

Vice President's Address to the Senate.

SENATORS:—In directing the Vice President to preside at the deliberations of this body, the constitution of our country assigns to him a sphere and duty alike eminent and grateful.

Without any of the cares of real power, with none of the responsibilities of legislation, except in rare conjuncture, he is associated with the dignified delegates of republican sovereignties; he is posted by the entire American people in your confederated council, partly it would seem, as an organ of Freedom's fundamental principle of Order, and partly, perhaps, as a mere symbol of that more popular and "more perfect union" on which depend the blessings of our Peace, Independence and Liberty.

No one, gentlemen, can appreciate more highly or recognize more deferentially, than does the incumbent of this chair, the powers, privileges, and rules or forms of the Senate of the United States. To maintain these unimpaired and unrelaxed, he feels to be an official duty, second in impressive obligation only to his Constitutional allegiance.

The citizen whom it has pleased a people to elevate by their suffrages, from the pursuits of private and domestic life, may best evince his grateful sense of the honor thus conferred, by devoting his faculties, moral and intellectual, resolutely to their service.

And thus, gentlemen, while aiming frankly and impartially to exercise the functions of an unaccustomed station in the spirit of the constitution, for the enlarged and lasting purposes of a reverend country, and with sincere and good-will toward all, I may cherish the encouraging hope of being able, with the assent of an indulgent Providence, at once to perform my duty, and to attract your confidence.

THE LEAD CAVES OF MISSOURI.—The Cincinnati Chronicle says—Our country is as great in caves as it is in mountains and rivers. Among these the most remarkable are the recently discovered lead caves of Missouri.

1st Cave, 30 feet by 30  
2d do 25 do 50  
3d do 40 do 70  
4th do 25 do 30  
5th has been explored only partially.

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CAUSES OF INSANITY.—In a report of one of the public institutions for the insane, we find, among the supposed causes of insanity, the following:—Millarism, 8 men and 5 women; disappointment in love, 9 men and 4 women; political excitement, 5 men; Fourierism, 1 man; preaching 16 days and nights, 1 man; study of phrenology, 1 man. Of 551 patients, insanity commenced in 130 between the ages of 20 and 25.

SMOKING HAMs.—Hams are very effectually preserved from the attacks of the fly, while their quality is not at all injured, by throwing red pepper upon the fire in the smoke house, during the latter part of the operation.

THE WHEAT INSECT.—A correspondent of the New York Mirror gives the following account of an occurrence which came under his own notice, and which may serve to throw some light upon the nature and character of that plague of farmers, the wheat insect.

"In the spring of 1844, I placed a bag containing half a bushel of white flint wheat in a seed drawer, under glass, and near the furnace of my green house. On the 6th of March, 1845, I opened the bag, and to my surprise, found thousands of living insects, such as are now presented to you—some were on the point of leaving the kernel, others were just commencing to eat through, and many were perfectly formed, and running about in all directions. Six years ago, I was in the habit of soaking my early grains in salt brine, for the purpose of destroying the egg of the insect, which I assured my neighbors, much to their amusement and unbelief was enclosed in the kernel. Now, by accident, the fact is made manifest. The insect would not have appeared until June, perhaps, had the wheat been sown. The warm situation which it occupied in the greenhouse brought it thus early to maturity."

A NUNNERY, or Seminary for the "Ladies of the Sacred Heart," is about to be constructed at Montreal, to aid in spreading Roman Catholic doctrines among the Protestant children of British settlers. The French Canadian papers are delighted with the idea.

These ladies now reckon no less than 60 establishments of their order in different parts of the world, viz: 1 in France, 4 in and near Paris, 3 in and near Lyons, 12 in Italy, 2 in Switzerland, 1 in Poland, 2 in England, 1 near London, and one near Bath, 1 in Ireland, 1 in Belgium, 1 in Africa, 9 in the United States, and 1 in Canada.

THREE CHILDREN FROZEN TO DEATH.—A touching incident is thus related by the Auxilium Breton: "During the last few days of cold three young children of the town of Baines had been sent out by their parents to gather dead wood. These poor infants lost themselves in the wood, and night came on without their having been able to find their road. The eldest, scarce six years old, sought some shelter, and there huddled up his little brothers; he then stripped himself of his waistcoat, and covered them with it, and made them a rampart from the cold with his body. It was in this condition that they were found the next morning, all three frozen to death."

