

# THE BANNER.

W. J. BURNS, Editor & Proprietor.

PLYMOUTH IND.

Thursday Morning, Feb. 23, 1854.

**Advertisements** to insure insertion, must be handed in by Tuesday preceding the day of publication.

Some communications crowded out by the foreign news.

**Depot Located.**—See the advertisement in relation to it, and make your bids.

There are some advertisements on the next page, that have a tendency to please the Justices and Constables. Look out.

**The Banner.**—The narrative on our first page, and the deeply interesting foreign and other news, make this number of the Banner a very interesting one. A few extra copies, in wrappers, may be had at the office.

**Depot Buildings.**—Our attention has lately been called to our estimated cost of the Depot buildings at this place, a few weeks ago, and sure enough the figures make us say \$250,000 instead of \$25,000.

**Come On.**—Subscribers for the new and enlarged volume are already coming in. Come on. The clouds that hung over our prospects for making it a paying adventure, are disappearing, and we hope to see a clear and prolific field before us by another fortnight.

**War! War!**—Our readers will doubtless be deeply interested in the news brought by the America and Canada. Everything indicates increased trouble & bloodshed. The failure of every effort to avert this general collision, seems to have exhausted the patience of the powers who have sought a satisfactory compromise, and driven them to the determination of settling it by force. See the foreign news.

**O. H. P. Bailey** of San Jose, California, has our thanks for late papers.

**Valentines.**—Our young folks had quite a sprightly time of it last week, and no mistake.

**Tell your Editor.**—There are many persons who think an Editor ought to know every thing and tell his readers all he knows. It is difficult to arrive at perfection in the performance of this task; but how much nearer we might arrive at it, could be determined by a trial of the plan for every one to tell the Editor all he knows. This might certainly result in placing everybody in possession of everything that everybody knows.

**Tell your Editor.** Yes, try it, and such as is fit for the public eye, his readers will get. How can it be reasonably expected of him to attend to his office duties, and know all that is going on without? If every one interested in their county paper, (and who is not?) would contribute their little mite in this respect, it might be greatly increased in interest, and those thus interesting themselves often confer public benefits and receive the thanks of hundreds of readers, from whom they least expected them.

**Reader.**—If anything extraordinary occurs in your neighborhood, & it is known to you and your neighbors, you are certainly too well posted to believe that everybody else's neighbors know it. Then if you do not wish to be selfish with your news items, tell your Editor.

There are many persons who were formerly citizens of our country—your old neighbors—some in Iowa, Illinois, & perhaps farther west, or in California, who take the Banner in order that they may keep posted in the local items about their old homes—the prosperity or misfortunes of their old friends; and as you respect them, see to it that they are not disappointed—and tell your Editor everything—but a falsehood.

**Narrative.**—Our readers may find on our first page a deeply interesting narrative of the sufferings and privations of a woman captured by the Comanche Indians, on her route from Texas to California.—Read it.

**Small Pox.**—The small pox is prevailing in many parts of this State. It is confined to no particular place or locality. Nearly all of our exchanges that speak of it at all, locate it in the country. In Washington, Putnam, Bartholomew, Decatur, Marion, Johnson and Miami Counties, it is said to prevail. In one instance, it is said that there are thirteen cases in two families. It appears to have acquired quite an extensive range in a very still and noiseless way. Persons who have been so unfortunate as to be exposed to such diseases, have heretofore been so universally shunned and

neglected, and suffered to die entirely alone and uncared for, that now, if they are accidentally infected, they will, for self preservation, keep it as still as possible. This is the way the disease has acquired its present extensive range in our State.

**Stockholders Notice.**—Amongst our advertisements will be found a call upon the stockholders of the Cincinnati, Peru and Chicago Railroad, for ten per cent on the amount subscribed. W. G. Pomeroy Esq., of this place, is ready to receive in behalf of the Board.

