

From the American Agriculturist.
Civilization and Animals.

Mr. Holley, of Hull Co., Nebraska Territory, writes to the Agriculturist that, during the first years of his residence in that Territory, he industriously killed off the wolves and foxes in one year destroying over 170. Latterly he finds that the hares and rabbits have increased to such an extent as to prove very troublesome to his young trees—having, in the absence of their natural enemies, multiplied without hindrance. The efforts of civilization are constantly tending to destroy the natural condition of things, wherein one tribe of animals holds the other in check, so that neither predominates. By destroying the natural food of animals, they prey upon the crops. We even change the climate by clearing away forests to make room for crops. One generation bares the earth of forests, and the next engages in planting trees. We do not mean to recommend the preservation of wolves and foxes to keep the rabbits and hares in check, but allude to this case for the purpose of calling attention to another in which the natural balance is destroyed, to the serious injury of the farmer and gardener—viz: the promiscuous destruction of the birds. In the older portions of the country especially, the insect-eating birds are disappearing, while the insects, their natural food, are increasing with alarming rapidity. Almost every village contains a number of over-grown boys, who, "old enough, big enough (and ought) to know better," go about with guns, and, under the pretence of hunting, shoot at everything that has feathers. We have no patience with these promiscuous bird-killers, and when we see one of the lazy louts banging away at everything from a sparrow up to a robin, we think that the bird is the nobler animal of the two, for that is fulfilling the object of its creation, while the featherless biped is destroying the farmers' friends. We have laws that certain "game birds" shall be shot only at particular seasons. Why not have a law that other birds shall not be shot at all? At all events let there be such a law of public opinion, that these wanton destroyers of useful birds shall be considered in the light with fruit thieves and other pests.

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The Sentinel for 1863!

The governmental and political questions of the coming year will have an absorbing interest for every citizen. We are engaged in a gigantic civil war, the result of which none can foresee. It threatens a radical change in the institutions and principles upon which the Government was founded, and the destruction of the liberty and rights of the citizen, such as the people of no other nation have enjoyed, and to which may be attributed our unequalled progress in national prosperity and greatness. The issue will soon be upon us, whether this free Government shall be preserved and maintained and the rights of the States under the Constitution perpetuated, or a powerful central authority be permitted to grow out of this war, subverting State lines. State institutions, and all those checks upon the Federal Government, rights reserved by the States, which have constituted the "excellence and superiority of our nationality—States "one as the sea" for the common objects "forth in the Constitution, but "distinct as the billows" in the management of their purely domestic affairs. These questions were involved in the recent elections, and the voice of the people was most emphatically expressed for the "Constitution as it is and the Union as it was." Never was there a time when it was so important that the people should be thoroughly advised as to the progress and condition of public affairs and of passing events. A people are not fit for self-government unless with an intelligent judgment they decide upon the questions which affect alike their own and the public welfare.

CONGRESS

Will soon assemble, and the most important questions will be brought before it for determination. One of which, the Emancipation and Colonization policy of the President, will vitally affect the future of the country. An interesting Congressional proceedings will be reported in the Sentinel.

THE LEGISLATURE.

A new Legislature will assemble on the 1st of January next. Its action will have a deep interest for the citizens of Indiana. The Sentinel will contain a faithful and intelligent report of its proceedings, so that the reader can understand from day to day what their Representatives are doing.

THE WAR.

The events of the war as they are developed will be faithfully given, so that the public may be advised as to its progress; the condition of the contending armies, and all that affects the great struggle, at home and abroad, for the overthrow of the Rebellion.

In addition, the Sentinel will contain the CURRENT NEWS of the day, CHOICE MISCELLANY, STATE ITEMS, the latest reports of the NEW YORK and CINCINNATI GENERAL and CATTLE MARKETS; the condition of the MONEY and STOCK MARKETS; in a word, it will be the effort of the Proprietors of the Sentinel to give its columns an interest for all classes of readers and such information as will be especially adapted to the well-being of the citizens of Indiana.

The Sentinel will continue to represent and stand by the regular organizations of the Democratic party, State and National; sustain the principles and policy they shall now, and support the candidates they may nominate.

We have no agents. The low prices for subscription will not allow it. We therefore ask our Democratic friends—all who desire the success of sound principles—to aid in the extension of the circulation of the Sentinel, Daily and Weekly, until they shall at least reach every Democratic family in Indiana. The press is a most important agent in directing right the public mind, and that is needed to give the Democratic party permanent rule is the enlightenment of the people as to its principles and policy. It shall be our aim, with all the ability we possess, to faithfully advocate Democratic sentiments and measures, for we believe that in so doing we best promote the true interests of the country.

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