TERMS OF THE PRESS.

The Press

PHILADELPHIA: MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1859.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

The Democratic citizens of Pennsylvania are invited to assemble in State Convention at Harrisburg on Wednesday, the 11th day of April, 1859, to consult upon the propriety of adopting measures to vindicate the name, fame, and principles of the Democratic party, outraged and insulted by a Convention assembled at the State Capitol on the 16th of March.

To resist the high-handed attempt of the Federal Administration to dictate political creeds to the people.

To protest against the war of a consolidated Federal despotism upon State sovereignty and State rights.

To reassert the great principle of Popular Sovereignty and non-intervention, alike in the Territories as in the States—non-intervention by Congress with slavery in the Territories, and non-intervention by the Federal Executive with the franchises of the people of the States.

To redeem the old fashioned creed of the Democratic party, repudiated and trampled under foot by men claiming to represent the party.

And finally, to proclaim our unfaltering confidence in William F. Packer, Governor of Pennsylvania, who has been assailed and proscribed because he refused, at the bidding of Federal dictation, to betray the trust, desert the principles, and falsify the pledges of the Union State Rights Democracy.

D. K. Jackman,	Wm. E. Lehman,
Wm. A. Stokes,	John Hickman,
Amos C. Noyes,	Wm. Sergeant,
Jas. P. Johnston,	Joseph B. Morris,
Thomas Collins,	Reuben C. Hale,
Alex. McKinney,	Francis Peters,
John K. Calhoun,	Jas. Gilleland,
John A. Spiel,	George Northrop,
Geo. W. Pearce,	John Sherry,
J. M. Kreider,	David Webster,
Adam Schoener,	E. G. Webb,
Wm. S. Moore,	H. B. Edwards,
A. Jordan Schwartz,	Saml. L. Young,
A. M. Sallade,	Geo. W. Nebinger,
J. Luther Ringwalt,	Jas. B. Nicholson,
Henry L. Cake,	Joseph Henry,
Charles Barnett,	A. G. Greene,
J. B. Montgomery,	C. S. Wingard,
George Hockman,	Benneville Klopp,
Adolphus Sellinger,	Diller Luther,
Isaac Hugus,	James Burns,
J. K. James,	Wm. J. Baer,
Peter Summer,	J. B. Morehead,
Samuel Ringwalt,	Dr. J. Donagan,
J. J. McIlhenny,	John W. Forney,
Henry C. Neff,	Frank McIlvaine,
Daniel Potteiger,	Alexander Heron,
D. Mauger,	D. H. Hottenstein,
John Green,	Henry Flannery,
M. Scull.	

☞ The above call for the Democratic State Convention, spontaneously agreed upon, (in order that a great wrong should be instantly published,) was only signed by those on the spot, or within hail. Such of our friends as desire to sign the call will please leave or send their names to the office of THE PRESS.

FIRST PAGE.—Washington Art Association—Rothermel's King Lear, etc; Letter from Harrisburg; New Publications; Letter from New York; The Fourth and Eighth-streets Passenger Railway; The City; The Courts; Fourth Page.—List of Letters remaining in the Post Office up to Saturday March 19; Ship News.

THE NEWS.

The steamship Asia, from Liverpool, with the European mails to the 8th inst., and the Borussia from Hamburg and Southampton 5th inst., arrived at New York on Saturday, but their news has been anticipated by the Bremen steamer Weser, which arrived on Friday from Cork.

The track of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, near Princeton, is washed away. On Saturday the passengers by the two o'clock train from New York returned to Trenton, and arrived here on Saturday evening. The travel on the Camden and Amboy road will be suspended for a day or two, in consequence of the injury to the track.

The Atlantic cables, lost in Long Branch, have been recovered, washed up by the late storm. The fragments are strewn along the beach for miles.

News from the Cape of Good Hope to the 25th of January announces the disappearance of the small-pox there, after carrying off a thousand victims.

At the city election held on Friday in Reading, Berks county, Mr. B. Keim, Opposition, was elected Mayor by 944 majority over Dr. J. K. McCurdy, Buchanan Democrat.

On Saturday morning, a freight engine, on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, blew up near Elkton, Md., killing the engineer, Mr. Hall, a native of Littleton, Mass, and the fireman, belonging at Chester, but whose name we did not learn. The locomotive was called the "Meteor;" she was in good running order, and was about four years old. The train was from Baltimore, and had just passed Elkton. Four or five freight cars were slightly damaged. The despatch says that, with the exception of the destruction of the locomotive, "the loss will not be heavy," but, to the families of the men killed, the loss will be heavy enough.

In addition to the above, we have another railroad accident, more serious in its results, to chronicle. The express train on the Great Western railroad ran off the track near Hamilton, Michigan, on Friday night, killing four or five persons, (whose names have not been received,) and demolishing the engine and several of the cars attached. Nothing official has, as yet, been promulgated, in relation to the extra session of Congress.

