Documents

Contributed by CLARENCE H. SMITH

I

LETTERS OF MARTIN L. BUNDY, 1848-49

An editorial, which appeared in the Indiana Courier, published at New Castle, later becoming the New Castle Courier, under which name it is still published, bears the date May 20, 1848, and reads:

MARTIN L. BUNDY, Esq.

This gentleman, who is a delegate from this district, will start for Philadelphia next week, to attend the Whig National Convention of the 7th of June; and also the great Whig Ratification Convention which is to assemble in that city on the 8th of the same month. We understand from Mr. Bundy that he goes in the convention for a true Whig, a reliable Whig; but at the same time an available man; one who not only is true to the great Whig policy, but on whom the party can confidently rely for success, and whether he shall vote OUR first choice or not, we think he will faithfully represent the wishes of the district in that convention. Our readers will perhaps hear from Mr. Bundy occasionally through the columns of the Courier during his absence.

From the Indiana Courier of June 24, 1848:

NEW YORK, June 10th, 1848.

DEAR COURIER:

I arrived in the "Island City" last evening from Philadelphia which place I left after the organization of the great "Ratification Convention", in that city yesterday evening, to approve the nomination of Gen. Zachary Taylor, for President of the United States, and Millard Fillmore, of the city of Buffalo, in the state of New York, for Vice President. That was a tremendous meeting, depend upon it, and responded with unexampled enthusiasm to the nominations made the morning of the same day, of those two distinguished individuals for the two highest offices in the gift of the people of this great confederacy. And after

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the demonstrations in their favor, which I have witnessed there and elsewhere, I cannot for a moment doubt their success.

It may not, however, be inappropriate for me to remark, that in accordance with what I believed to be the wishes of a majority of the Whigs of the district, which I had the honor in part to represent in that convention, with which I fully coincided myself, I opposed the nomination of the distinguished individual who was successful and gave my feeble influence and support first to Judge McLean and finding him wholly out of the question, then to General Scott, for whom Indiana gave nine of her twelve votes, on the first ballot and finding him equally hopeless I then gave my support to the great patriot and statesman, Henry Clay of Kentucky, who seemed in truth the only rival candidate who had any prospect of success from the commencement, backed as he was by the united vote of the great State of New York. I foresaw, however, that the nomination of General Taylor was inevitable, as soon as the Convention met, because all efforts to concentrate the apparent opposition vote, as shown on the first ballot, were fruitless, and utterly unavailing, and each faction fought under the banner of his own peculiar leader to the last, until captured by the successful "Hero of Buena Vista."

Well, it will be said that this is a Southern triumph and that the slaveholders made this nomination, but in all candor let me say, much as I regret the result, this is an error, for Pennsylvania, where the "Wilmot Proviso" originated, the great and free state of Pennsylvania, aided by New England, where the principles of freedom first originated in the country (as any one will see who will take the trouble to look at the Journal of the Convention) made the nomination for the country; and I will say, whilst upon the subject, that the principles contained in General Taylor's letter to Allison, doubtless actuated them to give him the nomination, and whatever may be said of him in other respects, this letter contains sentiments, which should be dear to every true Whig in the Union, and to which every Whig should give a hearty support either in the person of Gen. Taylor or some one equally well calculated to carry them into successful operation.

The political fermentation in this city is great at present. The Barnburners are holding large and enthusiastic meetings in which they freely denounce Gen. Cass; and John Van Buren, the great Ajax of the party, has announced his determination to "stump it" throughout the State for a similar purpose. I also saw large hand-bills today posted in the Park calling a general meeting of all parties and persons opposed to the nominations made at Baltimore and Philadelphia both. The object is not stated, though I suppose it will be disclosed in due time.

I have as yet visited but a few of the places of attraction in this city. I have, however, this morning seen those far-famed wonders, the "five points," Trinity Church, Grace Church, and the City Hall and Park, which I lack space to describe, and I fear my increasing desire to
return home will diminish my stay here to a less period of time than I could desire.

Yours truly,

M. L. B.

INDIANAPOLIS, Wednesday, Nov. 6th, 1848.

