The Press.

PHILADELPHIA: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—Nathaniel Hawthorne's Italian Romance; General News; Excitement in a Tenement House. FOURTH PAGE.—The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York; Miscellaneous; Marine Intelligence.

The Democratic Platform at Reading and at Charleston.

The following letter was addressed to the chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of this city, in reply to an invitation to address the Democratic Ratification Meeting, held at National Hall, on Monday evening, by the chairman of the late Democratic State Central Committee:

BRISTOL, Bucks Co., March 5, 1860.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive your invitation to address the ratification meeting, to be held at the National Hall, this evening. I cannot attend; but I will write, in a few words, what I would say at greater length were it in my power to be present.

I shall support without reserve—indeed, with the greatest cordiality—the Hon. Henry D. Foster for the office of Governor. This distinguished citizen needs no personal compliments from me. His solemnizing endorsement by the Convention is itself so distinct, solid, and powerful a guarantee in favor of his integrity and competency, that it would be a matter of sheer vanity to suppose that I could strengthen it by any words of commendation.

In several of the resolutions adopted by the Convention I fully concur; but *I repudiate and refuse to accept the resolutions as a whole, and deny that they constitute a sound Democratic platform*, for the reason that they *reject the opinions of a majority of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania*. So far as they have reference to the Territorial question, I dissent from them, because of their incompleteness and unsoundness. I adhere to the Union as a distinct principle. The only platform on this subject any sound Democrat can recognise, is that presented by James Buchanan, the wise, farseeing, and incorruptible statesman, in his Sunbury letter; and various official declarations touching this question, and by the wise, fearless, and incorruptible Judges of the Supreme Court when interpreting the Constitution of the United States, in their enlightened judgment, in the Dred Scott case. This is the doctrine to which, in my humble position, I will always inflexibly adhere. *This is the doctrine which I believe a large majority of the delegation chosen to represent this State at the National Convention, should by every sterling Democrat as Baker, Bigler, Dawson, and Plumer, will maintain with the most unflinching determination.* It is the doctrine of common sense and the Constitution; and it is the doctrine which will be embodied, unquestionably, in the Charleston platform, and to which Mr. Montgomery (who appears to be thoroughly imbued with patriotic sentiments), and the seven or eight gentlemen in the delegation, said to be friends of Judge Douglas, will, in that event, doubtless yield their approval and support, as the voice of the National Democracy. Let the Democrats of the Union be fast united in the certainty of a signal Democratic triumph, both State and National, in the fall of this year.

Very respectfully, your friend and servant,
ROBERT TYLER.

Messrs. KING and others, committee.

Thus, it appears that while the Democratic masses of the State are rejoicing over the unanimity displayed at Reading, and entertaining bright hopes of victory from the predominance of wiser counsels in the Democratic party than have hitherto prevailed, and from the overthrow of the ultra and offensive theories which official dependants have heretofore endeavored to engraft upon its platform in this State, Mr. TYLER has undertaken to stem the overwhelming current of opinion which demands a sacrifice of the Administration heresies as a primary condition of success, and to "repudiate" and "deny" the soundness of the platform adopted at Reading. He also announces that, in his opinion, a majority of the delegation chosen to represent Pennsylvania at Charleston will refuse to be guided by the spirit which animated the State Convention, and that they will strictly adhere to the Administration doctrines on the slavery question.

If the wishes of the party in Pennsylvania are consulted, Mr. TYLER's ideas will, of course, be utterly disregarded, and his predictions remain unverified, but our State Conventions have so long been under the control of Administration influences, and so obedient to the demands of power, that it is quite refreshing to hear from Administration quarters such an emphatic condemnation of their action. And considering the stringent character of the law of treason to Democratic usage and to the Democratic organisation, which its supporters have deemed it expedient to establish, and so far as they had the power, to enforce, during their reign of terror, we cannot perceive how Mr. TYLER, and the delegates he refers to, (in case they act as he predicts they will,) can be exempted from its operation. The tables appear to be turning, and those who lately buried themselves chiefly in establishing tests of Democracy, and in guillotining all who would not submit to their decrees, are apparently about to become, under the operation of their own laws, rebels and traitors of the deepest dye.

"During the stormy struggles of the French revolution, when bitterly hostile contending factions in turn succeeded to supreme, but temporary power, it not unfrequently happened that the men who, during one month, were able to secure the death of their personal enemies or political rivals, found themselves, in a succeeding month, the victims of the engine of death they had erected to destroy their opponents. Are we to have a similar revolution here? The letter of Mr. TYLER looks something like it, and those who have been so busy in hurling anathemas and ananathemas against their brother Democrats and selecting whole sale lists of political victims for execution, are on the point of assuming a position of antagonism to the decrees of the party by which they will be made the most abandoned of political rebels, and the most deserving subjects of the Democratic guillotines. That instrument of political destruction has been employed with the plebeian blood of offending anti-Lecompontites that it is high time it should have an opportunity of luxuriating in a libation of the rich life-current that courses through the veins of patrician Lecompontites. They who take the sword perish by the sword, and sometimes the guillotine proves that it also possesses this double-edged attribute of destroying those who are most eager to employ it against their adversaries.