Gen. George P. Morris, poet, warrior, and editor, has just been appointed consul to Havre.

Monday next has been fixed on for the trial of the Hon. Daniel E. Sickles.

Hon. William B. Reed, American envoy extraordinary to the Court of Pekin, according to a recent letter from Malta, passed through that place on the 19th ult., on his passage home.

The directors of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company of Bremen—owning the steamships Bremen, New York, Weser, and the ill-fated Hudson—have made a report to the stockholders, from which it appears that the last year's business has resulted in a net loss of 206,030 thalers, or nine and a half per cent. of the entire paid-in capital of the company.

Albany is fast emulating New York city in some of its difficulties. A few nights ago cries for help were heard in the street. Shortly afterwards, a young woman was forcibly placed in a wagon, and driven off—no one knows where. That young woman was Miss Clark. A pursuit was started for the wagon as soon as the neighbors could dress, but without effect.

Soulouque is desirous of becoming a naturalized British subject, so that he may own property in the island of Jamaica. By the laws of the island no alien is allowed to own real estate therein.

Storekeepers should see that their signs are properly fastened, especially in stormy weather like the present. In New York, on Saturday, a man was killed by a heavy sign board falling upon him, while walking along the street.

The New Orleans *Delta* gives the following extraordinary occurrence:—On Monday, the day after the Princess disaster, an infant, about seven months old, was picked up in the river, at Mr. Penison's plantation, below the scene of the explosion, floating with a life preserver made fast to it. It was alive, and is now in a healthy condition, having been delivered to its mother.

The Catholic residents of the town of Cromwell, Ct., having recently requested that since the Protestant Bible was read in their public schools, the Catholic version might also be used, the committee gave consent, and both versions were accordingly read. Incensed at this, certain individuals repaired in the night to the house of the committee, and daubed their doors with lampblack and oil, marking them with crosses, &c., which outrage has created a strong reaction of public opinion in favor of the committee, and the course adopted by them.

The Hookstown *Gazette* furnishes additional particulars concerning the poisoning of the wife of Rev. J. S. Harden, in Andersontown, Warren county, by her husband, as it is supposed. The deceased died suddenly on Monday instant, and a *post mortem* examination showed strychnine in her stomach. Her sister, Harden, testified under oath that the wife had told him on the night previous to her death that she had swallowed arsenic three or four times, and that she was impelled to do so because of difficulties existing between her mother and herself. Witness also stated that before he received this information from his wife, she bound him by a promise *not to divulge this statement to anything being except it was to save his own life.* Other witnesses, including her mother, however, criminated the husband. During the investigation Mr. Harden left the place disguised, and has not returned. The Governor has been informed of the fact, and has offered a reward of $500 for Harden's arrest.

The number of deaths in this city last week was 168, being a decrease of thirteen on the week previous.

There were 409 deaths in New York last week—a decrease of 35 on preceding report.

A converted Jew named Rev. J. Timme, who sometime since left as an Episcopal minister, died suddenly at Cincinnati on Wednesday last, and was buried under such suspicious circumstances that an inquest was determined on. On going to disinter the body it was found to have been removed, and was subsequently discovered in the dissecting room of a medical college. Previous to his death, a serious quarrel had taken place between him and his wife, who wished to return to the Israelitish faith.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1859.

The proceedings of the Administration Convention held in your State last week have given great satisfaction to "the powers that be!" in this vicinity. The President is as much delighted as if he had really been complimented by honest, disinterested men. You may now look out for a revival of proscription on a most extended scale. In every county in Pennsylvania the postmasters are to be redisciplined and reinstructed to show no mercy to any man who dares to denounce the doings of that body, to attack every newspaper that does not approve these doings, and even to recount new wrongs. This formidable army of mercenaries are relied upon to whip Democrats into the support of the conduct of the Convention. The President and Cabinet have in their own consciences seen that ruin will certainly befall the party, and they are resolved to use the time left to their Administration in pursuing to the death every independent Democrat who has the nerve to resist their tyranny. The lazy horde of place-men in your city, men who have really nothing to do, (especially those in the custom house,) are to be sent "of errands" all over the State. Your marshal of the district (Mr. Yost) has prostituted the patronage of his position for months past in order to pack this Convention. He expects to use the additional patronage (conferred by the act providing for the taking of the new census) in the most reckless manner. He has already promised deputy marshalships all over the Eastern district, and no doubt his example will be followed by the Western marshal, Mr. Campbell; though, from what I hear of him here, he is quite unwilling to be used as a tool simply to destroy the Democratic party. Look out for these men; they should be exposed everywhere. The people should be prepared for their machinations.

It appears that the coal agency was abolished at a late hour of the last session of Congress; but the President, before this fact was ascertained, as I understand, had given orders that no more coal should be supplied from the anthracite agent in your State, thus deserting the man and the men who, in doing what they did, only followed the counsel he gave to them.

