

Poppleton a Know Nothing.

Omaha City has just passed through a heated and excited municipal election. Poppleton and Byers were the candidates for Mayor. We believe Mr. Poppleton received 68 majority, and we know that both have claimed to be Democrats—simon pure; and as to the Democracy of Mr. Byers we have nothing to say, as we have never heard any charges against it, and only know him as a gentleman. Mr. Poppleton was a member of the first Legislature, and we think it is due him in point of position to say, that with the help of A. J. Hanscom in always recognizing him first, when he rose to speak, provided he obtained the floor first. He (Poppleton) was the leader of the clique and also leader of the majority of the lower House, at least as far as cheating the people out of their just rights, by every species of unfair and illegitimate legislation was concerned. He was also a member of the last Legislature, and the body he was a member of, had the good sense and intelligence with a proper regard for his previous connection with the affairs of the first Legislature to leave him in a miserable minority. In the interim of his being a member of the first legislature and up to the time of his nomination for Mayor of Omaha, he was at many primary meetings in various parts of the Territory assisting to organize the great Democratic Party. Mr. Poppleton is a prominent lawyer of Omaha City, and is, as in justice we must concede, a young man of some ability, but it is now charged, and upon oath too, that he participated in running an institution in Omaha styled and known as a Know Nothing lodge. This we confess is a grave charge, especially against a young man of Poppleton's Democratic pretensions. Again we understand that the Lodge he assisted in running was not instituted by the regular order. We think it would be sufficient to damn any young politician of any kind of pretensions, for all future time, to have acted with the Dark Lantern, proscriptive set of secret politicians, but to belong to a Bogus Lodge makes the deed doubly reprehensible. We call attention to the affidavit below, charging Mr. Poppleton with Know Nothingism, which was posted in Omaha City, on the day of the last municipal election. We hope Mr. Poppleton will, if he can, explain away these charges:

Affidavit.

"I, William N. Byers, do solemnly swear that, sometime in the spring of 1855, I was invited by Andrew J. Poppleton to visit a room on the second floor, and in the south-east corner, of the building known as the "Old State House," in Omaha City.

As we were passing up the stairs to said room, I asked Mr. Poppleton his object in visiting said room, which question he declined answering, saying I would soon see. Upon entering said room, we were met by A. J. Hanscom, with a book or paper in his hand, from which he read an oath which he desired me to take, I enquired what they were doing, and received in effect the following answer:—"We are KNOW NOTHINGS, and are organizing a lodge here." I asked who started it, and they said Mr. Jones, of Iowa; who I then remembered having seen in Omaha sometime before, and to whom I had had an introduction—but no further acquaintance—and I do not remember having seen him since about the time of which I speak.

I then asked them for what purpose they were making the organization, and received in answer, from either Mr. Hanscom or Mr. Poppleton, the following words:—"THE DAMNED IRISH ARE GETTING SO THICK HERE, that we want something to whip them with. By God, we will show them at the next election whether they will compel us to elect such men as Bill Clancy to the next Legislature."

I think Mr. Purple was in the room at the time, and that he was a member of the lodge.

After the above conversation, Mr. Poppleton went down stairs, and returned with Mr. J. W. Paddock, who was met at the door by A. J. Hanscom, who again repeated the Know Nothing oath, which Mr. Paddock also refused to take, and he and myself withdrew from the room and went down stairs, and that is the last time I ever entered a Know Nothing lodge, and I never expect to again. I was only induced to enter the said room by the earnest solicitation and persuasion of said A. J. Poppleton, and would have done so under no circumstances, had I known the object for which he invited me; and I now declare that I am not now, nor was not then, a Know Nothing. I did not subscribe to any oath, book, or paper of any kind whatsoever, and never had any knowledge whatsoever of any other Know Nothing lodge. WILLIAM N. BYERS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of February, 1858. J. G. SEELY, Justice of the Peace.

Secretary of Nebraska.

Some of our cotemporaries have given credence to the rumor that N. E. Welch is to be appointed Secretary of this Territory. We are unwilling to believe the Administration can inflict so great a wrong upon our people. We do not recognize Mr. Welch as a resident of Nebraska, nor do we consider him a proper person to hold so important an office. During his four months stay in the Territory, he became universally unpopular with our citizens, and so strongly is the feeling against him, we are confident that ninety-nine out of every hundred persons who made his acquaintance, would protest against the appointment.

The success of an Administration depends much upon the efficiency and popularity of its appointees. This is particularly true of the Territories. Then why should we be burdened with officials whom our people cannot respect? We re-iterate what we have more than once before asserted, that T. B. Cuming, the present worthy incumbent of the office of Secretary, has the confidence of our people who would greatly deprecate the change proposed.

