

THE TARIFF AND THE OLD GUARD DEMOCRACY.

It is with no ordinary pleasure we publish the subjoined correspondence, touching the question of protection to American labor. We hesitate not to acknowledge that we have refreshed our zeal and devotion to Pennsylvania interests by a perusal of those letters. The opinions and arguments of such eminent citizens as General CAMERON and Judge SHALER, upon a subject to which these statesmen have given their attention, in view of great national interests, cannot fail to dispel the idle cant of those who have endeavored to make it appear that the advocacy of a fair protection to our manufacturing interests was inconsistent with the maintenance of the principles of pure Democracy.—Pittsburgh Morning Mercury.

HON. CHAS. SHALER'S LETTER.

To the Editor of the Mercury: Sir.—The course you have pursued in relation to the tariff, however obnoxious to those who are disposed to make the subject a party platform, has been such as entitles you to the gratitude of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania. The true cause of many of our failures in this County is that a branch of the party are obstinately bent upon making the tariff a political question, and upon adhering to the tariff of '46, as though it were the only system of duties suited to the condition of the country. Even many distinguished Democrats, who opposed that measure with the most pertinacious obstinacy, seem now to be convinced that it ought to become a matter of principle to support it.—Surely democracy is not so inconsistent with itself as to pin its determinations upon any view of this limited nature. To talk of the tariff of 1846 as an undeviating rule, a fixed principle, a platform of the Democratic party, is to be guilty of the grossest absurdity. It is, in fact, an innovation upon our professed doctrines, which in matters of policy open and expand, and suit themselves to the exigencies of the government, and the necessities of the country. If the great interests of Pennsylvania, the interests of the mining regions, whether of iron or coal, require for their support a change of the tariff of '46, or any tariff, it would certainly not be warranted by any Democratic principle that I am acquainted with to refuse them suitable protection. If it could be demonstrated that without an increase of duties, our laborers in the coal pits must suffer from want of adequate remuneration or the business stop altogether, or that our furnaces, forges, &c., must cease to work except at wages so much reduced as that the workmen must be placed on the same scale of wages with the laborers in Europe, certainly no one will pretend that it is a violation of Democratic principle that the government should by an increase of duties better his condition.

During the campaign which resulted in the election of Mr. Polk we undoubtedly assumed the true ground; we declined discussing the question of a Tariff as a principle, contenting ourselves with considering it a matter of policy upon which men of all parties might differ, and which must be settled by the exigencies of the country. We never committed ourselves upon the question of the increase or diminution of duties, but, alleging that Mr. Polk was bound by the compromise bill which limited them to twenty per cent. ad valorem, we contended that in this particular Mr. Polk was as safe a Tariff man as Mr. Clay, and that the former would be governed by the principles of General Jackson on the subject. That a judicious Tariff, in the language of that sagacious statesman, meant a Tariff of duties sufficient for the support of the Government, having an eye to incidental protection of the manufacturing interests of the country. We advocated incidental protection as being sound in policy, and Democratic in principle, whilst we opposed a merely protective Tariff as a scheme not worthy to be entertained by any party. Under that sign we then contended; and had it not been for the great anxiety to form a platform inconsistent with our principles, we should still have been successful.—Upon the subject of platforms, the invention of the modern schools, and which break down before the inventors are well off of them, let me say this; that on no other foundation can a Democratic bill than the foundation laid by Thomas Jefferson and his noble co-workers, supported and sustained by Madison and Monroe and their patriotic contemporaries, and brought to a final and permanent consolidation by the illustrious Jackson. And he who attempts to improve upon them—to compose Democratic principles out of other materials than they have furnished—will find his task both a thankless and a hopeless one.

