

THE DEMOCRAT.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY
D. E. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Thursday, August 19, 1869.

By-Laws and Ordinances of the Corporate Town of Plymouth, Marshall County, Indiana. Published by Authority.

According to promise made last week, we have glanced at a copy of the above book, which in its mechanical execution is a burlesque on the art of printing and will give to our readers such notations as seem to us appropriate when looking through it.

The powers granted, or legislated to the Marshal, are supreme; very much the same as those exercised by Kings, Emperors, and the "late lamented" during the "recent unpleasantness."

There is nothing, or very little, at least, that the Marshal can not do, or compel citizens to do, if he thinks the public good requires it. This power, if always rightly exercised, would doubtless be beneficial to the public; but man (and Marshals) are prone to do those things which they ought not to do, that to trust them with unlimited power is an unsafe policy.

Among the first of the acts of the apostles of retrenchment and reform, is one to increase the salary of the Trustees from \$1,50 per session to \$3,00, and to allow stated salaries and perquisites to the several officers of the Corporation. Herein can be found a solution of the great problem which confronted the present board of Trustees when they were installed in office—namely: How to pay an indebtedness of about \$2,000 with only seven cents in the treasury. If an increase of one hundred per cent. in the salary of the trustees does not diminish the Corporate debt of the town, all further efforts in that direction would doubtless be futile; unless, perhaps, another increase should be resorted to, just to prove their devotion to the public interest!

The instructions to the Clerk are voluminous; to undertake to follow which would land the most sensible man in the county in the insane asylum. Every scratch of a pen necessary for him to make in the discharge of his duties, is elaborated with an exactness and perspicuity fearful to contemplate. If the present Clerk, or any other Clerk, will comply to the letter with the instructions given, for one year, he may call on us for refreshments suitable to the season.

It is made the duty of the board of trustees to order the Marshal to collect the delinquent taxes in the manner prescribed by law as to county treasurers. Has the present board directed the Marshal to collect the delinquent taxes, and if so, why don't he do it?

The old ordinance relative to building side-walks, is repealed and a new one enacted which is supposed to be just the thing the people have been suffering for. The first sentence of the ordinance says that "all side-walks hereafter built in said town, shall be laid on oak stringers, not less than four inches wide, and of plank not less than one and one-half inches thick." From which we infer that the thickness of the stringers is not to be considered. The builder of a side-walk has only to take a few oak boards off the garden fence, and lay them down for stringers, and he and his walk are all right. Further on, the ordinance says, "All walks, (when over four feet wide,) shall have stringers at least every three feet."—This would give two stringers to a six-foot walk. This fact, viewed in connection with the regulation that requires no thickness to the stringers, renders it morally certain that the ordinance is the result of the concentrated wisdom and ripe experience of the board of trustees and their advisers. If Plymouth does not now take long and rapid strides toward perfection in her system of internal improvements, it will be a great a wonder as that the indebtedness of the town does not diminish by increasing the salaries of the officers.

SENTER'S majority in Tennessee will figure up nearly 65,000. It is a beautiful sight to notice the squirmings of the red-hot, fire and brimstone radical papers of the north, over this result! Some claim it as a victory—will they be so keen to do it when the Tennessee Legislature sends Andrew Johnson to the United States Senate? We think not.

—It is said that the carpet-baggers in Tennessee since the election are packing up their dirty shirts and the few pair collars that remain unturned, preparatory to "scratching gravel" for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and other points. The Memphis papers beg them to stay, as the streets will need cleaning shortly.—*Rochester Standard.*

board of trustees, a large portion of whom would probably be restrained of their personal liberty if the ordinance were strictly enforced in all its points.

Section 14 enacts that, "It shall be unlawful for any person owning, or having the custody or care of any horned cattle, to permit the same to run at large within the Corporate limits of said town while wearing a bell." That is a very silly way of raising the price of muley cows; for in so far an above book, which in its mechanical execution is a burlesque on the art of printing and will give to our readers such notations as seem to us appropriate when looking through it.

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For the Democrat.

EDS DEMOCRAT.—There is said to be a difference between wit and humor.—Although many may think the difference slight, still there is a difference. Wit often stabs the person at whom its shafts are directed. Humor never does this,—the gentlest nature is never offended by its indulgence. Mere attempts at wit, while they amount to less than nothing from an intellectual point of view, frequently give more cause for offence than the pure article. I am led to these remarks, Mr. Editor, by the perusal of "Gossip about Town," a column of which made its appearance in the M. C. Republican last week.—It is the boast of the "lords of creation," as the gentlemen are wont to call themselves, that they are above "gossip" in all its various forms, and that the ladies are the guilty ones in this particular. No better argument is needed to refute this than the various items under the head of "Gossip about Town." Their contemptible littleness is made manifest on the slightest perusal. With your permission, Mr. Editor, I will make a few extracts, that you readers may see for themselves how this new edition of Paul Pry insinuates his proboscis into the most insignificant affairs, and flaunts them before the public in the columns of the public prints.

The public is first entertained with the following delicious morsel:

"There is a young lady in this town," etc.

We are also astounded with the information that

"There is a young lady in town temporarily, who is said to be the most 'graceful' lady in the United States. All the people are talking about her 'gracefulness.'

Again.

"Two of our most fashionable women are 'by the ears' about a seat in a church. When the gates are ajar the people will peek."

