

# THE BANNER.

WM. J. BURNS, Editor & Proprietor.  
PLYMOUTH IND.

Thursday Morning, April 6, 1854.

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

**Change.**Gov. Bebb has resigned the Presidency of the Cincinnati, Peru and Chicago Railroad company, and at a meeting of the Board at Laporte, a few days ago, JOHN B. NILES, Esq., of that place was elected in his stead. No one could have succeeded Gov. Bebb who would have taken a deeper interest in the speedy prosecution of the work than the present incumbent. His interests are peculiarly identified with this road, and his well tried and indefatigable energy, together with his knowledge of the country and the people along its track, will tend to strengthen the public confidence in its completion at the earliest possible period.

The daily line of Coaches from this place south, now leave the Michigan road at Rochester, and connect with the Indianapolis and Peru Railroad at Peru. Persons leaving here after dinner to-day, may take dinner at the capital to-morrow.

It is very strange that Railroad and stage managers don't adopt some mode of letting our citizens here generally, (who have been in the habit of going the Lafayette route) know something of the facilities they are affording.

A two horse hack has taken the place of the daily line from Rochester to Laporte.

**Steamboat Explosions.**—An unusual number of Steamboat accidents have occurred within the past few weeks, on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

On the 5th ult., the Steamer *Caroline* was burnt near Memphis. Quite a large number of Cabin, and nearly all the deck passengers were either drowned or perished in the flames. The *Yawl* was sunk by being overloaded with those who attempted to make their escape in it, and all were drowned. The boat burned to the water's edge, when the hull sunk with its entire contents, amongst which were the bones of many who were unable to escape.

On the 9th, the Steamer *John L. Avery*, on her way from New Orleans to Cincinnati, with a heavy freight and about 150 persons on board, when about 45 miles below Natchez, commenced sinking. Her hull separated from her cabin, and sunk almost immediately, near the middle of the river. Amidst the distress and confusion, it was impossible to tell precisely the number of lives lost—supposed to be about fifty. Most of the cabin passengers were saved by clinging to the wreck of that part of the boat, until the *Sultana* came to their rescue, which was but about twenty minutes behind the *Avery*.

**The Farm & Shop.**—This valuable Agricultural Journal entered upon its 24 volume on the first inst. It is decidedly the nearest and best conducted paper of the kind ever published in the State, and we hope it enters upon its second volume with renewed encouragement in the way of patronage. It is published semi-monthly at Indianapolis, at \$1 per annum.

The New Albany Ledger thinks a further investigation of the *Martha* Washington affair will end in smoke. Most assuredly such was the end of the vessel itself.

The smallpox is still prevailing at Terre Haute. Three new cases were reported on the 21st ult.

Our Indianapolis exchanges say the disease has made its appearance in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. Every effort is making however, to prevent its spread.

The Cincinnati Commercial of Thursday last, says the work on the Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad (Caleb B. Smith's road) is now on the section adjacent to the great Miami River, progressing finely. Gangs of from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty hands are driving matters. The iron for one hundred miles of this road, we are informed, has already been purchased.

This, we understand to be the eastern end of the Peru and Chicago road. We anticipate that the approaching season's operations will make some alterations on this portion of the work.

**The Duel.**—The talked of duel between Messrs. Cutting of New York, and Breckenridge of Ky., originated in a sharp controversy between the two, upon Mr. C.'s motion to refer the Nebraska bill to the committee of the whole. Mr. B. charged the mover with duplicity towards the bill—that although he pretended to be friendly to it, his proposition meant and intended it harm. A war of words ensued, and we suppose what two members of Congress can't settle, two pistols can.

We are not contravening the point which have the most brains—the pistols or the members. Not at all.

A late dispatch says the difficulty between those gentlemen has been settled, highly honorable to both parties.

**Distant Subscribers.**—Upon assuming the control of the *Banner*, we found many names on the subscription list to whom papers were addressed, in single packs, to different post offices in this and other States. At the commencement of the present volume, we commenced our enquiries, and erasing the names of such as gave us no satisfaction as to what we might depend on. Some have niggardly skulked behind their seeming distance from us, to evade an honorable accountability, whilst others have honorably responded. The following is one of the latter class, which we insert as an example for others. Who'll be the next?