The ideas which Mr. TYLER entertains of the duty of the Democracy of the North at Charleston is expressed in a recent number of the Richmond *Enquirer*, so clearly and forcibly that Northern Democrats may learn exactly what is expected of them. The *Enquirer* says:

"What then, should *sound policy and fair dealing* suggest to the delegates from the anti-Democratic States? If the Northern Democracy are, as we believe they are, true and faithful to the constitutional rights of the South; *let their delegates to Charleston adopt, without question or dispute, the platform of principles which the Southern States have proposed, and thus quiet forever the charges and insinuations of unsoundness level-led at them by the Southern Opposition*; which charges so much embarrass the canvass in every Southern State. But we may be told that such a platform would render it impossible to obtain that amount of the Northern vote necessary, equally with the Southern vote, to success—that Northern men cannot, and will not, give a vote that acknowledges the equal rights of the Southern man with his negroes, as the Northern man with his horses, in the common Territories of the Union. *Such an assertion we meet with our denial, and demand for it equal weight.* We believe that honesty and principle belong alike to the Northern and the Southern man; that both want peace and harmony; that with the conservatives of all sections of the country, the cessation of agitation would weigh far more than any abstractions of free-labor, free-soil, philanthropy, or negro-philism. The prospect of permanent peace, the hope of future political contests, divided only upon questions of constitutional policy, the banishment of sectional controversies, the restoration of commercial intercourse, the reciprocity of untrammelled trade, the political preferment of men now branded with the suspicions of whole sections of the country—all these and many other arguments would unravel Republican sophistry, drown the cry of fanaticism, crown the party with success, compact the Union, and preserve the Constitution."

This suggestion has the advantage of being perfectly definite. It demands that, regardless of their own views, interests, wishes, and feelings, the Northern delegates to Charleston shall allow the delegates from the South to form precisely such a platform as is adapted to Southern views of the slavery question, and to go uncomplainingly into the campaign of 1860, with whatever yoke their Southern brethren choose to fasten on their necks, that they may not be suspected of unsoundness or infidelity to Southern interests. If the Democracy of the North, awakened to a full comprehension of their real political position by a lively sense of the events of the last three years, remonstrate against such action, and state that it will doom them to crushing defeat, they can have the satisfaction of knowing that their Southern brethren consider such fears, idle, and are ready to meet all complaints by a denial that they are well founded.

The letter of Mr. TYLER, and the intimations he gives out of the probable action of the Administration delegates from this State to Charleston, the article in the Richmond *Enquirer*, to which we have referred, (which only expresses in emphatic tones the views entertained by many other Democratic quarters throughout the South,) the action of the Senate upon the resolutions of Mr. DAVIS, as well as many other events of similar character, clearly indicate that, notwithstanding the auspicious commencement of the Democracy of Pennsylvania have made for a successful issue on the two great political campaigns of this year, much yet depends on the action of the Charleston Convention, which may mar all that has heretofore been happily done, and again plunge the Democratic masses of our State into the deep political gloom from which they have made an earnest effort to emerge.

The Revised Penal Code.

We observe that Mr. PENNY, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, has reported the bill to revise the penal laws of this State, and that it has been made the special order of the Senate for consideration every morning until the entire bill has been acted upon. This important measure is now likely to receive that careful examination which it so eminently deserves. The commissioners appointed to revise the code bestowed upon their work long and laborious study, and the result which they have laid before the Legislature has received general approval throughout the State. Appreciating the important character of the proposed legislation, the judiciary committees of the Senate and House have been holding joint sessions for the examination of the revised code in all its details, and the report made by Mr. PENNY is the result of their careful deliberation. It remains now with the Legislature to adopt or reject the provisions of the bill, and we feel assured that they will proceed to the discharge of that responsible duty with a full understanding of the subject. The present state of the criminal law of this State calls loudly for reform; and if the revised code meets our present wants, and it is believed that it does, it ought to be adopted with as few alterations as possible, and its merits tested by actual experience.

A New Element in Politics.

Some of our Southern cotemporaries appear to be strongly impressed with the belief that the present imbroglio on our Texas frontier—caused by the repeated outrages committed upon American soil by CORTINAS and his band of outlaws, the sympathy expressed for him by the Mexican people, the distracted condition of the Mexican Government, and its inability or indisposition to protect the rights of American citizens within its borders and to prevent its desperadoes from making forays upon American soil—having roused up a terrific feeling of indignation among the Texans, General SAM HOUSTON, now Governor of Texas, may place himself at the head of a band of volunteers, march into the neighboring Mexican State of Tamaulipas, seize and occupy it, and by precipitating upon this country the question whether we shall be justified in such action, and his conquests annexed to the United States, raise a new and important issue in the coming Presidential election. Of course, this is at present mere conjecture, but events are rapidly tending in the direction referred to.