We find the above in the Nebraskan of the 3d inst., which is in keeping with everything of a personal nature, appearing weekly in that sheet. If the people of Nebraska should speak they would pronounce the article false in three particulars; first, a thousand residents of Nebraska know, of their own personal knowledge, that Mr. Welch has been a permanent resident of Nebraska, living in Omaha City, not forty rods from the office of the Nebraskan, the last eight months past; second, "that there is a strong feeling against him," is as unblushingly untrue as the first charge. Mr. Welch is a young man with a polished education and gentlemanly bearing, with urbane and social qualities that made him a great favorite with the people. And with one exception, the editor of the Nebraskan is the only one we ever heard speak a single word against the purity of his character, integrity of his purpose, or his unpopularity as a young politician; thirdly, that "T. B. Cuming has the confidence of our people." Now we do not desire to repeat what has so many times been said by almost everybody in the Territory, and rebashed again through every paper in the Territory, except the Nebraskan, about Cuming and his course in this Territory; for we believe that God and Providence have much to do with dealing justice to the eminently wicked and corrupt, and by such an affliction Cuming is receiving all the punishment he can bear.

Truth will out. Welch was not a supporter of Chapman for Congress—Cuming was. The people of the Territory fully understood all this, but the article was written against Mr. Welch for the purpose of infusing a little poison in old Buck's ear, to make another strike for Chapman, Cuming & Corruption, at the expense of personal reputation, consistency, justice and truth, but, thank God, we have a President in old Buck with enough of the Jacksonian mettle, as we have seen in his appointment of Governor, and Chief Justice to respect the wishes of the people. We presume the President will be fully advised as to the character of Mr. Welch by Gen. Cass, for whom he was private Secretary, for several years. Although we say this much in justice to Mr. Welch as a gentleman and an honorable man; we say further that he is not our first choice for Secretary. The Hon. P. C. Ward, of New York, who we believe has claims to this position, is our choice. We know him to be a gentleman, of that business and political experience, that would peculiarly fit him for the position of Secretary of the Territory, having sustained for the last fifteen years, since his entrance into political life, first in Pennsylvania, his native State, then in New York, an unspotted and untarnished political reputation as a reliable, consistent, sound and uncompromising Democrat. Having filled many positions of honor, both elective and by appointment, and refusing many sought to be thrust upon him, he would if appointed Secretary of the Territory bring that ripe experience and sound practical ability to the discharge of its responsible duties, that we so much need in a young Territory like Nebraska.

Laws passed at Florence.

The following are the acts passed by the Territorial Legislature at the close of this session—at Florence: Joint resolution relative to printing the Laws. 1. An act to provide a Criminal Code. 2. An act to establish a Ferry across the Missouri River at Aspinwall in Nebraska County.

- 3. An act supplementary to an act entitled an act to create a new election district in the northern portion of Douglas County. 4. An act to incorporate the town of Parkersburg. 5. An act to incorporate the Nebraska Pomological Society. 6. An act to provide for the election of four additional representatives. 7. An act to incorporate the Parkersburg Land Co. 8. An act to amend the charter of the Bank of Florence. 9. An act to create a new election district in the northern portion of Douglas County. 10. An act to incorporate Marietta. 11. An act to incorporate the Emerson Land Co. 12. An act relating to school lands. 13. An act to organize the County of Green and locate the County seat thereof. 14. An act to dissolve the bonds of matrimony between Jas. B. Hickman and Salina H. Hickman. 15. Joint Resolution to Public Printer. 16. An act to amend an act entitled 17. Joint resolution relative to public printer.

- "An act to provide for the collection of Revenue," approved Feb. 13, 1857. 18. An act to re-locate the seat of Gage County. 19. An act to provide for the election Coroners. 20. An act to incorporate the town of Plafout in Sarpy County. 21. An act to incorporate Tecumseh in Johnson County. 22. An act to incorporate the town of Liberty in Cass County. 23. An act to incorporate the town of Beatrice in Gage County. 24. An act to authorize the Commissioners to locate a Territorial road from Desoto to Tekama. 25. An act to incorporate the town of Cambridge in Otoe County. 26. An act to incorporate the Monroe Ferry and Bridge Co. 27. An act to establish a Ferry across the Missouri river at Liberty in Cass Co. 28. Act to incorporate the town of Waterville in Cass County. 29. An act to locate a Territorial road from Desoto in Washington County to Elkhorn City, Douglas County. 30. An act to locate and establish a Territorial road from Nebraska City to Rock Bluffs. 31. An act to locate a Territorial road from Bellevue to Omaha City. 32. An act to locate a Territorial road from Peru in Nemaha County to intersect the Military road leading from Leavenworth in Kansas to Ft. Kearney. 33. An act to re-locate the seat of Government. 34. An act to exempt the homestead of families from forced sale or execution to pay debts.

