

which latter branch he became extremely eminent. He was the author of celebrated works on this subject, and was much esteemed in Europe and America for his botanical researches and literary acquisitions.

For many years he corresponded with Mr. Jefferson, with whom he coincided in political opinions, as well as in philosophical pursuits. In 1780 he removed to Lancaster, where he resided until his death, which occurred in 1815, in the 62nd year of his age. He was greatly beloved, highly esteemed and deeply regretted by a numerous circle of friends.

HENRY AUGUSTUS MÜHLENBERG, the eldest son of Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, was born at Lancaster, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1782. While but a youth of fifteen or sixteen, during the Reign of Terror and the contest which resulted in the election of Thomas Jefferson to the Presidency, he was an active partizan of the Republican party. The Democratic principles and feelings of his venerable grandfather, his father and his uncle, were early imbibed by Mr. Muhlenberg, and he enjoyed the advantage of a constant and intimate intercourse with General Muhlenberg, who was always regarded as one of the sternest and most inflexible republicans.

Mr. Muhlenberg, who like the rest of the family was educated for the ministry, removed from Lancaster to Reading in the year 1802, and has resided since that period in Berks. In 1827, his health not being strong, he determined to turn his attention to agricultural pursuits, and he accordingly resigned his office in the ministry to the Synod of Pennsylvania, by whom it was accepted.

Shortly after this became known, the Democracy of Berks desirous of having a member at Washington upon whose steadfast Democratic principles they could rely with confidence, urged him to become their representative in Congress.

Upon his consenting, he was elected in 1828 by a triumphant majority to represent the district composed of Berks, Schuylkill and Lehigh, and he was elected a second time from that district in 1830. By the act of Assembly of the 9th June, 1832, districting the State, Berks county was formed into a separate Congressional district, since which alteration he has been three times re-elected to represent this district, in 1832, 1834, 1836, and continued in the service of his faithful and tried constituents until appointed by a Democratic President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to the high responsible station of Ambassador to Austria, being the first minister accredited by the United States to that great continental power. The Democratic principles of Mr. Muhlenberg were well known to his friends in Berks county, and his firmness and decision of character led them to believe that he would always be found true to the Democratic party and his country. That his constituents have been fully satisfied with and have ever cordially approved of his political course, is proved not only by the large majorities which he has always received when before the people of the county, but by the love and affection which is borne towards him by the whole Democracy. That these feelings are still as warm as ever, the following resolution, passed unanimously at the county meeting in August, 1843, will testify:—

"Resolved, That the Democracy of Berks county present with feelings of honest pride to the Democracy of Pennsylvania as their candidate for the Governorship, H. A. Muhlenberg, to whose elevation we can ask their concurrence and aid with the fullest confidence that, if elected to that high and responsible station, his well known abilities, integrity public and private, love of Democratic principles, will insure an administration which will establish confidence within and without our borders—protect the rights and interests of the people, and redound to the honor and prosperity of the State; and should he be nominated we pledge ourselves to sustain him at home where he is best known, by a majority of six thousand."

Such an endorsement from a county like Berks—the Gibraltar of Democracy—which has stood firm from the days of '99 to the present time, is not merely empty compliment, meaning nothing, but is an honor of which any man might be proud, and the county which in 1800 gave McKean 3,263 majority, in 1811 gave Snyder 2,802; in 1812 gave Jackson 3,382; in 1816 gave Van Buren 3,383; in 1818 gave Porter 3,880, and even in 1840 gave Van Buren 3,843, will not be backward in redeeming her pledge, when her favorite son is leading on the legions of Democracy to victory.

Mr. Muhlenberg has always been an unwavering Democrat, a decided advocate of Democratic men and measures, and a warm supporter of those republican principles which have been so ably and successfully developed by Jefferson and Jackson. He was one of the original friends of General Jackson in 1829, having always admired his great civil and military qualities; he has ever remained strongly attached to him both personally and politically, and sustained all the leading measures of his administration, both in and out of Congress, particularly those in relation to the United States Bank.