We are now reminded to this state of the question. Pennsylvania is largely in debt. The very interest upon forty millions of dollars is onerous and almost ruinous. Our taxation amounts to more than one fourth of our income. Can the agriculture of Pennsylvania bear the tax and still compete successfully in the markets with the agriculture of more fertile regions, subject to comparatively no taxation? It is evident that the agriculture of Pennsylvania is now staggering under a burden too heavy to bear, and that the value of property must diminish unless there is something to diminish the taxation. We have that something in abundance. Our iron mines, our coal-fields, supply it. We must dig from the bowels of the earth what the surface cannot supply. But here we are met by insuperable difficulties. The iron mines of Wales, the coal-fields of England, are worked at prices so moderate, that at the doors of our very factories, for the purpose of our railroad construction, for all for which iron is used, and for the coal used in its smelting and its ulterior operations, we have a rival article with which we cannot compete. Under our very noses, the raw material is sold, which we have abundant means of supplying, but are paralyzed in our exertions and ruined in our attempts, by foreign competition. Now, put the question—If the Tariff of '46 supports British labor, mines British iron and digs British coal, whilst we are compelled to stand every man idle and to derive no benefit from our vast resources, is there any thing in Democratic principles or innovating platforms to prevent its introduction so as to give life, vigor and activity to our own people? I trust not.

But it is unnecessary to say more, as the subjoined letter from an eminent statesman, a sound Democrat, and an incorruptible adherent to Pennsylvania interests, puts the subject in a light, that will be satisfactory to all. I should not have, indeed, said as much, but that obliquity has been cast by some upon the Editor of the Mercury, for pursuing the course dictated by a due sense of Democratic principles. Your labors will be appreciated.—Indeed, I have no doubt that their utility will be evinced in the result of the next election. That the Democracy will have an increased majority here and elsewhere in Pennsylvania seems unquestionable, and that it will be chiefly owing to the honorable stand you and some other Democratic papers have taken in favor of protecting the great interests of Pennsylvania is beyond dispute. Respectfully, Yours, CHARLES SHALER. Pittsburgh, Oct. 2, 1849.

GEN. S. CAMERON'S LETTER.

MIDDLETOWN, Sept. 26th, 1849. My DEAR SIR:—Very cordially I thank you for your friendly attention in the transmission of the "Pittsburgh Mercury," where in some notice is taken of Pennsylvania interests, connected with my name, while a member of the U. S. Senate.

I avail myself of the occasion to express the hope, that as "the signs of the times" portend a discussion of the tariff, during the approaching session of Congress, there may be an excitement, no party prejudices, or other false issues raised to influence the legislative mind of the country towards the adoption of measures adverse to the general interests. The tariff policy is of momentous importance to all the great industrial pursuits of our country. The public good is the rule by which we should be guided in the performance of relative duties; and to this central point the legislature should invariably direct all its deliberations. At an early day, I took lessons in the school of Simon Snyder on this very question of protection to the infant manufactures of the Union; and time has had no effect to change my views and wishes, which have been expressed in the Senate, in favor of the permanent establishment of a home market, as the only solid basis of national prosperity. And here, I may add, it is very remarkable that all the Democratic governors of this Commonwealth, down to Gov. Shunk, have maintained ground in favor of protection to home labor. Nine consecutive messages of Gov. Snyder are text books to sustain and cheer the sound portion of our Democratic friends, who will not surrender to the free trade doctrines of British capitalists.

"We must command our own consumption and the means of our defence," has been the sentiment of Pennsylvania from the dawn of independence. And as a freeman, born upon the soil, I may be permitted to regard with no ordinary solicitude, the onward prosperity of the iron, coal, and agricultural interests of this State.

The new settlements being opened up in the far West, embracing the Territories of Texas, California and Oregon, must of necessity increase the surplus produce of the soil. Upon foreign countries our farmers can never depend with certainty for a permanent profitable market. It is therefore the safest and wisest policy to create a home market for the farmer, by encouraging domestic manufactures, under such revenue laws as shall secure to the American mechanic the rewards of his labor in his own market. Let the pauper labor of Europe continue but a few years to flood our country with the productions of foreign workshops, and if the past history of the world furnish facts by which we may be guided in our deliberations on this subject, then I venture to predict that all the leading interests of Pennsylvania and of the Union—the iron, the coal, the salt, the wool, the flax, the hemp, the paper, the hat, the sugar, and the gunpowder manufactures, with others too tedious to mention, will be entirely ruined through the length and breadth of the land.