To the little account of the girls' oyster party which we published last week, none of the young gents interested should take any exceptions, as it would incline the public to believe that there was something real in it. They should have laughed it off, and pushed it along as a jest played off by the young ladies, as it was intended.

But we have since understood that there is some real trouble somewhere, and that the young gents took the article as an allusion to it. This is not the fact. Had we been advised of any difficulty in reality, not a syllable would have appeared in the paper about it. No indeed, that's not our paw. A different sphere, as we last week stated, has been chalked out for our paper.

**The Nebraska bill.**—Certainly no one will think that we, who care so little about political parties and organizations in these days, are inconsistent in amusing ourselves at the cut up, mixed up, and divided up condition in which the various political parties at present find themselves upon the Nebraska bill. Indeed, we should not be surprised to see two or three factions of the Democratic party set up shop for themselves. The State Sentinel, we believe, has been reading some of the Indiana democratic members of Congress out of the ranks, as being too much tainted with abolitionism in their opposition to the repeal of the Missouri compromise, which is one of the main purposes of the Nebraska bill. The Legislatures of several of the States have passed joint resolutions in opposition to the measure. Leading Democrats of Ohio have advised their members that their homes and the bosoms of their constituents will be too hot for them if they return to them after having favored the measure. Public meetings "too numerous to mention," in various parts of the country—some composed entirely of democrats, and others of all parties, have been held, denouncing the measure and its supporters. Even Douglass' own political and personal friends in his own State, (Illinois) have in convention and privately denounced him and his darling measure, publicly branding him as a miscreant and a recreant, and the Detroit Free Press is busy in rapping the knuckles of the Democratic Editors in Chicago for being found in such company. And, again, it is said upon good authority, that the President and a majority of his Cabinet are in favor of the bill. Northern Whigs are unsuccessfully trying to coax southern Whigs to oppose it.—But Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, has got them by the wool—HE HAS. Upon the score of inconsistency he pegs it to the friends of the compromise of 1850. He is right there, and Gen. Cass is sorry he shot, and Douglass himself must say, as said Mrs. Partington—"Oh that I could suppress myself as others do to be clearly understood. But it's my misfortune, that I never open my mouth but I'm sure to put my foot in it."

Well, they are all in a muddle—a hopeless muddle—one of their own creating, and which will require nothing short of the indomitable zeal and ingenuity of Jack Downing and Gen. Jackson to settle. But seriously, this measure touches questions of deeper moment, if possible, to the north and south upon the subject of slavery, than those agitated in 1850, yet there is less fanaticism and cries of disunion, than there was then, and we firmly believe that the principles of the compromise adopted in that year, have, after mature deliberation and calm reflection, found an eternal abiding place in the great American heart.

**The Peru Sentinel** of last Thursday, says there is not quite iron enough, by about a mile and a half, to finish the entire line of track for the Peru and Indianapolis Railroad, but that what is lacking will be obtained in a few days. You are trying to steal off a celebration down there, John, without letting us know anything about it. If you do, we'll make our cake-shop keepers tear up your track, and stop your navigation. Be decent.

**The School Books Again.**—Our readers will recollect that we published the article of the Logansport Pharos, in relation to the course pursued by Messrs. Witter & Miller, of South Bend, in opposing the books recommended by the State Board of Education, and when apprised that the Pharos had corrected its statements, we promised to insert the corrections also, but we have not been able to get the correction until Saturday last. Here it is.

We have received a letter from Messrs. Witter & Miller, of South Bend, inclosing the circular to which we alluded last week as having been sent by Mr. Witter to Township Trustees, probably to induce them to resist the decision of the State Board of Education in reference to Common School Books. The Circular is not what we were led, by the circumstances stated last week, to suppose it to be.

**Russia vs. England and France.**—Directly after our issue last week, we noticed a dispatch stating that Russia had made a formal declaration of war against England and France; but our late foreign items in detail have no corroboration of the statement. The Russian Ministers having left Paris and London, is an evidence of its correctness.