WALPOLE, Hancock Co. Ind.,  
March 30, 1854.  
DEAR SIR:—My answer to your question: "Do you want the paper continued?" is—Inclosed you will find two dollars, with which you will credit my account. Please let me know how I stand with the *Banner*, and excuse my not sending you the money before now. Though there are three other papers sent to my address, either of which is much larger than the *Banner*, still I would as soon stop either of them, as it. It is not the size, but the manner in which a paper is conducted, which commends it to public favor. Continue it until you hear from me again. Respectfully, &c.  
R. C. P.

Paid to 1st of August next.—Ed.

**A White Victory.**—The Whigs have a majority in the Legislature of Washington Territory. Three cheers for our side! *Lafayette Journal*.

We wonder if Cleary knows that the Whig party is not dead, Horace. See, there it is now—in Washington Territory. Think it can find the way back, by the way of Nebraska?

**FAMILY IN NORWAY.**—The *Belfast* (Wis.) Journal learns, by private advices from Norway, that the people of that country are suffering greatly from famine. The cheapest grains in the country cannot now be had for less than \$2.50 to \$3.00 a bushel. Two or three clergymen in Wisconsin have been authorized to receive contributions in behalf of the suffering Norwegians.

**Indiana U. S. Senator.**—The election of an U. S. Senator next winter by the Indiana Legislature, is already creating some talk in localities particularly interested. In connection with the office, the following names are mentioned: Pettit, Fitch, J. E. McDonald, Gov. Wright, J. H. Lane, A. P. Willard, Maj. Macé, H. L. Ellsworth, and others too numerous to mention.

*Lafayette* is always liberal with her aspirants on such occasions. Ever ready, and with an abundance in reserve—she presents three in the above list. With her present formidable array, she still has in reserve, Jo. Bingham and Luke Reilly, saying nothing of the claims of the Hon. P. B. Souders.

Three men were killed by the explosion of a Locomotive belonging to the New Albany and Salem Railroad, near Providence on the line, on the 24th ult. The explosion was caused by an attempt to put on too much steam.

The Maine Law has been introduced into the California Legislature.

Gov. Seymour of New York has vetoed the prohibitory liquor law which recently passed the legislature of that State by a respectable majority.

The South Bend Register very correctly states that the Senate's Nebraska bill, which was published on the 23d ult., omits the provision prohibiting foreigners from voting under certain circumstances. We are in a hurry now. Scuyler, and can't stop to correct mistakes. When the Nebraska bill passes both branches of Congress, and becomes a law, we shall then give it to our readers as it is. We favor the most unlimited Democracy in the organization of new Territories. If we select our home in a Territory—  
"A man's a man for a' that."

**Re's Glimpse.**—The following from our neighbor of the Jasper *Banner*, conclusively proves that no challenge or anything of that sort, awaits us, because we called his paper little when we noticed its commencement a few months ago: "The *Plymouth Banner* has been enlarged to a double medium size, and is much improved in its general appearance. We are glad to see this indication of its prosperity, and sincerely hope that its talented and spirited editor may be liberally patronized, and handsomely sustained in the enterprise."

Reader, are you sound on the Nebraska bill? That's the question.

If he is, he'd better get off, for the Nebraska bill is not very sound itself. Be "keenerful," Mr. Editor, that he don't fall in.

A new style of vehicle has been introduced in Paris. The horses are behind, with their faces towards the carriage. They are tacked on to a pole in the usual manner, one of them being mounted by an equerry, and they push instead of pull the vehicle. In front there is but one wheel, in a swivelling axle, which is steered by a conductor, placed in a little seat upon the roof.

The French are a fast people, since they have proven by practical demonstration that it is proper to put "the cart before the horse."

The beauty of both sentiment and verse in the following, cannot fail to win the reader's admiration. It contains no indication of a labor of effort. Continue to favor us, Lillie.

For the *Banner*.  
HOME.  
BY LILLIE.

There's not a spot on earth so dear  
As our loved and happy home;  
No other place that long can cheer,  
Wherever we may roam.  
There's father, mother—brother dear,  
And tender sister too;  
To shed the sympathetic tear,  
And lighten every joy.  
How many are the tender ties  
That bind us to our homes;  
They're dearer unto us our lives;  
We cannot wish to roam.  
And 'e'en when loved ones are no more,  
We to that place still cling,  
Which they wish us did love of yore—  
As to some hallowed thing.  
O pity then the stranger's lot,  
Who has neither home or friend;  
To cheer the sad and lonely heart,  
Or the helping hand to lend.  
And unto all who're in distress,  
The helping hand extend;  
The widow and the fatherless,  
Be thou their faithful friend.  
Alike to all—both bond and free,  
Extend the helping hand;  
Surely they claim our sympathy,  
As not at their command?  
Plymouth, Indiana.