During the session of 1830 he voted against the Maysville Road bill, before it was vetoed by the President, and from the clearest convictions of duty gave him his ardent support against a system of which this was simply the pioneer, and which would not only have been vitally injurious to the great interests of the State of Pennsylvania, but which would have plunged the General Government into a slough of embarrassment from which it would never have

been able to have extricated itself. Mr. Muhlenberg's course upon this question proved that he possessed those far sighted views without which no man can pretend to be a great statesman. Although in a minority, not only of Congress but of the Pennsylvania delegation, he saw the evils which this measure would produce, and had the moral courage (and at the time it required a great deal) to stand up and almost singly to oppose the bill. Influenced by the same views Gen. Jackson afterwards vetoed it, and Congress and the nation sustained the veto. From the conclusion of Mr. Muhlenberg's speech upon this subject, we extract the following paragraphs:—

"It would appear then that the passage of the bill under consideration is unnecessary.—And not only that, it appears to me extremely inexpedient at this time. Our first object should be to pay off the national debt—then to reduce—I will not say entirely take off—the duties on all articles which we can neither manufacture nor grow, or which no longer require protection, that the burthens of our people may be lightened, if not entirely taken away. The district I have the honor to represent must pay an enormous tax on the single article of salt—a tax amounting to no less than \$30,000 per annum. Can the agricultural interest—the interest which should be most cherished in our country—flourish under such circumstances? If we continue appropriating such enormous sums, both the payment of the public debt and the reduction of unnecessary duties will be materially retarded, perhaps never accomplished, for this road will cost, not two and a half millions as estimated in the bill, but fifteen or twenty millions before we are done with it.—Are the people of this country to be forever taxed heavily for their tea, their coffee, their sugar, their salt, their spices and other articles which have become necessities of life, that the sums thus taken from the sweat of their brow may be squandered upon the useless projects of wild theorists? I hope not. Let us be just before we are generous.—Let us pay our debts. Let us reduce our duties where they are not necessary to aid and protect internal industry. This internal industry must be supported at all hazards, for upon it ultimately depends the salvation and permanent welfare of our country."

In 1831, when the question of the Vice-Presidency was agitated, his fellow citizens of Berks county formally brought him forward as a candidate for that arduous and elevated station, but although it was thought at the time that a Pennsylvanian would be selected for that office, he immediately withdrew his name in the following manly but modest and characteristic letter to the editor of the Reading Chronicle:—

"Sir:—A resolution proposing me as a candidate for the Vice Presidency was passed at a late general meeting of the Democratic Republicans of this county, the proceedings of which were published in your last paper. "The high compliment so unexpectedly tendered, and in terms so infinitely beyond my merits, adds another obligation to the many I am already under to my fellow-citizens. I tender them in return my warmest gratitude, and find in their affectionate regard the most powerful of all incentives to the faithful performance of my duty.

"Yielding to no one in patriotism and a sincere disposition to promote the best interests of our common country, I cannot, however, consider these as establishing any peculiar claims to the Vice Presidency—an office which seems to have been designed in ordinary cases at least, for a reward of long and eminent public services. I must therefore be permitted respectfully to decline being considered as a candidate, and cheerfully leave an honorable competition for that distinguished station to those who may have superior claims.

"With no present higher ambition than to be the representative of the good people of Berks, and deeply sensible of their long experienced kindness, I assure them with perfect sincerity that they cannot be more attached to their representative than he is to them, and that he can under no possible circumstances cease being devoted to their best interests, when not opposed to their general good. Yours, &c., HENRY A. MÜHLENBERG."

What a terrible picture of destruction and misery is presented in the subjoined paragraph. In this latitude we can hardly realize the idea that so desolating a calamity has taken place—but it is so, nevertheless, and means should be given to alleviate the wide spread suffering.

Scenes on the Mississippi—Imagine, reader, a lake of 500 miles through a region finely improved—all one scene of desolation on either hand. Here the comfortable quarters, sunk, fallen and dilapidated—the cattle from a thousand fields gathered in herds upon small patches of land partly dry, perhaps knee deep in water waiting and moaning most piteously—herds of deer, huddled together at the mercy of the marksmen—bears clinging to logs. And here, as in one instance we looked on, a woman dragged, huddled together by her husband through waters a hundred yards to a shoal place, where she deposited her on the trunk until some chance opportunity should offer for her rescue.—*Concordia Intelligencer.*

THE WAY HE BECAME GREAT—It is told of Lord Brougham, that he once said in the House of Lords, "Lord Byron has frequently attacked me in his writings, and in the most violent manner; but his injustice shall not restrain me from acknowledging that, if I have any chance of being known to posterity, it is to his immortal verse that I owe this honor."