**Congress.**—A bill granting to the State of Ohio all the public lands remaining in that State unsold, passed the U. S. Senate on the 15th inst.

The Ohio River is said to be very high. On the 16th, it was upwards of twelve feet and rising at Pittsburgh.

The number of drop letters which passed through the post office at Indianapolis on St. Valentine's day, was 1,634.

**Advance Price.**—We have now had charge of the Banner seven months, and, as will be perceived by the terms, those who defer the payment of their subscriptions six months, are chargeable with \$2.00, but we shall charge no one more than the advance price, \$1.50, if paid within one week from this date—at which time the second volume of the paper will be completed. After that time, all who were subscribers at the time we took charge of the establishment, and have paid nothing, will be charged \$2.00. This, in addition to the terms, will surely be timely notice.

[At the commencement of the third volume of the paper, which will be after one week more, we shall enlarge it to the full double medium size, and as we shall not increase the price of subscription, we rely alone upon an increased number of subscribers, and their strict observance of the terms, to aid in defraying the extra expense we shall necessarily incur in the enlargement.

The Plymouth Banner, says the Evansville Journal is about thirteen days generally in getting there. If the Editor of the Banner cares anything for the Journal he may feel grateful on getting it at all under the present mail "arrangements." The last Banner, however, reached us in six days. Very good. Evansville Journal.

We care for the Journal! Most assuredly, and if its present conductor will turn to its old files of 1836, he will discover that we then exercised quite a parental care for the Journal, when it was about the size of our little Banner.—Care for the Journal!—Yes, and for its prosperity too. And right glad are we to know that it has lost nothing in the several changes through which it has passed, and if "under the present mail arrangements" we should not get it in sixty days, we should not attach the blame to Add Sanders.

**The School Master at home.**—If the following specimen of orthography is the production of the "party of the first part" in the premises, we propose for him about 10 minutes tuition under our Devil, and let the young idea teach him how to shoot. If he is not the author, however, why, we don't know who is—that's all!

**An Article of Agreement** maid and Entered into by and between \_\_\_\_\_ of the first part and the employers of the second part the party of the first part agree to teach a com School embracing the following branches to-wit Reding Righting & Arithmatick geogrippy & gramer for the term of tw months at the Rates of \$15.00 per month end board with the employers according to the number signed, and the said partie of the first part is or may be Discharged at any time the employers see fit and on failure of the said party of the first part to Comply with the above agreement the forfeites what he has taught and be Discharged with ought pay, and the partie of the Second part is to furnish a house and wood sufficient this 23 Day of December 1853

Now, we hope our eastern missionary sympathisers will not take it for granted that such are the only school teachers we have out here, and make a great noise about it. They are used only as examples!

**The School Books Again.**—Our readers will recollect that we published the article of the Logansport Pharos, in relation to the course pursued by Messrs. Witter & Miller, of South Bend, in opposing the books recommended by the State Board of Education, and when apprised that the Pharos had corrected its statements, we promised to insert the corrections also, but we have not been able to get the correction until Saturday last. Here it is.

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It notifies the Trustees that Messrs. W. & M. have for sale Mitchell's Outline Maps, and different sizes of Globes, for schools—also Webster's Dictionaries, three sizes, and several other books which do not conflict with the decision of the State Board.

We make this statement with pleasure, as it was not our intention to do any injustice to either of the firm of Witter & Miller. The conclusion we came to in reference to the Circulars was very natural, considering the interest Mr. Witter had manifested in opposing the action of the State Board, and the fact that the circular envelope gives notice that Messrs. W. & M. will "take special pains to supply Teachers and School Districts with the Books adopted by the Northern Indiana Teacher's Institute."

So far as Messrs. W. & M. do not occupy a position in opposition to the State Board, we think they deserve credit for their enterprise in providing necessary books and apparatus for Schools, and we hope they will be rewarded by large sales. We know them to be gentlemen worthy of the patronage of all.