For the *Banner*.  
Capital Punishment.

This is a subject that seems to engross but little attention in the minds of the American people. Capital punishment has been practiced almost universally, ever since the existence of man; and from its antiquity and universality, it is thought to be right by many, though it is not conducive to moral reform, it being a misanthropic & unchristian practice; the principle having originated in the animal propensities and pugnacious disposition of man. The time will come when "the nations will learn war no more," and is a primary duty of a Christian people to teach the nations to not learn war, nor to put the law of retaliation in execution; for war and Capital punishment are the legitimate offspring of the same malignant spirit. It is astonishing to see nations professing Christianity erecting arsenals, and manufacturing implements of death, and rearing scaffolds and looping the death halter on their brothers' neck. It is not at all surprising that men should acquiesce with their animal propensities in the absence of reflection; but it is strange that a Christian people will be such pious hypocrites; professing to be followers of Christ, and at the same time acting directly counter to his precepts by vainly attempting to overcome evil with evil, by hanging the evil doer. The layman, and even the minister in the sacred desk will pray God to forgive their trespasses as they forgive those that trespass against them; virtually asking to be forgiven in the same manner that the homicide is forgiven when the rope is put about his neck and he is hanged till he is dead, dead, dead. Those who believe in unconditional salvation and damnation are generally the most ultra advocates of Capital punishment, and this is quite natural, for the two principles are akin. All the difference is, hanging kills in a few minutes, but the other (some say) kills eternally but never kills. But some try to exculpate themselves from responsibility by saying, "they have no part in the execution of the culprit on the scaffold; the hangman executed him." The wheels of a railroad car carry their burden too, but not without a propelling power. The hangman would not execute the prisoner if he was not compelled by the law, and every man that has the right of suffrage and is not opposed to Capital punishment, is as much guilty of the murder of the prisoner on the scaffold as the officer is that inflicts the penalty of the law.

For the *Banner*.  
A Prohibitory Law to Observe.  
Other matters having closely occupied my mind, I have been unable to answer Observer, until the present time. In the first place my friend complains, that a communication published by him some months ago in the *Banner*, has not been noticed, and intimates that my communication though naming no one, was aimed at him in an underhanded way. A few words here, by way of explanation. My communication on a prohibitory law, was written in the latter part of last summer, four months at least before Observer wrote anything upon the subject. This is not all. I have never seen the communication, which he conceives to have been so much slighted. I did not know of its existence, until I was informed of the fact by Mr. Burns.

Now for Observer's second communication. My friend evidently desires to be noticed, and his wish shall be gratified. In answer to my argument that drunks will be manufactured so long as intoxicating liquors are sold, he inquires, "well, who is to blame?" Answer: Blame, under these circumstances may be attached to different localities.

1st. The drunkard is to blame. I do not pretend to justify him in giving way to intemperate habits.  
2d. The liquor seller is to blame. He has no right to follow an employment, which so deeply injures the morals, the peace, and the welfare of society. This is going beyond the scope of his right.  
3d. The citizens of a commonwealth cannot suffer drunkenness to prevail and spread at its present alarming rate, without incurring shame. From them all law emanates. If bad laws exist, they can repeal them. If the laws are insufficient to hold evil doers in check, the deficiency can be supplied. Suppose then, that all laws tending to restrain the vicious, were swept from our code, and the floodgates of crime opened. Would not our citizens, or a majority of them at least, be culpable? Because society has claims upon them for protection. They have political duties to discharge. By their political influence, they can benefit or injure the entire commonwealth. Should they not then, throw their influence in favor of laws which will protect the weak, which will suppress vice and promote the general good of society? If their in-

fluence is thrown into the opposite scale, they certainly will incur blame, because blame can be incurred for wrong political action, as well as for other actions. Well, here is the liquor traffic, which robs a deep flood of vice and woe, and death upon community. By the passage of a prohibitory law, this deadly fountain will be cut off. Such a law, (as was observed in my former communication) comes within the scope and design of all law. Society has the right to protect itself against practices of a pernicious tendency, and this right should be exercised. If then, drunkenness continues to draw our youth and others by thousands into its vortex, will not blame rest upon those who can stop the evil but will not do it? This question is submitted to the reflecting and candid.