As I have all along contended, no decision has yet been reached on the subject of the extra session. There has been the same characteristic delay on this as on other important points. The California steamer which is to leave on Monday will go out, in all probability, without any information on this important subject, unless, indeed, the Cabinet should decide to-day (Sunday) that an extra session is necessary.

You will perceive that the Virginia Democrats refuse to carry the load of the Administration, and that John Letcher (the Democratic candidate for Governor) has been compelled to throw it off; and yet, while this is so, we behold the office-holders in Pennsylvania insisting upon a full endorsement of all its crimes and follies.

I understand that a new appeal is to be made to Mr. Buchanan to recall Glancy Jones, on account of the disclosures affecting him in the late report of the committee of investigation in the House. The Opposition, especially in Kentucky and Tennessee, are using with terrible effect the damaging disclosures made during the last session.

It is announced to-day that Postmaster General Holt has adopted the most stringent and thorough reform in the Post Office, cutting off from special agents extra compensation heretofore paid to certain officials in that department of the Government; but while the Administration has its hand to, why does it not dismiss Francis J. Grund, who has been lounging in Paris and London, and will shortly appear at Baden-Baden, and who, for *his services*, is paid at the rate of eighteen dollars per diem? How many more of these court files are secretly employed and pensioned upon an exhausted treasury, time will show.

The persistently suicidal course of the Administration, in making a support of its follies and wrongs a test, has awakened intense indignation in the Southern States, and I understand that a meeting will shortly be held in Richmond or Raleigh, composed of the leading Democrats of the South, to take some such steps as will prevent the Charleston National Convention from being controlled by those who have only used the power confided in them to destroy the men who conferred it. Men look at the proceedings daily transpiring here with amazement and horror. All see that unless there is an uprising the Charleston Convention might as well be held in the moon, for its nomination will be utterly defeated on any platform or scheme that may be acceptable to the Administration.

There is much feeling here that Mr. Ould, the District Attorney, should hesitate about granting an immediate trial in the case of Mr. Sickles. People ask, why defer it? The United States have all the evidence necessary to establish the killing by Sickles of poor Key, (which the defence probably will admit promptly for the sake of sparing time,) and what more is necessary to prove? Why, then, defer the trial? Why compel longer imprisonment of Mr. Sickles? I do not presume Mr. Ould can be vindictively disposed, but really it looks as if he were not thoughtful of the incarceration in the horrible prison of a man who has already suffered so dreadfully.

OCCASIONAL.

Col. Curtin's Lecture.

[From the special correspondent of the Harrisburg Sentinel.]

MILESBURG, Centre Co., Pa., March 16, 1859.

Colonel Curtin delivered his address on "The Growth of Liberty," before the Bellefonte Fencibles, agreeably to announcement. The *Press* says:

"The subject embraced a wide field for exploration—and as the facts contained in the history and progress of this mighty principle came up for notice and discussion, the deductions which he made proved that he had made himself acquainted with their influence, and that he was able to apply and exhibit them in their best light."

Then follows a long thy notice of the speaker's course, after which the synopsis closes by saying: "It is impossible for us to sketch an effort such as the one made by the lecturer on Tuesday evening. His oration must be appreciated to be appreciated. Even then they are marred in their symmetry by the loss of that forensic force for which Col. Curtin is so justly celebrated. On Tuesday evening this power was beautifully displayed; nor was there less attraction in the manner with which he bandoned his lofty thoughts and arguments from facts, and blended the whole with characteristic eloquence. The subject itself was too prolific for a single lecture; the events to be traced too voluminous to be embraced by a mere reference—and yet he did not leave unhonored any of the transactions in the world's history which marked the growth of Liberty. It must also be borne in mind that the lecturer was unable to use even his meagre notes—yet names and dates were given with great accuracy, and the events in application clearly portrayed. The speaker apologized occasionally during the delivery of his lecture in his characteristic good humor, and in one portion almost paraphrased the *sweet German accent and rich Irish brogue* of General Scott; but these were only side allusions, excused at the time by the audience, and eliciting their share of merriment. Altogether, we are compelled to pronounce it equal, if not superior, to any of the lectures delivered during the season."

The Grand Jury in the Sickles Case.

[From the Washington Union.]