DEAR COURIER:

Both branches of the Legislature convened at the Capitol on Monday, and proceeded to the election of their officers, for the Session. In the House, G. W. Carr, of Lawrence County, was on the first ballot elected Speaker; John W. Dodd, of Grant County, Principal Clerk; Isaac Smith, of Marion County, Assistant Clerk; and S. J. Johnson, of Dearborn County, Door Keeper. In the Senate, Charles H. Test was elected Secretary, and Mr. Warner, Door Keeper.

Mr. J. B. Julian, of Wayne County, offered in the House a joint resolution instructing our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use all proper means to procure the passage of the ordinance of 1787, commonly called the "Wilmot Proviso", which was read the first time, and a motion was also made by Mr. Julian to suspend the rules and read it a second time, which did not prevail. The majority not having had time as yet to concoct their amendments, by which their object will be to destroy its effect, and make it more compatible with Gen. Cass's notion to which they have so lately been committed, concerning the "diffusion" of slavery over our newly acquired territories. But much as they despise the measure when in the House, where their majority is twenty, being sixty democrats to forty whigs, they dare not look the measure directly in the face, and vote against it, hence they will attempt to extract its teeth, and render it more consonant to their preconceived opinions. It has also been introduced in the Senate, and will doubtless pass that body without much difficulty. Does this not afford some evidence that the whigs were sincere in the professions they made upon this subject previous to the late Presidential election?

A resolution has been offered to go into the election of United States Senator on Monday; to this an amendment was offered, providing that no person should be eligible to that station who was not favorable to the Ordinance of 1787. Mr. Harlan, of Grant County, moved further to amend, by declaring likewise, that no person should be elected to that office who should not first have been nominated by a regular "democratic Caucus", when the resolution and pending amendments were laid on the table.

Such a multitude of office seekers, as are here this session, has never before been seen, even by the "oldest inhabitant", and it is hoped for the credit of the state, may never be witnessed again. Truly the dislike for honest industry must be rapidly on the increase in this State, when so many "nice young men" can be induced to quit their friends and abandon their occupation merely for the purpose of getting an occupation here, by which they are able to get a little money without labor, for were they required to labor as they should be, I am persuaded these
stations would not be so much coveted. There are several important offices to be filled by the Legislature this winter and among them may be enumerated a U. S. Senator, in the place of Mr. Hannigan; Secretary of State; President of the State Bank; and Warden of the State Prison, all of which will be filled during the next week of the Session.

Jas. W. Borden was on yesterday elected President Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit, without opposition doubtless as a reward for his ultra partisan course; the whigs generally voting for J. B. Hone, who was not a candidate. For the Senate, the candidates as far as I have been able to learn, are Hannegan, the present incumbent; Gov. Whitcomb; E. M. Chamberlain and John Law; and among them, I fancy it will be difficult for Whigs and Free Soil men, who are really so, to make a choice. Law undoubtedly approximates nearest to correct principles, but if the whigs should combine with his friends and elect him, it is probable that in his efforts to restore himself to a good standing with his party, which he would lose to some extent, he would prove treacherous to the men who elect him. It is impossible to predict who will be elected, and I forbear hazarding an opinion. Today at 2 o'clock, we are to have the Governor's Message, after which the business of legislation will commence in earnest, when you may hear from me again.

Yours truly,

M. L. B.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 12th, 1848.

DEAR COURIER:

The joint resolution, instructing our Senators in Congress to vote in favor of the Ordinance of 1787, in the organization of Territorial Governments out of the recently acquired Mexican Territory, to which I alluded briefly in my last, came up in the House for consideration on Saturday. Mr. Edmonson from the County of Dubois, moved to refer the resolution to a committee, consisting of one member of each Congressional District, with a view, doubtless, of either strangling the matter in its infancy or preventing action by the House until the close of the session, and especially until after the Senatorial election shall have taken place; for there certainly could be nothing gained by the delay; the matter has been so fully discussed in every town and neighborhood during the past summer, that no new facts could be elicited by a committee. After a protracted debate, however, the resolutions were referred by a strict party vote, to the committee; whereupon, Mr. Dunn of Jefferson County, immediately offered a resolution, in the language of the Ordinance, instructing the committee to report a Joint Resolution to the House embodying the provisions of Mr. Julian's resolution, as previously stated. Mr. Riley of Hancock moved to lay the resolution on the table, which motion, after a lengthy debate, finally prevailed; and the instructions were laid on the table by nearly a strict party vote, 54 to 44, and so the matter rests; and there the instructions will sleep the "sleep of death."
An interesting rencontre took place last week at the "Palmer House" between two shining lights of the "harmonious" democracy—the Hon. James W. Borden, President Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit, and the Hon. Heman H. Barbour, representative from the County of Bartholomew wherein, after a mutual scratching and pulling of hair, without serious injury to either, the combatants were separated,—each one doubtfless satisfied with the laurels won in the conflict, and willing to take repose.