The doctrine of "let trade regulate itself," is beautifully illustrated, if it were not destructive in its effects, by the present condition of the country importing immense quantities of the country's iron, although, we have at home, the raw material in abundance, industrious and skillful mechanics, and ample capital to command our own consumption in this respect. With these facts staring us in the face, is it any thing short of an insane policy to preach up free trade, to benefit the overgrown money changers of Great Britain, thereby working injury to American labor. I feel a lively sensibility on this subject, and whether I am in error or not, I freely state to you, that I look upon the permanent and prosperous establishment of free labor, in this country, as the most effectual means, in the mysterious operations of political events, to subvert the thrones of hierarchies and despotisms upon the continent of Europe, and to elevate the masses to equal rights and rational liberty, the destiny of mankind.

These views incline me to hope, that every man who is anxious for the welfare of our good old Commonwealth and for the integrity of the union, will stand up for protection of American industry, on grounds of patriotism. We must be wholly independent of foreign supplies; American labor must not be sacrificed to feed the squalid operatives of Great Britain. Accept assurances of my sincere regards. Your friend, &c. SIMON CAMERON. Hon. CHARLES SHALER, Pittsburgh. DEATH OF EDGAR A. POE.—Edgar A. Poe, Esq., the distinguished American poet, scholar and critic died in Baltimore on Sunday last, after an illness of four or five days. Mr. Poe, we believe, was a native of Maryland, though reared by a foster-father at Richmond Va., where he lately spent sometime on a visit. He was in the 38th year of his age. He was one of the acutest critics of the day, and a man of remarkable talents, though the possession of them did not save him from some of the infirmities of genius.



THE AMERICAN.

SUNBURY. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1849.

H. B. MASSER, Editor and Proprietor.

NOTICE.—As the late firm of Messer & Eisely was dissolved in March 1848, and the books left in the hands of H. B. Masser for collection, persons are hereby notified to settle with and pay over to the said H. B. Masser any balance due for advertising or subscription to the American.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Business Notices. GONNETS LADY'S BOOK, AND THE AMERICAN.—Those of our readers who would like to subscribe for this elegant monthly periodical, can now do so at a very small cost. The Lady's Book is published at \$3 per annum, but as an inducement, which we are enabled to hold out by means of an arrangement with the publishers, we will furnish the Lady's Book and the Sunbury American, one year for \$3.50 cash in advance, to those who may wish to subscribe.

HISTORY OF BABYLON.

Mr. Lewis Davis lectures upon Babylon, at the Court House, on Wednesday evening, was highly instructive and entertaining.—He exhibited, to illustrate his subject, a number of very superior paintings of the glory and ruins of Babylon, of ancient Tyre and Thebes, &c. The exhibition is well worthy of patronage.

Mr. Davis will lecture again on Monday evening next, at the same place.

BROKE JAIL.—On Tuesday evening,

two prisoners, taking advantage of the excitement of the election and the Sheriff's absence at supper, dug a hole in the jail wall and effected their escape. They were traced as far as the banks of the river, where they entered a boat provided for them by an accomplice. Both were heavily ironed and carried away their chains with them. The one, Lewis Kolchener, was committed on a charge of house breaking. He is about 6 feet high, with black whiskers, dark complexion and black eyes. The other, Ralph Martin, confined for horse stealing, is about 5 feet ten, with light eyes, light hair and complexion.

THE MAILS.—The mails between

this place and Pottsville have been exceedingly irregular for six months past. Our mail pays a visit to Cattawissa or Danville, and the mails of the aforesaid places reciprocate the courtesy, about once a week; and this eccentricity invariably occurs whenever the mails contain any important news. We do not know where the fault lies, but have been informed that at the distributing offices between here and Pottsville, the bags are thrown out promiscuously, and each stage driver seizes, in the same impartial manner, the one nearest him and carries it to the place of his destination. It is time there is a stop put to this carelessness, and we hope the Department will take notice of it.

PENNSYLVANIA AND PROTECTION.