WATER MILLS ON THE DANUBE.—The editor of the Savannah Republican, in one of his letters from abroad, says that below Presburg, the Danube spreads out into one broad expanse, with flat uninteresting banks, which are sometimes faced with stone to control the vagaries of the capricious and changing current. A few miles below Presburg begin the water mills, which occur at intervals of a few miles on almost every part of the lower Danube. These mills are formed of two boats moored in the river, in the direction of the stream, on each of which rests one end of a large water wheel that revolves with the current. In each boat is a small house, one of which is the dwelling of the miller and his family, while the other is the mill. Often forty or fifty of these mills may be seen near the same place, and when they occur together they are generally moored in echelon, so that no one is immediately in the rear of the other. It is a pleasing thing on rushing down the mighty stream in a scambat to hear the peaceful clack of these mills—the only sound breaking the solitude that reigns around. It is a curious fact that, until a very recent date, the only use these waters were made to subservise, was the turning of the mills. The Romans knew more about the river and made more use of it than the inhabitants of Modern Europe, up to the beginning of this century.—Bicknell's Reporter.

HOW TO BE WAITED UPON.—The following story, from the Mirror, may be called the last Yankee trick: "We heard a story worth recording, a Yankee variation of an expedient tried some years ago by an Englishman at Saratoga. John Bull, in that instance, after calling in vain to the flying attendants at the crowded table, splashed a handful of silver into his plate and handed it to a waiter, with a request for 'a clean plate and some soup.' A Massachusetts Judge, probably remembering this, drew a gold piece from his pocket last week while sitting hungry at the stripped table at Washington, and tapping his tumbler with it till he attracted attention, laid it beside his plate, and pointed to it while he mentioned what he wanted. He was miraculously supplied of course, but when he had nothing more to ask, he politely thanked the waiter, and returned the gold piece to his own pocket!"

A gentleman was lately inquiring for a young lady of his acquaintance. "She is dead," very gravely replied the person to whom he addressed his inquiries. "Good God! I never heard of it—what was her disease?" "Vanity," replied the other; she buried herself alive in the arms of an old fellow of seventy, with a fortune, in order to have the glorious satisfaction of a glided tomb!"

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THE AMERICAN. Saturday, March 15, 1845.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Horton, Eyer, Bright and Lauman, of the Legislature, and Messrs. Buchanan, Billack, Pollock and others, of Congress, for documents.

WE have had several falls of snow this week, making the roads very bad.

THE Susquehanna is in fine order, and for the last week has been covered with rafts and arks, on their way to market.

THE SPRING ELECTIONS.—The election for Justices of the Peace, Constables, Judges of elections, &c., will take place on the 21st inst. There are a number of candidates before the people, from which to select good officers.

UNITED STATES SENATOR.—It affords us great pleasure in saying that General SIMON CAMERON has been elected U. S. Senator, in the place of the Hon. James Buchanan, appointed Secretary of State, in the Cabinet of Mr. Polk. Gen. Cameron is a gentleman of talent, and a strong advocate of the Tariff.

DEPUTY SURVEYOR.—Abraham Shipman, Esq., of Augusta, has been appointed Deputy Surveyor, for this county. The appointment is a good one. Mr. Shipman is not only a man of excellent character, but also a firm, unwavering democrat.

THE bell of the new Presbyterian Church, in Northumberland, can be heard in this place, on a calm evening, almost as distinctly as one of our own. Our neighbors have reason to be proud of one great belle, at all events.

WE have received the first number of the "Weekly Recorder," a new paper just started at Selingsgrove, Union county, by Mr. Peter Fisher. It is neutral in politics. Mr. Fisher served part of his apprenticeship in this office. We wish him all success in this new and rather hazardous enterprise.

THE "Fulton Herald" is a new paper published at Fulton, Miss., by E. Y. Carr & Wm. Shannon. Mr. Shannon was formerly of this place, and is a son of the late Sheriff, James R. Shannon.

THE LYCOMING GAZETTE, of last week, says they received, on Thursday evening last, the only two copies of the Inaugural Address that reached that place, and adds:—

By this marked attention, we are enabled to spread this highly interesting document before a portion of our readers this (Friday) afternoon, in advance of our contemporaries of this and adjoining counties."

IN order to convince the editor that there are some few smart folks out of Williamsport, we shall only mention that we struck off a few copies of the Inaugural on Thursday evening, and sent several by mail that night to contemporaries of adjoining counties."

