

THE LIBERAL.

BY GUNN & CULLATON.

ST. THOMAS, AUGUST 7, 1850.

"The Western Liberal."

We present to-day to the public the first number of the *Western Liberal*. Some three weeks ago we printed notices and circulated them through the county, stating that our paper was to appear on Friday last; but in consequence of our not being able to obtain the necessary paper for printing on, we were compelled to delay it until Wednesday, to-day, on which day of the week it will in future be published.

In consequence of our not having issued a prospectus, the public will naturally require from us some explanation as to the course we intend to pursue, and the principles by which we are to be governed.

The establishment of a newspaper in St. Thomas is an undertaking to which the previous history of the press in its precincts does not offer much encouragement. Time and again in the light of the press has dawned upon this fair village, but its course has been cloudy, and it has invariably met with an early sunset.

We well know the effect which these causes will have on our first appearance, and we are also aware that many good and cautious people have already, in their imagination, numbered us with those that have gone before us. On these and other accounts, we shall not be surprised if many at first show us the cold shoulder; but we have struggled against harder fortune than that which now awaits us, and with a determined will, and hands which never refuse to labor, we hope to surmount all these difficulties, and show to the world that a newspaper can be supported in St. Thomas!

In establishing a weekly newspaper, we do it not with the expectation of making a fortune, for in fact such a thing would be impossible in a country like this; but we do it with the hope of obtaining a permanent home, and of gaining an honest and honorable livelihood by our profession.

As the County is now about being divided, and it is pretty well understood St. Thomas is to be the head-quarters of the new County, as such its population must naturally increase. Its facilities for manufacturing purposes are equal to those of any other town in this part of the country. The situation of St. Thomas is healthy and delightful, and the surrounding country is settled by a wealthy, intelligent, and enterprising community. Upon whatever side you may chance to look, you behold beautiful cleared farms, handsome dwellings, and thriving orchards, all of which denote the persevering spirit and respectability of their owners.

For years past the inhabitants of this part of the country, especially those along the lake shore, have experienced great inconvenience, in consequence of the County seat being so far distant; but now they will soon be freed from this cause, and, being possessed of the highest gifts of nature, nothing can be wanting on the part of the inhabitants of the County of Elgin but to be united, and strive together for mutual benefit, and ere long they will repair to a great extent, the losses and inconveniences they have sustained in being so long dependent on the town of London. While this is a location peculiar to us, still it is our aim to make the *Liberal* a newspaper not confined to our own village, in its interests, but to the County of Elgin—advocating the interests of our fellow-citizens in the County, as well as those matters of concernment which affect us from without.

In regard to the politics of our paper, they will be in accordance with the name we have assumed. We will advocate all measures which may be calculated to benefit the country at large, as opposed to the mere selfish objects of parties and factions. In our course we intend to follow up the progressive spirit of the times, and our object will be to support measures, not men. We will never condemn a man merely from a feeling of party prejudice, neither will we uphold him in the wrong merely, because he happens to profess the same political opinions as ourselves. Yet we will remain true to the cause we have adopted. We regard the organization of the Reform party as based on broad and comprehensive principles of government, as being the party of law and order, and stability in our institutions—yielding to change in every reform by which the people are to be benefited in a more enlarged liberty, in greater security in the exercise of political rights, and in person and property. It is, too, the party of progress. It is not wedded to the past, nor attached to old things because they are old; but it would cling to all that is valuable in experience, and strive for the development of other truths for the future; and it regards the Freedom of the Press, and of speech as being all important in the success of constitutional law, and as the only safe-guard of freedom. With such a party—a party of the People, with sympathies in common with the mass—it is our pleasure and pride to belong, and we shall, in the columns of the *Liberal*, be its unflinching advocate.

Our columns will invariably be open to all

parties having a desire to promote our common interests. We will endeavor to give as correct a view as possible of the current prices of all marketable produce in the principal cities of Canada and the United States. We will publish the latest news by the Steamers from Europe as soon as possible after we receive it. An extra will be issued when the news may be of sufficient importance to require it.

We will devote a portion of our columns every week to Agriculture, the Arts and Sciences, Miscellaneous Intelligence, Education and Amusement. In short, nothing shall be allowed to pass our notice that may tend to interest and benefit our subscribers.

Our sheet is not so large as some might wish it to be—but if it is small, so is our price. It is within the reach of every man to subscribe, and it is for this purpose we intend it. But if we meet with sufficient encouragement, we will enlarge it in a short time.

To the Public.

