

# Marshall Democrat

T. McDONALD, ..... Editor.

PLYMOUTH, IND.

Thursday Morning, Jan., 3, 1856.

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To our patrons and friends and "the rest of mankind." Old Time for 1855, went out with a terrible struggle—gathering around him snow and ice, covered with hoar-frost for a funeral pile, he seemed to pass into a state of collapse that left the surface devoid of all life for days before his hour come, and passed away like a victim of malignant cholera. Well, he has seen enough during the past year to make him shudder, and the blood freeze in his veins, and he has witnessed so many things as the sun ever shone upon.

He has seen an alliance of England and France, which the great Emperor Napoleon on said could never take place except to keep Russia from Constantinople, and even that alliance would ultimately lead to the expulsion from India by those same Russians.—Napoleon was right, doubtless, and we shall see. He has seen carnage, suffering and death; grinding ambition about Sebastopol to make good men weep and hypocritical professions in Albion and Gallia that disgust all honesty. He has seen Turkey lauded for her generosity to Kossuth, and Russia making the Black Sea useful—which it never was to England before, and western Europe bubbling with internal commotion from oppression banded to—not to protect the independence of Turkey—but open a safety valve for the escape of the gasses that would explode themselves, and with a hope to get the oyster and leave Turkey and Russia the shell.

He has seen the game begun that will divide Turkey in Europe between Russia and the western Powers, and make Turkey in Asia the outpost for the struggle yet to come on the sands of Hindooostan first and on the plains of Syria last, which wipes England from the map of nations, and beams on Russia the light of civilization.

He has seen Japan opened to foreign trade and her curiosities and valuable productions sent to the marts of the west. He has seen China toering to a change of Dynasty, which will open the empire to the industry and completion of western genius. He has seen the ice-bound north penetrated to the open sea around the pole by Capt. Kane, and the fate of the noble and long lost Sir. John Franklin revealed.

He has seen the seed sown for a great and mighty republic in Australia, and the wilds of Central America passed by free men of the north, who will make it a Garden of Eden from whence sweetness and beauty and delicious luxury will flow to the uttermost part of the Earth.

He has seen blood stained Mexico pass through another fiery ordeal and stand erect once more under a new government, to view the devastation around her, and try once more to hold her place among the nations.

He has seen our own beautiful land blighted and cursed by the temporary reign of fanaticism and blood—Freedom wrested from the hands of brothers by brothers—and he has seen that fanaticism crushed by the might of truth, and the inevitable result of nature laws.

He has seen the strength of free government tested to the utmost by all the element of discord, and behold it rise superior to the giant strength, that aims to crush it and he looked with hope upon the passing cloud of strife, that it might never return. He has seen the steps taken to unite the Atlantic and Pacific by iron bands, over which commerce will ride in triumph and shout rejoicing thro' the wild plains and amid the snow-clad mountains, so long lying in natures profound silence. FAREWELL '55. The world may never see another year so eventful and changing, and we hope we shall all live to see your successor, who has so gleeful and young, laid away at the end of his race.

## KANSAS.

The troubles in Kansas appear to be over for the present. It is rather difficult to ascertain the immediate cause of the late difficulty, owing to the contradictory reports which have been sent by Telegraph and newspaper correspondents.

We think the article in to-day's paper, taken from the St. Louis *Democrat*, gives the most satisfactory version of the affair, of any account we have read.

It seems that Gov. Shannon was slightly drawn (?) by the reports of the Pro-slavery men, or he would not have called for assistance to preserve the peace and protect those who had not been molested.

The first number of Putnam's Monthly Magazine for 1856 is received. It is neatly executed, and is decidedly nonpareil in quality of reading matter. New Year has just ushered in, and those wishing to present their friends something of real worth, would do well to call at this office, and number, and subscribe for a

Postage must be pre-paid by stamp from now onward.

See communication on High Taxes, and Blank-verse by 'Q. K.' in this paper.

(Continued from Last Week)

## Assessments of 1855.

Assessed value of taxes in German Township. Value of lands \$67,181; value of improvements \$21,919; value of lands and improvements \$89,100; value of personal property \$63,107; total value of taxables \$154,427; number of polls 162.

North Township. Value of lands \$55,469; value of improvements \$12,517; value of lands and improvements \$67,979; value of personal property \$30,895; total value of taxables \$98,874; number of polls 112.

Polk Township. Value of lands \$55,325; value of improvements \$14,985; value of lands and improvements \$70,310; value of personal property \$29,465; total value of taxables \$99,775; number of polls 120.

RECAPITULATION.—Total assessed value of land in Marshall County \$609,600; value of improvements \$182,550; value of lots and improvements \$72,150; value of lots and improvements \$82,707; value of Corporation Stock \$89,000; value of personal property \$692,133 total value of taxables \$1,156,000 total number of polls, 1429.

We have laying before us, Graham's Magazine for the present month. It appears now as it always has—to be of one of the most nearly executed Magazines in the Union.

It's engravings can not be surpassed, and the reading matter is of the very best, interesting and most instructive kind.