But little business has yet been transacted by the Legislature besides the election of an unusual number of State Officers, which has consumed the ten days of the session which have already elapsed; and I will take occasion here to remark that in my humble judgment should our Constitution ever be amended, which many desire, it would be highly expedient to entrust the selection of a number of these officers directly to the people, who, to say the least, are as well qualified to make judicious selections as many of the Solons who find their way here. Each day's session of the Legislature costs the State over five hundred dollars, and hence more than five thousand dollars have already been expended in the election of the officers besides a United States Senator and Secretary of State are yet to be chosen, which may consume a week more of time.

The Committee on Education have been instructed by resolution to report a bill embodying a system of free Common School Education, which is destined to occupy much of the time of the present Legislature concerning which the readers of the Courier will be advised in due time, after the committee shall have reported.

The streams and water courses in this part of the country have been much swollen by the recent rains; in consequence of which the arrival and departure of the mails, as well as travel, to and from this place, in many directions have been entirely interrupted and communication stopped. I also learn that the Wabash and Erie Canal has been considerably injured by the freshet. I trust, however, the ill-starred White Water Canal has escaped for once and yet I tremble to hear from it, lest it may have fallen a victim to the angry floods once more.

I have just seen the proceedings of your late Whig meeting in New Castle, and read their resolutions, which undoubtedly embody the true Whig faith and the only doctrine, upon the subject of which they treat, which the Whig party can or ought to promulgate. How many of the Delegates will attend the State Convention here on the 3rd of January?

P. S.—Charles H. Test was elected Secretary of State today on the 14th ballot, by a union of the Whigs and Independent Democrats. A good selection considering the timber out of which the Legislature were called upon to select, you will readily admit. The Senate have postponed the House resolution to go into the election of United States Senator, till next Monday.

Yours,

M. L. B.
DEAR COURIER:

Now, that the elections are over, the crowd of strangers who have been at the Capitol witnessing the progress of events since the commencement of the session and attending to the interest of their favorite candidates, have dispersed and gone to their homes; there to reflect, doubtless, upon the ways and means whereby the successful aspirant was enabled to get his station, and how it was that the unsuccessful was doomed to discomfort and disappointment. The people's representatives having disposed of their favorites, can now press forward the legitimate business of legislation, which called them hither, in order that they may be enabled to return to their constituents and render an account of their stewardship.

Governor Whitcomb was on Thursday last elected to the United States Senate in the place of Hon. E. A. Hannegan, the present incumbent, for the term of six years from the 4th of March next, by a majority of one vote—having previously received the nomination of his party in "caucus" over the distinguished gentlemen of the party, who were candidates for the station, and whose names I mentioned in my last letter. Well, the Governor has fought hard for the station, and endured "the winter of his discontent" with commendable fortitude, as well as the "wear and tear" of conscience and political consistency, to which he has been subjected by the Free Soilers; and now we shall see what "legal and constitutional means" do mean, when the object is to exclude slavery from New Mexico and California; whether it be the declaratory humbug proposed by some wise gentleman of the present legislature simply saying, and no more, that "the territory is now free and ought to remain so"; or whether it be that bold and intelligible expression of the illustrious Jefferson, in his memorable Ordinance that "slavery shall never exist there." The Whigs, to their credit be it spoken, supported that true-hearted, honest and patriotic Free Soiler, Caleb B. Smith, about whose opinions on this subject there could be no dispute, and no cavil, and whose talents would have done honor to the exalted station, but unfortunately for the country their voice was too feeble to be of any avail in a struggle against such fearful odds.

