

From Washington.

THE FRACAS IN WASHINGTON.

KEITT SUFFERING FROM "GROWING PAINS."

An Old Line Wig Floored.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The city is all excitement today in regard to the affair in the House of Representatives this morning.

About a quarter before two o'clock, while various motions to kill time and prevent definite action were put, and while many members, knowing that there was no special business on hand and no likelihood of a vote, were lounging and drowsing in their seats or moving promiscuously about the Hall, Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, whose seat is about the center of the western side of the House, was suddenly and quietly approached by Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, and Mr. Reuben Davis, of Mississippi, who were seated on the opposite side, whose inhabitants are credited Democrats.

There is a passage or aisle between the seats, leading from the North-east corner of the Hall to the speaker's chair, making a route, and a circle of members, which Mr. Keitt was quietly walking down this aisle, when Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, and Mr. Reuben Davis, of Mississippi, approached him. Mr. Keitt had risen, and Mr. Grow had objected to his speaking.

Said Mr. Keitt, "if you want to object, you had better go to your own side of the House."

"This is a free fight," said Mr. Grow, "and every man has a right to go where he pleases."

"What do you mean by such an answer as that?" said Mr. Keitt.

"I mean just what I said," replied Mr. Grow, and repeated the remark.

Mr. Keitt then seized him by the collar, exclaiming, "I will let you know that you are a—"

Mr. Grow thrust his hand aside with violence, saying, "I shall occupy such a place as I please, and no nigger driver shall crack his whip over me."

Mr. Keitt seized him by the throat, and with again driven off by Mr. Grow, and on the attempt being repeated, Mr. Grow delivered a well-aimed blow and knocked Mr. Keitt down.

There was a rush of members from the opposite side of the Hall, and Mr. Keitt, Mr. Barkley, of Mississippi, rushed in to the combatants. Mr. Keitt was taken up and carried to the other side of the House, where he was attended to by the medical staff.

Reinforcements arrived from all quarters, and for a couple of minutes there was a furious combat, but fortunately no one was hurt, and by the aid of the Sergeant-at-Arms, the principal combatants were parted and order restored.

Speaker Orr, who is a colleague and friend of Keitt, was also in the fracas, and he collected in manner. The moment the combatants were separated, there was a quiet that was startling in its effect. The Speaker directed the roll to be called on a motion to excuse a member from voting, and the business of the session went on.

At a little before seven this morning, the House adjourned, on a motion of Mr. Keittman, to adjourn till Monday, when a vote is to be taken on a resolution of the President's Kansas Message without any further delay.

The anti-Keittomites are in good spirits.

[From Correspondent Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The contest in the House was maintained the whole night, by calling for the yeas and nays on the most trivial motions.

At half past 6 o'clock, Mr. Keittman (Miss) was called on to report on the Kansas Message, and at 7 o'clock, when the subject under consideration—the President's Message—was resumed, and the vote on the pending propositions shall be taken without further delay, debate or dilatory motions.

By unanimous consent this resolution was introduced and agreed to, when the Speaker announced that the House was adjourned till Monday, when the subject would come up as the special order.

[From the New York Evening Post.]

LATER FROM HAVANA.

General D. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna has written a manifesto dated in Turban, New Granada, which was read in the Havana. It is a charge in the 29th ult., in relation to the charges was employed by General Scott to bribe the Mexican Commander and authorities.

These statements of General Pillow are denied with the usual violence and verbiage of the Mexico Press. The statements contained in it are repelled with all the lengthy and high-sounding adjectives which he is so familiar. "Who," says he, "knowing my position in Mexico, the fortune which I possessed, and the elevation of my character, can imagine me capable of such base humiliation as having listened to so infamous a proposition as is indicated in the statements of General Pillow? And who, knowing, as all do know the abhorrence which I felt for the enemies of my country, an aversion which led me to fight to the last gasp, can believe I have ever stooped to such a degradation? And even I had been a wretch so destitute of honor and dead to the sentiments of virtue, and determined to commit so great a crime, do the advantages of this bargain into which General Pillow assented entered, have any proportion to the sacrifice it would have cost? No! The paltry sum he mentions fabricates the assertion."

ADJUTANT GENERAL.—Gen. E. C. Wilson, of Venango county, has been appointed Adjutant General in place of General Powers, resigned. Such at least is the rumor.

General Powers was appointed by Governor Pollock for three years shortly after the inauguration of Governor Pollock, but Gen. Bowen, then holding the office, refused to surrender it, alleging that he had been appointed for three years. The Supreme Court appointed Bowen to his position, consequently Gen. Powers could have held the office some eight or ten months, but seeing that Gov. Pollock was generally tendered his resignation in order to satisfy some disappointed applicant.

Gen. Wilson is a clever gentleman and will no doubt make a popular and efficient Adjutant General. I mention this, not from a zealous and ardent Whig, but latterly has taken a prominent part in the democratic party.

