

THE COURIER.

JESSE CONARD, Editor.

TERRE HAUTE:

Saturday Morning, March 31, 1855.

HASTY TRIALS.

The following from the Wabash Express shows the injustice of hurrying criminals to trial while the community is exasperated at the offence:

The jury, after remaining in duration all night, and a good part of the day yesterday, brought in a verdict of 'NOT GUILTY,' in the case of Burton. Quite a wild shot from the judgment of 'twelve years in the Penitentiary,' given by the jury empaneled by the Common Pleas at his former trial."

If we recollect correctly, this fellow Burton was one of the three burglars arrested in Terre Haute one day, tried the next, convicted and forwarded to the Penitentiary the next. The process may not have been quite so summary, but our impression is that not more than three days elapsed from the arrest to the conviction.

The above we take from a late number of the Indianapolis Journal. It contains a few mistakes certainly—or at least is calculated to make a wrong impression. The extract from the Wabash Express only gives part of the truth. It gives only one trial of Burton. Burton was tried on two indictments—acquitted on the charge of Larceny—but convicted on the charge of Burglary and sentenced to the Penitentiary for four years. The trial of Burton and his accomplices in guilt, Smith and Hayden, in the winter of 1854, was not of the hasty character intimated by the Journal. The offenders were not arrested on one day, tried the next, and sent to the Penitentiary the third. They came from Indianapolis on one day—on the following day and night, broke open five of six houses, took a large amount of money, watches, jewelry &c., not their own—shot and snatched pistols at a number of persons. And for these offences were, if not hastily, at least, promptly, arrested and committed to prison. This comittal was on Wednesday. And the trial did not take place in the Common Pleas until the following Tuesday. There was, therefore, almost a week between the comittal and trial.

The State Journal further commenting upon the trial of these men last winter, says:

"All of the defendants were convicted, and yet the evidence was in some points so defective, that, (so one of the ablest lawyers of the place assured us,) in an ordinary state of public feeling, and with proper legal assistance, it would have been impossible to convict one of them."

Now we should like to know who this *ablest Lawyer* was that reported to the Journal. The prisoners had able counsel, and every opportunity of a fair trial allowed them. But the proof was overwhelming—and a more righteous verdict never rendered, than the one which sent them to the Penitentiary for twelve years.

But the Journal intimates that in an ordinary state of public feeling, and with proper legal assistance, it would have been impossible to convict one of them. These kind of *hasty opinions* of the Journal are calculated to do injustice to our citizens, by intimating that we act from feeling and prejudice, rather than from a due regard to justice in the trial of desperate offenders.

Even now after the lapse of a year—after feeling has subsided—and in the absence of much testimony material in the cause as produced before the former jury, these men are again convicted and sentenced to the Penitentiary. Burton for four years—Smith and Hayden for two years—and that too, after each had already served one year in the Penitentiary for the same offences. They were also on the present occasion defended by able Lawyers. And every possible means resorted to, that the ingenuity of counsel could devise. The Court perfectly impartial—and the jury strangers, and generally from a distance in the country. So that there was no *hurried trial* of these criminals, at the term just closed, and yet they are still in the Penitentiary—though it is true for somewhat of a reduced period of time.

THE RESULT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—As we went to press last week Burton was on trial for burglary. He was found guilty, and sent to the Penitentiary for four years. The following is the list sentenced to the Penitentiary at the time just closed :

Burton,	Burglary,	4 years
James Frakes,	Grand Larceny,	3 "
Claypool,	Grand Stealing,	3 "
Peter Acres,	"	24 "
James Bloom,	"	2 "
James Trader,	Grand Larceny,	2 "
Hayden,	Burglary,	2 "
Smith,	"	2 "
Belleville,	Petit Larceny,	1 "
Aggregate amount of years,		21 1/2 "

New Bounty Land Bill.

In another column will be found a useful and interesting communication over the signature of D. (Mr. Danaldson, we suppose) in relation to the provisions of the New BOUNTY LAND BILL. This is a subject in which citizens of Vigo and surrounding counties are interested. This communication will prove highly satisfactory to claimants.

We observed at the Depot this morning, a large car load of Walnut blocks, destined for Cincinnati, for the manufacture of cabinet ware. They were procured below, along the canal, and in the river bottoms near Terre Haute, and are becoming quite an article of trade. The blocks are of different sizes, fine grain, and susceptible of elegant finish and brilliant polish.

The Wabash has fallen so rapidly within the past week that navigation is about ended, except for boats of the very lightest draught. Some of the lighter craft have been at our wharf, but we expect they will be getting out of the river as soon as possible.

Mrs. & Miss SEESLEY, opens a school for young ladies at the Seminary on the second Monday in April.

Wild ducks from the Reservoir are brought up to Terre Haute by the wagon and find a ready sale at reasonable prices.

An interesting letter from Oregon, written by a gentleman well known in Terre Haute, will be found in another column.

EDUCATION.—A Convention of teachers and friends of education of Vigo, Putnam, Parke, Montgomery, Vermilion and Fountain counties, will be held at Indianapolis, in Parke county, on the 5th and 6th of next month, beginning on the evening of the 5th.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The latest foreign news brought by the steamer *Atlantic* will be found in another column. The news confirms the death of Nicholas, the succession of Alexander to the throne—prospect of a rupture between England and France, &c.

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