Jackson and the Southern Ultraists.

The whole tendency of the policy of the Southern ultraists, who have, of late years, endeavored to control the Democratic party, has been to ignore the teachings and precepts of the great modern leader of Democracy—General JACKSON; and each new triumph they have succeeded in effecting over his policy has been attended with a corresponding degree of injury to the intrinsic strength and power of the Democracy of the country. To denounce his doctrines by implication is the common, every-day employment of the great body of the Southern ultraists; but it is not often that we find them so directly and emphatically denounced as in an article in their leading organ, the Charleston *Mercury*, of the 3d inst., which is styled "General JACKSON'S Proclamation and its Results," and commences as follows:

"There is an avenging Nemesis in public as in private affairs. Wrong produces wrong, and then comes vindication. We have said that *the first great downfall of the Democratic party was in General JACKSON'S proclamation, and its support by the Democratic party.*"

Public Amusements.

ITALIAN OPERA.—Weber's "Der Freischutz," with an Italian libretto, was performed last night. *Max* is turned into *Guglio*, for the sake of euphony, but, in the libretto sold in the house, which altogether omits the usual *dramatis personæ*, both names are confusedly used. Such a libretto as this is a small and dear nuisance. The opera went off very well, but the audience, though they had the fine singing, charming acting, exquisite figure and beautiful face of Colson, the archness of Madame Strakosch, the great voice of Junca, and the dramatic vocalization of Stigelli before them, warmed up to only one encore—and that was of the Huntsman's Chorus, in the last Act. It was chiefly sung in *German*. Madame Colson and Madame Strakosch sang very well—the former with expression and sentiment; the latter with great liveliness. The trio between these singers and Stigelli, which closed the second Act, was much applauded, and the vocalists called out. Act IV. opens with a beautiful solo by Colson, which was the best executed piece of the night. The closing scene would be even tiresome, but for the beautiful sextet with which it concludes. Mesdames Colson and Strakosch and Signor Stigelli were again called out at the close. The third Act merits special mention. It represents *Caspar and Max* in the Wolf's Glen. *Caspar* in Signor Junca's hands, was a very effective character. He cast the fatal bullets in a very scientific manner. The getting-up of this incantation scene was strikingly effective. There was an *owl*, strikingly like an exaggerated male Grimalkin, in a fiery rage, which contributed to the effect. Seriously, however, the scene was remarkably well done, though some of the audience (with weak nerves!) did not seem to like the human skeletons which seemed to figure in the devilish action. This evening "I Puritani" will be performed, for the only time, with Adelina Patti, Stigelli, Ferri, and Susini in the leading parts. The house is sure of being crowded. There will be no performance on Thursday, whereby we shall lose Colson's promised *Elvira* in "Ernani." On Friday, Miss Patti's benefit, and certainly her *last* performance here.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—"The Hidden Hand;" which has met with great success wherever it has been given, was produced, on Monday, at this theatre. It is a queer, confused, bustling, incomprehensible medley, and though, as a drama, it would be absurd to subject it to the ordeal of criticism, it is impossible to deny that it is full of amusing scenes, and has great variety. As for the language in which it is written, it is *Southworthy* and *Ledgsry*. One specimen will suffice: "I saw the hot rain drops start from his tempestuous old orbs!" Although the piece is produced for the star (Mr. Chanfrau), the life and soul of the play is *Capitola*, (a strange name for a newsboy, but with Mrs. Southworth "all things are strange,") enacted by Mrs. Cowell. It is a part peculiarly adapted to this lady, and one which she evidently enjoys playing. She sang the negro melody with great spirit, and was encored. Her short dramatic scene with *Black Donald* was earnest and impressive. Altogether, it is one of the best parts we have seen her play for some time, displaying all her versatile talents. Mr. Shewell was a good representative of the melo-dramatic robber Mrs. Southworth portrays as living in the present day in the quiet, well-regulated United States. Such a hero Shewell is, though we never saw any thing like him. Mr. Chanfrau's *Wool* was capital, just of the right sort, neither sentimental, heroic, nor methodistical, but jolly and original. The plantation scene is one of the best of the kind we have ever seen on the stage. Mr. Hempie's dance was delightful,—indeed, the whole disguised troupe, safe behind their sooty mask, "went in" for a bit of regular fun. The piece, as a piece, is absurd, but it is full of fun. The piece was all the absurdity popularity, and the house was crowded.

