

VINCENNES 3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30.

Our Legislators at Corydon seem to be very slow in their motion. Spur them on, neighbor *Stout*. Don't you know that hundreds of large boats are now waiting for the rising of the waters? How can they get to Orleans when a wild goose can scarcely paddle on the Wabash; and the White Rivers are hardly navigable by catfish? Write to them, neighbor *Stout*; tell them they must fulfil your promises. It is a hard case, when produce commands such a high price in market, that the farmers should suffer thro' the idleness of their assemblymen. Why don't they tell the streams to rise, and the floods to come, and send the people off rejoicing to the *land of silk and money*? But their flour, and their corn, and their wheat, and their pork is all here, yet; and the people are suffering for want of cash.—I wonder, neighbor *Stout*, that you are not ashamed to look youtself in the face.

NO SILVER—yet.

A Zanesville paper says the Muskingum Mining Company has expended about \$10,000 of paper in search of silver. The miners have progressed to within a very few feet of the spot, where the precious ore is said to lie; and many, doubtless, are now in the most eager suspense to know the result of this famous undertaking.

"Symmes Hole"—Some how or other, the belief in the theory of Captain Symmes, that "the earth is hollow, penetrable at the poles, and habitable within," seems to be gaining ground. In a bookseller's advertisement in a Washington City paper, we observe the following:—

"A Voyage of Discovery to the Internal World, by the way of the South Polar Opening; performed by Captain Adam Seaborn, of New-York. With a sectional view of the earth, showing the Openings at the Poles."

It would appear by this, that *Seaborn* had anticipated *Symmes*, and got to the promised land before him;—but how he found his way, and what he saw there, remains for him or his book to tell.

NATIONAL ROAD.

We understand that the Commissioners for locating the National Road from Wheeling to the Mississippi, have passed through Bond county, Illinois, and were going on with rapidity. They ran their course north of *Vandalia*, and were directing it to the mouth of the Illinois River. We are unacquainted with their intermediate operations.

Horned Frogs!—Mr. JEFFERSON, in describing the natural curiosities of some parts of Louisiana, previous to its purchase by the U. States, mentioned a species of frog which had something like horns on its head. He also declared that a section of that country was covered with pure *Salt*, which was used by the natives, and would at no distant day be of national importance.—These assertions of Mr. JEFFERSON were greedily seized by the short-sighted, shallow-pated wits of the day, who made themselves very merry, as they thought, at the expense of the philosopher. But his statements have since been confirmed by various travellers, and are now established, most emphatically, by Gen. MILLER, the new governor of the Arkansas Territory, whose letter we republish this day:—so that those who once laughed at the knowledge and research they could neither reach nor imitate, may learn to use better manners for the future.

Wise men are charitable to all ignorance but their own; and they never sneer at what they cannot understand. They can pity fools; and avoid knaves; and there is more terror in their silence, than in the batteries of a thousand presses put in motion against them.

Electors.—The Electors of President and Vice President chosen by the Legislature of this state, have discharged their duty, and Colonel ROBERT BENTIN, of this town, was selected by them as bearer of the votes to the City of Washington. We understand from the Corydon paper that the votes were for MONROE and TOMPKINS.

Connected with this subject, we wish it were necessary to say nothing more; but a paragraph in the last *Western Sun* compels us to make a few remarks; lest, while we detest and abhor such conduct with all our soul, the silence of our abhorrence may be construed, by those who do not know us, into a sanction of the depravity.

Mr. NATHANIEL EWING, late Receiver of Public Monies in this place, was one of the Electors. He was nominated as a candidate in the House of Representatives by Mr. SULLIVAN, member from Knox, and was regularly chosen. He performed the business required of him, and came home to his family and farm.

What was there in this, to provoke the stirring of defamation? What was there in this, to rouse the serpent of slander—to cause him to coil himself beneath the tympanum of a press, and discharge the green venom of his heart against the peace of Mr. EWING? Is it come to this—that a citizen can neither eat, nor drink nor sleep, nor walk nor stand, unmolested by the agents of detraction?