The Pittsburgh Morning Mercury, of the 4th inst., contains two letters on the protective policy, from the pens of distinguished Democrats, which we transfer to the columns of the American, confidently believing that we are not only acting in accordance with the wishes of the editor, who is now absent from his post, but in obedience to the will of a large majority of the people of this State. Coming, as they do, from such prominent citizens as Gen. SIMON CAMERON, and the Hon. CHAS. SHALER, these letters will be read with that deep interest which the subject they treat of demands. They deserve the heartfelt thanks of the toiling classes of Pennsylvania, for thus boldly defending their dearest interests at such a time as this, when others if not actually deserting them, have not the independence to espouse their cause. The perusal of these letters, we must confess, if such a thing were possible, have made us more ardent in our attachment to the doctrine of protection. In fact, we do not see how any intelligent reader can resist the deductions of these able men.

Gen. Cameron and Judge Shaler could not have given their opinions on this vital question at a more appropriate period. True, their fidelity to the cause would never have been questioned had they even remained silent; for the proud and bold stand that the former gentleman took for the manufacturing interests of Pennsylvania while acting as a United States Senator, forbids a doubt of the kind to arise in the mind of any one, and the uniform adherence of the latter to the sentiments that he has expressed would have been a sure guarantee for his steadfastness in the future. But, knowing as we do, how high these persons stand in the confidence of the people of this State, we feel satisfied that their timely appearance before the public will have the happiest effect.

The platform of equitable protection to all of our great interests, indicated by them, every citizen, without distinction of party, should be able to stand upon. Far higher and nobler considerations than those of party should control us in matters that are closely identified with the happiness and prosperity of the people of our good old Commonwealth. In the discharge of our duties we have ever endeavored to inculcate this

liberal spirit. This sentiment, too we are gratified to believe, prevails with the honest masses, whose only aim is the public good. In a country so extensive as ours, with so many conflicting interests, it is hardly possible to devise a system that will be satisfactory to all the States of this Union. It is not to be expected, therefore, that there will be harmonious action on this question in either of the great parties which divide the country. How impolitic, then, is it to drag it into the political arena? Pennsylvania has always cherished the doctrine of protection. Ever since the formation of our government, this has been her policy. Her people have remained firm and unyielding; but we are sorry we cannot say as much for the press. The timorous and servile, who neither "see with their own eyes, nor speak with their own tongues," immediately after the passage of the act of '46, became its warmest friends, and extolled that which they had but a short time before deprecated. This class of sycophantic editors now wish to pin down the democracy of this state to a law which they had not the independence to oppose. However much we may incur their displeasure, we will continue steadfast in the advocacy of such measures as we believe to be intimately connected with the well being of the State.

It is gratifying to know that our course is endorsed by such distinguished individuals as Cameron and Shaler. The people of the State owe them much for the interest they manifest in its welfare. It is to men like these that we must look for such a modification of the tariff of '46, as will enable our great manufacturing interests to flourish. The arguments they adduce must satisfy every tariff democrat that he entertains the sentiments of the fathers of our political faith.

JOHN A. GAMBLE AT HOME.—Jersey Shore, the home of our candidate for Canal Commissioner, gave Mr. Gamble 241 votes and Mr. Fuller 55. This flattering and complimentary vote is not more gratifying to Mr. Gamble than it must be to his many warm friends throughout the State. When a candidate is so well endorsed at home, the people abroad, without the benefit of a personal acquaintance, feel satisfied that they have not misplaced their confidence.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.—The candidate of the democracy of this county for the Assembly has been defeated, we learn, by 4 or 500 majority.

SERIOUS RIOT IN PHILADELPHIA.

On Tuesday night, the rowdies of Moyamensing, taking advantage of the absence of the police at the election polls, made an attack on the California House, a tavern kept by a colored man, in St. Mary's street. This street is principally inhabited by blacks of the lowest and most degraded class. The House was defended by the blacks, many of whom were armed, and several sallies were made, but the assailants finally gained an entrance and fired the building. The alarm was given and several companies of firemen came upon the ground with their apparatus, but were stoned and fired upon by the rioters and forced to retire. The fire spread to several adjoining buildings. In the mean time the police assembled, but were driven back by volleys of firearms and stones. The Hope Engine was taken by the mob, and partly destroyed. A fireman, named Himmelwright was shot through the heart; and a number of others seriously wounded. At 2 o'clock the State House bell struck 8 taps, the signal for the Military to be called out, which frightened the mob, and they gradually dispersed.