Pharos, Jan. 4.

In the State of New York, there is no law to punish a man for running away with another man's wife.—Exchange.

Good Lord, what other punishment more severe than that of being compelled to live with and maintain her, would you have visited upon the unfortunate wretch!

**ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.** Boston, Feb. 16.—The America, with dates from Liverpool to the 31st ult., is below. She went ashore at Bird Island when coming up this morning, but will get off at high tide.

The report that a great battle had been fought at Kalafat, on the 29th ult., is confirmed, the Turks being victorious.

The details of the great conflict at Kalafat had not reached England, but it was known that Gortschakoff was prepared for a terrific struggle, and the details were hourly expected. Several small skirmishes were occurring along the Danube, in which the Turks were generally successful.

Count Orloff was at Berlin when the Prussian Cabinet was summoned to meet him. The terms of his mission is not known. From Berlin he proceeds to Vienna. Affairs in the meantime remain unchanged.

The English documents on the Turkish question were to be called for in Parliament the first day of the session.

Austria has removed her demand for the extradition of foreigners in the Turkish question.

A despatch received at Liverpool on Monday evening, says no doubt the reply of the French and English Governments to the Czar's last note, will be firm and decided. Olen Sacker's advance guards arrived at Bucharest on the 4th and the main body on the 11th ult. The mortality among his troops was enormous notwithstanding which they were to continue their march to Kalafat. Gortschakoff, having received final orders, had sent forward the heavy artillery, and was soon to leave for Lesser Wallachia. Fresh insurrections were taking place among the Wallachian population. Letters from St. Petersburg of Jan. 20, are of a warlike tenor, and state that extreme measures are resolved upon, if the explanations from the western powers is not satisfactory. A despatch from Bucharest, under date of the 14th, says 45,000 troops were concentrated around Kalafat, and a great battle was soon expected.

A despatch from Belgrade, dated 28th, says a report was in circulation that a collision had taken place in the Black Sea. There was great political excitement in Servia. The Russians suffered severe loss at Matchin on the 12th, and had a steamer disabled. The whole Russian fleet left Sebastopol on the 12th ult, in the direction of Batoum.

Later advices from China say the Rebels were within sixty miles of Peking, but that the city was well garrisoned with stores of Rice for three years.

**ADDITIONAL BY THE CANADA.** New York, Feb. 17.

The news is ominous of war. The answer from England and France to the Russian inquiries respecting the entry of the fleets was delivered on the 1st to the Russian ministers in London and Paris. The terms of the reply did not transpire.

The Russian minister is reported to have withdrawn himself from Paris, and the minister was to leave London on the 5th.

England is sending a detachment of small steamers to take soundings of the entrance to the Baltic for the fleets.

Orders are understood to have been sent to the English and French Ambassadors at St. Petersburg to demand their passports.

At a council held at the Tuilleries on the 30th January, the question of sending an extraordinary land force to Turkey was fully discussed. It is proposed to send 10,000 men. England will send only a small force, but will pay half the expenses.

The British army is to be increased by 12,000 regulars, and the navy by 13,000 men.

No change had occurred at Kalafat since the last report. On the Danube, although abstaining from great operations, the Turks give the Russians no rest.

Parliament was opened on the 31st.—The crowd was much greater than usual. On the route to the House, the Queen was greatly cheered, but Prince Albert was occasionally hissed. The Turkish Minister was loudly cheered. The House was unusually full of splendid costumes.

No members of the American Legation were present. The Master of the Ceremonies had sent notice to all diplomatic members to appear in full costume.

The following is part of the Queen's speech:—"The hopes which I experienced at the close of the last session, that a speedy settlement would be effected of the difficulties existing between Russia and the Ottoman Porte have not been realized, and I regret to say that a state of warfare has ensued. I have continued to act in cordial co-operation with the Emperor of the French; and my endeavors, in conjunction with my allies, to preserve and restore peace between the contending parties, although unsuccessful, have been unrelaxing. I will not fail to persevere in those endeavors, but as the continuance of the war may deeply effect the interests of this country and of Europe, I think it requisite to make a further augmentation of my navy and military forces, with the view of supporting my representatives, and more effectually contributing to the restoration of peace. I have desired that the papers explanatory of the negotiations which have taken place upon this subject shall be communicated to you without delay.