The grand jury, after a full investigation of the circumstances of the Sickles case, so far as Mr. Butterworth was sought to be involved in it, dismissed the investigation. Here we might drop the subject; but there has been exhibited towards Mr. Butterworth, by a portion of the press and by individuals, a most malignant and ferocious spirit. Mr. Butterworth is a gentleman of high character. His conduct has been irreproachable. He was unfortunate enough, at the moment of the tragic occurrence between Mr. Sickles and Mr. Key, to have been present and witness the affair—an accidental matter purely. On these simple facts a portion of the press set up the howl for sinister, and we have no doubt partisan, purposes that Mr. Butterworth had made himself a party to the killing of Mr. Key. A more violent and disgusting conclusion we can hardly imagine. It is not easy for a man of honorable instincts and generous nature to comprehend the motives of the assailants. Acting upon an excited community, and invoking the aid of the legal tribunals, the combination of mischievous elements thought they had it in their power to strike a fatal blow at the reputation of an upright and honorable man. They have failed. The envenomed shaft has fallen short of its intended victim. He is insensible to the sting of reproach who is a stranger to the guilt that is implied in it. In the whole history of criminal law we do not remember an instance where malice and mischief have undertaken a more disgusting work or suffered a more complete and crushing defeat.

ELECTION IN THE CITY OF READING.—At the election in the city of Reading on the 18th inst., Dr. McCurdy, the Buchanan candidate for mayor, was defeated by a majority of 944. The anti-Buchanan men elected all their councilmen in both branches, as well as every judge and inspector in every ward in the city.

LARGE SALE OF STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE.—Thomas & Sons' sale, on Tuesday next, will comprise a very large amount and variety of valuable property, by order of Orphans' Court, assignees, and others. See advertisement, auction head. Pamphlet catalogues now ready.

TRADE SALE TO BOOKSELLERS.—The fifty-second trade sale commences at the auction rooms, this morning, at half-past eight o'clock.

AUCTION NOTICE.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, will sell, this morning, in lots to suit purchasers, 3,000 city-made linen and Marseilles bosom shirts. They are now arranged for examination.

☞ We invite the attention of our readers to the correspondence which appears in our advertising columns, promising a most interesting series of descriptions of the Arctic regions by Dr. Hayes, the surgeon of the expedition under the lamented Kane.

☞ The Rev. B. C. Lippincott, A. B., Principal of the Cumberland Valley Institute, has been appointed by Bishop Scott to take charge of the "Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute," Washington Territory, and will sail on the 5th of next month.

Public Amusements.

ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—"The Merchant of Venice" will be revived here this evening, with a pretty good cast. Mr. Wallack as *Shylock*, Mrs Wallack as *Portia* (she will be very effective in the trial scene,) Miss Emma Taylor as *Nerissa*, Mr. Dolman as *Bassanio*, and Mr. Shewell as *Gratiano*. The play will close at the end of the fourth act, a novelty which we lament, as it cuts out the exquisite dialogue, about the moonlight, between *Jessica* and *Lorenzo*, and also deprives the audience of the charming love-quarrel and reconciliation between *Portia* and *Bassanio*, about the giving away of Portia's ring. Two acts of "Guy Mannering" will also be played this evening, and besides the rich treat of such a *Dominie Sampson* as Mr. Gilbert will present, we shall have Mrs. Wallack's *Meg Merrilies* a part which she plays better than any other lady, Charlotte Cushman not excepted, now on the stage. We think that the cast would have been much improved by not putting Mr. Dolman into the part of *Dandie Dinmont*—a part for which, useful and reliable performer though he be, Mr. Dolman is wholly unqualified. He cannot look, he cannot act the brawny Charlies-hope farmer, and it is very unfair to put him into the character. Mr. Wallack plays "King Lear" for his benefit, on Wednesday evening, with the character of the Fool retained. We know not why it is sometimes omitted. Mrs John Drew, Mrs. Wallack, Mr Gilbert, Mr. Dolman, and Mr. Shewell also in the cast. The after piece will be "My Aunt," in which Mr. Wallack will take his uncle's almost incomparable character of *Dick Dashall*. We shall be delighted to see Mr. Wallack in a part in which he must modulate his voice to ordinary conversation tone, instead of forcing it to growl and grate, as it too frequently does in tragedy. That unhappy mismanagement of his voice prevents Mr. Wallack from being one of the best players of the day.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—Miss Davenport's engagement has closed, and was successful. Perhaps, of all the characters she represented, she did most justice to that of *Peg Woffington*, in "Masks and Faces." This evening, an English Opera troupe, from New Orleans, commences a short season here. We should not be surprised at their greatly succeeding, for Philadelphia is a musical place, though it does not take very kindly to indifferent Italian singers, does not swallow extraordinary stories about "born princesses," and has not learned to see grace in the remarkable walk of Mr. Brignoli. A principal member of the New Orleans Opera Company is Miss Georgina Hodson, who has a fine contralto voice, with not very good execution—unless she has most remarkably improved since we heard her attempt the part of *Pocahontas*, in Brougham's burlesque, four years ago. At that time, too, she had not the slightest idea of acting, and walked through the liveliest extravaganza on the stage with strange solidity and seriousness of manner. Miss Durand has a capital voice, with occasional good execution, is a pretty good actress, and will make a handsome Cinderella. Both ladies are well-looking—Miss Hodson having the advantage and showing well-formed limbs in male attire, which she will wear this evening as the Prince in the opera of "Cinderella." Mr. F. Lyster has an excellent voice, which will come into full play in music of *Baron Rompini*. Mr. Trevor warbles very prettily, but is only a walking gentleman, as regards acting. *Dandini*, however, is a character of which he can make something—that is if he lay aside that *nonchalance* which has always marred his performance on the previous occasions when we have seen him on the stage. It is promised that the operas to be produced at this Theatre will be brought out in a liberal manner, with the full advantages of new scenery, machinery, costumes, and properties. Also, that there will be an augmented orchestra and a good chorus.