This, then, is a proper subject for newspaper comment! It is not necessary for the author of the items to add that "when the gates are ajar the people will peek;" nor is it necessary that I should mention the character of the "people" who "peek," under such circumstances.

Further along it is stated that there are "several marriages hourly expected," and following is a long string of initials of names of well-known young ladies and gentlemen of this place.—They then wind up with the rather equivocal interrogation, of why the persons mentioned are "keeping the audience waiting so long before the curtain rises."

There are other tit-bits of equal "pith and moment," with the foregoing, but I trust that those I have already given will prove sufficient. And now, Mr. Editor, having trespassed on your time and space thus much, permit me to inquire of you if it is considered the height of manly dignity to bally the names of ladies, (or so near it that citizens of Plymouth know who are meant,) in a newspaper, thus making them the common town-talk, on the streets, in the shops, the stores, the saloons, and the "corners" where loafers "most do congregate?" I conclude by stating that, although my name was not referred to either directly or remotely, in the items, I am one who believes emphatically in "women's rights,"—not in the latest acceptance of the phrase, perhaps,—but in that broader sense which would protect their name and reputation from being made the subject of unrestrained "gossip" by the would-be sterner sex, and which will inevitably affect them injuriously. It is said that

"To morn a mischief that is past and gone, is the next way to draw new mischief on."

and although I may hope to accomplish a little good by my remarks, I shall school myself to bear it with meekness, should I find, after reading the next issue of the Republican, my labor has been vain.

Yours, for the right,

SEREPHINA SMYTHUS,

ELECTIONS IN INDIANA.

The following dispatch to the Chicago Times is of some importance.

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 11.—It is probable that elections will be held in all the counties where vacancies occur by expirations of the term of office, or otherwise, at the usual time of holding elections—October, 1870. The ground taken by the democracy is that the law is unconstitutional, and flagrant usurpation of power, upon which the seal of popular condemnation should be placed. If one legislature assumes the power to postpone elections one year, another may use the precedent in postponing elections ten years.

—An old gentleman by the name of Arnold, living about one mile south of New Paris, died very suddenly on Saturday morning. He up and washed him self, and after breakfast took his seat on the porch, as was his custom, to take a little nap. Soon afterwards he was discovered to be dead. He was 77 years old.

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—Another Ohio draw-bridge is agitated at New Albany.

—At Winamac old corn is scarce at \$1 per bushel.

—The enumeration of children in

Indianapolis, between the ages of six and twenty-one years, has been completed and foots up 11,031, of whom 10,410 are whites and 621 colored.

Last year, the enumeration of white children amounted to but 9,507.

—The Franklin Democrat says: George Cleaver, of Whitewater township, was accidentally killed, on Monday last, by the falling of a tree, which he was in the act of chopping down. It is supposed that he ran in the way of the falling tree to save his child, who was approaching at that moment in the direction in which he intended the tree to fall.

—There are 12 applications for divorces to be heard at the present term of the Madison Co. Common Pleas.

—We clip the following from the Cincinnati Enquirer, in reference to the nomination of Hon. Geo. H. Pendleton for Governor of Ohio.

The wisest thing possible was done by the Democratic State Central Committee, at Columbus, on the 17th inst., Accepting the manifestation of enthusiasm with which the name of Hon. G. H. Pendleton was received in the recent State convention as a clear indication of the popular preference, and unwilling to incur the delay in opening the canvass which would be inevitable if the convention were to be reassembled, the members of the committee concurred in tendering to that gentleman the nomination for Governor of Ohio. We are confident that every democrat in the State, and thousands of the opposing party—who have become disgusted with the corruption of its leaders, and alarmed at the revolutionary tendency of the policy they persist in pursuing. The complete and unquestionable identification of Mr. Pendleton with the position taken by the democracy in their platform upon the great question of the finances, negro suffrage, and the tariff, guarantees us against the possibility that any conceivable tactics of the enemy can divert the attention of the people from these paramount issues of the campaign. In a fair contest upon these issues, a democratic triumph is as the dawning of the election day; and, with Mr. Pendleton for our candidate, we have the positive assurance that the issues are squarely presented and fully understood. We congratulate the democracy and the people of the State upon the auspicious result of the committee's deliberations; a result which we cannot doubt will insure the final overthrow of radicalism in Ohio, on the second Tuesday of next October.

—A convict in the state prison, named Holsinger, attempted to "shuttle off his mortal coil" one day last week, by butting his head against the walls of his cell. He didn't succeed, but managed to batter up his head-piece in a terrible manner.

—Typhoid fever and flux prevail in Boone county. Four deaths in one family within the past seven weeks, and the remaining two bedfast, with very little hopes for recovery.

—We understand that a man by the name of Hicks, residing in Monroe township, was struck on the head about two weeks since by a party of men who made a raid upon his house, from the effect of which he has since died. The matter should be looked into by the proper authorities.—*Delphi Times.*

—A GREAT BARGAIN.

Any person who wishes to engage in the Milford business, off all of her stock for sale.

—The above stock is a very desirable one, consisting of the latest styles and at prices reduced to the lowest cash price. For further information please call on the undersigned.

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MRS. M. A. JAMES, of Bourne, Ind., wishing to decline business, offers all of her stock for sale.

—Consisting of Oress Goods, Hoop Skirts, Gloves, Sewing Cotton and Silk, Parasols, &c. also a good assortment of Millinery Goods, such as Bonnets, Hats, Ribbons and Flowers, together with Show Case.

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