

within his time, and were still occurring. It has not been, I conceive, a wilful neglect on his part, but has arisen from a mistaken conception which he entertained, and probably imbibed from his predecessor, that the township plats were of little value as authority. Other Registers, I find, have entertained a like opinion, however erroneous. I have endeavored to impress upon them the importance of the plats, as the highest authority in the office, for the certainty of the location of a tract, the proper subdivisions of fractional sections, &c.; and that, in the place of putting it off for a more leisure time, not a moment should be lost in making the entry on the plat as soon as the application and receipt were received from the Receiver's office. No crowd of business, nor any excuse whatever, should delay it. I would here take the liberty to remark, however, that I perceive what I consider a material error in the present mode of making up the township plats.—Some Registers mark the letter S on the tract entered. Others write "AP," meaning, as they say, "applied for," while some occasionally write out the word "sold" in full. Either of these marks might be a sufficient designation to denote the sale of the tract. But suppose, in comparing the books, we find a tract marked "S," or "AP," or "sold," on the plat, and it does not appear on the tract book, (and this is frequently the case,) what reference is there to any of the other books by which the fact of the sale can be ascertained? None. And a search might be made in an office of much business for hours and days before it could be known whether the plat or tract book were in error. I have therefore suggested that, in addition to the letter S, the number of the Receiver's certificate of payment should be marked in the plat on the tract sold;—and then reference would extend to the register of certificates, and all the other books of the office with ease and certainty. I had no authority to direct that such addition should be made, but have advised registers to ask your instructions on the subject.

I perceived that, in numerous instances, the selection of canal lands had not been designated on the tract books, and in some, imperfectly so, and were made in pencil marks on the township plats.

Ninety-two township plats are bound in one book, and not canvassed. The others were partly canvassed when I arrived, and finished during the examination.—The plats designed for the new office at La Porte were canvassed at the same time.

The Register is in the practice of keeping a book called a blotter, in which entries are made in the first instance, and then transferred to the township plats and tract books at leisure. By this blotter all the comparisons are made, when made at all, and transcripts are taken from it, and carried through all the books of record. Hence it is, that frequently through inadvertence, or carelessness in copying, the tract book does not agree with the register of certificates, nor that with the ledger, nor the ledger with the journal, nor the journal with the plats. The blotter is the test of accuracy for any book in the office. I paid no attention to it as official authority, but endeavored to impress upon the register the indispensable necessity of making his plats and tract books the first and best authorities for reference.

In comparing the register of certificates with the Receiver's register of receipts, I often found discrepancies which I could not reconcile nor correct without resort to the blotter; (the receiver also takes his blotter for his surest guide,) because I was well aware the plats and tract books had been marked from the blotter. The errors, &c., noted in the register of certificates will be found in the paper marked d. The book itself has been badly kept for the most part, and much of the writing is in a very inferior style.

The journal has been wretchedly kept with few exceptions, ever since the first opening of the office. The abbreviations are almost as numerous as in the register of certificates, where figures and initials are permitted. The writing, too, is highly discreditable—it would disgrace a blotter. The Register permitted a small boy, his nephew, to learn to write in the journal, and the penmanship is such as never ought to disgrace a public record. I found several material errors in this book, which were corrected at the time.

The ledger has been much better kept than either of the other books: it is passably good.

The Register is no speculator; he has purchased no lands within his district for himself, nor in trust for others. He has no participation in facilitating exchanges of scrip, and discountenances all traffic of the kind. Though a little to peevish and petulant for his station, he is a man of good moral character and honest intentions. He resides with his family at Fort Wayne, and is generally to be found at his office.

I recommend a new desk for the Register's office, surmounted by a frame containing apartments for the large books.—The present furniture consists of an old and clumsy desk, too small and badly constructed, and a small book-case, merely sufficient for keeping the office files.—Both articles may be worth twenty dollars.

Very respectfully submitted,
JAMES B. GARDINER,
Examr.
To the Hon. ELIJAH HAYWARD,
Comr. of the General Land Office.