The same reasons exist for the passage of a law which will suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors, as exist for the passage of other laws. Why, for instance, is gambling prohibited? Most obviously because its influence is poisonous and contagious. Why not put down gamblers and gaming establishments, by "giving them a tremendous letting alone?" The reason is evident; they cannot be put down in this way. Some, in spite of all that parental influence and moral suasion can do, will be allured. The young and inexperienced will be drawn along by degrees, until the habit of gaming becomes fixed. Exactly so with rumselling. Horrible as drunkenness is, mankind are strongly prone to contract this vice. So long as intoxicating liquors are sold, the rising generation and others are in danger of becoming drunkards. Moral suasion will no more put a stop to this evil, than it will put a stop to gambling or horse stealing.

Mankind, especially the young, are liable to be overcome by temptation. Vice of all kinds is alluring. Legislation therefore, should prohibit practices which tend to corrupt the morals and injure the peace of society. This is one of the chief designs of legislation. Our legislators have acted upon this principle by prohibiting some practices of a pernicious tendency, and we ask that this principle should be carried out further by the passage of a law which will suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Observer intimates that his way of putting down liquor vendors, is to withdraw all patronage from them. This would do very well if all were like the *FRISKIES*. On the same principle, if all would do right, laws of every kind might be dispensed with. But some will not do right, hence the necessity of laws to restrain them. My friend's argument is as conclusive against all laws which tend to restrain the vicious, as it is against the putting down of rumselling by legal suasion.

Plymouth, March 25, 1854.

## Eastern & War News.

### ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

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The London Morning Chronicle's Paris correspondent states that despatches from the French Embassy in London had been received, stating that the English Government was not disposed to look upon the proposition made by Russia for the resumption of negotiations between the Western Powers and Russia as sincere or likely to lead to a pacific solution; and it thinks there is no occasion for the two Powers to entertain like proposition.

The English government declares that the only thing to be done at present is to hasten the embarkation of troops for Constantinople, and dispatch a third squadron to the Baltic. The opinions of the English Cabinet are fully approved by France.

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The Russians were fortifying various places on the Black Sea and the interior towns.

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BERLIN, Friday.—The Grand Duke has inspected the fleet in the Heligoland. The Emperor was expected in a fortnight. The Swedish papers report that 20,000 Russians are employed in cutting a channel from Constant to Swansboro.

The Contingent Trade bill has been read a third time in the House of Lords.

The trial of the *Martha* Washington conspirators, in Arkansas has been postponed until the 17th of April, to give time to secure the attendance of witnesses.

WASHINGTON, March 30.  
The difficulty between Messrs. Cutting and Breckenridge remains in the same unsatisfactory state which it was in last evening. Matters have been so consummately arranged, that nothing has leaked out beyond the fact that most strenuous efforts are being made to prevent the duel. Both parties remain concealed. Hence it is presumed the difficulty has not been settled.

**The Free Farm Bill.**  
The free farm bill, we are happy to say, passed the House last week, by a vote as gratifying as triumphant. The sooner our public lands are converted into homes, the better—the better not only for the business and prosperity of the country, but for the morals of Washington. The following table shows the extent of our un-sold, and unfenced domain:

STATES & TERRITORIES.	AREA OF ACRES.
Ohio,	244,196 08
Indiana,	247,339 41
Illinois,	4,115,969 97
Missouri,	22,732,801 41
Alabama,	15,093,693 70
Mississippi,	9,083,655 94
Louisiana,	9,134,143 81
Michigan,	16,142,273 48
Arkansas,	15,725,388 83
Florida,	29,262,674 59
Iowa,	22,773,175 57
Wisconsin,	37,678,486 19
California,	113,682,436 00
Minnesota Territory,	85,225,601 41
Oregon,	206,349,336 00
New Mexico,	127,353,040 00
Utah,	113,559,913 00
Northwest,	338,384,000 00
Nebraska,	87,488,000 00
Indian,	119,788,440 00

Total, 1,360,070,440 00  
Nobody can examine these figures, without perceiving the wisdom of the free farm bill. The triumph in the House will be followed by an equally gratifying triumph in the Senate.

The Secretary of the Navy, in reply to Mr. Conkling's resolution, has stated that the ocean mail steamers are unfit to be come war steamers in any case of emergency.

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