MISS BOWERS AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The spirit with which Mrs. Bowers proceeds with her new theatrical campaign is really worthy of success. She has to improve rather than extend her company. It is strong enough, almost, in the male department—though Mr. J. H. Taylor is not equal, in acting or manner, to the leading parts which he now attempts to play. To use the language of the turf, he is over-weighted, and should still only second-class parts. Mr. Walcot, if he would but take the trouble of raising his voice a very little, so that people might hear him, would appear what he is—one of the very best of living actors. There is a finish, a tact in all he does which shows the great performer. By the way, as *Graves*, in "Money," should he not wear a white neck-cloth all through? If in mourning for his "sainted Maria," the white choker would be part of an English widower's costume. *Apropos* of this, let us say that Mr. Chester, advertised as "acting and stage manager," (who *can* he be?) should pay more attention to the costume of the company. In the first act of "Money" when the will is read, and the relatives, each of whom expected a legacy, every one present, except *Evelyn*, perhaps, should have paid the testator the usual compliment of being in mourning—which was not the case here. Mr. Chester should assure Mr. Fenno that *Lo of Glosmore* would not have worn the dress he did in the beginning of the play and tell Mr. Tannehill, (who cannot play the part), that *Captain Dudley Smooth*, as an adventurer is a doubtful position, would probably, in real life, have been the best dressed man about town. Mr. Davidge grows in favor with the audience, and Mr. W. Reynolds has become a good actor, which we never expected, a few years ago. Mr. Halstead also is successful in his endeavors. As regards the ladies of this *Troupe* there is a deficiency. Mrs. Bowers, now on her mettle, is playing extremely well. You see her assume a character, and she thrown herself into it, as it were, with so almost effective reality that you forget the small stature and the peculiar intonation, and only see a very pleasing and very able actress. Miss Annie Lonsdale, in such parts as Mrs. Glover shone in, when young, is a most valuable addition to the company. We should like to see her *Widow Green* in "The Love Chase," though we doubt whether any one can equal Mrs. Brougham, of New York, in this character, which she plays better than over Mrs. Hoey. Miss Hoey plays respectably, but Mr. Chester should permit Miss M. A. Cameron to retire, for she is not and never will be an actress. This evening, Planche's play of "Lavater," with Walcot in the leading parts, and the drama of "Lucrezia Borgia," with Mrs Bowers as the heroine, will be played.

NATIONAL CIRCUS.—The horse "Excelsior," accompanied by "them mules" (as Mr. Dan Rice is in the habit of calling them,) have cleared away, which we should regret, had not Mr. Dan Rice departed with them, on which we warmly congratulate the manager and the public. Mr. Dan Rice and his attempts at political oratory are announced as being on the eve of retiring into private life—at least of leaving circus-life. If Mr. Dan Rice be a prudent man, he will be accompanied in his dignified retirement by an English grammar, which he may profitably study for a few years. At the request of many patrons, and on the old principle of giving a sugar-plum after a dose of nauseous medicine, Mr. Lent will this evening revive the attractive spectacle of Cinderella, in which 50 well-trained children will sustain all the principal characters. This piece, which is singularly well got up and performed, was very popular when first produced here, not long ago, and the manager, we doubt not, will find his purse the heavier for the revival. The full equestrian force will also perform every evening this week, and also on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. The performance this evening will be for the benefit of the Franklin Fire Company. On Wednesday, Dan Gardner, the clown—a most respectable and intelligent man, who never commits the impertinence of taking liberties with the audience, will take his benefit.

MCDONOUGH'S GLEANINGS.—The success of this establishment, which started so promisingly, has been well merited by a long-suffering public, which has generally patronized a worthless concern. This evening he introduces a new feature—he commences dramatic performances, with the farce of "Kill or Cure." J. H. Robinson, Miss E. Thielman, Miss Mattie Robinson, Mr. S. Sharpley, and others, will appear every evening this week. By the way, some of our readers may thank us for informing them that there is a capital billiard-table at the Gaieties, far away from the theatrical part of the house.