Lola Montez on Gallantry.

On Wednesday night, Lola Montez delivered a lecture in New York, on the subject of "Gallantry." She thus disposed of the King of Bavaria and Jonathan:

"Of King Louis of Bavaria she spoke at some length, extolling his love of art, and his platonic love, remarking that those natures which were too gross to consider the latter could not realize how it could be experienced by others. His negligence of dress she noticed, remarking that in the matter of old coats he would rival a celebrated American editor. (Laughter.) He worshipped beauty like one of the old troubadours. The United States was too practical a nation to entertain a spirit of gallantry. It required too much leisure. She did not mean that there was not plenty of courting, but the love of the United States seemed to her too much a business. The gentlemen made love in a truly businesslike manner. They would manage the heart of a pretty woman as easily as they did the stocks on 'Change. (laughter.) and the panics which they created in the social markets beat the revolutions of stocks in the regions of business. She believed that the American was regarded as a dull fellow who could not win the heart of a lady, make a thousand dollars and start a bank of a million dollars capital before breakfast. (laughter.) But for all this, there was a good deal of honest love for women, and our gallants could dive deeper and come up drier than any other men in the world. (Laughter.) She related the reply of Franklin to Madame Helvetius, when she wished him to postpone his journey for her sake, that "he would postpone his entrance to Paradise from 5 o'clock in the morning till 4 o'clock in the afternoon, for the privilege of an hour with such a lady"—and remarked that this could not be extravagant, for there was no extravagance in love; and she had never met a Frenchman who would not postpone any idea of Paradise altogether for the sake of a pretty woman."

The Senate Committee on Territories will report against the admission of Oregon, because of an insufficient population.

Correspondence of the Gazette. OMAHA, N. T., March 4, 1858.

Dear Gazette:—Whew, whew, what a smoke our municipal election has caused! It's hardly cleared away yet,—not exactly certain what's did, and what's not did. 718 votes cast for Mayor,—Poppleton received 392; Byers, 326. 650 voters didn't care a "continental damn" which beat,—felt just like the old woman who saw her husband in a desperate struggle with the bear,—says she, "go it old hoss, go it old brin, devil of a bit do I care which whips."

Nobody would consent to take the office that the people wanted, consequently the field was left to Byers and Poppleton, old cronies, old partners. The people felt as if they might as well vote for one as the other. Generally the same objections that applied to one, applied to the other. People suspicious,—dark hints about Know Nothingism. Pop's friends charged Byers with having opposed the introduction of foreigners into the Territory. Byers retaliated,—came out in an affidavit on the morning of the election,—swore that Poppleton and Hanscom undertook to initiate him into a Know Nothing Lodge here in Omaha during the first session of the Legislature. Some people taken by surprise,—others, not. Pop got hold of the affidavit,—read it,—jumped right up four feet,—liked to have fallen backwards,—one hand raised high up in the air, he swore 'twas a "damned lie, got up for electioneering purposes,"—then took a shoot for Irish town, as strait as a bee line,—met a son of "ould Ireland,"—shook him by the hand,—treated to bad whisky—then at a 2-40 pace to the Douglas House—then around town generally, coat tail out at angle of 45 degrees.

Say old fellow, did you ever see a pig jump, "cut up" and run, after his tail had been eliminated from his body? Well, if you have, you can approximate to a faint idea of what a figure Pop cut while running through town. He finally subsided into—

Things looked queer, Hanscom cuss'd in'ardly,—said 'twas true, but 'twas a shabby trick in Byers to tell 'em. Salisbury winked,—Redick looked down,—Rankin tickled,—"laughed in his sleeves," glad to have company—he you know, was a Know Nothing at Keokuk,—always has been a blot on his democracy. He is glad to have Pop and Hans in the same fix with himself. It turns out that all three, (they, who claim to be the sanest, pure, true blue democrats, and who lately attempted to organize the democratic party for their own especial benefit,) have all been members of the Know Nothing order. Well, you know the old adage, "when rogues fall out," &c., but it's just as true, they tell the truth on each other. Pop comes out with a printed disclaimer, but he only denied being a Know Nothing at the present time,—he didn't deny having been one at some former time. Nobody charged him with being one at present. Well, Pop is elected, but it is worse than a defeat. The democrats who voted for him, say they have been deceived,—never suspected him of having been a Know Nothing. If the affidavit of Byers' had come out three days before the election, neither Pop nor Byers would have received fifty votes. However, it is just as well as it is. The Clique is done for. The developments are rich,—more are promised.