The first mentioned partner in the publication of the *Western Liberal* has pleasure and ample satisfaction in being proof against every charge of inconsistency and wrong doing with which he may be taxed, with reference to the *Observer*, and *Middlesex Standard*, which were previously published in this office. With regard to the former, the party here concerned, can challenge inquiry, and prove that he has not occasioned the least injury to a single individual, to his knowledge—payment being demanded, and received, in exact proportion to the numbers issued, and the suspension of the paper was owing to misplaced confidence in an agent recommended to his notice, and the derangement of the subscription list consequent thereon.

As to the *Middlesex Standard*, printed in this office last winter, he had no sympathy with its political views, neither had he anything to do with the editing or management of the same.

We send copies of to-day's paper to a number of persons residing at a distance whom we have not had an opportunity of calling on personally. Those of our friends who may not wish to take the paper, will please return the same to this office, marked "refused," otherwise they will be considered as subscribers.

Croakers About.

While we were at work on Friday evening last, we heard a friend on the opposite side of the street, not twenty rods from our office, very cunningly remark that "we were wasting our time in working here by candle light, as we would only be able to issue two or three numbers, and then break down!"

Now, every body knows that there is not a town or village in America that cannot boast of its prophets and its wise men; and by the above, it is evident that St. Thomas is not behind in this respect. We are much obliged to our friend for the information, it may be of service to us hereafter: for, indeed, if every individual in St. Thomas, was as much afraid of a few shillings as the person to whom we have reference, newspapers and printers would stand a poor chance in this quarter. But we hope our friend will consider the matter in the light we do, and say to himself: "Well, every body ain't like me; wiser and better men than I am take newspapers, and support them too!"

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.—We learn by the *Globe*, that Parliament will be prorogued on Friday next.

We have intelligence from Europe, and the Eastern Hemisphere generally, by the latest steamer. Our extracts and details, adopted from various sources, are as ample as we can afford at present.

ANOTHER STEAMBOAT BLOWN UP! NINE LIVES LOST, AND SEVERAL BADLY SCALDED.

Explosion of the Steamboat America on Lake Erie.

From the *Globe*, Aug. 1.
A telegraphic report received last evening from the town of Erie on Lake Erie communicates the following melancholy intelligence: This morning whilst off Barcelona on her downward passage, the steamer *America* collapsed her steam chest, instantly killing one of the Assistant Engineers and two other persons, as well as dreadfully scalding several, 25 of them mortally. The Assistant Engineer's body was found under the crank. The decks of the ill fated vessel are literally torn up and otherwise injured. She was towed into Erie by the *Alabama*. As near as can be ascertained, 27 are scalded, of whom 9 are dead, 6 to 8 badly, perhaps mortally wounded.

Up to the time of going to press we have heard nothing from Toronto concerning the Territorial Division Bill. We hope to hear something of it in a day or two

The Present Session.

We are now convinced that the present Session of our Canadian Legislature is almost terminated. To date, they have been 84 days in session, from 14th May last.—As yet, we are not prepared to enter upon a review of its legislative operations, but here, at our outset, merely observe, that the time mentioned has been chiefly occupied with matters of local, corporate, or individual contentment; and eminently with a vast deal of expulsive, and inappropriate orations—very costly, but alas, very tedious and useless to the country. Nevertheless, hopeful attempts have been made to maintain the "positive sign" in favor of progress, by some few philanthropic members, by motions and resolutions towards the abolition of laws and usages derived from the dark ages, and for the introduction of improvements into the general legal system, consonant with the present state of knowledge, and the elevating spirit of the age. Truth and humanity will prevail, ultimately, notwithstanding all obstacles. At present, however, it is very apparent that our Canadian Legislature is still charged, in excess, with obstructive elements. Minds a century behind coming in contact with minds as much in advance. These deputies, however, are not invariably the co-efficients, or exponents of their constituents; we do not, therefore, apprehend much danger of a *statu quo* position in Canada. We expect henceforth a chance of discussing in detail the doings of our present legislators; and thus make our readers acquainted with what new laws have been enacted, as also with what has been antiquated.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

We are indebted to a friend for a copy of the *Boston Daily Journal*, of the 23d ult., from which we take the following article, relative to the news from California. The most important feature in the news is a destructive fire which swept over a third of the wealthiest part of the city of San Francisco, on the 4th of June last. The *Journal* says:—

This is the third conflagration which visited that city within the last few months, devouring as it were in an instant, the hard earned treasures of months and years, and reducing many of its enterprising inhabitants from affluence to penury. But the indomitable courage and perseverance of the men who have left home and its comforts, braved the perils of Cape Horn, or the deadly malaria of the Isthmus, rise undaunted above these discouragements—and we see them ere the smouldering embers have ceased to burn, clearing away the rubbish, preparatory to building on a more secure and extensive scale.