SIGNOR BLITZ.—This amusing magician and ventriloquist, who has a cage-full of canary-birds under such wonderful control, does not appear to be patronized occasionally during the delivery of his lecture in his characteristic good humor, and in one portion almost paraphrased the *sweet German accent and rich Irish brogue* of General Scott; but these were only side allusions, excused at the time by the audience, and eliciting their share of merriment. Altogether, we are compelled to pronounce it equal, if not superior, to any of the lectures delivered during the season."

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Washington Affairs.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—There is much reserve maintained in official quarters relative to the extra session of Congress, and no satisfactory response has thus far been elicited, but there is reason to believe that it is held in abeyance for the present, and is liable to be taken up at a future period. There is a subject pending which probably produced the indecision—namely, whether the mail service can be carried on by certificates instead of cash until Congress shall make the necessary appropriations. It is a generally accredited fact that nearly all the members of the Cabinet are opposed to an extra session. The compensation to postmasters, and the contingent expenses of their offices, amount to two millions per quarter, or equal to the revenue, leaving nothing for the mail service. It has been estimated that the service which is absolutely necessary to be performed will require about twice as much as the entire receipts, to say nothing of the present indebtedness. Next month the contracts for the Southern States are to be made and in view of the bankrupt condition of the department, it is reasonable to suppose that the proposals will be far less favorable than if the contractors were to frame their proposals on a cash basis.

George P. Morris, editor of the *Home Journal*, has been appointed consul to Havre.

Official information will go out in the Pacific mail of to-morrow, of the ratification of the ten treaties with the Indians in Oregon and Washington. As the ratification took place during the late extraordinary session of the Senate after Congress had adjourned, no appropriation could be made to carry them into immediate effect. It was mainly owing to the explanations of Senator Lane, of Oregon, that these treaties were ratified, that gentleman having convinced his brother Senators that they would tend to the establishment of a permanent peace. He had the effective support of Senator Gwin and ex-Governor Stevens in his preserving efforts. By these treaties the title of the Indians to fifty million acres of land will be extinguished, at a cost to the Government of three and a half cents per acre. On this occasion a resolution was passed, almost unanimously, by the Senate, providing that hereafter, when it is proposed to buy Indian lands, the Senate shall first be consulted before entering into treaty stipulations.

General Lane will return to Oregon on the steamer of the 5th of April.

Should it be found to be impracticable to make arrangements by which the mail service can be performed by means of certificates, and should it be decided between now and the 25th instant, to call an extra session of Congress, a telegraphic message on that day to New Orleans could be forwarded by way of Tehuantepec, by the steamer, on the 27th, from that port, to Isthmus, at Acapulco, the mail which will leave New York to-morrow for the Pacific.

The *Union* of to-day contains another argument of two columns in length, from Mr. Gillet, to show that the revenues of the Post Office Department can be supplied to the service without a special appropriation by law.

Senor Mata, the minister of the Juarez Mexican Government, left Washington to-day, on his return to Vera Cruz, by the way of New Orleans.

The Post Office Department.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—All the special mail agencies, seven in number have just been discontinued, and the order granting extra compensation out of the pocket, affecting about eighty postmasters, has been revoked, owing to the failure of Congress to make the necessary appropriations.

It is not true, as has been reported, that Postmaster General Holt threatened to resign his office unless there shall be an extra session of Congress.

The Trial of Mr. Sickles.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The trial of Mr. Sickles has been fixed for Monday next; the 28th inst. Reverdy Johnson has been retained to assist the District Attorney in the prosecution.

Railroad Convention.

IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS IN THE GREAT RAILROAD CONVENTION AT BUFFALO.

BUFFALO, March 19.—The Convention of the four Atlantic railroads and their Eastern and Western connecting lines adjourned last night, after a three days' session. The attendance was the largest yet observed at any similar meeting, and some fifty roads were represented, by over two hundred delegates, embracing a large array of business talent and general intelligence, evidently much above that shown at mere political conventions.

The chief object in view was the agreement upon a general arrangement of time schedules of passenger trains between New York and the leading cities of the West at which the rival lines converge.

Besides this, however, a great interest was felt in the course to be pursued by the four lines in regard to the St Nicholas compact, from which Mr Morgan, of the Erie, had given notice of his withdrawal on the 20th instant. Messrs. Corning, Dean Richmond, Chedell, and others appeared for the Central, Vanderbilt, Cole, of Pittsburg, for Pennsylvania, and Garrett for Baltimore and Ohio roads. The Boston and Worcester, and Great Western lines, the Canadian and Cleveland, and Chicago interests had full and able representations. Judge Jewett, of the Steubenville, was the only prominent and active southwestern exponent from beyond the Ohio, while John Brough embodied the Bellefontaine interest.