There are three principal matters which are likely to absorb a large portion of the time of the present General Assembly. These are the Common School System; the Probate System, and the present manner of assessing taxes. Neither of which has, as yet, been put into proper shape by the committees to whom they have been referred, and of course no action will be taken by the House until the reports of the Committees shall have been submitted. The inequalities, not to say injustice of the present mode of assessing the revenue are so manifest and palpable that something will certainly be done to remedy the evil by the present Legislature. It is known to be a fact, as a mere glance at the Auditor's report will show, that in many counties in the state, where there are wealthy men, the two principal items of their substance, which are
“money loaned at interest” and “money on hand”, are never got by the 
assessor, and hence escape taxation, and this renders the burthen of the 
tax payers, where property is honestly assessed, just so much heavier. 

In regard to the “School Bill”, though that question has not yet been 
presented to the House, the principal matter of contention, I fancy will 
be the consolidation of the fund which shall be raised by taxation for 
the purpose of education; whether the money shall be actually trans-
mitted to Indianapolis and paid into the State Treasury, and then be 
distributed again among the people of the whole State, or whether the 
funds shall remain in the County where they are raised and constitute a 
County instead of a State Fund. I favor the latter proposition, though 
I am free to admit the question is not without difficulty. It is a contest 
between the old wealthy counties and the new sparsely populated, in 
which I think the old have the supremacy, and will get the victory, what-
ever may be said of the justice and magnanimity of their cause. But 
you shall have more anon when I shall have more time. 

Yours,

M. L. B. 

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 25th, 1848.

DEAR COURIER:

According to custom both branches of the Legislature adjourned on 
Saturday, to meet again tomorrow, and many of the members who re-
side in the Southern part of the State, contiguous to the Rail Road, or 
the Ohio River, have availed themselves of the adjournment to spend 
Christmas with their families and neighbors, but those who reside in 
less favored regions of the State, where mud-roads are the only chan-
nels of communication, are unable to participate in the same felicity, 
and therefore surrender to the mud and ice. 

A bill has passed both houses, authorizing the Auditor and Treas-
urer of State to borrow the sum of $95,000. in anticipation of the 
revenue for the current year which is not yet paid in, to be applied to 
the payment of the semi-annual installment of interest, which will fall 
due on the first of January next, to the bond holders under the Butler 
bill arrangement. This state pays an annual interest of $221,300. to 
these bond holders, which according to the provisions of the bill after 
1853, will be increased to $327,702. three installments of which have 
already been promptly met. But suppose a sudden revulsion in the 
financial affairs of the nation were to take place, which many anticipate 
will occur again at no distant period; it might be proper to enquire, how 
long can the State continue to pay this enormous sum of money annually, 
in addition to her ordinary expenditures, for the purpose of maintaining 
civil government.

And if any one is disposed to hesitate concerning the interest which 
is a mere trifle, let me ask him how long it will be before the $7,575,- 
525. of principal, which is due these creditors, after surrendering to them 
the whole line of the great Wabash and Erie Canal, and the Canal lands 
and appurtenances, thereto attached, are liquidated? Perhaps our grand-
children 50 years hence will ask the same question of the knowing ones at that time, who will be no better qualified to give a satisfactory solution to the question than can be given now. But there is another question I should like to propound to some one who could answer "without smiling in your face", and that is what benefit the people of Henry County have ever derived from the vast expenditure of money, which caused the accumulation of this enormous public debt? Poor patient souls, they send their annual contribution to Caesar to swell the public treasure, and can not see how they are to be benefitted, for their munificence. "But," say the internal improvement gamblers, who have got the State into her present difficulties, "the State must meet the interest promptly, or she will be disgraced, she must preserve her plighted faith"; did it however, ever occur to you that [every one of] these "disinterested" patriots, who are so unsparing of their abuse upon every one who hesitates about voting for their "loan bills", their "revenue bills", and their "Butler bills", has the particular work of national improvement already finished, upon which he resides or in which he feels interested, and therefore the whole State must pay the debt. I desire to make the prediction without claiming for myself the gift of prophecy, that the trustees under the Butler bill arrangement will not only refuse to finish the two side cut canals in the counties of Warren and Vermillion, which the bond holders are obliged by the terms of the arrangement to do, but they will actually abandon the whole concern below Terrehaute. And if they should finish the work according to the terms of their agreement, that part of it between Terrehaute and Evansville will never pay 1 per cent on the cost of construction, for by the improvement of the Wabash Rapids at Vincennes that stream is now rendered entirely safe for steamboat navigation, and hence a canal running in a parallel direction will be wholly useless.