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Democratic Nominations.
FOR PRESIDENT,
JAMES K. POLK,
OF TENNESSEE.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
GEO. M. DALLAS,
OF PENNSYLVANIA.
FOR GOVERNOR,
Francis R. Shunk,
(Subject to the decision of the Convention.)
FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
Joshua Hartshorne.

V. B. P. L. MEIER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, No. 59 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, and receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising.

THE "AMERICAN" FOR THE CAMPAIGN.—As it has become fashionable to furnish newspapers from this to the elections at a low price, we propose to furnish the "American" or our German paper, until the elections, for 25 cts. for one copy, or five copies for one dollar.

On our first page we have placed an interesting biographical sketch of Henry A. Muhlenberg, little thinking at the time, that the subject of the memoir would be shrouded in the cold embrace of death, before our paper went to press. How truly has it been said, that "in the midst of life we are in death," and that "promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South, but God is the Judge. He putteth down one, and setteth up another."

FRANCIS R. SHUNK.—The melancholy intelligence of the sudden death of Mr. Muhlenberg, imposes a new duty upon the Democratic party, in taking up a candidate for Governor. The public voice in this matter cannot well be mistaken. Francis R. Shunk and Mr. Muhlenberg were both emphatically the prominent candidates of the party. Mr. Muhlenberg received the nomination of the Convention, by a small majority, and would have been triumphantly elected. Mr. Shunk, like a faithful and steadfast democrat, as he always has been, acquiesced in that decision. By a dispensation of divine providence our candidate has been removed. Mr. Shunk is therefore again before the people, and the democratic party, we are confident, will unanimously award to him their support. Mr. Shunk, at the 4th of March Convention, was not defeated. His claims were only postponed. Many of Mr. Muhlenberg's warmest supporters were anxious and willing to give him their support at another time. That time has now arrived, and we trust there will not be a dissenting voice in the party. As for ourselves, having always entertained the highest respect for both these distinguished gentlemen, we were ready to award our support to either, as the choice of the Convention might be. We have, therefore, placed the name of FRANCIS R. SHUNK at the head of both our English and German paper, and will cheerfully give him the whole weight of our support, promising at the same time, that "Old Northumberland" will come in, in October next, with a majority of not less than a thousand for "Old Shunk," the democratic candidate.

Since the above was written we see that the Harrisburg Argos, all the Reading and Lancaster papers, and in fact nearly all the papers we have heard from, have come out for Shunk.

In another column will be found the call of a Convention, by the State Central Committee to be held at Harrisburg on the 2d of September next. The democracy every where are unanimously in favor of Shunk. The old delegates, we see, are to attend. Meetings ought to be held in this county, instructing our delegates to vote accordingly.

The Elections.
The following we have condensed from the news by Friday's Mail. We give it as we receive it,—without note or comment, from whig papers, &c.

INDIANA.—No election for Governor or Congress this year. The Senate consists of 50 members; the House of 100. 17 members of the Senate are elected this year. Of these the whigs have 7 and the democrats 1, as far as heard from. Of the Senators who hold over, 17 are whigs; 16 democrats. Of Representatives, as far as heard from, the whigs have 54 democrats 21. Last year the same districts stood 41 whigs to 37 democrats. The House last year was 45 whigs to 55 democrats. Whigs gain in the Senate 3, in the House 13.

KENTUCKY.—For Governor 36 counties have been heard from. Butler, the democratic candidate, has a general gain over the vote of 1840. In Louisville his gain is about 600. The whig majority thus far, is about 12,000. The whigs claim the election by 10,000.

ILLINOIS.—No returns except from Chicago district. Wentworth (dem.) is elected to Congress by a large majority.

MISSOURI.—A letter received at Cincinnati says, that the whig majority in St. Louis is from 500 to 1000. This is something of a whig gain.

