faculty of showing up its "deep damnation" in graphic style. We have seen him move a whole audience to tears or arouse them to indignation, as he revealed the true operations of the whole business. We know of no man who can do more to carry the State for a prohibitory law than this same man Mellender. And we hope he will remember that when Bishop Ames read his appointment he gave him a special commission to "lecture on Temperance and against whisky." That is his regular work by authority.

Mr. Mellender is very witty. He makes no effort to bring it, it comes. He reminds one of the boy who said he was so full of teeter he couldn't be still. We have seen some men attempt to be smart at his expense, and never knew them fail to come out second best.

Once however we saw him placed hors de combat. At a State Temperance Convention Indianapolis a year or two ago, he was sitting on the edge of the platform while a gentleman named Donaldson was speaking.

Carried away with the enthusiasm of the hour, the speaker exclaimed "Indiana will be the first western state to adopt the Maine Law." "No," said Mellender, looking up "so Ohio will beat us." The speaker stopped, looked at him a moment, and said "see here my friend, I want to tell a story for your benefit. A man employed a number of hands to roll logs and wished the job done in one day. Going out, after some hours one of the hands said to him "Boss, the logs cannot be rolled in one day." The "boss" instantly pulled out half a dollar and handed him saying "you can leave now, men like you do more harm than good by discouraging the balance." The roar of laughter which followed this story was joined in heartily by "John" but he had nothing to say.

One more story—when he went to his appointment from the Conference here, a prominent brother called to see him, and said "Bro M. I hope you

won't say so much about Temperance. Bro. S. last year, injured his usefulness by preaching so much against selling corn to the distillers." "Brother," said Mellender, "which society do you hail from?" "Sinal," said he. "Well brother, I'll beat Sinal next Saturday, and right there I'll begin to thunder on Temperance."

In social life Mr. Mellender is agreeable and pleasant. He leaves behind him a good impression. We wish him a lovely and successful life! We wish him abundant success in his efforts to "succor and to save suffering humanity."

MASSACHUSETTS LIQUOR LAW

The whisky press are rejoicing over the decision of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts declaring the fourteenth section of the Prohibitory Liquor Law of that State unconstitutional. But from the following, which we copy from the *Commonwealth*, it will be seen that the decision is not against the principle of search, seizure, and confisca-

tion, but the method by which it was accomplished by that act. We doubt not the Legislature at this or the next session, will remedy the objections:

"Chief Justice Shaw, in the Supreme Court this morning delivered a long and elaborate opinion, concurred in by the whole Court, that the fourteenth section of the Liquor Law, which provides for the seizure and destruction of spurious liquors kept for sale contrary to law, is unconstitutional and void.

The Chief Justice, in commencing, was careful to say that this decision does not affect the validity of other provisions of the statute, various prosecutions under them having, in fact, been already sustained by the Court. He also fully admitted the power of the Legislature to provide for the destruction of spirits or other property, held for purposes in violation of law. But he said that the Court considered that this fourteenth section did not provide such protection against searches and seizures, and such a mode of trial as the Constitution guarantees. The Court considered this section unconstitutional mainly on the following grounds:

1. That no person was required to be named in the complaint as the owner or keeper of the liquor, complained against.

2. That the section authorizes the seizure of any liquor found on the premises, and not merely that complained against.

3. That under this section a person might be convicted and fined or imprisoned, without any complaint being made against him setting forth any of these.

4. That the section makes no provisions for any trial of the offence of keeping liquor for sale; but authorizes a party to be punished for his offence, on a presumption of guilt, unless he proves himself innocent.

This decision is a very important one; but it should not discourage the friends of temperance. The other provisions of the statute, which have already passed the ordeal of the Supreme Court, afford powerful and effectual means of suppressing the sale of spirits. Their efficacy has been already well tested.

And this opinion of the Supreme Court itself suggests the mode for providing for searches and seizures of liquor, which shall not be obnoxious to the objections which have overwhelmed the fourteenth section of the present law. Can we hope for such an amendment of the statute by the present Legislature.

THE GERMAN REFORM CONVENTION.

The following is an abstract of the platform adopted by this Convention at its recent meeting in Cincinnati:

The superiority of the United States over that of any other country, is admitted, at the same time it evidently can be amended.

It recommends the election of the President and Vice President by the people.

Representatives, for dereliction of duty, to be recalled, if a majority of their constituents deem necessary.

It presents boundaries, at the present moment, and in the meantime every constitutional exertion shall be made to abolish it throughout the States, in conformity with the "Declaration of Independence," which declares "every man was born free and equal," also unremitting exertion to obtain a repeal of the "Fugitive Slave Law."

The public lands are the property of the people and shall not be sold or given to States or corporations, but shall be used for the benefit of the settler, who shall receive his grant and be protected by the Government. If he be an emigrant from a foreign country having declared his intentions, he shall be entitled to the same privilege as a native born citizen. This to extend to all colors.