THE NEGRO RACE.—Hayward Taylor, writing from New Egypt, Egypt, says: "These friends of the African race who point to Egypt as a proof of what race has accomplished, are wholly mistaken. The only negro features represented in Egyptian sculpture are those of slaves and captives taken in Ethiopian wars of the Pharaohs. The temples and pyramids throughout Nubia as far as the Dar-el-Abyassin, all bear the hieroglyphy of monarchs, and there is no evidence in all the valley of the Nile that the negro race ever attained a higher degree of civilization than is at present exhibited in Congo and Abissinia. I mention this, not from any feeling hostile to that race, but simply to controvert an opinion very prevalent in some parts of the United States."

GREAT DROUGHT IN GERMANY.—The New York Sun says: "Accounts from the Harz mountains state that the district of Glanbach is suffering from an unprecedented dearth of water; the natives had left off washing their hands and faces more than a week, the authorities of the place having issued a decree of two shalms on all hand-washers who persist in pursuing their trade. Great quantities of cattle were dying from thirst, and a few of the community, who are unable to forego cleanliness, use beer to perform their ablutions."

LADIES' GRANCES OF MARRIAGE.—A writer has computed that a woman has lost half her chances at her twentieth year, at twenty-three she has lost three-fourths of her opportunities; and at twenty-six, seven-eighths of her chances are gone.



THE AMERICAN.

SUNBURY. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1858.

H. B. MASSER, Editor and Proprietor.

TO ADVERTISERS.—The publication of the Sunbury American is not guaranteed by any paper published in North Pennsylvania.

FOR RENT.—Two houses in Market Street. Apply at this office.

The work of grading the Northern Central Railroad through Deer Street, was commenced on Monday last. The cutting commences at the Lutheran Church and will be about 3 feet deep at the grave yard. Market Street, the terminus of the road is the same grade. The Sunbury and Erie Road will have to make its connection at this point.

POST MASTER AT NORTHUMBERLAND.—Mr. Jacob Leisinger has been appointed P. M. at Northumberland, in place of Jacob Lip resigned.

CUT HIS EYE OUT.—A small boy, five years old, a son of Jacob Slough, of this place, cut his eye out last week. He attempted to cut a string from his finger upwards, and using more force than necessary brought the knife in contact with his eye. Another warning against the use of edged tools by children.

ARRIVED AT LAST.—A long expected stranger, "cold weather," arrived last night, and was duly registered at No. 5, Fahrenheit. We trust he will remain and lay low, at least a week. Should he kick up a spree and get high, there will be a scarcity of juleps and cobbler's next summer.

THE STATE INTEREST.—The semi-annual interest upon the State debt was paid at the Girard Bank, in specie or its equivalent.

John O'Brien, who was sentenced at last November court to the Penitentiary, but who escaped by breaking jail a few days afterwards, was again arrested by Sheriff Vanduyke at New Philadelphia, in Schuylkill county, and conveyed to the Penitentiary on Friday last.

The cold weather on Wednesday night closed the Susquehanna at this place. On Thursday some of our citizens commenced blowing their ice houses from the upper basin. The ice is about 5 inches thick.

DOUGLAS BACKING OUT.—The Gazette asks if Douglas is backing out because he stated he would agree to admit any Constitution "that embodied the will of the people." Mr. Douglas never entertained any other opinion on the subject, and has repeatedly stated that he would vote for the admission of Kansas under any Constitution that embodied the will of the people, provided it was Republican, as required by the Constitution of the United States. Douglas will hardly back out while Congress and the people are backing him up.

RECEPTION OF SPIRIT PATENT.—The Banks of Northumberland, Danville and Lewisburg resumed as soon as they learned that the Philadelphia Banks had done so. They had been waiting for some time on the city Banks to commence.

NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILROAD.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Northern Central Railway Company held at Baltimore, on the 3d inst., the following gentlemen were elected Directors:—Philip Dougherty, James Frazier, John Herr, Anthony Kennedy, William H. Keighler, Eli Lewis, Robert M. Magraw, Lloyd N. Rogers, Thomas Winters, Francis White, William E. Mayhew and John B. Packer.

John B. Packer, of this place, was chosen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Wm. F. Packer elected Governor of this State. Besides it is proper that this office of the road should have a director, and as Mr. Packer has always been an efficient friend of the road, the selection is a judicious one.

NEW COUNTERFEITS.—The Harrisburg Herald says, "a friend has exhibited to us some of these counterfeit. One of these was a \$5 bill upon the Farmers' Bank of Lancaster, and another upon one of the Pittsburgh Banks. He also showed us two altered notes from broken New Jersey Banks, made to represent the Bank of Trenton." To this we may add \$10 bills from the Gettysburg Bank.

A DOCUMENT.—On Saturday evening we received a something, enclosed in a large parchment paper envelope, bearing the frank of "James Buchanan" (the President always writes his name in full and in a plain bold hand) which looked as if it might contain an important document. Perhaps it was a commission. But, then, we were no applicant for office. Yet the President might have heard that there was a gentleman in this neighborhood who had been for more than twenty years in active politics, without being an applicant for office, and therefore concluded to reward him for his modesty. We carefully opened the mysterious envelope, and out came the President's message on the Lecompion Constitution.