SECOND RIOT.—At 6 o'clock on the following morning the State House bell announced another riot. The Morris Hose Company, who were in service, were attacked with brick bats and firearms and several persons wounded. The military, who had been out during the night, again assembled at the State House yard, marched to the scene of action, and were assigned positions commanding every avenue of approach. George Hosey, negro, one of the leaders, has been arrested. Two persons are known to have been killed, and fifteen wounded have been brought to the Hospital, three of whom will not survive the day. These continual outbreaks in the districts adjoining the city, are disgraceful and reflect anything but credit upon the authorities.

The Election.

We have given all the election news up to the time of going to press. The democracy have come out of the contest victorious. John A. Gamble has received a larger majority than was expected. His opponent's tour through the State, did not effect much. We have also gained enough members of the Legislature to have a majority on joint ballot, which insures to us the election of a Democratic State Treasurer. Of the Senators whose terms expire this year, seven are Whigs and four Democrats. The Democrats have, as far as heard from, gained three, which gives them a majority in the Senate. Philadelphia county has been redeemed. The Democrats have elected a Senator and gained eight members of the Assembly. They have also elected their Mayor, Hon. Joel Jones, by a small majority. The candidate for Sheriff, Wm. Deal, has been elected over Rothwell, by 920 votes, which post has not been filled by a Democrat before for some 20 years.

ELECTOIN.

RETURNS OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY. Held October 9, 1849.

We give below the official returns of this county. The whole Democratic ticket, it will be seen have been successful. The majority for JOHN A. GAMBLE, for Canal Commissioner, is 763. The democracy of the county, in achieving this victory, with the small turn out, have just cause for rejoicing. It exceeds the majority of last fall, when the party had the benefit of a larger turn out, 159 votes. If all other counties have done as well in proportion to the vote polled, Mr. Gamble will be elected by fifteen or twenty thousand. JOHN B. PACKER, Esq., our candidate for Assembly, has received the largest vote in the county, having no opposition. He is a young man of fine abilities, and will represent us in a creditable manner. JOHN P. PURSEL, for Register and Recorder, and George B. Youngman, for Treasurer, who had volunteered candidates in opposition to them, were run more closely than any other portion of the ticket. Mr. Wilson, for Commissioner, has a handsome majority. Wm. Cook, for Auditor had no opposition. He will make an excellent officer.

CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Table showing returns for Canal Commissioner in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Districts, John A. Gamble, Henry M. Fuller, Israel Painter, and Wm. Middleborough.

ASSEMBLY. AUDITOR.

Table showing returns for Assembly and Auditor in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

FOR REGISTER & RECORDER.

Table showing returns for Register and Recorder in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

FOR COUNTY TREASURER.

Table showing returns for County Treasurer in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

Table showing returns for County Commissioner in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

VOTE ON THE POOR HOUSE.

Table showing vote on the Poor House in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

VOTE FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Table showing vote for Canal Commissioner in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

COUNTIES.

Large table showing vote for Canal Commissioner by county in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Counties, 1849, and 1848.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Table showing members of the Legislature in 1849 and 1848. Columns include Candidates, 1849, and 1848.

MARYLAND ELECTION.—The Demo-

crats have gained one Congressman in this state. The Whigs have a majority on joint ballot in the Legislature, which secures to them a United States Senator. GEORGIA.—Democracy is triumphant in this state. The Democratic Governor is elected by a large majority. LOSS OF A CALIFORNIA PARTY.—A letter from Santa Fe, dated Aug 16th, mentions the loss of a party of emigrants from New York, under Gildersleeve, the fox racer, numbering 50 or 60 men. Their oxen had died, their provisions were exhausted, and the men were scattered. Two men who had gone after another party were lost but the account does not state whether or not the rest were lost.

ONE MONTH LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 8, 1849. The steamship Falcon, Capt. Hartstein, arrived at this port yesterday morning, having made the passage from Chagres in 5 days and 18 hours. The F. brings \$70,000 in gold dust, a large mail, and 49 passengers for New York.

The steamship California was to have sailed from Panama for San Francisco on the 27th ultimo, the steamer Senator on the 1st, the Union on the 8th, and the Panama on the 13th instant.

The Isthmus was healthy and travelling easy, the roads being greatly improved. The Falcon brings dates from San Francisco to September 1st.