As when an European declares his intention to become an American citizen, he abandons all claim to protection from his mother country, so is he entitled as much to be protected by the government of his adopted country as if he had served his time of probation. Hence we demand the interference of the United States Government to protect us, when abroad, from the tyranny of foreign potentates.

The time of non-intervention is past. We are so intimately connected, politically and commercially, with the old world, that we can no longer maintain that position.

A reduction of the salaries of public officers, of every grade, in the General and State Government, is particularly insisted on.

The Pacific Railroad is strongly recommended as a Government work.

Freedom of conscience advocated; no religious test necessary for office, or what is termed infidelity, to incapacitate a citizen from being considered a good and truthful witness. The Bible to be no longer considered a text book for schools. The Sunday laws to be abolished, as also the right of the Governors of States to issue proclamations for thanksgiving days.

Catholic ecclesiastics, who are notoriously under the dominion of a foreign potentate—the Pope—shall be considered, as they are, anti-republican.

The claims of workmen, in case of

bankruptcy of their employers, to have priority over all other demands. The ten-hour bill insisted upon, as also a modification of the exemption law.

The property of employers to be responsible for their debts.

A thorough reform of infirmaries and poor houses insisted upon.

Our public schools are considered as of vital import for the maintenance of our present free and independent system. Universal education being the great bulwark of a republican government, it is therefore proposed that stringent law shall be enacted, to compel parents and guardians to have children educated, until they arrive at the age of fourteen, and that no proper artificer or mechanic shall take a pupil or apprentice, unless he be provided with a certificate from a public school the scholars of private schools to obtain such certificates also, as a test of the scholastic proficiency. Children whose parents or guardians are too poor to provide for them, to be supported by the State. The perpetuation of the present English and German school system, and in all cases when there shall be a sufficient vote, English German schools shall be erected.

From the Connellers Telegraph.

BROOKVILLE, March 25, 1854.

DEAR SIR—I have read with interest the first No. of your paper, and enclosed you will find \$2 for it for one year. It is a matter of rejoicing to me that you have the talent, the taste, and the means of getting up so good a paper,—but more especially that you have the good sense to charge \$2 for it.

I have always deprecated the practice of publishing *cheap papers*.—It has done more to degrade the press, than any other obstacle it has had to contend against. On the first place it causes publishers out of papers on a cheap, trashy plan; and drives the editor or publisher to getting type instead of preparing, condensing and arranging the news and other matter for the paper. When I see a paper decreasing in price, it looks as if the publisher was hard run to compete with its neighbors, and as a last resort attempts to undersell them.

This cheap system was first started by the trifling cheap concerns of Philadelphia, who had neither literary or real merit enough to give a circulation; so they resorted to the dishonorable trick in trade of selling a poor article below the market price. The same practice has extended to all parts of the country. Now, I will defy the world to produce a man, who has sense enough to publish a country newspaper, who will dare to say that such a paper can or should be published for less than \$2 per year. Then why do they do it?

It is because they have not the talents and vim to make their papers win, except on the ground that they are cheap.

In the next place, the system of publishing cheap papers, drives men of talents from the Press, into other departments of business, where honorable competition has not descended to the lowest tricks of the trade.

It is true there are some inducements offered to publishers of country papers to attempt to compete in price with the silly trash of city dollar papers, gathered from the dailies. There are in all communities a few poor, stingy souls, who have not the sense to appreciate a good paper—nor county or town pride enough to induce them to take a country paper. These men want a cheap paper—no matter what it is filled with—old or new, chaste or filthy—it so it is cheap.

The constant grunting and growling of these soulless creatures make some weak minded publishers believe that if they will reduce the price, enlarge the type, fill up with large heads to their merchants' advertisements, (who also pay only half price,) that their circulation will be large enough to pay better. These short-sighted publishers thus decide that there is a large majority of central Lovers skimping in the community.

A real good county paper is a mine of wealth to the county in which it is located. It gives respectability to the people by its appearance; it gives life and energy to business by its bringing before the public in a suitable and sensible way, the advantages of the county for Agriculture, for machinery, for manufacturing, &c. In this way a good county paper adds to every man's farm hundreds of dollars, and yet that farmer will go smoking into the printing office to get that paper for one dollar, and on failure, send to the city for one. All the harm I wish such a spiritless soul, is that he may live in a country where there is no paper, or where the editor has not talent nor enterprise enough to make his paper desirable, except on the ground that it is cheap.

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THE "KNOW-NOTHINGS."

The *Delta* (New-Orleans) gives the following account of the new secret society which appears to have originated in New York, and to have first shown its teeth at the last State election, but which has since extended itself through most of the cities and some of the principal villages of the Union. *The Delta* says its adherents in that city are variously estimated at five hundred to five thousand, but are probably not far from six hundred. The nearest Lodge we know of is at Versailles. If the following expose is correct, we hope they will be few and far between in this country. It knows:

"Who has stolen our *Hot Corn*? Will Mr. McClure please look after the matter?"

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