Gazetteer and Free Press.

"Free and Unshackled."

BARNARD & CALATIAN, Editors.

Thursday, July 16, 1874.

FIRE AT CHICAGO.

Dispatches from Chicago up to Tuesday night, 11:45 o'clock, report a large fire, nearly equal to the calamity of 1871. Up to last accounts the fire was spreading rapidly, burning northerly, the large and beautiful post office is among the ruins, together with some of the best churches, hotels and theatres. We are unable to give any further particulars this week. The loss can but reach well up in the millions.

ERIE RAILWAY.

On Tuesday morning, at a meeting of the Directors of the Erie Railway, H. J. Jewett was elected President of the road one year from date. We have no further news as to what the change will amount to at this time of writing, Tuesday afternoon. But if we are able to judge from the action of the officers and directors of the road for the past week or ten days, it is to be for the better, as there seems to be a determination upon their part to pursue a more liberal policy upon the line of the road, and should this be done it will not take very good eyesight to at once discover an increase of business as well a better feeling among the people along the line of the road.

LEAD THEM NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

The Democratic Legislature of New Hampshire not only made a clean sweep of all the officials favor of their henchmen, but repudiated their pledges for civil service and other reforms; and the good non-partizan citizens of that State who were fooled by the promises of the Democratic press and politicians to improve public affairs, have now ascertained to their sorrow that the Democratic party is not a reform party, except when out of office.

If we desire a continuance of those beautiful tributes to the pure public life of our fathers, and the frequent repetition of those eloquent denunciations of fraud and corruption in office, at which our Democratic friends by long practice, with nothing else to do, have become experts, we must positively keep them from ruining their reputation by keeping them out of office.—To say nothing of our interest in the country, our absorbing interest in Democrats themselves, would induce us to labor hard to keep them out of temptation.—[Rochester Exp.

BEECHER vs TILTON.

In another column will be found the latest explanation of the unhappy Beecher-Tilton affair. We should be glad never to mention the subject again until the *finale* is reached, and then to dismiss it with the fewest possible words, for we have a decided impression that such gossip is anything but healthful or beneficial in any sense, either to the parties immediately concerned or to the public generally. It only serves to gratify a morbid curiosity without discovering any new feature in human nature, or presenting those already familiar, in a more attractive form. One of the most suggestive lessons to be derived from this new aspect of the case is the supreme folly—we were about to say, and might as well say, meanness—of two families mixing up in such intimate, gushing friendship for a little while as not to know which is which; and then, when possessed of a knowledge of each others' faults, flaws, infirmities, misfortunes, sins, it may be, break friendship and proceed to ventilate each other before their associates and the community at large. If the intimacy of such an acquaintance has not been conducive to mutual esteem, better, a thousand times, lock up its secrets and throw away the key, even though it involve heartaches, regrets and many inconveniences. It is difficult to find justification or palliation for a betrayal of confidence under such circumstances.

A DEMOCRATIC WANT.

A little good generalship on the part of the Prohibition leaders in the coming campaign will place an enemy of their own in the field in alliance with them as they can ill afford to have ranged against them. There is a reason why, substantially speaking, every Protestant clergyman in the land is a Republican in sentiment. There is a reason why all the School Teachers and all the Lecturers upon the rostrum and all the Sunday School scholars and four-fifths of the business men and ninety-nine hundredths of the temperance men and seven-tenths of all the professed Christians in the land are Republicans. There is also a reason why, substantially speaking, all the Roman Catholic clergyman are Democrats. There is still further reason why, quite as universally, all the dealers in intoxicating liquors, all those ignorant, degraded and vicious classes of people who mostly consume those liquors, the keepers and frequenters of gambling houses and all other houses of doubtful repute and all men of every kind who want freedom and license from the restrictions of law, are Democrats or semi-and admitted facts. Nobody denies them. Everybody concedes them to be true. Each party knows and substantially realizes its own. Let us not be misunderstood. All the men in the Republican party are not good men by a long shot. Nor are all the men in the Democratic party bad men. We speak simply of classes of men who go to compose the chief elements of either party. Take out of the Republican party in the city of Elmira all the men of the classes we have thumbed as being in it and of it, and you couldn't find the balance with a search warrant. What is true of this locality is true of every other. There is an influence which draws men to the Republican party. There is an influence which drives them from it. Just so there is an influence which draws men to the Democratic party, and an influence which drives them from it. It is needless to define that influence. Every man knows what it is and every man according to his nature is attracted or repelled by it. Some men, it is true, a good many in the aggregate, are held by education and inherited prejudices to unnatural and constraining associations. They are voting for General Jackson to-day, and will continue to do so until that old hero shall appear to them in spirit form and knock some of the scales from off their eyes. But never mind them. The old issues are past, and there are some things which can't be done, as well as others which can be.

The question of immediate importance is the attitude which the two parties bear to each other concerning those laws or regulations or moral reforms which affect the social and enlightened prosperity of the community. Under the administration of which party will the greatest good of the greatest number have reference to the moral and educational aspect of the case, be promoted. The one question relating to this