Yours, &c. QUIZ.

That Rankin, or anyone but ourself writes the editorials of the Nebraskan, or any portion of them, is as false as Bowen and Strickland are base.

Nebraskan. Mr. Robertson, we will bet you a cotton hat, an Omaha Scrip Lot, or fifteen cents, hard money, that you do not write all the editorials of the Nebraskan; and further that Rankin did write the article for the Nebraskan, that we alluded to; and still further, that we can prove it.

IMITATION OF A HIGH EXAMPLE.—The Senate of Tennessee has caught the Grow and Keitt infection at Washington, and "gone in." The Senators from Maury and Shelby, Messrs. Whitthorne and Walker, struck up a little muss to enliven the monotony. The Nashville Patriot of Tuesday says of it:

Mr. Whitthorne rose to a point of order. Mr. Walker, interrupting, said the gentleman from Maury had risen to a point of order, but was proceeding to the discussion of something else. Mr. Whitthorne replied, that showed how little he knew about it. Mr. Walker rejoined that Mr. Whitthorne had been drunk all the morning, and wondered if he thought him so. Mr. Whitthorne retorted that that was a damned lie, whereupon Mr. Walker struck him in the face with a book, and the parties clutched. They were separated without material injury to either.

We recognize the Nebraska Advertiser, R. W. Furnas, editor, as one of our best local exchanges. The last number, March 4, is replete with local news. The editorials bear marks of that candid, impartial and dignified character which should characterize a public journal. While Robertson is making such heavy drafts upon his demented brain, to retail slanderous and libelous scurrility against Furnas, he would do well to look over the editorials of the Advertiser, and take due notice thereof, and govern himself accordingly.

Destructive Fire in St. Louis.

One of the most calamitous events that has ever occurred in this city, involving a fearful extent of loss to life and property, transpired on Saturday morning, Feb. 20, between the hours of three and four. The Pacific Hotel, situated on the corner of Poplar and Seventh street, together with the contents of a number of stores on the first floor beneath, was entirely consumed by fire, nothing remained but the blackened and crumbling walls.

The loss of property, tho' large, is nothing to the destruction of human lives which this catastrophe has occasioned. From the best information we can gather there were about one hundred persons sleeping in the Hotel at the time of the occurrence. It appears that the entire building was enveloped in the raging element before scarcely any of the lodgers were awakened to a full sense of their danger. And when the inmates were finally aroused it was only to find all opportunities of egress closed to them, for the staircases in front and behind were already gone or so nearly so that an attempt to escape by those means would be only rushing into the arms of inevitable death. The scene that ensued baffles any effort at description. The rushing of men, women and children to and fro to avoid the blistering heat and to search for ways to reach the street—the shrieks of the terror-stricken and the groans of those bound to their roofs by walls of scorching fire—the shouts of those who had been called to the spot from the surrounding neighborhood—the clambering over swaying and reeling joists—the falling floors with their load of heavy furniture and their dearer burden of human lives—all this and more that was intensely terrible and fearful, it is not given to our pen to adequately describe.

The stairs gone, the roof and floors inch by inch, giving way, and the lurid flames shooting up momentarily thicker and hotter, many sought to escape the impending hazard of being burned to death, thro' the scarcely less dangerous prospect of jumping from the windows.

Besides the loss of a great number of lives, estimated as being between twenty and thirty, of which thirteen bodies have been found, about \$40,000 worth of property was destroyed, insured for about \$20,000.

Had the books of the Hotel been saved it might have been easy to estimate the number of the lost. But it is even difficult to enumerate those who have escaped, for they are scattered about in various parts of the city, and the whereabouts of but few is yet ascertained.—Mo. Republican.

Gas Explosion. A singular and fearful explosion, from defective gas-pipes, took place on the 19th ult., in the Methodist Protestant Church, on Sixth street, near Race, by which some ten or twelve persons were seriously injured, and two or three of them, it is feared, fatally.

The church has been recently refitted, indeed almost entirely rebuilt, and was opened for religious exercises for the first time last Sunday. A protracted meeting or revival has been in progress for some fifteen persons entered the basement, where evening service was to be held, when a strong odor of gas was observed, causing much remark and an effort to discover the locality of the leakage.

A man named James Morgan obtained a candle and ran it along a portion of the pipe, which was laid under the floor of the basement and above the ceiling, under the floor of the church, but perceived no evidence of the escaping gas. He then applied the light to the box containing the meter, behind the front door, and a blaze burst forth, so frightening two or three persons that they rushed into the street. An alarm of fire was sounded from the tower on the Mechanic's Institute, and water having been brought in buckets, the flames were soon extinguished.