Persons wishing to take a literary work of this kind, can not do better than to forward \$3. to Abraham H. See, 106 Chestnut street Philadelphia.

Godey's Lady's Book. We have received the January number of this interesting, pretty, pleasant and valuable auxiliary to American Literature and Art; and from a perusal of its contents, and an examination of its illustrations, we have no hesitation in saying that it is "A. No. 1."

## TERMS CASH IN ADVANCE.

One copy one year, \$3. Two copies one year \$5. Three copies one year \$6.—Five copies one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, making six copies, \$10. Eight copies one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, making nine copies, \$15. Eleven copies one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, making twelve copies, \$20.

Godey's Lady's Book, and Harper's Magazine, both one year for \$4.50. Godey's Lady's Book, and Arthur's Home Magazine, both one year for \$3.50 Address L. A. GODEY, No. 113 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

## For the Democrat.

### HIGH TAXES.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice considerable "sparring" in our papers about "High Taxes;" and one of the writers on the subject gets decidedly eloquent in his composition, and shows an acquaintance with hard names quite commendable if he has been a scholar at that kind of study, and great intuitive knowledge if he has not.—I have lived a good many years, and been a close observer of men and the results of social relations, and as the tax payers seem to take considerable interest, and are terribly burthened with high rates, I propose to submit a few ideas on the subject of "high taxes."

Every government must have its revenue to support it, and though tariffs are the least felt, yet direct taxation is the most equal. It is also the most beneficial, for it enables the tax payer to see what he is paying, and if burthened, enables and nearly forces him to seek a remedy. In the articles that have appeared, attributing our high taxes to various causes, such as the poor farm, support of the poor, &c., &c.; the views taken are but another effect of the one great cause, and another evidence that the positions I am about to take are correct: for in giving the reasons they only look at the consequences and not at the causes.

Men can only act so far as they can see, and hence the difference in their social and political stations. So long as our children are taught every thing but the principles of their political and social existence, and that is left untaught, so long they must see erroneously and act blindly. So long as the Constitution is not taught in our schools and the principles on which governments are founded are never lectured upon or brought before our youth, so long they must be unable to govern themselves successfully. So long as the rudiments of law are left untouched, while a mere instruction is given sufficient to enable a man to tell how many rails will lay a rod of fence, or how many pennies makes a dollar, and how many dollars makes him better than his neighbor, just so long results will follow of proportionate benefit. So long as men who can neither read nor write are permitted to choose rulers by means of written instruments, the effect of which they are unable to calculate, and are aroused to action by the language of stump speaking demagogues, whose language they do not understand, so long they must be rode for hobby horses, and good men must suffer for the folly of others. Let us instance: A legislator in this State gets \$3.00 a day and can sit only 60 days, no matter how urgent the business, or how necessary time is, to consider. He gets

curse for his labor and gets poorer in purse. The result is that no qualified man will accept the office and demagogues, seeking to gain distinction from the general mass, ride in as to a stepping stone to something higher, and give us the fruits of their *want of sense*, by crude ill-digested enactments, hurried through without consideration,—by putting a Governor's salary \$1000, per year—a Judge's salary at \$600, at \$1000,—a County Commissioner's at \$300, per day and other offices at a per centage that a penny broker would laugh at. The Governor gets in and uses his place to get to Congress, or in some other station, and the interests of the State are uncared for. The third rate lawyer can alone be got to take the bench in many cases, and courts are so conducted as to add double to legislation and twenty fold to expense. The laws are so made as to get up endless disputes and disgust the people, and they neglect the ballot box, and say it is no use to go to elections.

A Township Trustee gets 75 cents a day and he lets the educational interests of a thousand children pass unnoticed and merely qualifies to save a penalty. Universal ignorance of the true principles of government prevails, and the mass cannot see where the evil is. Men in office must and will have good play, and corruption follows with many & some are so muchified that their blunders make double work and expense, and confusion confounded follows as natural as night follows day. Millions are spent to repair what thousands would have made substantially at first if rightly applied.

1st. Let the Constitution, the decisions under it, and the principles of Common Law be taught in our schools, and teachers hired qualified to teach it, and *paid* for it; and thousands of young men will prepare themselves and come forth, in the place of leaving it to boys too lazy to work, and girls unqualified for anything.

2nd. Let a price be paid men who Legislate that will not compel a man to beggar himself to act as such; and let them sit as long as is necessary to weigh well and perfect the matter proposed. The money that would be paid them would come from the people, and be paid in our own State, and go back to be spent by them among the people again. Then men would be found full of integrity and wisdom, and laws would stand as a perpetual revision, unaltered and beneficial.

3rd. Give a salary to a judge worth more than a mere pettifogger practices in a justice's court. Give enough to call forth the services of age, experience and profound legal knowledge, clothed with dignity, and laws will not become a by-word and a synonym for contempt, and court sessions will be shorter, and petty litigations obsolete. Fix the salary of a justice of the Peace at a point that will make it an object for a qualified man to seek it, and compel him to procure a certificate of qualifications from an able judge to make him eligible. Do the same by a Sheriff and Constable, Clerk and Auditor and Treasurer. Abolish costs in all honest and fair cases, and let the jury or judge assess them against the dishonest party in all unfair cases, and hold every office to the strictest accountability.