The loss by the fire is estimated variously—at from three to five millions of dollars! These estimates are made amid much confusion and excitement, and will doubtless be found to be somewhat exaggerated. A private letter received in this city this morning says that such is the case.

The Press of California seems to be a prominent sufferer by the flames. The *Journal of Commerce* is again burned out; the publication of the *Courier*, the new Whig paper, is still longer delayed by the consumption of its materials by the all devouring element; and one or more of the other papers were obliged to remove their materials.

A vast amount of the property destroyed was in the hands of commission merchants, and heavy losses will fall upon the shippers, principally in New England and New York. The news from the mines is meagre. All disturbances had ceased with the foreign miners, they having concluded to pay the tax levied upon them.

The rumored discoveries of gold mines in Oregon had created much excitement, and it was thought would have a tendency to direct thither a part of the current of emigration now on the plains.

The following is from the *San Francisco Herald*, of June 12:

On the 7th instant, new diggings, which are said to be extremely rich and extensive, were discovered on a plain on the north branch of Wood's Creek, about two miles and a half north of the town of Sonoma. The gold lies very deep, but every hole that had been sunk had yielded well.

The intelligence from the mines is of such a nature, as to prove there will be a greater quantity of gold dug out this summer than ever before. We scarcely know which valley the San Joaquin or the Sacramento, has sent out the richest specimens; but gold comes from both regions in sufficient quantities to prove that there was little extravagance in the assertion that the ore is inexhaustible. It has been found, too, as far north as Oregon, and as far south as the mountains near Los Angeles.

There appears to be a ridge of gold-bearing quartz running the whole length of the country North and South. The ore has been found even in the mountains of Los Angeles than in the mines of Mariposa. We have seen large masses from both localities. As found in the former place, it will require the employment of science and machinery—the one to direct operations, and the other for grinding the rock—and with these two agents engaged, it will afford, from the immense quantity which exists, sufficient employment and compensation for three-fourths, at least, of all the superfluous labor of the United States.

Gen. Boyer, formerly President of Hayti, died at Paris on the 9th ult.

From the Globe.

Arrival of the Canada.

NEW YORK, July 31st.

The *Canada* arrived at Halifax at 1 o'clock this morning, and sailed for New York with 175 passengers.

Cotton advanced—Flour is ill to buy, prices nominal—Corn is dull & lower. Provisions—Beef is exceedingly dull—Mess Pork, more enquiry—Prime attracts no attention—Bacon, some qualities in fair demand for Ireland, better descriptions looking up; Hams, dull; shoulders largely called for.

The *Pacific* arrived at Liverpool at half-past 5 on Wednesday morning, 104 days from New York.

The *Cambria* arrived the day previous at half-past 6, 13 days from New York.

At the latest dates the American fleet was off Lisbon, but the papers furnished no news with regard to the differences between Portugal and the United States.

No doubt exists but that hostilities ere this has actually occurred between Denmark and the Dutchies. If so, important results are likely to ensue, as a large Russian fleet is of the coast, for the avowed purpose of rendering the Danes all the assistance they may require.

The Overland Mail brings two weeks later advices from China.

The Commercial treaty between China and the United States has been concluded.

The Cunard Company have determined to commence a line of seven steamers of great size and power for the convenience of goods and passengers between Liverpool and New York. The new line will be wholly independent of the present one.

The Queen of Spain has been delivered of a son, who only lived a few minutes.

A difficulty has arisen between Spain and Portugal in consequence of the marriage of the Queen's sister with Conde Montemolin, the son of Don Carlos.

The Spanish Minister has protested against this alliance as a great breach of the quadruple treaty.

The loss of the Viceroy had caused a despondency among the friends of the Galway line.

FURTHER NEWS BY THE CANADA.

ENGLAND.

The proceedings of Parliament are of no general interest.

Sir Thomas Wilde has been promoted to the "wool sack." The present Sir Robert Peel has been elected for Tamworth without opposition.

The cholera has broken out in London.

The weather and crops are very satisfactory.

Boston Yankee Professors of Biology are exercising their art in Great Britain, but ineffectually.

FRANCE.

The law against the press has been passed by a large majority. It increases the caution money enormously, and stamps are imposed. Every article must be signed by the author.