"I recommend to your consideration a bill which I have ordered to be framed for opening the coasting trade of the United Kingdom to the ships of all friendly nations, and I look forward with satisfaction to the removal of the least legislative restriction of the use of foreign shipping for the benefit of my people."

The remainder of the speech was of a local character.

**LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.**

**VIENNA.**—Count Buol has drawn out a declaration of neutrality, with a strong leaning towards the views of the western powers, and has given this to Count Orloff as a final answer. Orloff's mission has therefore failed. The Czar's proposal was to form a defensive league with all the German powers, and if the western powers should attack any one of them, Russia would make common cause with them, and would not conclude any peace without consulting their interests. The German powers, through Austria, definitely refuse.—Russia is, therefore, isolated. The western powers are immediately to demand the evacuation of the principalities, and are to command it forthwith. The Russian minister in London has paid a formal and final visit to the foreign department.

**CIRCULAR.** Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indianapolis, February, 1854.

DEAR SIR:—There are numerous and frequent calls on this office for facts respecting the validity of the provision of the School Law, authorizing the assessment, in cities, towns, and townships, of a special tax "for the purpose of building or repairing school houses, and purchasing sites therefor, providing fuel, furniture, maps, apparatus, libraries or increase thereof, and for continuing schools after the public funds shall have been expended." Misapprehensions seem to prevail in some parts of the State, respecting the effect which the principle recognized by the Supreme Court in their late decision on the liquor law may have on the School Law. To answer the inquiries made, and to correct the misapprehensions existing, we would submit the following statement of facts:

The interest on the Consolidated Common School Fund of the State, together with the avails of the State tax provided for in the first section of the School Law would give annually, when distributed to the cities, towns and townships of the State in proportion to the number of children therein, only about \$80 for every 100 children. This amount is wholly insufficient to pay the necessary expenses of instruction, and also to build school houses, in which nearly every township in the State is deplorably deficient.

To enable the people to manage their municipal affairs as circumstances might require, and as their own views of expediency might suggest, the Legislature, in accordance with the power conferred by the Constitution, enacted general laws for the incorporation of cities, of towns, and of townships. By the law for a general and "uniform mode of doing township business," every civil township in the State becomes a "body politic and corporate," with all the rights, immunities, and liabilities of a corporation.—Among the usual, essential, and necessary rights and duties of such a corporation, is the raising, by taxation on the property and polls within the corporate limits, of a sufficient amount of revenue for the payment of all the expenses of the corporation. Among the legitimate purposes, for which the corporation is bound by law to provide, are making and repairing of roads, the support of the poor, and the education of all the children. The officers of the corporation, whether of the city, town or township, are required to establish and maintain a sufficient number of schools for the education of all the children under their jurisdiction. They have at their command a portion of the amount of money required to sustain their educational institutions, derived from the general distribution of public funds. Whatever additional amount may be necessary, must be raised by taxation. In cities and incorporated towns, the corporation authorities have explicit power by the School Law to decide on the amount required, assess it and provide for its collection. In townships, the law, for the purpose of more deeply interesting the active sympathies of the people in the cause of education, provides that the whole body of stockholders in the corporation—that is, the voters of the township—may act in the decision of the question.

No one questions, as we are aware, the authority of the corporate officers of cities and incorporated towns to assess a tax for school purposes. No one would question the authority of township trustees to assess such a tax, if the law did not require a vote of the people on the question. But it is supposed by some that the vote of the people invalidates and renders unconstitutional the assessment and collection of taxes, wherever such vote is taken.