Much diversity of opinion and action was evident from the first, but a general disposition to reconcile matters was shown, until it became evident that a thorough union could be effected. Among the causes for this were the introduction of the new line between New York and Chicago formed by the Pennsylvania and Fort Wayne roads, and the bold stand of the Baltimore road for moderate speed. The two Southern lines charged the New York Central with defeating the wishes of a majority of the interests represented, by influence in preventing an agreement on a common starting time, and a moderate speed. The committee of twenty finally reported that it had been agreed on 8 A. M. from New York, the Erie and 10th Southern roads omitting, the Hudson River road declared in Convention that it would not regard it, and, with Central, would start at six, and allow no longer time to Chicago or Cincinnati, thus placing other lines at disadvantage. The result was, that Garrett, of Baltimore, offered a call of separate Convention of southwestern lines from New York and their connections, to be held at Columbus, Ohio, on the 26th instant. This call was signed by delegates fifteen roads, and embraces new elements in the New Jersey, Camden and Amboy, Allegheny, Philadelphia and Baltimore, Marietta, and the Kentucky roads.

After this, a separate meeting of the Central and its leading connections to Chicago, &c., was held, and a schedule agreed on to suit themselves. The roads North and West of Columbus are not embraced in this arrangement but await the action of the Columbus meeting. The time agreed on by Central and Chicago is 57 hours, or one hour and forty minutes less than the quick time of last summer.

The debates in general public meeting were very able and animated. Cary, Jewett, Moran, and Garrett on the one hand, and Brooks, Hammond, Cook, and others on the other, are all men of capacity and force. Corning or Richmond did not say much, but were active in consulting and advising their numerous friends in the Convention.

The attempt to maintain rates on freight, it is supposed, will amount to nothing, because the parties have no confidence that they can be kept up. It is evident that there are sad times ahead for stockholders in railroads, as a general scramble for business, low rates, high speed, and large expenses, seem likely to be the order of the day. Much interest now centres in the Columbus meeting, on next Wednesday, although no new general compact is likely to be under taken there.

Railroad Accident.

DETROIT, March 19.—The express train going east on the Great Western Railroad ran off the track last night, near Hamilton, demolishing the engine and most of the cars attached to the train. Four or five persons were killed, including the engineer, and several other passengers were injured. The particulars of the accident have not yet been received.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

ALBANY, March 20.—The accident on the Great Western Railroad happened between Harrburo and Dundas. The storm had washed away the track, and the engine ran into a chasm nearly twenty feet deep, carrying with it the baggage and two passenger cars. The scene was a most horrible one, a terrible storm raging at the time, and a torrent of water was rushing through the chasm. There was the utmost difficulty in rescuing the dead and succoring the wounded. The cars were completely wrecked, and the engine buried itself in the soil. The night express train passed over the spot in safety only half an hour previously. The killed are as follows:

James Blyer, of Chicago; Alexander Brand, of Hamilton; G. Morgan and W. Nuino, brakesman, and two others whose names are not reported.

Among the wounded, some of whom are dangerously injured, are the following: Henry Post, of Buffalo; W. W. Smith, of Kalamazoo; J. D. Adams, wife and children; B. D. Bryant, of Pontiac; Thomas Sackett, of Livingston county, New York; Dan Wilson, of Hamilton; J. H. Smith, of Livingston county, New York; Hiram Cook, of Cleveland; Columbus Dexter, of Detroit; with others whose names are not reported.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

HARRISBURG, March 19.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 10 A. M.

The following bills were reported favorably:

To abolish the office of Sealer of Weight and Measures.

An act relative to the election of District Attorney.

An act to incorporate the Falls Brook Railroad and Coal Company.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to continue the commissioners appointed to revise the penal code, and it was finally passed.

The bill relative to executors, administrators, and guardians passed.

The Senate then adjourned to Monday afternoon.

HOUSE.

The House met at 9½ A. M.

Mr. HANNEGAN moved that the bill relating to the auction laws be made the special order for Monday next. Agreed to.

A large number of bills of no general interest were read.

The bill to abolish the Board of Health was postponed.

On motion of Mr. THOM, a resolution was adopted that the House adjourn on the 5th day of April.

An act to provide for the collection of debts and enforcing the payment of taxes against corporations was passed.

Also, the supplement to the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia. Adjourned.

Explosion of an Engine on the Baltimore Railroad.

ENGINEER AND FIREMAN KILLED.

ELKTON, MD., March 19.—About three o'clock this morning, a freight engine on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, blew up near this place, killing the engineer, Mr. Hall, a native of Littleton, Massachusetts, and the fireman, belonging to Chester, but whose name we did not learn. The locomotive was called the "Meteor;" she was in good running order, and was about four years old. The train was from Baltimore, and had just passed Elkton. Four or five freight cars were slightly damaged. The loss will not be heavy, except the loss by the locomotive.

The Buchanan Democracy again Defeated in Reading.

READING, March 19.—The city election, held yesterday, resulted in the complete success of the Opposition ticket. Mr. B. Keim was elected mayor by 941 majority over McCurdy, Buchanan Democrat. All the Councilmen of the Opposition ticket are elected by large majorities, and the whole Opposition city ticket is carried by about 700 majority.