Persons were moving about the basement—which is divided into a lecture-room in the rear, and three or four small apartments, separated from each other by a main entrance—and believed the cause of the gas odor had been discovered, when of a sudden a tremendous explosion took place, tearing up the floor, shattering the walls, and making a wreck of the basement. In the church above, half of the pews were torn up, the windows broken, portions of the floor blown as high as the ceiling, and the doors forced from their hinges into the street. The explosion was heard at the distance of half a mile, and its force equaled that of gun powder.

Of course, everything was confusion and consternation at once. Those in the church, it was supposed, were killed, and a large crowd of persons, drawn thither by the noise, collected in a few moments near the spot. A search was immediately begun for the injured, some of whom were taken from among broken timber, and fractured walls, in a condition that rendered it impossible to determine the extent of their injuries.

Local & Territorial.

THE MISSOURI ON A BENDER.—The Missouri, which has been closed at this point but a few weeks, broke up early Monday morning, March 8, and is now filled with floating ice. We understand that the ice gorged near the mouth of the Pappillon Creek, and piled up on the Ferry Boat, which was sunk near by, rendering it impossible to raise it, and is now a total wreck.

At Omaha, the breaking up of the ice was attended with equally as disastrous results. Steam had been kept up on the Ferry Boat all day Sunday and the following night, but those having the boat in charge, neglected to keep a sufficient quantity of wood on board, and about 5 o'clock, Monday morning, when the steam was nearly exhausted, the ice commenced to move down and pile on the deck of the boat, making it necessary to shove it into the stream, to save it from being crushed. It floated down the river during the day, within two or three miles of Bellevue, and made a lauding high and dry on a sand bar, where it remains, pretty effectually used up.

The Washington City, Gov. Cuming's Hotel, which has been anchored at Omaha since last spring, caught a migratory spirit and concluded to take French leave. It set out before daylight on a sort of privateering expedition, without as much as saying, "by your leave," to its proprietor, carrying with it a man by the name of Hulbert, who was sleeping on the boat. He was awakened from his slumbers by the cracking of the ice, and supposing that the boat was going to pieces, run to the hurricane deck, without stopping to complete his toilet, and frantically seizing the bell rope, commenced furiously to ring the bell, at the same time shouting at the top of his voice, "Fire! Fire!! Murder! Murder!! Help! Help!!" till the boat finally made a landing, some distance below its starting point, where he was afterward relieved from his agonizing situation, more scared than hurt.

The river broke up last year on the 26th of March, and the first boat, the St. Mary, arrived on the 28th. We shall probably have a boat here from St. Louis, in a short time. "Let it come, we repeat it sir, let it come!"

FIRE.—A fire broke out in the Blacksmith shop of P. W. Lane, Tuesday evening last, consuming the building, and all his tools. The loss although not a large one, will be severely felt by Mr. L., in these hard times. Mr. Lane is an industrious and hard working mechanic, and we hope our citizens will not fail to render him all the assistance that he may need, to build another shop.

There are several buildings in the process of construction, in this city, notwithstanding the hard times.

The weather during the past few days, has been exceedingly fine. Yesterday, at 2, P. M., the Mercury stood at 62 degrees above zero, in the shade. This is the highest point the Mercury has reached this year. Our farmers will soon be able to commence plowing.

Averill & Co., are erecting a large two story frame building, for a store and dwelling, on Main Street.

Joseph E. Pray, is preparing to erect a frame building on Main Street, nearly opposite Horn & Co's Store.

T. M. McCord, who has been absent from our city, a short time, on a visit to the east, arrived home last Tuesday.

Large numbers of wild Geese and Ducks are winging their way northward.

We acknowledge the receipt of the New York Tribune, Times, Herald, Porter's Spirit, Ballou's Pictorial, and the New York Ledger, from Woolworth, Omaha. Those that wish to procure copies of the Ledger, containing Mrs. Southworth's "Bride of an Evening," can be accommodated at Woolworth's. He has on hand, all of the back numbers containing that tale.

Our readers will not fail to read the proposals for building the Court House, to be found in our advertising columns.

Now is the time to plant Fruit and Shade Trees. Let no one that owns a foot of ground, neglect it. We hope every farmer in Sarpy County, will set out large orchards this season, and in a few years they will be rewarded with a bountiful supply of luscious fruits. While a growing orchard will enhance the value of your farms, there is no occupation that is more elevating and ennobling than that of raising fruit and fruit trees.