"THE OCTOROON" AT THE ARCH.—Four nights more, and "The Octoroon" will cease to be performed here. Saturday night will be the last time. Let us recommend those who have not seen this very exciting drama not to neglect these last opportunities. Let us briefly notice the leading performers. First, of all, the ladies. Mrs. John Drew, as *Zoe*, played with truth, pathos, and subdued passion, such as are rarely united in one personation. The scene where *Zoe* is sold by auction, as a slave, was made wonderfully expressive by her acting. Mrs. Stoneall, metamorphosed into Mr. *Peyton*, a middle-aged lady, gave a well-sustained representation. Miss Emma Taylor, as *Dora*, played well—only by fits and starts. Next we come to the great male part, J. S. Clarke's *Salem Scudder*, which is the most thoroughly artistical character he has ever appeared in. It shows him, too, a right earnest actor, when real intensity is needed. Mr. Gilbert's negro, *Pete*, was also a fine creation—out of his line, but well individualised by his tact and skill. Mr. Dolman's *George Peyton*, like Miss Taylor's *Dora*, is only occasionally good. He is too calm and deliberate in speech and action for a real Southern gentleman, impulsive and passionate. Once or twice, in his scenes with Mrs. Drew he became animate, but the general effect of his acting was so very cold that we can fancy it a treat—in the dog-days. In some parts, to do him justice, Mr. Dolman is an artist. But his peculiar voice and manner militate greatly against him, oftener than he may imagine. A much better impersonation is Mr. Gilee's *Jacob McCloskey*, than which nothing can be better, in its way. Very rarely has this useful actor any fair chance of display—but here is a part which he makes emphatically his own. Mr. Wood's Indian Chief, *Wah-no-tee*, is very peculiar, and very effective. Several scenes in this piece are complete dramatic studies; such are the dialogue between *McCloskey* and *Scudder*; *George Peyton's* declaration to *Zoe*; the auction; the trial of the *Indian* and *McCloskey*; *Pete's* admonition to the negroes; and the conclusion, when *Zoe* dies.

NATIONAL THEATRE.—There will be two performances to-day, afternoon and evening, at both of which M'elle Ella Zoyara, the mysterious equestrienne, will give her dashing feats in the circle, and Mr. Dan Rice will himself enliven the audience, with his humorous and eccentric conversation. By the way, in reply to those who say that the fair sex have no curiosity, it is noteworthy that, on the afternoon of last Wednesday and Saturday, at least two-thirds of the overflowing house were petticoats. The dramatic season at this house will end on Saturday evening.

There will also be afternoon performances to-day at Sanderson's Exhibition Rooms, (Thiedon's Theatre of Arts,) and at Signor Blitz's Temple of Wonders, northeast corner of Tenth and Chestnut streets.

At McDonough's Gaieties, Race street, Felix Carlo's ballet troupe, added to McDonough's own strong company, are nightly drawing great audiences.

Buckleys' Serenaders are at Concert Hall, doing a good business. In burlesque opera they excel.

Next Monday evening, the clever Myers sisters will give a Concert at Chickering's piano rooms, Chestnut, above Eighth, assisted by Mr. Charles Jarvis, the pianist.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1860.

Pennsylvania politicians are flocking to Washington for the purpose of seeing the Presidential candidates face to face. Among others on the ground, I notice R. J. Haldeman, editor of the Harrisburg *Patriot and Union*; G. D. Hiseline, of the *State Sentinel*; Hon. Arnold Plumer, one of the Senators of the Western Democracy; A. H. Coffroth, of Somerset, and others.

From various sources I begin to receive intelligence of some of the inside movements of the prominent actors in the Reading Convention. The first was the manner in which Senator Bigler was set aside in his attempt to induce the Convention to endorse the resolutions of the Senatorial caucus in favor of protecting slavery in the Territories. These resolutions were carried into Reading by the Senator as a sort of olive branch, (save the mark!), and when handed to the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, were quietly disposed of and laid aside. It appears that nothing but the importunity of Bigler's friends secured his selection as one of the general vice-presidents; and it is stated, on what seems good authority, that Baker, the collector of Philadelphia, would not himself have been chosen had not Hon. William Montgomery taken pity upon him and induced his friends to vote for him; so that, in reality, Baker will take his seat at Charleston, a known anti-Douglas man, indebted for his seat to Douglas votes! The defeat of Mr. Witte was mainly effected by the opposition of the Administration men, although I am informed that a good deal of outside feeling grew up against him, among those who were on the adverse side. He was exceedingly sanguine, but when the motion was submitted to make Foster's nomination unanimous, a scene ensued which baffles description. Those who were present say it resembled somewhat the scene at Baltimore, when Polk was nominated in 1844, and a similar scene in the same place, in 1852, when Pierce was nominated. In vain the Witte men attempted to arrest the torrent. It could not be headed, and even before the chairman could bring the Convention to order the deed was done.