The financial improvement has been great, and exports greatly increased.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The overland mail reached London on Friday.

The dates are Calcutta 1st, Madras June 8th, China 23rd May.

The political intelligence is of no importance.

India was tranquil.

A serious epidemic had broken out at Canton which resembled the yellow fever in the West Indies. It is said to be invariably fatal, and in most cases in about 12 hours.

The cholera was raging frightfully at Cambodia.

Disturbances continued to take place at Bakan Island.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

The butcher Haynau has been dismissed in disgrace from the Government of Hungary.

By TELEGRAPH.

Friday, August 2.

ENGLAND.

The House of Commons have voted £2000 per annum, to the family of the late Duke of Cambridge.

The British Government are about to purchase for £10,000, the Danish forts on the coast of Africa, making the line of their communication and defence complete.

The London Times says a letter from Marseilles states that the American Corvette *Erie*, which was anchored there, had on board the Turkish Minister, who was proceeding to Washington.

FRANCE.

Louis Napoleon positively refused to sacrifice any Minister to the demands of the majority.

OUR CHIP BASKET.

We see by late American papers, that the *Southern Press*, (a slavery paper published at Washington,) and most of the Southern Members, are opposed to the strong Northern complexion of the new Cabinet; not a man has been chosen below 36 30. This shows pretty clearly what ground President Fillmore intends to take on the slavery question.

The cholera is fast spreading itself in the South-Western States. St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Nashville, and Louisville report daily cases. Two deaths occurred in New York last week.

There is a man in the New York Penitentiary who has had twenty-seven wives.—Such a man ought to be kept in Penitentiary, we say.

The assessors of the city of San Francisco, announce the taxable property there as likely to exceed three hundred millions of dollars.

The Peace Congress at Frankfort-on-the-Main, will meet on the 22d inst. Elihu Burritt and one or two other delegates from the United States, have arrived in Paris.

At a meeting of the City Council of Toronto, on the 29th ult., Mr. Capreol's new plan to raise £100,000 for the completion of the Toronto, Simcoe, and Lake Huron Railroad was brought up, and after full discussion, agreed to.

The London Correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* says, the individual who assaulted the Queen has been tried and convicted, and sentenced to seven years' transportation. He was not subject to whipping, owing to the respectability of his family.—The sentence was pronounced by Baron Alderson, and shows, if anything ever did show it, how much there is one law for the rich, and another for the poor.

Prince Albert is said to entertain a most decided aversion to the sport of horse racing.

Passengers are now actually brought from Dublin to Liverpool for four pence a head. Liverpool is, in consequence, infested by gangs of vagrants who have come over for the purpose of begging; and a capital thing some of them make of it.—*Eng. paper.*

Louis Philippe's fortune, it is said, is divided by his wife among his children and grand-children, in eight equal parts, and that the share of each will be 500,000*fr.* (£20,000 per annum); so that Louis Philippe's private fortune, notwithstanding the great depreciation within the last two years, amounts to £150,000 sterling a year.

There has been a serious riot among the laborers employed on the railroad at Cuba. There was one man killed, and several others badly wounded. A number of shanties were destroyed. It is stated that from 50 to 60 persons were engaged in the disturbance.

The roof of the gas house, at Cleveland, O., fell in on the 19th ult. The foreman, Mr. Burton, was killed, and two others badly wounded.

The late census of Massachusetts shows the population of that State to be 976,000—which is a gain in ten years of about 230,000.

The cholera is raging fearfully in the city of Mexico this season. Late accounts state that three hundred persons have died daily.

Lord Calthrop, Lord Breatly, Lord Cook, and some other English nobles, are accompanied with a swarm of California emigrants at Council Bluffs, Nebraska Territory, on their way to the land of gold, all by the way of a pleasant summer jaunt.

Ohio has more colleges in it than any other State in the Union, at the present time. In Cincinnati there are four medical colleges, including one of dental surgery.

The crops in Michigan by all accounts are better than has been realized in that State for several years. Wheat is said to be very plump, and the heads well filled.

There is every appearance at present of a war between the United States and Portugal. An American squadron had arrived in the Tagus to enforce the claim of £70,000.—Twenty-one days were allowed by the American commander for a final reply. Fears were entertained of a refusal. The Portuguese Government have determined to resist the demand upon them. We think the conduct of the American Government in this affair has been hasty, nevertheless we hardly believe the Government of Portugal will be willing to fight with so powerful an adversary.

President Fillmore, and all the members of his Cabinet are lawyers.

The Galway people are going to try another steamer of greater power than the *Viceroy*.