But you must excuse me, I did not intend to say so much when I sat down.

Yours truly,

M. L. B.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 26, 1848.

DEAR COURIER:

A bill has been introduced in the Senate, the object of which is to force the directors of the White Water Canal, to repair that portion of it lying between Harrison and Lawrenceburgh, which they have not hitherto felt themselves able to do, but whether it can be passed through the Legislature, remains to be seen.

I devoted Christmas to an examination of the different benevolent Institutions which have been organized under the auspices of the Legislature, for the relief of the unfortunate, and which hitherto have been sustained with commendable liberality and munificence, by the people through their Representatives.

The Hospital for the Insane. This institution is situated two and a half miles west of Indianapolis, near the National Road, on a tract of
land, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, purchased by the State, upon which there is now being constructed a large and commodious edifice, capable when finished, to accommodate two hundred and fifty patients. The building seems to be constructed of the most durable materials, and is by no means destitute of architectural beauty, and will cost, when finished, the sum of $65,000. There are now thirty-seven patients receiving the treatment of the institution, twenty of which are females, embracing the various grades of insanity, from the raging maniac to the simple-minded and inoffensive, who are unable to conceive why it is that they are placed there; some imagining that they are at a Tavern and others that they have simply called to pay a visit to some friends. Many causes have operated to produce the unfortunate condition of mind under which these persons labor, among which may be enumerated "unrequited love", failure in business, etc.

The Institute for the Blind. This institution is situated adjacent to the city on the North, and now numbers twenty-six inmates, male and female, who seem to live happily and indeed walk about the street with as much indifference as other people are wont to exhibit in passing, but how it is that they are enabled to go to church, and sit down in a particular pew, without a guide, it is difficult for me to conceive, or how it is that they can remember individuals from the sound of the voice alone, though they may not have heard it for years—I leave for philosophers to speculate and Phisiologists to understand. One little girl I shall never forget. She was called by the Matron of the Institute to play upon the Piano for the company, consisting of Dr. Hunt, member from the county of Laporte, and chairman of the committee on "Benevolent and Scientific Institutions", and other gentlemen, and you may imagine our surprise to see her perform difficult pieces of music on that instrument, accompanied with the voice, in such a manner as would do credit to Professors and Amateurs of the Art. But we were still more surprised to see the facility with which she could read the Scriptures, by means of raised letters, giving chapter and verse with the accuracy of a Clergyman.

The Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb. It seems that there are more of this unfortunate class (persons) than either of the others, for there are now in the Institution ninety-two, under the charge of Mr. Brown, as Superintendent, and Mrs. Bigger, Widow of the late Governor, as Matron, who seem to render entire satisfaction to the trustees and the public in their government of these doubly unfortunate class of human beings. Though deprived of hearing and speech you would be surprised to witness the facility with which they communicate thought, by means of signs which they of course will understand as the vehicles of communication with one another.

As yet, no permanent buildings have been provided for this class of the objects of public beneficence, but there is now in process of construction in the Eastern part of the city, a building designed by the State for their accommodation, which, however, will not be ready to receive them for 18 months or two years to come.
Such is a hasty sketch of the benevolent institutions of the State, where unfortunate persons are educated and maintained at the public expense, and it is given not so much to afford information of these places, for it would fall short of that, as it is to attract the attention of those who may visit this city, and induce them to pay some attention to these places of charity and objects of benevolence.

How long this Legislature will sit, I cannot tell but judging from the progress already made, and the amount of business yet to transact, I should suppose it will not adjourn before the latter part of January, indeed they have refused in the House to consider propositions to adjourn.