Must he have his plate poisoned, his cup tainted, so barefaced, so unprovoked, so affected, his pillow stuck with thorns, his

path marauded, and his hearth invaded, for the unmanly gratification of private hatred? Is this the boasted *liberty of the press*—or is it the prostituted instrument of private malice? Is this that which was established for the salvation of the people—or is it the abandoned vehicle of villain's wrath? Is this the protector of the violated rights of man—or is it a murderous dagger, pointed with the deadly vengeance of a scoundrel, against the domestic happiness of a virtuous family? Is this the thunder of assembled freemen—or is it the lonely hissing of a crawling snake, venting his rancor on a deserving citizen? Is this publication the effusion of honorable hostility, prompted by justifiable causes, with the public good for its object—or is it the gloomy malice of a vindictive enemy, who, with wanton falsehood and ferocious rage, attacks through an abandoned medium, the object of his hate, regardless of any thing like truth, honor and humanity?—Is this, we ask once more, the boasted *liberty of the press*?

For what reason is Mr. EWING so incessantly assailed? What is the cause of this regular, concerted system of defamation, this uninterrupted and persevering attack of calumny and scurrility in every form which they can assume? Why is truth distorted, falsehood invented, and every engine of malice, ingenuity and ridicule constantly at work, to render him contemptible and detested, and bring him down, from a fair station in society, to contumely, wretchedness and shame?—Is it not almost solely through the malignity of one solitary individual, who spends all his days and nights in scribbling; and who derives all his consequence from the subserviency of a prostituted press? A press fastened to his use by rivets stronger than the cords of love; and bound to his purposes by chains tighter than the bonds of friendship and political congeniality.—Is it not through the private hatred of a restless, wrangling, rancorous slanderer, whose arrogant vanity is as disgusting as his principles are detestable; who assumes a haughty ludicrous jurisdiction over every thing public and private, political and domestic, within the circle of his imagined influence?—I will ask my fellow citizens, and let them answer with their hearts, if it be not through the discordant and jarring passions of such a man, and such a press, that Mr. EWING is so unremittingly persecuted, so outrageously slandered, stigmatized and abused?—It is not the expression of the sentiments of THE PEOPLE:—they do not call for it—they do not wish for it—they do not think he deserves it.

Mr. EWING was dismissed, it is granted;—but did not the appointment of the son of his ancient enemy carry confirmation strong that all was not clean in the transaction?—He who believes that all is pure at Washington—he who believes there is no corruption in the administration of every government, knows but little of the nature of mankind. So long as man is governed by his fellow man, so long will human interests and passions have their sway. So long as man continues man, so long will the contented, credulous and undesigning be overborne by the restless, artful, ambitious, insatiable and unrelenting. The man who implicitly believes in the efficacy of the ties of honor and gratitude, is but a novice in the science of his species.

What was the excitement to the scandalous article in question? Was it the hope that it might reach the eye of the great people at Washington, and form another item in the green bag of the Secretary of the Treasury? Was it the hope that it might seem the voice of the people, and assist the justification of unmerited wrong? Was it to aid the excuse of a most unhallowed unjustifiable conspiracy, and to do away the effect of some of the black pages of the *History of the Martyrs of the Reign of James Monroe?*—Let the Indians who swore at the ostracism, answer; but let them not give their private piques as the expression of the people. The people begin to understand them.

Was it because the President dismissed the Receiver, and the Receiver has been vested with the conjunctive power of dismissing the President? And because he showed a soul superior to the comprehension of his enemies, and said to his destroyer, "Live—go on and prosper?"—Was it this magnanimity that roused the jealousy and vengeance of this slanderer, and induced him to dread the virtue he must appreciate, but cannot imitate?—Whatever be the cause, it was disgraceful to the human character: it was unlooked for, uncalled for, unthought, and unjustifiable. It merits, and will receive, the execration of all the good; and few are so base and unblushing as to avow their approbation.

Not only was this slander false, and unprovoked, but it was supremely inhuman. Mr. EWING must not only experience the consciousness of being a wanton sacrifice, but he must also endure the knowledge that his enemies triumph in their success, dance round their victim, and enjoy the pleasure of seeing their continual calumnies circulated through every portion of the Union; among the ignorant and credulous, as well as the intelligent and discerning; while his only consolation rests in the knowledge of his innocence, and the only solace of his weary age, is the belief that posterity will do him justice.—Such is the applauded *liberty of the press!*—Such is the successful progress of the ethics of republicanism!