The issue has been made in one of the townships of the State. An injunction was asked of the Circuit court by certain citizens, restraining the County Treasurer from collecting the township school tax assessed under authority of the 130th section of the school law. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court. We were ready to have the case decided at the last term. The Court was ready to take up the case and decide at once. But the persons having the other side in charge would not consent to the submission of the case at that time. It therefore cannot be decided until the next session of the Supreme Court, which occurs in May next. In the meantime the collection of school taxes must go on as if no question had been raised.

It would not be under ordinary circumstances proper for me to give an expression of opinion on the merits of a case referred to the Supreme Court for decision; yet, as great misapprehensions exist on the question under discussion, and in some counties the schools are, as I have learned, actually suspended on account of this misapprehension, it may be proper for me to say that no person with whom I have conversed, and who has examined the question, except perhaps the counsel of the prosecuting party, has expressed any doubt that the law will be sustained. The constitutional objection to the Liquor Law does not at all apply to the School Law. By the Liquor Law the same act might be legal in one township and criminal in another, and the difference would depend on a vote of the people in their sovereign capacity. By the School Law, a question, not of crime or of law, but of municipal or corporation taxes, is submitted to the township in its corporate capacity. I need not argue this point. I only need confidently affirm, as I have the best authority for doing, that members of the Supreme Court themselves look on the Liquor and School Laws as being wholly independent of each other. In deciding the Liquor Law unconstitutional, they have decided nothing affecting the School Law. Let therefore the schools in your neighborhood go on. Let the contracts for building school houses remain. Let all things proceed precisely as if no decision on the Liquor Law had been made, and no question on the constitutionality of the School Law had been raised. Let the people pay their taxes with their usual liberality and alacrity. If they decline payment on account of the agitation of this question, the only effect will be delay, and a large delinquent list, which will only increase the expense and dissatisfaction to the tax payer, without any corresponding profit to any party.

Respectfully,  
W. C. LARRABEE.

For the Banner.  
**TWILIGHT THINKING.**  
Sister, the twilight shadows gather o'er me;  
The day is gone,  
Life's varied page flits like a dream before me,  
As here I sit alone.

Thou art not here to cheer the pleasing sadness,  
Waked by a voiceless call;  
Or wonder why my heart is full of gladness,  
And yet the tear-drops fall.

But, wayward moods through the dim past  
flitting,  
Resumes her mystic reign;  
And love-linked scenes, long treasured in her  
keeping,  
Start in to life again.

The flowers we love—the hopes and forms we  
cherish  
In the bright days of yore;  
But now, the flowers are dead—those hopes  
have perished,  
Their voices charm no more.

Yet still, while time with a remorseless finger,  
Brights all unparingly;  
Will eyes grow dim, while memory loves to linger,  
On thoughts she'll keep of thee:

Know when spring calls for thy favorite flowers,  
Those flowers are not forgot;  
And the low song that ever charmed thy hours,  
Still haunts the accustomed spot.

Let joy be thine, or grief thy joys o'erflowing;  
Yet at the hour of prayer;  
How sweet will be the happiness of knowing,  
We're even remembered there.

Feb. 14, 1854. MAY.

**The Erie Difficulties over—A Point Gained.**  
The Erie and North east road has been repaired, and there is now but one gauge between Buffalo and Cleveland. Still the roads East and West of Erie do not connect. One of them come on the north side of the Depot and the other on the south side and passengers are compelled to pass through the building to get from one road to the other. Freight must also pass through the depot.

In this manner the matter will rest for the present—probably until the Courts decide the question pending. But the public it will be observed have gained one point. A uniform gauge has been obtained, and there is only one change between Buffalo and Cleveland, whereas there have been two heretofore.

**New York Tribune.**  
**A WIT DISCOMFITED.**—We remember witnessing the complete discomfiture of a wit of no inferior order, by a message politely delivered at a supper party by a little girl. "If you please Mr. B. mamma sends her compliments, and would be much obliged if you would begin to be funny."