Yours as ever,

M. L. B.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 30, 1848.

DEAR COURIER:

His Excellency, Governor Whitcomb, sent in his resignation to both branches of the General Assembly yesterday, in consequence of which Hon. P. C. Dunning, Lt. Governor, and President of the Senate, whose able and impartial course as a presiding officer have won for him the commendation of all parties, ex officio, becomes Governor of the State of Indiana and chief Executive officer, and will serve as such, until a successor shall have been chosen by the people, and duly inducted into office. The abdication of the Governor likewise creates a vacancy in the office of Lieut. Governor, which will be filled by the Senate choosing one of their body for that station, to serve in like manner. Thirty ballotings have already been had and two days consumed by that body, facetiously denominated, "the House of Lords", for a successor to Governor Dunning, but as yet without success, and perhaps two more days will be spent, before a choice can be made, such is the number of aspirants for the station. The School bill was reported by the committee on education, to the House this morning and three hundred copies ordered to be printed, one of which you shall have as soon as the printing is done, in order that you may advise the people of its many provisions in your next number.

California.—The excitement in reference to this modern El Dorado, exceeds anything in history, and to find a parallel we must resort to the regions of romance. It is said forty vessels were advertised to leave the city of New York, alone, and that numerous expeditions are being fitted out in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and it is computed that more than fifty thousand persons from various sections of the country are either preparing to go or are now on their way to this land of enchantment. The "yellow fever" seems to have possessed all classes, old and young, rich and poor, and it is now certain that many thousands of our population are destined to be carried off with it, unless the exciting cause of the complaint shall be removed. That the gold mines in that country are the richest and most productive, of any in the world, which have hitherto been discovered, is a fact which no longer
admits of doubt after the accumulated testimony of all who have visited this region; but should the gold mania finally prove to be a humbug, two good results will come of it. In the first place, this delightful region, bordering on the Pacific, so eminently Italian in soil and climate and English in commerce and navigation facilities, will become populated by a hardy, adventurous, intelligent and free population from the Northern and Eastern states of this Union, and secondly as a consequence of this, the curse of human slavery with such a population, hostile to its introduction, will never find an abiding place in that country. Already have the people there petitioned Congress for a Territorial government, and prayed that this institution shall be excluded from them, now and forever hereafter, and it is to be hoped that so just a request will not be refused by Congress.

The Cholera—Next to the gold mines of California, which is always the prominent theme here in conversation, (for men in this country are actuated more by a desire for wealth than a fear of death) this dreadful epidemic claims public attention, and consideration. After having run its course in the old Old World, commencing in farther India, more than a year ago, it has crossed the Atlantic and made its second appearance on this Continent, simultaneously in the three principal cities of the Union; New York, Baltimore and New Orleans, where it is raging with great violence, and most inevitably, ere long, will penetrate the interior of the country, if it has not already done so. Indeed it is currently circulated that the disease has already reached Cincinnati, and that several deaths have ensued, at all events it is known that deaths have occurred on the steam-boats, bound from New Orleans to Cincinnati and that great consternation pervades the people of the former city who are leaving it in large numbers daily, for the upper country. Now if you want to see another Legislative stampede by the people's Representatives, such a one as occurred last Winter, in apprehension of the small-pox, “only more so”, just let it be understood that the Cholera has reached this city, as many suppose it will in a short time, and you may rest assured that there will be no more controversy about long and short sessions, or disposition to “shuffle responsibility” from one party to another about the adjournment. I am not particularly advised as to the health of this place, but judging from the large number of obituary notices, and other evidences to be seen, I should suppose it to be far from good. Several members have been much indisposed, but are now generally convalescent.

Yours,

M. L. B.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 8, 1849.

DEAR COURIER:

I apprehend the most popular measure which has passed both houses the present session is the resolution to adjourn on Tuesday, the 16th Inst., after a session of forty-three days duration; though it must be confessed that to adjourn thus early, will require more than ordinary
industry on the part of the Legislature, else the amount of "unfinished" will exceed the amount of finished business.