ALABAMA.—Yancey, (dem.) has been elected to Congress, to fill the vacancy of Dixon H. Lewis. In the Legislature the whigs have, so far as heard from, 2 Senators and 12 Representatives. The democrats 2 Senators and 10 Representatives. The final result will put on another face.

DEATH OF MR. MÜHLENBERG.
On Monday morning, passengers in the stage brought the astonishing intelligence of the illness and probable death of the Hon. Henry A. Muhlenberg. The papers from Reading and Philadelphia of Tuesday morning confirmed the painful rumor. He was found at his door, paralyzed by a stroke of apoplexy, on Saturday night, about 11 o'clock. His death took place on Sunday about 4 o'clock. It is said, that the vile slanders, so industriously circulated by a few fabled political opponents in Reading, caused him considerable mental anguish—slanders that were not calculated to injure him at home, where he was best known, but which were intended for effect abroad. The Reading Gazette extra (neutral) has the following account of this death:—

"With feelings of deep and unfeigned sorrow, we are called upon to give publicity to an event which has painfully proved how true is the oft-repeated sentence, that 'in the midst of life we are in death.' HENRY A. MÜHLENBERG, our distinguished and beloved fellow citizen, departed this life, at his residence in this borough, yesterday (Sunday) afternoon, at 4 o'clock. He had an attack of apoplexy, on Saturday evening, about 10 o'clock, while sitting as was his usual custom, at the front door of his mansion, and was taken up in a state of insensibility, and remained so until the hour of his death.

There is, indeed, in this unexpected and mournful event, an anguish too deep for utterance. The erect and manly frame, which but yesterday was full of life and animation, is now lying motionless in the chill embrace of death. The eye, which a little while ago, beamed with kindness, is now closed forever. The hand we erst pressed so fondly, lies cold, stiff and lifeless. The affections which are still warm and vivid, they will not perish; but we shall no more know their exercise—we shall be cut off from all expressions and returns of their sympathy. He whom all loved and honored has taken his final leave of this vale of tears, for a brighter and a happier world. The deep and wide-spread grief occasioned by this melancholy bereavement, is visible in every countenance, and has shrouded our town in gloom and sorrow. When such men are taken from us, we are forcibly taught the instability of life, and the insecure tenure by which we hold its dearest blessings.

Mr. Muhlenberg's character needs no eulogy at our hands. As a public man, he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens to a degree that seldom is the lot of any one. His honesty, integrity and capability were universally acknowledged. In private relations of life, none ever was more beloved. His many estimable qualities of head and heart, combined with a kind and courteous demeanor, endeared him to all within the circle of his acquaintance. He was a sincere friend, a kind neighbor and hospitable citizen. His afflicted family have met with a bereavement, which can never be replaced, and our town and the State at large have sustained a loss which years cannot repair."

Peace to the memory of a man of worth.
The Reading Democrat of Sunday afternoon says:—
"The circumstances which attended this bereavement are these: Several gentlemen from abroad had been passing the last evening with Mr. Muhlenberg, at his house, where they staid until probably about ten o'clock. When they left he accompanied them to the front door, at which after they had gone, he seated himself upon a chair, as was his custom to enjoy the coolness of the night breeze. Several gentlemen who passed between that and half-past ten or later, saw him sitting there. At about eleven he was found prostrate and insensible upon the step, with his head down, stricken with APOPLEXY. Every effort that medical skill could suggest was made—but in vain. He never spoke after he was discovered, but remained insensible until he expired, which was about 4 o'clock this afternoon."

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The Philadelphia Spirit of the Times says:—
"We are told that for several days Mr. Muhlenberg has been apparently in poor health, and that the disgraceful attacks which have lately been made upon his private character by a Whig print in Reading, had worried his mind very much—not from any fear of the consequences attendant upon such slanders, but because of the shameful malignity with which they were put forth, in the town where he has spent most of his life, and where he is universally respected and beloved."

By a communication in this week's paper it will be seen, that Major Wm. L. Dewart has declined being a candidate for member of Assembly at the ensuing election. Major Dewart's reasons are patriotic, and will, no doubt, be properly appreciated by his numerous personal and political friends in this county. We know there are a number who will regret his withdrawal, but they cannot fail to appreciate his motives in thus withdrawing, in order to preserve more closely the unity of the party.