In regard to the resolutions, Bigler, and particularly Robert Tyler, are said to be greatly dissatisfied. Tyler says it is a surrender, and Bigler does not hesitate to express his grief. It is claimed that if the Douglas men had made an open fight they could have carried the Convention.

As to the complexion of the delegation to Charleston, there are many conflicting accounts. Mr. Breckinridge seems to be the Bigler candidate for President, the latter looking upon the former as the very man to promote his aspirations for the Vice Presidency. The delegates from Mr. Buchanan's own county of Lancaster declared themselves for Breckinridge, while the office-holders throughout the State, marshals, collectors, postmasters, &c., ranged themselves on the same side. Guthrie's interest is said to be represented in the person of Mr. Cassidy, of Philadelphia, while Hon. Richard Brodhead, one of the delegates from Northampton, is put down for his connection with Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi. As a commentary upon the controversy between Judges Black and Douglas, it may be mentioned that Somerset, the native county of Judge Black, was represented by Douglas men, and that the delegate to Charleston from that county, Mr. Coffroth, now in this city, is an open and ardent advocate of the nomination of the Senator from Illinois. It is also noticeable that the delegates from the county of General Foster, the nominee for Governor, were all for Douglas, and, with one or two exceptions, the men sent to Charleston in his neighborhood are the active friends of the same statesman.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from New York.

BUSINESS OF THE PORT OF NEW YORK FOR FEBRUARY: HEAVY EXPORTS—A FRONTY NEGOTIATION BY THE GOVERNMENT—ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERALSHIP AND INSPECTOR'S LUCRATIVE BOXES—DEATH OF MR. BOKER: HIS SON-IN-LAW JOHN DEAN—COMMODORE VANDERBILT: THE ST. LEGER RACE AND THE PRIZE FIGHT—THE CALIFORNIA STEAMSHIP: A DIVANCE OF PARK—FACTS OF THE BURTON WILL CASE.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, March 6, 1860.

The business of this port for February, as made up by the custom-house, presents a gratifying fact that are of interest to the country generally. The most remarkable and gratifying of these is, that the exports during that month were larger than in any previous February in our history. The aggregate reached $6,676,873. The nearest approach to this amount in any previous February was in 1851, when it went up to $6,956,097. Equally gratifying is the fact that the February export of specie was smaller than in any February during the last ten years, excepting that of 1858, when the amount fell to $272,721. In the month just closed it was $977,009. In the corresponding month last year it was $2,371,427. The total imports for the month reached $19,436,270, which is more than by any previous February in our history, excepting in 1857.

I may here mention a fact which was stated to me yesterday at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States. Last week an order was received from Washington for the negotiation of two million of treasury notes, bearing interest at six per cent. The order was received here at nine o'clock in the morning, in an hour and a half afterwards the whole amount had been taken, and before noon one million in gold was paid into the vaults of the Treasury. Before the close of business on the same day Mr. Cisco had received offers for six millions more at the same rate, from twenty-five different cities in the country where a financial operation of equal magnitude could be consummated promptly and quietly, and without creating even a ripple of excitement in the monetary history of the day!

Before leaving the city on his return to Washington, Mr. King, the First Assistant Postmaster General, gave orders to arrest all further action in reference to the street letter-boxes. It was discovered, two weeks ago, that the contract entered into by the Government and profitable to Mr. A. B. Mulford, was calculated to the public would soon entirely cease to make any use of them. Depredations upon them had come to be matters of daily occurrence, and the consequent falling off in the number of letters deposited was so great as to show our Postmaster and Mr. King, that if any more of the present pattern were put up, they would be purely for ornament, not for use. It is now contemplated to substitute some one of the patterns adopted on the continent of Europe, or in Canada. The pattern which pleased Mr. Kirby best was that which was recently put up in Toronto. It is a hollow, cylinder pillar, standing four feet nine inches above the ground, in which it is embedded, fourteen inches wide, with a slit at the top slanting upwards. The letter is pushed up in the direction of the top of the box, when it drops over and falls nearly five feet to the bottom, where there is a corresponding slit, a lock which is claimed to be proof against picking. The cost of this box is thirty dollars. It is estimated that four hundred would be enough to supply the wants of the city. The total expense of introducing it would therefore be twelve thousand dollars.

The death of Mr. Boker, the wealthy wine-merchant, whose daughter a few years since married his coachman, John Dean, naturally revives a little chat in reference to that romantic affair. The impressions seems now to prevail, that, so far as her own happiness is concerned, Miss Boker did not, after all, make so poor a match. Her husband, soon after the marriage, was appointed to a clerkship in the custom house, which he still holds, and the duties of which he discharges creditably to himself, and with fidelity to the Government. He is a modest, unassuming man, has a quiet but comfortable home in Williamsburg, is perfectly irreproachable in his habits and associations, minds his own business, and is a faithful and affectionate husband. He avoids notoriety of every sort, and pursues the way of an upright, industrious, and honest man. Whom is the family of John Dean inferior to that of the late Mr. Boker?