A FULL SPOUSE
Mr. H. declared that his wife had five full—th it she was beautiful, dutiful, youthful, plentiful and ardent.

GAZETTE. VINCENNES.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 1835.

Our readers may be anxious to know what is going on in Congress. We would say to the curious upon such matters, nothing of importance is doing. There seems to be a dead calm—a cessation of arms. Parties are arraying themselves for another struggle, and great is the stake on the part of the people of this country, nothing less than their liberties and free institutions. Mr. Benton has again introduced his celebrated graduation bill. We presume all of our readers are acquainted with the nature of this Bill; if they are not, we merely say, its object is to graduate the price of the public lands.—What may be its fate this session, we cannot tell. Mr. Clay has also presented his land bill, the same which passed the Senate last year, and both houses the year before, and was vetoed by the President. As for ourselves, we would prefer a relinquishment on the part of the General Government of all right to the public lands within our bounds, and as Gen. Jackson will not sanction any appropriation of the public moneys for improving our roads and rivers, we think it would be asking nothing but what is reasonable. But New York will not consent to this, and we must submit to her dictation. Some say the East are in favor of Internal Improvements, and the South are opposed to them, therefore it is our interest to go with the former. What have we profited by the friendly disposition of the East to Internal Improvements during this administration? Not one cent. And it turns out, she is only the advocate of that system when she is to be benefited. Now the South is disposed to give us our public lands; and if Congress would do that, we can make our roads and improve our rivers without her assistance.

The President in his Message says, that he sincerely regrets that he could not approve of our Wabash appropriation consistently with his views of the constitution. Since he has become so expert in discussing abstract constitutional questions we should like to know why an appropriation on the Cumberland river in Tenn. is constitutional, if an appropriation on the Wabash river in Indiana is unconstitutional. The formally declaring some small town on the one river, a port of entry, when all the world know it never can be one, is too shallow an artifice to deceive any sensible man. It is as bad as the Quaker who said to his horse, that if it were not a sin, he would call him a d—m brute.

We have received 26 numbers of a most excellent work entitled "Republic of Letters," published in New York, at the unprecedented low price of 6 cents for each number. It is to contain all the standard works of all the best authors.—Each No. contains 16 quarto pages weekly, making a volume of 837 pages per annum. We recommend it especially to the notice of our readers, and hope the enterprising editor may be fully and largely patronized. The numbers we have received, may be examined at our office.

The Board of Trustees for the Borough of Vincennes are particularly reminded that a meeting for the purpose of ordering an election for the choice of Trustees and Officers for the ensuing year, will take place on Monday next, at 1 o'clock P. M. A punctual attendance is required.

FOR THE VINCENNES GAZETTE.

There is no greater curse to mankind than fanaticism. There is no evil under which they have labored, which has been half so destroying in its effects, or so deadly in its consequences as that arising from a spirit of intolerance and bigotry in religious matters. The pure and undefiled religion of the gospel teaches us the necessity of curbing our passions, and controlling our feelings. "Peace and good will to all mankind" is a duty equally inculcated in the same text with "love to God," and in the mind of any rational christian, would be simultaneously practised. But modern theorists seem to hold a different doctrine. In the eighteenth century events have happened and circumstances have occurred, which have shown that the spirit of intolerance is rife even in the land of the pilgrims. That the burning of Servetus and the murder of St. Bartholomew are likely to be acted over again in a land which boasts of its freedom in religious matters—which holds itself out as the refuge of the oppressed from every clime, whether Jew or Gentile, Mahomedan or Christian—whether they believe in one God or in several, at least if the scenes which have degraded the earliest