ADMITTED.—On Tuesday the 6th inst. On motion of E. Greenough, Esq., John B. Packer, Esq. was admitted to practice in the several courts in this county. We congratulate our young friend on his successful debut, and cheerfully welcome him as a member of the fraternity.

TOMATOES.—We were shown a tomatoe a few days since, presented to A. Jordan, Esq., from the garden of Mr. Peter Bileman of this place, which weighed 31 ounces.

FOR CONGRESS.—We observe a number of names announced in the Lyeonning Gazette, as democratic candidates for Congress in this, the 13th district, viz: Wm. Cox Ellis, Esq., Gen. Wm. A. Petrick and O. Watson, Esq., Gen. Fleming and James Gamble, are also spoken of in that county.

ENCAMPMENT.—There will be an encampment at Lewisburg, on the 27th inst. Thirteen companies have already signified their willingness to attend. Judging from the military spirit of our Lewisburg friends, we have no doubt but that it will be a spirited affair.

MORE MEETINGS.—We had another whig meeting on Monday afternoon, at the Court House. The meeting was addressed by Legrand Bancroft, Esq., a standing whig orator. The meeting was but poorly attended—hardly sufficient to inspire even the enthusiastic ardor of Mr. Bancroft. The orator was not as successful, or as happy in his efforts as expected—even his political friends felt that it was something of a failure. As for ourselves, we have no objections to meetings occasionally, but we are among those who think that there can be too much even of a good thing.

On the same evening a democratic meeting was assembled at the Court House. Jno. Porter, Esq. came forward to address the audience, stating that the patriotism and justice of the Democratic cause induced him to raise his "feeble voice" in support of the measures of the party in the contest now going on. Mr. Porter during his speech related several anecdotes, and was loudly and almost incessantly cheered by the audience.

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—We regret to state that Joseph Weaver, son of Henry Weaver of Rush township, a young man about 18 years of age, was killed on Friday the 9th inst, by the explosion of the cylinder of a thrashing machine. He was engaged in thrashing for Mr. Peter Haughawatt, when the explosion took place, about 3 o'clock. A part of the cylinder struck his leg, which completely mashed the bone and lacerated the flesh from his ankle up to his hip. A deep hole was also found above the hip, caused, as supposed, by a piece of the castings. Several Physicians were sent for, but were not able to afford any help to the unfortunate sufferer, who insisted, however, on having his leg amputated. This, at his earnest request, was accomplished, but he died before the operation was entirely completed. Accidents of this kind have become so frequent, that more than ordinary caution should be used.

The Danville Democrat says "The Whigs don't count the numbers any longer, at their gatherings in the South and West, but measure them by the acre." We should think so, judging from the estimates recently made by the "Democrat" and other Whig editors in this neighborhood. For instance, the Democrat says some 1500 to 2000 Claymen were assembled at Lewisburg, at the Whig meeting, a few weeks since. The Miltonian has the number at 1,000. Yet, strange as it may appear, respectable Whigs who attended that meeting, both from this place and Milton, state, that on counting them, the number was 584. Here, it seems, the Miltonian has multiplied by 2, whilst the Danville Democrat, a still greater proficient in mathematics, multiplies by 4. The same editors would fain make the people believe that at the Great Mass Meeting at Northumberland, there were not more than from 15 to 2000. Is it surprising that people should have but little confidence in newspaper assertions, with such facts staring them in the face? Now, we think this perversion of truth but a small business at best, by the editors of either party, doing no good and yet calculated to do much harm, by impairing the public confidence in the Press. We stated that the number attending the Northumberland Mass Meeting to be between 3 and 4,000, and we believe that we were substantially correct. We know some of our prints made the number from 4 to 7,000. They may have been mistaken, but such mistakes should be avoided, if for nothing else, at least for the credit of the Press.

GOV. PORTER AND THE PARDONING POWER.—By a report made by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the Senate, on the 22d of February, 1843, (see Senate Journal, 1843, volume 1, p. 453,) it appears that the following is the relative number of pardons granted, up to that period, by each successive administration, viz:—

By Thomas Mifflin,	9 years	611 pardons
Thomas M'Kean,	9 "	1061 "
Simon Snyder,	9 "	990 "
William Findlay,	3 "	431 "
Joseph Heister,	3 "	303 "
John A. Shultz,	6 "	724 "
George Wolf,	6 "	424 "
Joseph Ritner,	3 "	79 "
David R. Porter,	4 "	239 "

So much has been said of the abuse of the Pardoning Power, by Governor Porter, that one would have supposed that he had exercised that power to a greater degree than all his predecessors together. The above statement, however, shows that he has granted fewer pardons, with one exception, than any other Governor of Pennsylvania.