Well, we have no doubt the President looks upon this document as of much greater importance than we do, and we must, therefore, tender him our grateful acknowledgments for this mark of courtesy. We had previously read the message, and came to the conclusion that whatever merit it might possess it would have been much better adapted for a partisan speech in Congress, on this vexed question, than a document intended to convey information for the action of that body, who alone had the law making power.

ARE THE TREASURY NOTES SHIMPLAS-TERS?

Under this head our neighbor of the Gazette has an article that will certainly never acquire for him the character of a logician or a profound thinker. He says these notes are issued "for a temporary purpose, and when that end is attained, will be called in and 'cashed,' with the certainty of fate (a thing that can't be said of shin plasters)."

According to this doctrine, the shimplasters, (we beg pardon, we should say the Treasury notes), issued by this county some years since, were not shimplasters, because they were cashed promptly. The Gazette adds that the object of the Treasury notes is "to meet an emergency." We should like to know if that has not been the sole object, and the only alleged excuse for the issue of shimplasters in all cases—a more temporary expedient. The word "shimplasters," says the Gazette, "is applied to small notes from 12 cents to 5 dollars, payable, in most cases, 'when convenient.'"

In this respect the Treasury notes are certainly very much like shimplasters, if the logic of our neighbor is good, for anything, as the Secretary of the Treasury is to give notice when he wishes to redeem these notes, and that will be only "when it is convenient."

Uncle Sam, though sure, like individuals, has sometimes found himself in "a tight place," and some of these very Treasury notes have been used to take up his disbonored drafts. The fact that they are neither "small and dirty" nor only intended for men of "cleanly habits," in other words, men of wealth, does not alter their character. In our opinion, Government should have effected a loan instead of issuing notes "payable when convenient."

THE LECOMPION CONSTITUTION IN CONGRESS.

It will be seen by the Congressional proceedings in our paper this week, that there have been stormy times in the Senate and House on this exciting subject. The proceedings in the House on Friday evening, when that body remained in session all night, was of the most boisterous character. Perhaps the best and only sensible part of the performance during the night was the knocking down of Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, by Mr. Grow, of this State.

Mr. Grow represents Judge Wilmet's district. He is not a large man, but young and ardent in his views on slavery, and in his department amiable.

The result, however, ended in a defeat of the administration and the supporters of the Lecompion Constitution on Monday last, by referring the President's message to this subject, to a select committee, who are to examine into the matter instead of referring it to the Territorial committee, a majority of which is composed of Southern members favorable to the Lecompion Constitution.

The vote in Congress on Mr. Harris resolution to refer the President's Lecompion message to a select committee, instead of the Territorial committee, as desired by the friends of the President, stood yeas 114 nays, 111. The following is the

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Senator Hale, of New Hampshire, is noted for his wit and sarcasms. The following is one of his last, in which he lets an arrow fly at Mr. Buchanan:

"Mr. Hale read an extract from one of Mr. Buchanan's former speeches, in which Mr. B. declared that all Christendom is in league against the South on this question of slavery. Of course remarked Mr. Hale, the South can have no allies except those who are not of Christendom. [Laughter.] But what does Mr. Buchanan say in the next sentence? He says they have no other allies to sustain their constitutional rights except the Democrats of North. There's a fight for you, all Christendom on one side, and the Democracy of the North on the other. [Hearty outbursts of laughter.] So reports the Telegraph; and we all laugh."

We copy the following notice of the death of Samuel R. Wood from the Danville Democrat. Mr. Wood was highly esteemed by all who knew him for his social and generous qualities. His late residence was a subject of sympathy with all his friends:

DEATH OF SAMUEL R. WOOD.—We regret to learn that our valued old friend SAMUEL R. WOOD, late of Chubuck, Northumberland county, is no more. He died in Philadelphia, at the residence of his brother, THOMAS WOOD, No. 610, Spruce street, at noon, on Tuesday, the 24 inst., in the 67th year of his age. The deceased was kind, affable and generous to a fault—a gentleman in the true sense of the word—and his loss will be sincerely lamented by a large circle of relatives and acquaintances. "Peace to his ashes!"

The Anti-Lecompton meeting at Philadelphia, an abstract of the proceedings of which will be found in another column, should satisfy the President that Pennsylvania will never sanction the Lecompton fraud, either upon the grounds of principle or expediency. Secretary Stanton's exposure must satisfy any unbiased and sensible man, that the President has put himself in a position that is anything but enviable or agreeable.

The Harrisburg Telegraph has the following in regard to the appointments by the Governor:

"WHEREBY INSPECTOR.—It is currently reported and generally believed that Charles Worrel, Esq., has been appointed Whiskey Inspector, for Philadelphia.

FRANCIS HEISTER, Esq., of Reading, son-in-law of George W. Latham Esq., is said to have the best track for Flour Inspector, for Philadelphia."