ages of the Church are not again to be reached, the spirit that then prompted the bigot and fanatic to rapine and bloodshed, is still alive, existent and ready for action. The trial of Buzzell for burning the convent at Charlestown, Massachusetts, has ended in the acquittal of the defendant amid the acclamations of the mob on the return of the verdict; and what is still more strange, not a newspaper from that quarter of the country but what from its silence on the subject, seems tacitly to approve the finding. Now I have read the evidence as reported, and I have no hesitation in saying, that careless of human life as we may be thought here—semi-barbarians as we are believed to be by our professedly more enlightened and instructed neighbors of the north, there are not twelve men to be found in the state of Indiana, and I might add, in any of the western states, who would have left their box without finding the defendant guilty in the case alluded to. What were the facts? A convent was established at Charlestown, near Boston, Massachusetts, in a neighborhood famed for its intelligence, its sobriety, its reverence for law and order. A Lady Abbess and five or six nuns, innocent, helpless, but amiable and accomplished women, have the control of it, under the direction of the Bishop of Boston. It was designed for a boarding school for young ladies, and had at the time of its destruction, some twenty or thirty inmates of the most respectable character. There was but one male, an Irish gardener and porter, about the premises. The pretended cause of offence was the alleged confinement of one of the boarders and subsequent ill treatment of her by the nuns, (a statement false in every particular, as is proven by the certificate of the Committee who sent to make an examination, and who reported otherwise.) The real one as proven abundantly on the trial was, that it was a Catholic Institution. Buzzell (the defendant acquitted,) with others, are proven to have met several nights before the Convent was destroyed, and notoriously made preparations for it. Buzzell is recognized by more than one witness, with torch in hand, running through the various parts of the building and setting fire to it, throwing the furniture out of the windows and destroying every thing he could lay his hands on which was not combustible—even to the work of the girls, such as embroidery, &c. The facts are indisputably proven. The fact that its destruction was intended, was known several days before the event happened. Yet no exertions were made use of to prevent it in a town boasting of its refinement and sobriety, in sight of the city of Boston, and with a population of eight or ten thousand inhabitants. And even the District Attorney has to acknowledge his fears, in consequence of "the popular feeling" (strongly displayed during the trial, and more so after the verdict) being so strong in favor of the defendant.

Let not our eastern brethren after this vaunt of their "stealy habits and love of social order"—let them not taunt us of the West as being little better than the savages who once inhabited our abiding place. Let them say no more on the subject of our barbarism, of our excesses, of our vices, of our want of religious character. In vain may they tell us of their morality, of their refinement, of their education. In vain may they boast of their common schools of their churches, dotting the face of the land with their spires ascending to Heaven in all directions. If these are the fruits of puritan feeling—if these are the results of New England education, God grant we of the west may remain unenlightened. We are content to remain in our ignorance, and if the hundreds who come yearly as missionaries among us to enlighten the heathen in the "great valley of the Mississippi," bring with them such a spirit of bigotry and intolerance as was manifested on the occasion alluded to, the sooner they cross the mountains on their return home, the better.

A PROTESTANT.

From the Indiana Democrat of January 2.
INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

On Wednesday, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Bigger from a select committee to which was referred, that portion of the Governor's message which relates to the boundaries between this State and the territory of Michigan, made an able and detailed report on this subject, accompanied by joint resolutions, one thousand copies of which were ordered to be printed. The speaker laid before the House the Annual Report of the Commissioners of the Wabash and Erie Canal, accompanied by statements and estimates of the State Engineers.—By this report it appears, that thirty-six miles of the canal will be completed this year, and will cost \$438,904.50, or an average of \$12,036.96 per mile. It also states, that there are now completed and under contract, seventy miles of the canal, which will be completed during the next year, and will cost in the whole \$685,000, being about the full amount that has heretofore been appropriated by the Legislature. The Commissioners urge the propriety of further appropriations; but leave the amount to the wisdom of the Legislature. By the estimates of the Engineer who surveyed the route for the White Water Canal, it appears that the whole cost of construction of that canal will amount to \$1,142,126, or \$14,908 per mile. The whole distance of the route from Nettle creek to Lawrenceburg is 76 miles, and will require 55 locks.—Considerable discussion took place on a bill, reported by Mr. Shaw from the select committee to which it had been re-