We are instinctively the enemy of persecution in every shape; but this is of that kind which is so outrageous, so unprovoked, so barefaced, so unprovoked, so affected, his pillow stuck with thorns, his

uninvited and undesired, that we cannot find language wide enough, base enough, to be appropriate to our feelings on this occasion. It is not enough that a man should have his good name soiled by the undeserved censure of his government, founded on the foul aspersion of his deadly enemies bandied together by the ignoble ties of jealousy, envy, hatred, interest, avarice and atrocious ingratitude; but he must see a public press, (which should be devoted solely to the support of virtue and public justice) prostituted, debased, and fallen to the worst of purposes, and expressly pledged to the embittering of the remainder of his existence; and this, too, without the semblance of cause, without the shadow of plausibility to give coloring to this worse than savage atrocity.—This is not merely depriving a victim of life; but it is sporting with the bones of the dead, and scattering the martyred fragments to the beasts of the wilderness.

Let those remember, who now deal out the deadly weapons of defamation with such an unsparring hand; who are now so buoyant on the spring-tide of success, and inflated with the accomplishment of their wishes; that the affairs of men can ebb as well as flow; that a day of retribution may be the avenger of the oppressed; that though they now so unrighteously persevere in attempting to render miserable the fading year o' Mr. EWING, and "bring down his great works with sorrow to the grave," still nothing is more frail than human expectation; and let them remember, too, that

Virtue may be assailed, but never hurt; Surprised by unjust foes, but not entrail'd; Yet, even that which mischievous means most harm,

Shall in the happy trial prove most glory: But ev'n on itself shall *luck récoil*, And *naïf* no more with *goodness*.

If this fail, The pillar'd firmament is rottenness, And earth's base built on stubble!

Our Legislature, it seems, are pushing away at the *Banks*, and shewing their skill in the architecture of *new counties*. It appears natural to suppose they will attempt to do something; and therefore we will recommend, that before they destroy the present currency, they should have a better one ready to take its place; and we think before they erect new counties in these hard times, they should endeavor to populate the old ones.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.
Extract of a letter from Brigadier General FRANKLIN, to the Secretary of War.

FRANKLIN, Oct. 18.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 16th and 13th of June. Your instructions respecting the occupancy of Fort Osage, and in relation to the complaints made by the Osage delegation, at Washington, shall be particularly attended to.

I left Council Bluffs on the 1st inst. and came down the wagon road that Lieutenant Fields has opened, with his command. We overtook him on Grand River, about forty miles above its mouth, on the 10th inst. with his wagon, team, and party, in good condition. As soon as I get his report on opening the road, it shall be forwarded to you, as shall the report and topographical sketch of Lieut. Talcott, of the route across to St. Peter's. The road is measured from the Bluffs, to Chariton; the distance is about two hundred and fifty miles; the distance across to St. Peter's, is estimated at three hundred miles. From a belief that the Sac Indians are secretly hostile to the whites, I have deferred having the country across to Rock Island, and Prairie du Chien, explored for the present.

Theague and fever has been prevalent at the post above, for the last two months, but there is every reason to believe that it will soon disappear. Only one death has occurred among the troops, from the 15th April, to the 1st inst. and that from a case of the Typhus.

The new barracks were in a state of forwardness on the 1st inst. indeed, most of the troops were quartered. The rooms were put up with round logs, and hewn down without and within; the whole of the infantry, and one block of the rifle barracks, are covered with shingles.—Good brick chimneys were made to most of the rooms, and the residue, no doubt, completed by this time. The barracks are dry and comfortable, and will probably last some fifteen years; a plan of their construction, and of their defences shall be forwarded to you on my arrival at St. Louis.