Commodore Vanderbilt, either from proverbial fondness for horses, admiration of muscle, or a generous desire to oblige his countrymen, has made an agreeable variation in the time-table of the steamer Vanderbilt, advertised to sail hence for Southampton and Havre on the 20th inst. Instead of returning from Southampton on the 10th of April, as usual, she will remain until the 17th, which will give passengers an opportunity of witnessing the great St. Leger race, for which several American mares are entered, and the prize fight for the championship between Heenan and Sayers. I hear that several persons have engaged passage for the round trip. That the fight may be illustrated from a purely Yankee and thoroughly American-easie standpoint, Frank Leslie (an imported Briton) has despatched "a corps of artists," to make sketches and drawings of the prominent incidents of the dispute. "Our own Historian" will furnish the narrative portion.

All was hustle yesterday at the wharves of the out-going California steamers. The Aztec sailed with two hundred passengers, and the Baltic with six hundred and fifty. Hereafter there will be but one line of these steamers from this port. The passage, charged yesterday was, cabin $200, second cabin $100, steerage $100. It is understood that the rates will now be considerably advanced, as the whole business is in the hands of a monopoly, and a huge one at that.

Several statements have been made in reference to the Burton will case, it may, perhaps, interest Philadelphians to read the following, which claims to be a trustworthy account of the facts:

"Shortly before leaving England, in 1834, Mr. Burton was married to Mrs. Caroline Gesling. With whom it seems to this country. He lived with her for many years in Philadelphia. In the year 1842 he was divorced from her under the laws of Pennsylvania, for a cause recognised as sufficient in that State, but not involving the moral character of either party. Shortly after this divorce he was married to Miss Jane Livingston Hill, with whom he had since lived. At the time of this marriage Miss Hill was entirely ignorant of the existence of Mrs. Elizabeth Lott, who now claims to have been married to Mr. Burton in 1837. This last-named lady has never been in this country, and she now makes her claims public for the first time. Her claims have been made to the probate of the will except on behalf of Mrs. Lott."

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, March 5, 1860.

Mr. Strong, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, reported this morning favorably a supplement to the act incorporating the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company:

SECTION 1. That the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company be hereby authorized to issue of $2,000,000 of the per cent. bonds now owned by them, and executed by them under the second section of the act of April 21st, 1858. The trustees of the mortgage bonds executed and delivered by the same, May 19th, 1856, to secure the payment of said bonds, shall be and they are to endorse a credit on the said mortgage for the full amount of said bonds thus cancelled as aforesaid. And the State Treasurer, with the consent of the directors of the said company, shall return the balance of said bonds owned by said company, amounting to $875,000, and, on said cancellation being made, shall credit said company with said balance on account of interest to the State, for the period of five years, on and after January 1, 1860.

SEC. 2. In consideration of the great advantages which must result from the completion of the S. and E. R. R. by the opening the large tract of country through which it is to pass, and for the purpose of securing the completion thereof at the earliest possible period, that the said company be authorized, after the cancellation of said five per cent. bonds, to execute and issue $3,000,000 of six per cent. bonds, in sums of $1,000, the principal and interest of all or any of which may be made payable in gold coin, money of Great Britain; the interest thereof made payable at such times and places as the managers of the said company may determine, and the principal at twenty years, after July 1st, 1860. But shall not be subject to taxation, and the said bonds may, at the discretion of said board, be made convertible into a preferred stock, which they are hereby authorized to issue from time to time, as the same may be required by any of the holders of the said bonds to be made convertible as aforesaid. The said company is authorized to secure the principal and interest of said bonds and dividends upon preferred stock by a mortgage upon the entire line of railroad, and of its appurtenances, finished or to be finished, including all the rolling stock and real estate now owned or which may be acquired and owned by them, together with their rights, liberties and franchises, which said mortgage shall be and remain forever the first lien on all the said property, until the same shall be satisfied of record—subject only to the mortgage of $1,000,000 heretofore made to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on the line of road, extending from Sunbury to Williamsport.

SEC. 3. That the $2,000,000 of the bonds authorized to be issued by the second section of this act shall be deposited with the State Treasurer, to be delivered to the said company upon the completion of the road in the same manner as was provided for the delivery of the bonds authorized and required by this act to be cancelled.