4th. Fine and imprison every man who should be found in the streets intoxicated, and punish the officer who should refuse to act on the fact being brought to his knowledge. Whiskey shops would be dried up, and drunks unknown. Pay Township officers a fair price for duties, and the cowardly law would not have to provide a penalty of \$5. or \$10. for a refusal to accept office, and they would work for the interest of their precinct of authority.

Let an asylum for the poor be established, with a good farm, and give a qualified man a good salary as a superintendent, and have him labor and carry it on and make good provisions; and the property would soon be a source of revenue instead of expense, as many county farms are now in New York. Select three men for County Commissioners—the best in the county—give them a good salary and let them attend to the county business—school lands, funds and all, and make it their exclusive business two months out of three. Let them view all the roads and lay them out—let them enforce the duties of supervisors. Let them be a perpetual court subject to heavy penalties for failure or corruption, and roads would be permanent, well worked and useful; and not located to-day by men unqualified—with too much business of their own hand—or in too big a hurry—or interested, and then turn up in a month by another set of the same kind, and so on *ad infinitum*, at the expense of the County.—Let them look to the Clerk's, Auditor's and Treasurer's offices, act as Coroners, appraise lands, assess taxes and do all the business that belongs to the county as a sovereignty, and as a part of the State.—Ability cannot be obtained for nothing, and ability and integrity being works of good pay, can always be had for it.

Ten years would see a new set of voters going to the polls, intelligent enough to act *advisedly* and too wise for demagogues to ride. Twenty years would see almost universal intelligence among the masses, and *virtue* would be in attendance as a natural consequence. Jail would be empty, common benevolence would make the poor rates nominal. The amount of taxables would be increased 500 per cent and taxes be sunk in proportion. *High Taxes* would be assessed only in the pages of past history, and the calling of hard names by writers on the subject would be

found only of these days and would be thought of with pity. The people, the voters, the sovereigns of this great and free State are alone to be blamed for their burthens, and the remedy is in their own hands begging unbend to be applied.

## CROQUILLE.

### For the Democrat.

DEPARTURE OF THE OLD YEAR.

Far o'er the ice-bound lake,  
The distant chiming of the village bell  
Comes softly stealing; the iron tongue has struck  
The midnight hour: the magic number "twelve."  
And the sky, so clear, so blue,  
Is filled with the soft, pale light of day,  
The frosty air, filling faintly school,  
With a strange yet thrilling melody, a  
Long-drawn sigh, low, soft, but sweet,  
Seemed gushing from the bosom of the dark  
Forest, as if each leafless tree and bush  
Had stamp, instinct with life had breath'd; while  
From the distant mountain top there came a moan,  
plaintive and low, like the gentle sighing  
Of evening breeze, as it softly lifts  
The fainting clouds from the ocean of the north.  
Myriads of tiny angels seemed flying by,  
Filling the frosty air with soundless whispering.  
Along the whitened keel of the frost-bound earth  
A shudder ran with crackling sound, which shook  
The icy branches of the naked trees.

The unfastened casement rattled with a jar,  
That chilled the very life-blood, and the door  
Half shut, swung slowly, with wild and  
frightful creak. The watchful house-dog whining  
Sought his kennels farthest back. The sleepy  
Canopied bed, however, was still, and glistened  
Fiercely, with the bright glow of the morning sun.  
The pale moon, the dim fantastic shadows, cast on  
The papered wall, by the faint flame that rose  
Flick'ring from the embers in the grate.  
The grotesque figures on the carved wall  
Seemed dancing wildly 'mong the woven trees  
As the pale light now stronger grew, then, in  
Waiving flashes slowly sunk in darkness.  
The pale moon, however, still glistened pale and still;  
Through the thinning trees the timber peep'd 'em  
Swung nor tickled nor gave a sound with a whirr.  
That sounded thro' the house the hand upon  
The dial-plate went slowly back a space.

The cattle in the stall rose up and looked  
Higher and higher but nothing saw, yet  
The pale light, however, was still.  
The timid sheep  
Addled together closely, as if they felt  
A nameless fear; while o'er the eastward grove  
Rose mournfully the watch-dogs dismal howl.  
The slumbering child nestled uneasily  
In its sleep, and all unconsciously  
The mother clasped her infant charge closer  
To her breast, as if in sleep she felt  
A danger threatening.

"Twas only for a moment. Then all was still and the world  
Again was sleeping. But in that moment brief,  
A mighty change had taken place; a change  
That throughout all the vast extent of time  
And boundless space was felt and marked; with that  
Deep sigh the Old Year breathed its last.  
And as it passed away into that dim  
Eternity, the Past, all Nature, both  
Animat'd and inanimate uttered  
A last farewell.

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