

Marshall Democrat



T. MCDONALD, Editor.

PLYMOUTH, IND.

Thursday Morning, January 8, 1857.

DON'T YOU SUPPOSE THE PRINT-
ER WANTS HIS MONEY? SEND IT
ALONG AT ONCE.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The most superficial observer cannot fail to notice a decided change in the tone of the speeches of the Abolitionists and the Southern Know Nothings in Congress. They are moderating amazingly. Before another New Year's day rolls round, they will embrace each other as brothers; the slavery plank will be knocked out of the Republican Platform, and a new party will be formed, which will embrace all the opposition to the Democracy, except the ultra Abolitionists and the Southern extensionists. They may possibly stand back. Strange as it may appear, it is nevertheless true, that Abolitionists and Southern Know Nothings will, from present indications unite their forces and make one more desperate struggle for power. It will be rather a bitter pill, for these Northern Republicans to succumb to those Southern Know Nothings, but, bitter as it is, they have got to take it.

The Republicans held a Convention at Indianapolis yesterday, to take counsel together on the subject. We will be able to give our readers some of their doings next week, if they do anything worthy of note.

We call the attention to the proceedings of the Marshall County Agricultural Society; let each director bear in mind that the society have chosen them to solicit persons in their respective townships to become members and have reposed confidence in them that they will act cheerfully in the matter. It requires but one dollar to become a member of the society, which may be paid to the treasurer or any of the directors; by paying this sum any person can have the privilege of exhibiting any article belonging to them. It is the duty of each director to meet the society at its regular meetings and to report to the treasurer the names of members and the amount paid.

The Legislature of our State meets to-day. In our next issue we will be able to give our readers the last annual Message of a good Governor as Indiana ever had.

Notwithstanding a portion of the fusion press of the State are constantly abusing him, there is no Governor, probably, in the United States, that is more popular among the people than pious Jo, as the popular call him.

We call the attention of our readers to the correspondence of the 'Democrat' in to-day's paper. Mr. 'J. P.' understands the subject of Education well—in a good writer, and we hope he will often favor us with an article, on any subject he may prefer.

Since the Rail Roads have been completed to this point, we see strangers daily promenading our side walks.

Our Carrier boy returns his thanks to the readers of the 'Democrat', for their kind remembrance on the 1st inst, in the way of material aid.

Correspondence of the Democrat.

Trip to Indianapolis—State Teacher's Association—Educational Prospects.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT.—Monday morning, Dec. 29th, I left the city of La Porte, to attend the State Teacher's Association held at Indianapolis. A ride of twelve miles brought me to the New Albany & Salem Rail Road, at Westville. The morning was sharp, and I was not averse to exchanging an old back for the cars, although to a person accustomed to traveling on the great routes leading to the East, this rail road will seem rather below par, the cars presenting a shabby appearance.

At La Fayette, I met a large delegation to the Association, and our way was thenceforward enlivened by the company of several ladies who are engaged in the public schools of La Fayette. A. J. Vans, Esq., the efficient Superintendent of the La Fayette schools also joined us here, and we proceeded on our way with all the life and vivacity of scholars just out of school; and as "rushing over bridges" and "rushing through the forests, on we went, the ladies favored us with several songs.

We did not reach Indianapolis in time to hear the opening address, by Prof. Larrabee. It was said by those who heard it to sustain the reputation of its distinguished author.

Tuesday morning the Association convened at 9 o'clock in the Representative Hall, and after some preliminaries a report on Phonetics was read by Prof. Bishop, of Hanover College. It was very severe against the Phonetic innovation. The subject was ably treated, and elicited consider-

able discussion, as with many, Phonetics is a favorite hobby. In the afternoon, a report on Normal Schools, from Charles Barnes, was read, and very freely discussed by the members. The subject of Normal Schools beginning to arouse the attention of the teachers of the State. For almost every pursuit in life some preparation is deemed necessary. The physician, the lawyer and divine, must each spend several years in the previous study of his profession, while the teacher has no means of obtaining any preparation for entering upon the duties of his—a profession in some respects more important than either of the others. We look upon the minister as unprepared for his calling, unless he has spent several years in the study of Theology. We will not trust a diseased physical system, in the hands of a physician who has not had the benefit of a regular course of instruction in the science of medicine. We will not entrust a suit in court, involving the sum of twenty dollars, to a lawyer who is a mere sciolist in his profession. We will not even employ a mechanic to shoe a horse or mend a watch until he has passed a long apprenticeship; but he to whom is entrusted the care of the youthful mind, and in a great degree, also, the child's moral culture, can obtain the requisite knowledge of his profession only by long series of experiments. Is it any wonder the young teacher sometimes fails? And should we blame him if he does? A good Normal School would remedy these evils, and its effects, as in Michigan, would be seen in the improved character of our schools.

The report of Mr. Barnes was in the form of a memorial to the Legislature; and it is to be hoped the subject will speedily receive that attention which its importance demands. The Report was referred to the Standing Committee, and the discussion upon it gave place to an address on Physical Education, by Dr. Bobbs. He uttered one sentence which should be treasured up as a motto for teachers: "We teach too much from books." He advocated the formation of one or more Normal Schools in the State, and would have gymnasias taught in the schools. The scholars' plays especially, should be so directed as to give strength and vigor to the system. *Mens sana in corpore.* A sound mind in a sound body. The House we live in should be carefully cherished in order to give efficiency and power to the mind.

In the evening we listened to a very fine address on the general subject of Education, by Col. Bryant. Gov. Wright was present; and I saw a smile pass over his face as the Col. repeated the remark—"What we withhold from the education of the child, we doubly expend in correcting the vices of the man." It will be found, I think, in one of the Gov.'s messages. There was a greater truth uttered.

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