This is intended as a measure of relief to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company. With the exception of the canals the president of the company has expended two hundred miles of road, and laid track on one hundred miles, leaving only thirty miles of road to be graded, and one hundred and fifteen miles of track to be laid, which, if this bill be passed, it is thought it is possible, in the present state of the money market, and the low price of iron, to dispose of the bonds, or a portion of them, at a price which will enable the company to finish the whole line. "This is the state of affairs. It is conceded that the Legislature of Pennsylvania shall not permit a portion of the State through which the road passes, but of the whole Commonwealth, and therefore I am glad to see that it will most likely pass. Since completing the Sunbury and Erie Company not just under headway it has been as vigorously and economically managed as any railroad in the country, and it would be a pity that any impediment should be thrown in the way of its completion.

In the Senate, Mr. Parker read in place an act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind of Philadelphia. The preamble states that certain citizens of Pennsylvania have expended their time, talents and means in the purpose of making chemical experiments with primitive earths and mineral substances, and of manufacturing phosphates and other chemical products therefrom, for the advancement of science and benefit of the public generally. The act provides that A. Smith, Philadelphia, Mitchell, Bettle Paul, George V. Newville, Lewis Red, and Henry T. Gropp, Capital stock to consist of five thousand shares, at $100 a share.

Also, by Mr. Parker, "An act supplemental to an act to incorporate the Germantown Cemetery Company." It gives the corporation power to assess such sums on each share of stock as will be necessary to discharge the indebtedness of the company. The assessment is not paid within six months authority is given to sell, after the manner prescribed by the charter. Authority is given to sell that portion of this real estate fronting on Ridge road, not exceeding one hundred feet in depth from the avenue.

The news of the death of Wm. B. Foster, Jr., received yesterday, caused a feeling of sadness to pervade the hearts of hundreds in Harrisburg, for there is no place where he was known better and loved more than here. He was the warm personal and political friend of our worthy State Executive, and that friendship was reciprocated by Governor Pickens. When Wm. F. Packer became canal commissioner, he sent all the way to Charleston for Foster, who both there proposing his profession of civil engineer, to secure his services as chief engineer of the North Branch, and since then, in every position that he has been placed, he has filled the full measure required of him, in a manner that Governor Packer, in a letter addressed to Governor Packer, perhaps the last line written by the lamented deceased:

"GOVERNOR PACKER, Harrisburg, March 3, 1860.

"GOVERNOR PACKER, Dear Sir: To-day is the first time I have been able to write. I have been able to sit up and write. I had a very severe attack of neuralgia in the stomach, and I thought I should not now undertake to write, but that the spirit moves me to congratulate you and all the consolidated Democracy upon the happy termination of the Reading Convention.

I remain, very truly, your friend,
WM. B. FOSTER, JR."

PENN.

MR. FIELD'S FOURTH LECTURE ON THE CREATION.—We have been obliged to omit, this morning, an interesting report of the fourth lecture of Mr. Field on the Creation, delivered before a large and appreciative audience, on Monday evening last, at Handel and Haydn Hall. It shall appear to-morrow. The fifth lecture of the course will be delivered this evening.

☞ We invite attention to an article on our fourth page, on the seventeenth annual report of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. This company stands deservedly high, its last annual report exhibiting cash assets amounting to over $6,000,000. F. Ratchford Starr, Esq., is the agent of the company in this city, from whom any information can be had on the subject of life insurance.

SPECIAL SALE of 500 dozen stereoscopic pictures, revolving and single boxes, &c., on Thursday morning next, March 8th, commencing at 10½ o'clock, comprising a complete assortment of Langheim's plain and colored views, colored English groups and views, revolving boxes, single boxes, &c.

ELEGANT RESIDENCE AND FURNITURE, fine paintings, &c., this morning, in Penn Square. Sale absolute. See Thomas & Sons' catalogues and advertisements.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANO, &c.—Sale of neat household furniture and elegant pianoforte, at No. 111 South Thirteenth street, this morning, at ten o'clock. T. Birch & Son, auctioneers.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

The Rio Grande Difficulties.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE SENATE—OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS — GOVERNOR HOUSTON DEMANDS ASSISTANCE.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The President to-day replied to the Senate's resolution calling for information respecting the present condition of affairs on the Rio Grande.

Among the documents is a letter from Governor Houston, dated Austin, February 15th, and addressed to the President, in which he says: "I feel it my duty to depict the situation of Texas, with an empty treasury and a population, unarmed for the last ten years, and forays from Mexico on her southern borders, and he asks, in the name of humanity, shall not the Federal Government succor and protect a helpless and distracted frontier? Should this not be done, he says he will be compelled to resort to the last resort, the indefensible right of self-defence to protect the border—not only to defeat the enemy, but to see that the sacrifice of blood and treasure on the frontier Texas can, and will, if applied to, in thirty days be able to muster in the field 10,000 men, who are at present embarrassed as her finances are, to make reclamation upon Mexico for all her wrongs. He has hope for aid in the President's wisdom and patriotism, and appeals to her manifest forbearance, venture yet to defer to the action of the Federal Government.