ABOUT THE TARIFF.—Here is a gem from Mr. Clay:—
"Let me not be misunderstood, let me entreat that I may not be misrepresented. I am not advocating the revival of a WHIG PROTECTIVE TARIFF. I am for abiding by the principles of the COMPROMISE ACT."

And that is what the whigs call protection to American manufactures.

FOR THE AMERICAN.
H. B. MASSER, Esq.—SIR: Through the kindness of some of my friends, my name has been placed before the people of this County as a candidate for the Legislature. It is all important that there should be no discussion in the party this fall. Our principles are at stake, and it is the duty of every member of the party to yield his own individual wishes and personal preferences to the good of the cause. There are a number of other gentlemen named for this office, and for the purpose of obtaining harmony I have determined to decline being a candidate. To those friends who have brought me out and supported me thus far, I return my warmest thanks, and I sincerely hope they will appreciate my motive in declining the honor intended, and believe that I am actuated solely by a desire to preserve union and harmony in the party.

Very respectfully yours,
W. L. DEWART.
Sunbury, August 12th, 1844.

MISCELLANY,

Editorial, Condensed and Selected.
By the new route from New York to Boston one may breakfast at one city, and sup in the other quite comfortably. These railroads move distant cities quite near to each other.

Foster, of the Pittsburg "Spirit of the Age," convicted of libel on a Judge, has obtained a reversion of judgment in his case.

It is estimated by a New York contemporary that John Jacob Astor is worth \$29,000,000.

The gin drankin England and Wales annually amounts to nearly £20,000,000 sterling.

There was a great storm in the eastern part of Dauphin county, on the 7th inst. Near Hummelstown, on the farm of Mr. Landis, four trees were struck with lightning, and twenty sheep, which were under one of the trees, killed out of a flock of 21—only one recovering.

It is stated that a movement is in progress to extend the Electric Telegraph to Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

The number of omnibuses in use in New York, is stated to be 238.

The N. O. Bulletin, a whig paper, refuses to support Mr. Clay.

A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer says a lady of his acquaintance colors wool and woollen goods blue, with *purslane*, a common garden weed—that the lady assured him it was equal in every respect to the best indigo blue.

"Abolition or Disunion" was the inscription upon one of the banners at Hingham, Mass., carried in the procession celebrating the emancipation, on the 2d inst.

It has been demonstrated that each fibre in the retina of the eye or expanded optic nerve, cannot exceed the size of the 32,400th part of a hair.

Butter is improved by working the second time after the lapse of twenty-four hours, when the salt is dissolved, and the water particles can be entirely removed.

One hundred bales of North River hay have been purchased in New York for shipment to Great Britain. This is the first shipment of hay ever made to Great Britain from this country.

The U. S. Gazette learns that the Whigs of Georgia "are working like bees." Making honey for the democracy.

A man threw a stone at a cow in Pittsburg; it glanced from her horn and put another man's eye out.

Formerly, every gold watch weighed so many carats, from which it became usual to call a silver watch a turnip.

New York is overrun with Italian beggars.

These tariff whigs are the funniest chaps in the world. In North Carolina and in Kentucky, they are running a couple of gentlemen who voted against the present tariff.

The extensive Iron Furnace near Columbia, Pa., formerly owned by Mr. Jacob Gamber, is about to be put in order and "blown in" again.

A wild hog has been caught in the woods near Lowell, Mass. He is said to be a ferocious fellow.

The Whig "Yarn" that Mr. Polk voted against the relief of the suffering poor in the district of Columbia, has bursted. He voted in favor of members giving out of their eight dollars per day instead of the people's money.

The Spirit of the Times says a bad error occurred in the U. S. Gazette of Thursday. The editor wishing to speak of Mr. Clay's dwelling, wrote down *duelling*. A decided case of absence of mind.