I apprised you heretofore that the people of Lawrenceburgh, through their agents here were making a vigorous effort, and that not without hope of success, to compel the Directors of the White Water Canal to repair the fifteen miles of that work lying below Harrison. Or in the event they failed to do so, the Canal must be forfeited and go into the hands of a Receiver, who was directed by the bill to repair the Canal between these points, out of the tolls and revenues derived therefrom. No little excitement was created in consequence of this movement, between the Representatives of the extremes of the work, Wayne and Dearborn Counties. For ten days this was the constant theme of discussion in and out of the House, among those interested. Well, there is a maxim which says, "Extremes will sometimes meet," and its truth is most happily illustrated in the present instance. Suddenly you see the men, who but a few hours before "looked daggers at each other", cheek by jowl, bury the weapons of their warfare, and unite to effect a common object—compromise their claims and rush a bill through the Senate, whilst the uninitiated stand and gaze at each other in mute astonishment; being surprised and captured by this union of apparently diverse interests. The bill which passed the Senate and is now pending in the House provides that the Company shall repair the work by the first of October next; and that the right of the State to redeem the work within twenty years, which was secured to the State by the Charter, shall be surrendered to the Company, reserving to the State any profits the Company may make over and above eight per cent, an object which has long been sought but without success. Verily, White Water is some when she can unite her forces, you may depend.

A bill has also passed both Houses, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Wayne, Spiceland, Greensboro and Harrison Townships in the county of Henry. The several acts authorizing the erection of a new Seminary in Henry County, amending the charter of the Henry County Turnpike Company, and the Knightstown and Shelbyville Rail Road Company; also the act amendatory of the charter of the Town of New Castle, have passed and are now the law.

The School Bill, a copy of which I sent you, has been debated in Committee of the whole House two days, during which time numerous amendments were proposed, principally by the enemies of the system, which were uniformly voted down. And I am now convinced that the bill will pass the House and be submitted to the Senate early in the present week, without any important amendments; but whether it will pass that body with the same facility, is in my judgment problematical.

A new Revenue Bill, providing for the assessment of taxes has just been brought in and ordered to be printed. Sufficient time, however, will not be left to act on a measure of so much importance, before the session must necessarily terminate, according to the resolution for adjournment already passed.
Well, this is the memorable 8th of January, whose annual return bring to our recollection the battle of New Orleans, Packenham and Cotton Bags; and which the democracy, as they are pleased to style themselves, have set apart and consecrated, in honor of the Old Heroe's victory, for the purpose of holding their Conventions and nominating their candidates; one of which is now in progress at the Capitol. Gov. Whitcomb was chosen President of the Convention, and edified the respectable audience in attendance with his usual amount of demagogical cant about "democracy" and the "war of liberty" as he termed it, which we so lately waged with unfortunate Mexico; and to do him justice, acted the part of "Mr. Insidius Cutsnell" in the dramatic piece recently written by the Chapmans, most admirably. Though it is true he performed some parts not "contained in the bills" equally creditably to himself. There are no delegates, I believe, in attendance from Henry County, and the duty of speaking and acting for the democracy of your county will devolve upon the "Free Soiler" who holds a seat in the south end of the Capitol and will no doubt faithfully represent them. Joseph A. Wright of Parke County lately a bitter opponent of the Wilmot Proviso, has been nominated as their candidate for Governor, against Judge Embree, the whig candidate and we shall now see whether the noble stand the latter has taken in Congress upon the subject of Slavery and slave extension, will be appreciated by the people, or whether the doctrine taught by some moralists, that there is more hope of an abandoned sinner, than a moral man, is more likely to win favor and esteem.

Yours as ever,

M. L. B.

II

OLD TIME STAR ROUTES

Written by Honorable Martin L. Bundy for the New Castle Courier of January 4, 1884:

In the year 1888, and for several years prior, William Silver resided and kept a store in a house which formerly stood on what is known as "Shroyer Corner" in New Castle, and during that year he moved to Pendleton, where he still resides at an advanced age. He was the contractor for carrying the United States mails once a week on horseback from Centerville, via Jacksonburgh, Nettle Creek, Boyd, New Castle, Middletown, Chesterfield, Anderson and Pendleton to Noblesville, and for the year 1835 he employed me to perform the service at $5.00 a month. It was not, in fact, possible to carry the mails in any other way than on horseback, because the streams were not bridged and the roads were impassible for vehicles of any kind, but it is perhaps needless to say the mails never failed to reach their destination during