committed, in amendment of the execution law, allowing, in addition to the property now exempt from execution, an additional bed and bedding, a number of sheep, and the tools of a mechanic, not exceeding \$20 in value. An able and eloquent defence of the measure was made by Mr. Shaw. Several other gentlemen participated in the discussion. Conwell moved an amendment, that the property exempted should vest in the wife of the execution-defendant; when Mr. Smith of F. moved that the bill and amendments to be indefinitely postponed; which motion was under discussion when the House adjourned. In the course of the day, Mr. Walker reported a bill for the re-location of the county seat of Dearborn county; which passed to a second reading.

On yesterday morning, to leave granted, Mr. Gilgore introduced a resolution, that a committee be appointed, consisting of two members from each Congressional District, to enquire into the expediency of abolishing the present District system of electing members of Congress, and that they may hereafter be elected by General Ticket. Mr. Willet moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed, when Mr. Smith of Ripley moved to lay the same upon the table; which motion carried in the affirmative. Mr. Moore, on leave, introduced a bill to incorporate the Spencer Steam Mill Company; which was read and passed to a second reading. A message from the Senate announced that they had passed the joint memorial from the House of Representatives, relative to a grant of land for the completion of the Wabash and Erie canal, and its extension to the Ohio river, or to aid in some other work of improvement affording a line of communication from the canal to that stream.

CONGRESSIONAL. REMARKS OF MR. TIPTON.

In the Senate on Wednesday last, on his resolution, proposing to establish a port of entry at the town of Lafayette, on the Wabash River.

Mr. TIPTON rose and said, that he felt it to be his duty, once more, to invite the attention of the senate to the resolution which he had offered concerning the improvement of the Wabash, and the establishment of a port of entry at the town of Lafayette on that river, 400 miles from its mouth, and 215 miles from Lake Erie and Maumee Bay, by the Canal line. The soil of the country is not to be surpassed in quality by any other in the State. The principle of the proposition he had made, had been acted on by Congress; for ports of entry had been established on numerous rivers, not possessing the advantages which this does, and he could see no objection why the same benefit ought not to be extended to the inhabitants of Indiana.

Mr. T. here explained the advantages which would result to the importers and exporters of goods, corn, &c. by the establishment of a port of entry. It was true that steamboats could not pass the Rapids at the mouth of White River, or ascend to our canals when the Wabash was low. This was also true of the Ohio before the construction of the Louisville and Portland Canal. Steamboats could not pass the falls of that river and ascend to Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh, at both of which places ports of entry had been established. Now the Wabash was as susceptible of navigation as the Ohio from Marietta to Pittsburgh, and better than Cumberland below Nashville. Of these things he did not complain, but merely mentioned them to show that Congress had acted on the principle which he had stated. And, in turning to the Blue Book, he had discovered that ports of entry had been established in many places in the old States, which had been considered of importance, but which had turned out to be of little consequence. In all these places custom offices had been appointed where no duty was performed—no salary paid. At one place, \$150 or \$180 were paid.—Now, a port of Entry at the place he proposed could not be of less importance than at the places to which he had alluded.

Now, he thought it was due to an intelligent population, who had been invited to seek a home on the Western waters, that this request should be granted. It would be recollected by the Senate, that, in 1827, a grant of land was made to connect the waters of the Wabash with those of Lake Erie. This grant consists of the one-half of five miles on each side of the canal, to be divided by alternate tiers of sections. The State of Indiana, after the land was divided, rated her lands at first, second, and third rate, and they were sold at \$1 50, \$2 50, or \$3 50, agreeably to the rate. By disposing of her lands at these prices, it has increased the value of that which belongs to the United States to a corresponding value; and a quantity of those lands, situated on the high summit between the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi, which had been disposed of, would have remained unsold for twenty years to come.