THE COURT HOUSE.—The Bar in our Court House has been entirely remodelled and enlarged. The Bench occupied by the Judges has been widened and extended. The railing and panel work around the Bar is now about three and a half feet high, affording a free circulation of air in the winter, as well as air in the summer season. The Grand Jury will now occupy three seats, running parallel from the Bench, about twelve feet in length, on the right of the Judges and outside of the railing of the Bar. The Jurors will, therefore, enter the boxes without interfering with the Bar. The Traverse Jury will occupy a similar position on the left, with two spaces for chairs, equal in width to the three Grand Jury boxes. The Bar extends out about five feet beyond the Jury boxes, and is nearly square, with about three feet of the corners cut off. Inside the bar, on the right, there will be a long table parallel with the Jury boxes. On the left there will be two circular tables, to be occupied by counsel, engaged in trying causes. The Prothonotary's desk will occupy the old place, but sideways to the Court, and with his back to the Grand Jury. The desk of the Orphan's Court Clerk on the opposite side. The whole has been admirably arranged for the convenience and comfort of the Bench, Bar and Jury, and reflects the highest credit on the commissioners and the committee of arrangement. It is proper to say that the dry rot had completely destroyed the sleepers of the floor, and that nothing but a few boards running under the Judges Bench prevented the floor going down.

TAXES.—The proceedings before the Board of Revenue Commissioners shew some strange things. For instance, the tax in this county on trades and occupations, it is said, amounts to over \$800. In Columbia county something over \$300, and in Lycoming, to just nothing at all. The tax raised on watches, in Berks county, is put down at \$7,338; in Allegheny \$531.50, and in Chester only \$120. Allegheny and Chester counties contain almost as large a population as Berks. We have but little confidence in the measures of the Board. According to the valuations fixed by the Commissioners and others, property in this county is valued about the same as that of Lancaster county, and yet, any man who has any knowledge on the subject, knows that land, generally, in Lancaster county, will sell readily at prices double the amount, of land in this.

THE nomination of Mr. Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy, has been confirmed without serious opposition.

TAXES ON STATE STOCKS.—Messrs. Cooper and Trego, of the Committee on Ways and Means, have made a minority report adverse to taxing State Stocks. That Foreign and other stockholders, when receiving dividends on their stocks, should contribute as well as others from their annual income, is a principle of equity that must be obvious to all. The farmer, who lays out a thousand dollars in land, which yields him, with his labor, from three to six per cent, must, of course, pay his tax on that amount, while the money lender, it seems, who invests his thousand in State Stocks, is receiving from five to six per cent, without performing any labor whatever, asks to be exempted from this burden. The report, however, attempts to draw a distinction between the two classes, and argues thus:—

"It is urged in substance by the majority, that the commonwealth, in all the tax laws which she has passed, has exercised the same power which is claimed for her now. It is said that lands, which are the subject of taxation, were sold by her, and that the present proprietors hold of her, or under her, by virtue of a contract, the consideration of which was the money originally paid by the purchasers; and that, notwithstanding such contract, the lands have always been taxed for the support of Government."

This is undoubtedly true, but the cases are widely different. It is a part of the compact between the government and people always and everywhere that the latter should contribute to the support of the former. This obligation of the people enters into and forms a part of the price they pay for protection, and the Government has a right to exact it. But the Government has no right to compel lands, either from her own citizens or strangers. When she places herself in the attitude of a borrower, she is more of a suppliant than a sovereign, and the contract she makes as such is obligatory upon her as she were a mere private person. Her sovereignty gives her no exemption; and the constitution of the United States declares that she shall not, by any exercise of the legislative power, discharge herself from the obligation of her contract."

It is surprising that men of their talents and understanding should resort to arguments so fallacious and untenable. Whoever heard of the Government compelling loans from citizens or strangers? And that the Government has been a suppliant, is as groundless as "the baseless fabric of a vision." Who does not recollect what a rush there used to be for the stock, and the speculations that were made, by management, in procuring it. In England, where they understand the subject of taxation better than in any other country, foreign as well as other stockholders of their enormous public debt, pay a tax on the same. They are taxed upon the principle that they are bound to contribute to the support of the government, which protects their property; for a government bond is just as much property as any other personal property can be. The tax thus received will amount to nearly \$100,000 per annum, and assist greatly in paying the interest of our public debt.

CANAL COMMISSIONER.—A large meeting was held at Bloomsburg, on the 27th ult., for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend the Convention at Harrisburg, to nominate a Canal Commissioner. Daniel Snyder, Esq., presided at the meeting. Jas. S. