

The Movements of the President Elect.

Some of the newspapers are filled with accounts of the movements of the President elect, and every little incident is noted and commented upon with a degree of particularity that savors much of the fulsome and flattery with which European journals record the movements of royalty.

A Scene at Guyandot.—Among others, came the old Postmaster, who made up to the President in a very open and frank manner, offering his hand, which Col. Polk very politely received. Says the old man, addressing him, "Governor Polk, I am glad to see you, although I voted against you. I have been 26 years Postmaster at Guyandot. I sinned once, and Amos Kendall turned me out; I repented and was restored to my office. I now hold it, or shall soon do so, at your good pleasure, and am ready to yield it whenever required."

The President replied, that he considered the right of every man to his own opinion, however formed, and to think for himself, a sacred right, and therefore thought none the less of him for having voted against him; and he was ready to believe the office of Postmaster at Guyandot was in very safe hands. "But as the office of President, as well as that of Postmaster, was created by the people for their own convenience, and not for you and me, who may happen to fill them, we alone are responsible to the people, under the Constitution, for the faithful manner in which we discharge our duties." This speech, delivered by the President, seemed to strike the old Postmaster with great force. "Governor, give me your hand; them's my sentiments; and I believe in my soul if I had only seen you five minutes before the election I should have given you my vote." This caused a general laugh, in which the President cordially joined.

The old man left, expressing much satisfaction at finding the President "such a confounded clever man," as he termed it. He was soon followed by others, rather awkward-looking and uncouthly dressed, hardy mountaineers, who seemed as though they had just arrived in Guyana, as the mountain folks call the town, the "Gretna Green" between the States of Virginia and Kentucky.

They entered the cabin in Indian file, kept their hats on, which cast a shadow over their timid but healthy and honest looking faces. The foremost of the lot plucked up courage enough to approach the President, who met him more than half way, with as much ease and grace as if his visitor had been a Prince. The poor fellow was so much embarrassed, that he wholly forgot to take off his hat, which remained as fast to his head as though it had grown there. On seeing this man with his hat on, while the President was bowing to him, bare-headed, the rest of his companions cried out, "Take off your hat,"—"pull off your hat," which had no other effect than still further to bewilder the poor man, who, abruptly quitting the President, made a precipitate retreat out of the cabin, while his more assured companions set up a general twitter. The latter were then approached by the President, and each one in his turn kindly addressed by him. A little girl was led on board and conducted into the saloon to see Mrs. Polk. These presentations being over, I observed two fat, round, chubby-faced mountain boys, dressed in warm, homespun jeans. One appeared to be 7 or 8 years old, and the other ten or twelve. The latter said they were democratic boys, and called to see the President. The Colonel observing them at a distance, and guessing at their desire to see him, walked down to the cabin and affectionately took each by the hand, inquired kindly after their friends, and their place of residence, and whether they went to school. The boys looked up at him very archly, as though the President of the United States was not something besides a man. They evidently seemed to think it not impossible that they were imposed upon. The kind and civil manner in which the President approached them had the effect to put them quite at ease with themselves, when they proceeded to answer his questions with some words of advice and encouragement; the boys left, much pleased with the man who had spoken to them, but apparently not fully assured whether they had seen the President. Such small incidents show his amiable feelings and bearing.

The President looks remarkably well—appearing in good health and fine spirits. He is dressed in a suit of black broadcloth, and wears a black cloth cloak with velvet collar. He, in receiving the congratulations and cheers of the people, does so uniformly bareheaded, even on this piercing cold day, for hours together. I cannot see how he stands it, for my ears, even with head covered and coat collar closely raised around my neck, became as cold as icicles. I first saw Mrs. Polk standing in the centre of the ladies saloon. She had on a purple silk velvet hat, trimmed with satin ribbon, striped with broad reddish purple stripes, and two narrower stripes, black and white, running in parallel lines with it. She had on a large black silk velvet cloak, with large cape, bordered with fringed and tassels. She had in her hand a rich bouquet of flowers, and was engaged in animated and easy conversation with a circle of gentlemen, who had gathered round her.

A BOY OF EIGHT YEARS DUNK AND DEAD.—We learn by the Jersey City Advertiser that Martin O'Donnell, a lad of only eight years, died suddenly on Sunday morning in consequence of being excessively intoxicated the day previous, causing convulsions, and exposure.



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 1845.

V. B. PALMER, 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.

Also, at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street New York.

We are indebted to the Hon. James Buchanan of the Senate, and to Messrs. Pollock and Bidlack of the House of Representatives, and Messrs. Horton and Bright, of the Legislature for documents.

The following nominations for Associate Judges, were sent to the Senate for confirmation:

- Jonah Brewster for the county of Tioga.
Strange N. Palmer for the county of Schuylkill.
Samuel C. Bonham for the county of York.
John C. Boeher for the county of Dauphin.
Jno. Montelius for the county of Union, in the room of Geo. Schnabel, whose term of office is about to expire.

JOHN MONTELIUS has been appointed Associate Judge for Union county, in place of Hon. Geo. Schnabel, whose term of office will expire on the 27th inst. The appointment of Mr. Montelius was entirely unexpected to him, as he was no applicant. The appointment was conferred upon him by Gov. Shunk, as a reward for the patriotic stand he took during the Buckshot war, at Harrisburg, in 1839, when Messrs. Butler, Sturdevant and himself left Thaddeus Stevens' Ramp House and came into the Legislature, as organized by the democrats, and thus restored order and preserved the peace and safety of the Commonwealth. Mr. Montelius has always sustained the reputation of an honest man, and will, no doubt, make a faithful and impartial Judge.

Judge Schnabel, who retires from the Bench, leaves it with a reputation that he may well be proud of. There are few Judges in Pennsylvania who have given more general satisfaction to all parties, and we know that his loss, from a station which he so ably filled, will be generally regretted, as it will not be easily supplied.

THE POST OFFICE BILL, recently passed in the Senate, has been reported back by the House, with a recommendation that the bill heretofore reported by the committee of the House, should be substituted. It is to be regretted that the House, which professes to be the peculiarly democratic branch of the government, should pay so little attention to the wants and earnest petitions of the people. The bill reported by the House will never satisfy them, and if it ever did it would fail in accomplishing the object of its friends. Government can never expect to put down private mails by force, when it refuses to furnish the same facilities, unless at an exorbitant rate. The two cannot flourish together, and as long as private companies are willing to carry letters at six-pence, for which the government demands double and treble price, it can hardly be expected that the people will not encourage private enterprise. The friends of this important measure, one of the most important before Congress, should urge strongly its passage the present session. The interest of the people, as well as the Post-office Department itself, requires it. The abolition of the franking privilege, we presume, is the great obstacle in the way. The members of the British Parliament, and even the Queen herself yielded this privilege, in order to give the English nation a cheap postage. Is it possible that an American Congress is less magnanimous or less patriotic! The people desire it, and it is the duty of Congress to give the measure at least a trial. If they are disappointed now, they will take care to remember hereafter, those who attempt to thwart them in their purposes in order to save themselves from a small pecuniary sacrifice.

There is nothing yet known in relation to the composition of President Polk's Cabinet, further than Col. Butler of Kentucky will be appointed Secretary of War. Probably there never was a President since the days of Washington, that came into power more free and untrammelled than will Mr. Polk. Office hunting politicians, especially those who think they have a prescriptive right to all the offices, will be much disappointed. Mr. Polk has thus far pursued a course that has met the approbation of all honorable and independent men. In regard to the cabinet appointments, the Nashville Union, a kind of semi-official authority, speaking of the difficulties that Mr. Polk will encounter, says:

"In this condition of things, we should suppose that the course pursued in the late Baltimore Convention will occur to the President as furnishing to him the safest precedent. The deliberations of that body were seriously disturbed by the conflicting partialities of its delegates for different aspirants. The only remedy for this state of things was found in getting aside all the names of those supposed to be aspirants, and in selecting a man in respect to whom all could harmonize. The wisdom of the Baltimore Convention has been illustrated in the result of the election."

CUBA.—Symptoms of insurrection existed at Cuba, and great excitement against the English. Five thousand muskets were discovered secreted in the mines. The English are only waiting an opportunity to obtrude their assistance, with a view of obtaining and eventually holding on to the permanent possession of the island.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 18, 1845.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.—In the House, on the 17th, the bill for the prevention of riots occupied considerable time, and was finally passed on an amendment, confining its provisions to the City and County of Philadelphia.

In the Senate, the bill to change the seat of Justice of Columbia county, from Danville to Bloomsburg, was discussed till adjournment. After dinner it was again taken up, and debated till adjournment again. The bill puts the question to a vote of the people.

The State Treasurer furnished the following statement of the expenses of the Legislature, since 1824. The expenses in 1839, it will be seen, were swelled to \$261,000. This year, we presume, they will not exceed \$100,000, which is still too much.

Table with 2 columns: Session, Amount of Expenses. Rows include sessions from 1824-5 to 1845, fractional part, totaling \$5,592,943.47.

Mr. Gibbons offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Internal Improvements to inquire into the expediency of introducing section boats, of sixty tons burthen on the main line of our public improvements, and of establishing by law such a tariff of tolls as will secure to the main line the trade which is driven from it by the rates of toll now charged. It is contended, and we believe it is a fact, that the present high rates of toll have already diverted much of the trade into other channels. Other resolutions were adopted, calling upon the Canal Board for information as to the amount of tolls received at Northumberland, and the cost of transporting empty section boats and cars from Johnstown to Hollidaysburg.

The amendments of the House, to the bill regulating election districts, were taken up and concurred in, with a further amendment; when the amendments to the bill for the repeal of the Stay law coming up, the amendment of the House, fixing January next as the time for the bill to take effect, was modified, on motion of Mr. Sullivan, by inserting September, and a new section added, repealing so much of the act of 25th April, 1844, as authorizes the continuance of the District Court for one year, in the county of Mercer.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill for the removal of the seat of Justice of Columbia county, which, after much debate and amendment, passed second reading, and was ordered to be transferred for a third.

The bill relative to bail and attachments, requiring bail absolute for costs in cases of appeals and for debt, interests and costs on stay of executions, passed second reading and was ordered to be transferred.

The bill extending the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace to demands founded on judgments of Justices of adjoining States, was then taken up and passed finally.

Mr. Horton, on the 15th, in the Senate, reported a bill to amend the Militia Laws.

In the House, Mr. Cooper offered a Joint resolution providing for an amendment to the Constitution, to elect members of the Assembly for two years and Senators for four, and that the legislature hold its sessions once in two years. This, of course, was passed.

Mr. Burnside presented a petition, signed by 154 ladies of Milton, for a change in the license law. The ladies of Milton are great on Tea and Temperance. We fear, however, their prayers will all be in vain, notwithstanding the number of bachelors in the Legislature, who are always ready to listen to the petitions and solicitations of ladies upon any subject but that of matrimony.

CABINET MAKING.—The following is among the last rumors: Secretary of State, Mr. Buchanan; Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Bancroft; Secretary of War, Gov. Marcy; Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Mason; Postmaster General, Mr. Saunders, and Attorney General, Mr. Walker.

A NEW PLAN for taking the 'yeas' and 'nays' in deliberative bodies, has been invented by means of keys and wires, commencing from the members desks to the clerks table.

Tax on Personal and Real Estate.

The Philadelphia Ledger says, we have compiled from official papers the following tabular statement of the assessed valuation of all property, trades, professions, &c., made taxable for State purposes, the amount of tax assessed, the amount received at the State Treasury, the amount outstanding, together with the amount of appropriations to Common Schools, from January 1st, 1844, to December 31st, 1844.

Table with 6 columns: Counties, Valuation, Tax Assessed, Received, Outstanding, School appropriations. Lists counties from Adams to York, with corresponding financial data.

The tax outstanding exhibits the gross amount, and is subject to exonerations and commissions to collectors and county treasurers, for four years. It was found impossible, from the imperfect reports of county auditors, to show the net amount of this item; but from the best data which can be collected, it would seem that about 8 per centum of the amount of tax assessed is a fair average of the allowances to be made for its collection. Assuming this to be correct, the net amount outstanding on the 1st day of January, 1845, was \$90,639.16, embracing, of course, the balance unpaid of the assessment for the year 1844. From the 1st to the 25th inst., both inclusive, there have been received at the State Treasury, on account of State tax, amounts from the several counties reducing the outstanding tax, on the 25th January, 1845, to the net amount of \$24,841.89.

Some counties, it will be seen, have paid up nearly in full, while others are sadly deficient. In many the amount received from the State for School appropriations is greater than the taxes paid.

NEW COUNTIES.—There are now before the State Legislature applications for ten new counties in Pennsylvania.

RIGHT.—We learn that it is the intention of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company to gradually substitute Iron Bridges, in place of the present wooden superstructures.

MR. POLK'S RESPECT FOR THE SABBATH.—On leaving Cincinnati, Mr. Polk remarked that he intended to spend the following Sabbath in Wheeling; for, said he, "it will neither comport with my convenience, nor inclination, to travel, or to receive company, on that day." At Wheeling a crowd assembled about the hotel, and were urgent to see Mr. P., but he sent them word that it was not convenient for him to see them on that day. (Sunday) but that he would see them on the next day.

GOOD EXAMPLE.—The western correspondent of the Journal of Commerce says:—"The President is very temperate in all things. I have not seen him taste a drop of any thing since he has been on his journey, but cold water. His example has had a great effect on this boat, for not a drop of liquor of any kind has appeared on our table since leaving Cincinnati."

BISHOP O'NDERDON.—The report of the Standing Committee of Bishop O'nderdon's diocese, has been published in a pamphlet. The committee consists of Chief Justice Jones, Murry Hoffman and Guilan C. Verplanck—and the decision is that Bishop O. is still a Bishop—that he has not been degraded or deposed from his Diocese, or order; and that the Standing Committee, under the suspension, has become the regularly constituted ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese.

TEXAS.—The Charleston Mercury suggests that in case the Texas Resolutions should be defeated in the Senate, the President elect should immediately call an Extra Session of Congress to settle, or at least keep alive, the question.

IRON.—There are several iron works in Pennsylvania which turn out a very fine article of railroad iron, one establishment furnishing one hundred and twenty-five tons a week of H and T rails. They furnish this species at \$50 per ton—about \$15 more than the price of the English article.

AMERICAN SAWS are sold in Sheffield, England, under the noses of the manufacturers of that country. The Sheffield Mercury, speaking of the fact, says:—

"But there have been not a few observers shrewd and interested enough to notice particularly, that saws of all sorts, from the largest circular to the smallest web, are especially mentioned among the leading articles of manufacture, thus corroborating the correctness of the statements we have often incidentally made as to the great and successful efforts that are made to rival us in this important class of articles by the manufacturers of the U. States."

CHINA MISSION.—Seventy thousand dollars, it is said, will be about the cost of the China mission.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

From the Phil. Ledger.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1845.

Our political circles continue to be agitated by the apprehensions and hopes of those who either expect or desire to exercise a controlling influence during the next four years, and public anxiety appears to increase, just in the ratio that the Presidential oracle inclines to prudence and reserve. Mr. Polk is still uncommitted as to a single Cabinet appointment, notwithstanding the ingenious efforts of the most skillful tacticians to elicit something of a positive or tangible construction.

Since the foundation of the Government, there has never been manifested, perhaps, so remarkable a degree of caution in State affairs as Mr. Polk has exercised throughout; and if any man has been trusted or condescended to as to the organization of the Cabinet, he certainly deserves to be canonized as the political Harpocrates of this age—for no such example is to be found in the whole history of our Republic. Heretofore State secrets escaped in some way, through the confidential depositaries, whether by leakage or otherwise, remains yet to be ascertained; but they did certainly take wings and circulate through the political atmosphere. Now, everthing is tight as the centre of a stone is solid and as confused and conjectural as chaos itself. To those who enjoy the most intimate confidence and intercourse with Mr. Polk he has not revealed one syllable of his purposes, and they who journeyed with him from Tennessee are as ignorant upon the construction of the administration as we are who have been speculating ever since the result of the election. This will furnish an idea of the vast confusion that prevails, and of the authenticity of the reports that will be spread with complaisant solemnity and assurance.

If Mr. Polk has arrived at any determination as to his Cabinet, those who are most likely to fill seats, who attract most of public attention and are regarded as the friends of the party, are entirely uninformed of the fact, and in this regard may rely with the most implicit confidence. In this strange maze and doubt, I am unable to present any thing definite concerning the new Cabinet. For the State Department, there are two leading and contending interests, Mr. Walker and Mr. Buchanan, and the only serious difficulty in the choice of the latter, consists in his unequivocal adhesion to a Tariff policy, higher than is acceptable to Mr. Polk personally, than would be countenanced in his Executive recommendations.

Mr. Woodbury's friends are pressing him with some zeal, too, for this appointment, and there is a prevailing opinion that he would accept of the Treasury without hesitation. My impression is, however, that Mr. Polk will avoid any selections from among those who have been connected with former administrations, and will proceed to construct a government of new and vigorous materials, and very probably, of a far different character from that generally credited by the public. As to all this matter, the mind of the President is unsettled, and will be balanced only by merits.

For the second post in the Administration, the Treasury, there are numerous aspirants, backed by legions of friends, who are hold in thrust their views upon other people's attention, as most assiduous in singing praises to the merits of their candidates. In addition to those named, a former letter, Governor Marcy, of New York and Mr. Bancroft, of Massachusetts, are mentioned. They are both on the ground, and the latter probably at the request of Mr. Polk, in view of the view to appointment, certainly without conference. Attempts are making to give Mr. Robert Rantoul, the rejected Collector of Boston, some consequence as a competitor for Cabinet nomination, but his pretensions, when compared with others, are so inconsiderable, that they may not be considered in any serious light. If the East is connected with the administration, it will be most likely in the person of Mr. Woodbury or Mr. Bancroft.

I can't well see how Col. Butler and Cav. Johnson can both go into the Cabinet. They are from adjoining States, which voted for Mr. Clay and such a course would be bestowing an undue influence upon the West. From what I can glean of reason amongst those surrounding mists, an gather of the desires and prospects of those interested, it strikes me that the Johnson interest will eventually succeed for the Cabinet, and Col. Butler be chosen for the mission to Mexico. This, however, is only surmise, based upon plausible premises.

The nomination of Mr. Adams for the India Agency of Michigan, was laid upon the table at the last Executive session of the Senate, which tantamount to a rejection.

The rumor of the day is that the Madisonian will be selected as the organ of Mr. Polk, and be placed under the superintendence of Mr. Harris late of the Union, and other competent persons to the exclusion of the present editor. I am aware that Mr. John Jones has denied the reports in this respect on several occasions, but he has left quite room enough still for an arrangement of this sort, and as his paper has chiefly relied for its support upon Government patronage and the involuntary tribute of officials, it can hardly conceive that he would object to a beneficial transfer, or hesitate to make a good bargain for the unprofitable glory of writing politics with the ink of poverty.

Letters have been received to-day stating that Gen. Cass will reach here on Tuesday, and it is intimated in consequence, that Mr. Polk will delay positive action for his advice upon the Cabinet.

Gen. Armstrong, the Postmaster at Nashville, and one of Mr. Polk's most confidential intimates, has arrived. He is beset on all hands, and is talked of for every good office in the gift of the President.

RUMOR.—It is rumored that Mr. Gardner, the President's brother-in-law, is to marry the President's daughter.