

JANUARY

The National Banner



J. B. STOLL, Editor and Proprietor.

LIGONIER, IND. JAN. 6th, 1876.

SENATOR McDONALD is of opinion that Congress will remain in session until the Fourth of July. An adjournment of May would suit THE BANNER much better.

SPEAKER KERR is the choice of the Bartholomew county *Democrat*, the *Winamac Democrat*, and several other democratic journals of this State, for the Presidency. THE BANNER could support a ticket so headed with earnest enthusiasm.

ACCORDING to the revised edition of the American Cyclopaedia, just published, five States have provided by constitutional law against sectarian instruction in their schools. The people of No State have ever voted down the proposition, and never will.

A *World* special from Atlanta, Ga., reports that Alexander H. Shepens' condition is unfavorable. His trouble is a severe cough and expectoration. The bronchial tubes are affected, but not the lungs. His attendants think he can not recover, and he himself recognizes the early approach of death.

The Annual Agricultural Convention, composed of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture and delegates from each Agricultural Society in the State, was held in the city of Indianapolis on Tuesday last. The session was one of unusual interest. We greatly regret our inability to have been in attendance.

The *New York World* published, in a recent issue, a startling expose of the extravagance which prevails in the naval department. Among other facts bearing upon the subject, the *World* shows that there are officers enough on our retired lists, to command the fleets of half a dozen first-class marine nations.

A GREAT many political sins have been laid at the door of the Southern people, but Morton is the only public man who has ever accused them of ballot stuffing. The cowardly and base political crime of ballot stuffing is unknown to the Southern people. That is a product of the iniquity of Northern cities. The political offenses of the South lie in an opposite direction.

FIFTEEN States have taken a census of population in 1875, and the total increase since 1870 is estimated at a little over 2,000,000. As these States had in 1870 something more than one-third of the population of the United States, a common average progress throughout would show an aggregate increase in five years of upward of 5,000,000, or a total population of 45,000,000.

SUNSET Cox has been placed in an enviable predicament. It seems that he wrote a letter to the editor of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, last June, endorsing the Ohio inflation platform, and subsequently he wrote a letter to the *New York Tribune* affirming his undeviating adhesion to the sound currency doctrine. As a reward for this double-dealing, certain papers now dub him slippery Sam.

IT is stated that during the 12 years Mr. McPherson was Clerk of the House of Representatives he disbursed over \$6,000,000. The other day, when he had a final settlement with the Treasury Department, it was found that there was a balance of \$1,000 to his credit. This is a matter of considerable surprise, when it is remembered that Mr. McPherson was a republican official.

In addition to the other inflictions of the year just begun, already has been sounded the alarm in Kansas and Nebraska of the grasshoppers. Before last summer's swarms of insects died, they deposited untold millions of eggs in the ground along the line of their march. When these are hatched out next Spring will probably commence again. In view of the danger of another plague, the St. Louis papers are advising the farmers of Western Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and the other threatened districts, to hoard enough of their grain and provisions to last their families at least a year. Not a very bad idea.

HON. WILL CUMBACK recently lectured at Elkhart. During his stay in that ambitious town, he was interviewed by the editor of the *Democratic Union*, upon matters pertaining to the ensuing presidential contest. Mr. Cumback is represented as being of the opinion that Gov. Hendricks stands more prominent than any other man of the party, but he says that during a late interview with the Governor, the latter declared he was crowned with a sufficiency of political honors already, and his desire is to return to his professional duties when his present term as Governor expires. We hardly think our amiable Governor would seriously object to bearing the burdens of the White House for at least one term.

We are pleased to observe that petitions are being circulated among business men all over the country, to be presented to Congress, with a view to securing the repeal of the law requiring the affixing of a two cent stamp on checks. This stamp act is objectionable in a great many respects; it is a continual cause of annoyance and misunderstandings, and is objectionable in the consequent surveillance over the private transactions of depositors, and in the onerous and humiliating costs liable to fall upon the banking institutions, notwithstanding all precautions on the part of their officers. A special agent has been selected by the banks to bring the matter before Congress as soon as a sufficient number of signatures shall be obtained throughout the country.

GOV. HENDRICKS ON THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

BLAINE'S RELIGIOUS ANTECEDENTS. Quite a number of Republicans hereabouts have expressed an anxiety to know something definite in regard to the religious proclivities of ex-Speaker Blaine. It is a little strange that in a government like ours, where the religious sentiments of a man are never inquired for as a qualification of citizenship, so much interest should be manifested just now in the case of Mr. Blaine. He has been pronounced a Presbyterian of the strictest sect, by birth, and it has also been strongly hinted that he was brought up a Roman Catholic and has Catholic proclivities. No doubt President Grant would like to see the latter version widely disseminated, inasmuch as he has come out as the American Gladstone and national champion of Protestantism. The Rochester *Union* professes to give the "true story" about Blaines religious tendencies, which, for the benefit of all interested, we publish. The statement is as follows:

"Squire Blaine, as he was called, the father of ex-Speaker James Gillespie Blaine, was a resident of Fayette county, Pennsylvania. He was not a Catholic, but married a Miss Gillespie, a member of an old Catholic family, who were once wealthy, but who, notwithstanding their wealth, had become poor, some in Texas and others in southern Illinois. Squire Blaine became a convert to the religious faith of his wife, and lived and died a firm believer in it. He had five sons and two daughters: James, Ephraim, Robert, and John, and Mary and Eliza, and all were brought up strict and practical Catholics. Neil is dead, Ephraim was last heard from in the southwest—Texas or Mexico; Robert is a clerk in one of the departments at Washington; his wife is an agent of the postoffice department. Mary is dead; Eliza is the wife of Robert C. Walker, a paymaster in the army. Walker was not a Catholic when he married Miss Blaine, but she converted him, and the whole family are Catholics now. One of the daughters is somewhere in western Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. Rev. N. S. Gillespie, a professor in Notre Dame University, St. Joseph county, Ind., is a cousin of ex-Speaker Blaine; so also is Mrs. Mary McPherson, the mother of Metropolitan Heaton—a series of Catholic school books, James Gillespie, or "Jim" Blaine as the ex-Speaker is irreverently called, was born on the last day of January, 1830. He emigrated from the family home in western Pennsylvania shortly after attaining his majority, and took up his residence in Maine, where his religion was not popular and he changed it; entered politics; took an editorial chair at Portland, and then at Keene; was in the Legislature from 1859 to 1862—the last two years Speaker; and has since been in Congress.

Notwithstanding the above statement purports to be from "one who knows," a Columbus, O., correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* gives a somewhat contradictory statement and vouches for the truthfulness thereof. He says:

"James G. Blaine was the fifth child of Ephraim Lyon Blaine. There are six other brothers living, John, James G., and Robert, Mrs. Walker, Ephraim L. Blaine, father of James G. Blaine, did not live and die a Catholic. He was raised a Presbyterian, and never converted himself to any other church. He died in Fayette county, but at the time James G. Blaine was being educated at Washington College, Pa., and took up his residence in Maine, where his religion was not popular and he changed it; entered politics; took an editorial chair at Portland, and then at Keene; was in the Legislature from 1859 to 1862—the last two years Speaker; and has since been in Congress.

Quite an exciting lawsuit took place before William Dixon, Esq., of this place, on Monday last. Young Merritt, a boy some ten or twelve years of age, thought it would be very good sport to throw a stone at the head light of the locomotive attached to a passenger train on Thursday evening while passing the bridge over the road near Esq. Law's. On Monday the boy was arrested and brought before the Justice. A special train containing Sup't Methane and others came out from Ft. Wayne to look after the matter. The boy as well as his father most earnestly plead innocence and tried to blame the deed upon other parties. The trial proceeded; he was proved guilty of having thrown a stone which passed through a window of the car, for which (on account of his tender age) he was released by paying a fine of four dollars and costs—total about fourteen dollars. This is not the first time the trains have been molested in that locality, and it is hoped that this small reprimand may be the means of doing much good in the future.

TOM COBBS was not married on Sunday last, as almost everybody said he would be. Holidays are over and school is now in full blast again.

Neighor Shumway is engaged in the butter, egg and poultry business. Zeke Nowells has been sporting a son throat.

Pedro has been pretty well crowded out by—seven up.

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"Parks" says that will beat the oldest prophet, ancient or modern.

"Paul" got dattated at Wolcottville not long since.

Father Warren rather got Elder Hall at the temperance fest last week.

A greenback club, of which H. G. Cobbs has the register, is quite numerously signed.

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ALEXIS.

NOBLESVILLE NARRATIVES.

AS THE BANNER has not reached us up to the present time, we are not posted on anything that has transpired in your locality, but will give you a few items from here.

A child of Jesse and Elizabeth Zeigler died on the 24th ult; aged 6 years, 4 months and 24 days. The funeral took place at the Dunker church, two miles south of here, and was preached by the Rev. Joseph Eby. As we have been bereft of dear ones, our heart-felt sympathy is with these parents in this their sad bereavement.

IT is somewhat remarkable, and altogether worthy of note, that the frogs are heard croaking on this the 1st day of January.

While at Albion last week I found enough mud in the streets to daub all creation, if it was a log building.

I expected to meet "S. U. Repor" at a turkey roast on Christmas, but he failed to put in an appearance.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* disposes of this flippant paragraph by saying: "This is as near as the New York Tribune ever comes to being right. The candidacy of both Morton and Hendricks is serious. Mr. Morton has grown formidable since his Indianapolis organ declared for the repeal of the Resumption act, and now that Mr. Hendricks has arrayed himself on the side of the public schools it is doubtful whether he can be beaten."

PERHAPS it all arises from jealousy, and other worthy of note, that the frogs are heard croaking on this the 1st day of January.

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IT is alleged recently discovered that Charles H. Beckwith, while superintendent of Benjamin T. Babbitt's soap works, from 1868 to 1873, defrauded that company out of between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The defendant is said to be the raiser of checks drawn by Babbitt and in one case absolute forgery. Beckwith was arrested on Sunday. He has been living unostentatiously, and is supposed to have invested the money in some enterprise.

WE are pleased to observe that petitions are being circulated among business men all over the country, to be presented to Congress, with a view to securing the repeal of the law requiring the affixing of a two cent stamp on checks. This stamp act is objectionable in a great many respects; it is a continual cause of annoyance and misunderstandings, and is objectionable in the consequent surveillance over the private transactions of depositors, and in the onerous and humiliating costs liable to fall upon the banking institutions, notwithstanding all precautions on the part of their officers. A special agent has been selected by the banks to bring the matter before Congress as soon as a sufficient number of signatures shall be obtained throughout the country.

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