Gen. P. F. Smith, had gone on a expedition to the mountains of Sierra Nevada. Col. Fremont was at Monterey. The ship Milnor, from New York, had arrived at San Francisco, having made the passage in 120 days.

White Lake, Vice Consulate at the Sandwich Islands, died at San Francisco, on the 26th ult.

Lieut. Beale, bearer of despatches from the United States had arrived at San Francisco, and proceeded immediately to the headquarters of Gen. Smith.

Thomas Butler King had been seriously ill with the bilious fever, but was considered out of danger. Gen. Riley was sick at Monterey, but at last accounts was improving.

The Convention for forming the constitution met at Monterey on the 31st August. It is said to be composed of men of intelligence and integrity.

The steamship Empire City left Chagres on the 28th ult. for New York. The steamship Panama arrived at Panama on the 22d ult., bringing half a million dollars in gold dust and 150 passengers.

A very late letter from San Francisco says that the Constitution will be formed and Legislature elected by the 1st of November.

The President Coming to Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8. General Taylor, accompanied by the Secretary of the Navy, will start on his proposed Northern tour on Thursday morning. He will stay in Baltimore over night, and leave the following morning for Philadelphia. He will remain in Philadelphia until 9 o'clock, on Monday morning, when he will leave for New York.

The President contemplates being absent about one week.

DREAFFUL OCCURRENCE.—A corres-

pondent of the Baltimore Sun states that the Rev. James Nicholas, of Caroline county, Md., who has for a long time been laboring under an aberration of mind, on Thursday last, shot dead Miss Juliet Nichols. She and several of the family were up stairs at the usual time of Mr. N. holding family prayer, when he summoned them to this room. Upon the unfortunate lady opening the door, Nichols levelled a gun at her and shot her dead. He then, in his morbid insanity, dragged her out of her house some distance to a log pen, and attempted to throw her into it. Failing to do this, he fled, and has not since been heard of.

THE LAST FASHION.—The fashion has been

introduced into New York of wearing gentlemen's shirt bosoms of fine linen cambric, laid in broad plaits, and ornamented with three rows of rich French embroidery. It is somewhat expensive, each bosom costing from ten to twelve dollars.

MR. CALHOUN.—The South Carolina pa-

pers which have come to hand, make no mention whatever of any determination on the part of Mr. Calhoun to resign his seat in the United States Senate. We do not believe he has at present any such intention.—The "pneumia institution" will require all his talent and power to uphold it during the next session of Congress, and his constituents will not allow him to withdraw from the field at the very outset.—New Haven Jour.

PERFORMANCE EXTRAORDINARY.—On Fri-

day evening about dark, a woman who passes for respectable, dressed herself in men's clothes, snatched her face and arms with blood, and then amused herself with going into the houses of her neighbors, and frightening them half out of their wits, by her strange and ghastly appearance. The neighborhood got alarmed—a report was spread that some man had murdered his wife and all his children, and the whole of Temperanceville was for a time in an uproar. The matter was at last explained, and quiet was restored.

What could have induced the lady to engage in this singular and unique freak, we cannot say.—Pittsburg Chronicle.

THE late Rev. Henry Colman, who died at

Islington, England, was buried with much pomp by his English friends. The place of interment was the gift of Lady Byron, who has also undertaken to erect a monument to the deceased.

SINGULAR OBITUARY.—The following singu-

lar obituary notice appears in the Athens (Ga.) Messenger: "He was the father of eleven sons—five of the sons having married five sisters. He had also one hundred and eighty-nine great-grand children; and at his funeral, two weeks ago last Sabbath, two horses were swung to death by bees, and another came near losing his life by the same!"

THE late Lexington Observer remarks, that

it is not an over estimate to say that property to the amount of \$200,000 is advertised for sale in that paper. This result, principally, from the number of deaths caused by the cholera, rendering the settlement and division of estates necessary.

IN 1770, the King of Portugal issued an

edict, by which widows above fifty years of age were forbidden to marry: "Because," says the edict, "experience has shown that women of that age usually marry young men of no property, who dissipate the fortunes which such marriages put them in possession of, to the prejudice of the children and other near relations of their wives."