Discouraging News from Pike's Peak.

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—Mr. Allison, who has just arrived from the Kansas gold diggings, reports Pike's Peak to be a humbug. He says there is no gold to be obtained there, and that there is no probability of finding any.

From New Mexico.

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—The New Mexican mail of the 1st inst. was received this evening at Independence. It contains no news of importance.

Fire at Troy.

TROY, N. Y., March 20.—Three stores on River street were destroyed by fire this morning, involving a loss of $20,000. The amount of insurance was $14,000. The stores were occupied by Messrs. Ross & Smith, leather dealers; A. Fox, confectionery, and Messrs. Grant, Viall and Mutting, agricultural implements.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, March 19.—Flour is in moderate demand at $5 70 a 5.75; Whisky has declined ¼; Mess Pork in good demand at $17 87½.

A MAN WHOSE DELIGHT IS IN PRETTY WOMEN.—A middle-aged man, by the name of Hamilton A. Bell, was last Friday brought before the justice of the City Hall Police Court, at New York, charged with mischievously twitching the dresses of Broadway belles, and then staring at their frightened features when they turned around. Captain Leonard could not discover any point in the joke, so he brought the joker up.

MRS. CATHARINE G. OGIER, of Chester county, Penna., having brought suit against the Pennsylvania Company for twenty thousand dollars damages sustained by the loss of her husband, Dr. Ogier, who was killed by the cars about a year ago, the arbitrators gave her fifteen thousand dollars damages against the company, and the costs.

THE CITY.

☞ See First Page.

THE REV. BENJAMIN J. WALLACE'S SERMON AT THE THEATRE LAST EVENING.—There was a larger audience at the Walnut street Theatre last evening than there has been for the last two or three Sabbath nights. It was more orderly, select, and, we may say, attentive. There was a goodly number in the upper circles, while the parquet was crowded. The order of proceedings was the same as usual. A hymn was sung; the Bible was read; a prayer made, (a very fervent and impressive one, too;) a second hymn, or rather psalm; and (contrary to announcement,) no collection. The portion of scripture read by Mr. Wallace was the twelfth chapter of the Gospel according to Mark, and from this he took his text—a fragment of the thirty-seventh verse: "The common people heard him gladly." In the hands of Mr. Wallace it was the suggestive theme of an eloquent discourse. There was less noise and turmoil; less going to and fro; less restlessness and indifference than we have seen in these sentences on many occasions before; no striving after effect on the part of the reverend orator; no appeal to sympathies or passion, but a plain narration of the Gospel message.

JAMES REALEY on Saturday morning was committed by Alderman Beitler to answer the charge of robbery. It seems that Col. Peacock, of New York city, was stopping at the Western Hotel, and while there lost a pocket-book containing $12 and a number of valuable papers. Realey was a servant at the hotel at the time, and it is alleged that he was known to pass money answering to the description of that lost by Col. Peacock. Accordingly he was sent below.

FIRES.—A little shop was slightly burned, on Seventh street, above Lombard, about eight o'clock last evening. A slight riot arose among the firemen, an arrest or two was made, and the difficulty was quelled.

The house of Mrs Keen, on Robinson street, Manayunk, was also burned about the same time. Damage inconsiderable.

INTERESTING LECTURE.—It will be seen by an advertisement that a lecture will be delivered tomorrow evening, at Spring Garden Hall, by Professor Allen, President of the Girard College. The lecture cannot fail to be interesting, and the subject both eminently worthy, we hope there will be a good attendance. The subject of the lecture will be "Waste of Intellect."

WE notice among the arrivals at the "St. Lawrence Hotel," the names of Hon Geo W Jones, United States Senator from Iowa; General Ward B. Burnett, Surveyor-General of Kansas and Nebraska; Hon. James M. Porter, ex-Secretary of War; also, Hon. W. C. A. Lawrence, Speaker of the House, and a number of other members of the House and Senate.

A BALL.—The Camden Light Artillery, under the command of Captain Mickle, have engaged the National Guards' Hall for a grand ball on Thursday evening, April 7, 1859. The list of managers embraces a large number of military gentlemen well known in this city. Arrangements are being made to render this affair a very pleasant one indeed.

FUNERAL.—Yesterday afternoon the Montgomery Guards, Captain Harvey, attached to the Second regiment of infantry Second brigade, attended the funeral of Patrick Doyle, from his late residence, Lewis street, above Jefferson. The remains took place at Cathedral Cemetery, Twenty-fourth ward.

ACCIDENT.—An employee in the United States Mint, named McLaughlin, had his hand taken off on Saturday, while engaged with the machinery for cutting the metal into strips. He was taken to his home, and although the injury is serious, it is not thought to be fatal.

ELECTED.—Captain George