The Secretary of War, in his letter to the President, dated March 5th, gives a synopsis of all the recent transactions on the Rio Grande. Nothing, he says, can exceed the contrariety of opinion in relation to them, and those have yet the best opportunity only to inform themselves. The call of Gov. Houston is the first which has yet been made by the authority of Texas for any assistance. In the meantime, the Government, not doubt, because it was considered by them, up to this time, as a matter of little moment, and perhaps rather than such as pertained to the honor and interests of the Confederacy, has left the call of the Governor of Texas, and upon the undeniable proofs of the outrages committed on our soil, the Secretary says he has not hesitated to order a concentration of all the force upon that frontier which the exigencies of the service elsewhere would allow.

Among the documents is a letter to Gen. Houston, from Ancel Navarro, one of the Texas commissioners to Mexico, in which he says, that although many turbulent leaders exist among the Mexicans the Mexicans as a mass are hopeful of peace, and desirous of anarchy, and would rejoice in the establishment of a stable form of Government which would secure their lives and property, and give them peace. Many of the intelligent people of the State of Tamaulipas regard a protectorate over the adjacent Mexican States as one to be redeemed from a reign of anarchy and petty tyrants. That there is a deep-seated hostility, on the part of many, to overthrow Juarez, there can be no doubt, but with the great mass of Mexicans they would yield to such a manner of redeeming the corruption and immorality which has characterized the United States in its annexation and acquisition policy.

From Porto Rico.

NORFOLK, March 6.—The brig Knloo, eleven days from St. Johns, Porto Rico, with sugar and molasses, arrived here to-day.

James D. Marks, of Maine, was lost overboard on the passage.

The brig left in port the schooner Fred Stowell, from St. Thomas, bound to Philadelphia.

The market was full of American produce, except pine plank, which was in great demand.

The New Jersey Legislature.

TRENTON, N. J., March 6.—The Burlington and Mid-dlesex Railroad bill has been defeated by 23 yeas to 22 nays.

The Joint Railroad and Canal Company here, sent in a remonstrance against the Princeton and Trenton Railroad bill, which passed the House, is an infringement of their exclusive rights, and a violation of the State faith.

The Hunterdon and Millstan Railroad bill has been recommitted in the House after a warm contest.

The Massachusetts Strike.

BOSTON, March 6.—The shoemakers' strike is steadily increasing. The latest demonstrations have been made at Newburyport, North Bridgewater, and Portsutton.

The strikers are orderly and peaceful.

The Hungarian.

PORTLAND, March 6.—The goods saved from the wreck of the Hungarian will be sold at Barrington on the 14th inst.

Capture of a Spanish Slaver.

BOSTON, March 6.—Captain Frank Imsum, from St. Helena for horses, arrived here this morning, and has brought into that port a Spanish slaver with 600 negroes aboard.

Fire at Neponset, Mass.

BOSTON, MASS., March 6.—The stables attached to the Neponset House, at Neponset, were burnt that night, together with eleven horses and thirty head of cattle.

The Maryland Legislature.

BALTIMORE, March 6.—The House of Assembly, last evening, by a vote of fifty-five yeas to five nays, adopted a resolution requesting the Governor to remove from office Judge Stump, of the Baltimore Criminal Court. The case comes up in the Senate to-day.

The Senate last night passed a bill empowering the City Councils of Baltimore to endorse the bonds of the Northern Central Railroad Company to the extent of half a million of dollars.

Fracas at a Ball in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, March 6.—Two of the drivers connected with the City Passenger Railroad lines had a fracas at a ball night, which resulted in the shooting of one of the party, named Bosley. His wound is considered fatal.

British Railroad Iron for the South.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The brig R. C. Dyer arrived at Wilmington, N. C., on Sunday, from Newcastle, with two hundred and thirty seven tons of railroad iron.

Boston and Norfolk Steamship Line.

BOSTON, March 6.—The steamer City of New York, the pioneer of the new line, will sail to-morrow for Norfolk.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, March 6.—Flour firm, but not active; Howard Street held at $5.62; City Mills firmer; 1,000 bbls. sold $5.50. Wheat active and buoyant; red has advanced 3c; sales 31,000 at; white $1 20@1 40. Corn dull; 10,000 bus sold; white 70@72c; yellow 72@75c. Rye firm, $1@1 05. Provisions firm. Whiskey dull and lower; sales at 23½@24c.

PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—Cotton; sales to-day of 1,000 bales at irregular prices; Middlings 10½@11c. Freights and Exchanges unchanged.

XXXVITH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, March 6.

SENATE.

The Vice President laid before the Senate a certified copy of the Kansas Constitution received from the President of the Constitutional Convention.

Mr. MASON, of Virginia, stated that the Sergeant-at-Arms had arrested Theodore Hyatt, and he therefore moved that he now be brought before the bar of the Senate, and asked first, what excuse he