The United States had received within the last year from the sales of her public lands in Indiana, the sum of 693,522 dollars; and he inferred from the extraordinary sale, that the grants which had been made of the lands for the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal have been a benefit to the United States. He would willingly challenge the most violent opposer of internal improvements, who had travelled in those parts of the country, to say that these public works do not promote the best interests of the country. They would see on the New York Canal

and Lake Erie, thousands of tons of freight floating on to the far West.

In passing up the Maumee river, where the work had not yet commenced on the Wabash and Erie Canal, the country is progressing slowly in population and settlement; but it was rapidly increasing at Fort Wayne, and all other parts of the Canal where the work was in progress. Every one seemed to be employed; and the country was in a flourishing condition. Seventy-five miles of the Canal, from Fort Wayne, crossing the summit between the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, was nearly completed, and in a state of great forwardness. That part of the country was dotted over with comfortable farms, and it would doubtless soon become one of the most desirable spots that he (Mr. T.) knew of. Emigrants were daily arriving there from New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Men who had been on the public works went to the West for the purpose of seeking a home there. Where they stopped, the country presented a very different appearance from that inhabited by individuals who went in pursuit of the deer and the bear—the first dwelling in good houses and living comfortably, whilst the last lived in camps. Here there was to be found an intelligent, well-educated, moral, industrious People. And should a traveller stop over night in one of those new villages, which were continually springing up every ten or fifteen miles along the line of the Canal, he would, should he happen to rise by the dawn of day, hear the sound of the woodman's axe and the mechanic's plane.

The face of the country was undergoing a rapid change. What was, but a few days ago, the abiding place of the wild beast had now become the habitation of man. Strong and advantageous inducements had been held out to the adventurous and industrious to settle on the Western lands. When men leave their homes in the old States, and take up a permanent residence on the Western waters, they divest themselves, of necessity, of the comforts and conveniences to which they had formerly been accustomed, and they looked, as a matter of course, that the General Government would extend to them every assistance within its power.

Now, he could see no good objection for withholding from Indiana the benefits of that system under which the country had so long prospered. Why damp the spirit of his constituents, and those who had been invited to the Western country? Why change that policy of the Government under which it had so long acted? He trusted that we would not depart from it.

But in speaking of a port of entry, and in urging his reasons for the establishment of it, he wished to be distinctly understood that he was not one of those who believed that a law of Congress, establishing a port of entry, did confer a power to appropriate money, for the improvement of rivers. All that had been said and written did not change his mind on that subject. He would still affirm that Congress had the power to appropriate money for any part of the United States or its territories, where the settlement of the country, the condition of the people, and the capacity of the river, justified it in doing so. He found the 8th section of the first article of the Constitution; to read thus:

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States."

The same section concludes with the following words: "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution to the Government of the United States, or any department or officer thereof."

Now, sir, (said Mr. TIPTON) here is a grant of power by the Constitution itself, authorizing the legislative department of the Government to make all laws necessary and proper for the public interest.

The ordinance of Congress 13th July, 1797, is older than the Constitution, and is binding on the parties; that instrument reserves the Wabash as a public highway, free to all the people of the United States, and I propose to establish a port of entry on the river, and to improve this public highway. I can find no limitation in the power of Congress or the President to appropriate money for that object, beside their own discretion. Now I ask, does not the Constitution had constant practices of the Government authorize, and the public interest demand, that it should be done?

No man regretted more than he did the difference of opinion which at present existed between the President of the United States and himself, in regard to the right of Congress to appropriate money for the improvement of our rivers. But he (Mr. T.) came here with his own political opinions and principles, and by these he was determined to be governed, until he should see good reason for changing them.

Being satisfied in his own mind that the measure which he now advocated for improving the Wabash would redound to the best interests of his constituents, he was ready to stand the issue of his conduct here.

There was also an additional reason why a Port of Entry should be established, and it was this, that it would violate no principle, require no appropriation of money, and it would remove a difficulty from a certain quarter that he had found extremely inconvenient.—And when it was in the power of Congress to do so much good without violating any principle, or expending any money, he trusted