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Our crop surpasses my expectation; of corn we shall no doubt gather more than 10,000 bushels. From the quantity gathered and measured, from an acre, which I believe, yielded not more than an average, we should count on more than 13,000 bushels. The acre alluded to, produced 102 bushels of sheiled corn, but, as it was not yet quite dry, an allowance for shrinking of 22 per cent. would still give us more than the latter quantity.

Our potatoe crop will not be as abundant as anticipated nor will the product of turnips; of the former we shall probably gather four thousand bushels, and four to five thousand of the latter. Grasshoppers appeared in myriads the last week in August, and stripped the turnips of their leaves; they were so well grown, however, as to resuscitate measurably, and will give half a crop. If these destructive visitants had made their appearance six weeks sooner, we should not have made one bushel of corn. They stripped it, even at that late period, of half its leaves. The Pawnee Indians lost

their whole crop by their ravages, and I

understand that at the Earl of Selkirk's establishment, on Red River, the two last crops have been entirely destroyed by them.

If we are not again visited by those insects, there is no doubt but we shall be able, after gathering the next crop, to subsist ourselves in plentiful abundance by our own labors. We have cut and preserved two hundred and fifty tons of hay, which will be sufficient for our horses and cattle.

The Indian tribes on the Missouri continue friendly towards us. Our opportunity of judging of their dispositions has been greater the present season than at any former period. In September there was assembled, at one time, at the Bluffs, the chiefs and head men of the three bands of Pawnees, of the Kansas, of the Malas, of the Puncas; of the three bands of Yankton Sioux, of the Teton Sioux, and of the Sione Sioux, residing above the Great Bend: all of whom professed to be, and are, no doubt, as friendly as could be wished. It is said that the Aracaras, who inhabit the country 150 miles below the Mandans, speak lightly of the coming of the troops; and the friendly disposition of the Mandans is also questioned. In these reports but little confidence should be placed. For my own part, I have not the least doubt but the presence of 400 troops would be quite sufficient to overawe them, and make as favorable an impression as could be desired; and which I must hope will be authorized early in the spring. There certainly is not the least difficulty with proper management, of carrying the views of government into full effect, in regard to opening a friendly intercourse with the upper tribes.

Whilst the representatives of the above mentioned tribes were at the Bluffs, the brigade was paraded for review, with two pieces of cannon on the right, supplied with horses and mounted artillerists. After the troops were reviewed in line, and in passing in column and quick time, they were carried through various evolutions, and the artillery made to pass over the plain at the full speed of the horses. The display had the effect on the minds of the Indians, that it was intended to inspire, which was most favorable, as to the appearance and efficiency of the troops, and of the practicability of using cannon with ease and effect. The steam boat "Expedition" was also put in motion, to their great astonishment and admiration.

Major O'FALCON has been zealous and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties as Indian agent. His impartial and dignified conduct towards the Indians, has made a very favorable impression on them; and it requires nothing but a similar course of conduct, on the part of the agent of government, to perpetuate their friendship.

II. ATKINSON, *Brig. Gen. Com'g. 9th Military Depot.*
The hon. J. C. CALHOUN, *Secretary of War.*

Corydon Dec. 21.

REVENUE.

There appears to be great perplexity in the Legislature on the subject of Revenue. Some members are for an ad valorem system, while others are for travelling in the good old way.—All agree that the taxes must be increased; but we have not heard of any idea greater than fifty per cent, on the old rates. It is very questionable whether the proposed increase will meet the increased demand on the state treasury. The Governor, in his message, says "the average revenue is \$18,000 annually;" & fifty per cent, on that will produce a total of \$19,500 if there should be no increase of failures by collectors paying into the treasury; but an increase in failures may be expected in proportion to the increased pressure of the times. But we understand from the Governor's message that the average expenditure at the treasury has been \$17,000, and when the increased apportionment of representation is added which representation, will be increased fifty per cent or more, it will appear evident that \$19,500 will fall far short of supporting the credit of the state, and the treasury warrants will soon be far below par with depreciated paper.

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A Valuable Diamond.—The largest Diamond, ever known, is in the possession of the queen of Portugal, and weighs about 11 ounces. It was found in Brazil, and sent from thence to Lisbon, 1776. It is still uncut, and has been valued at twenty five million six hundred thousand dollars!

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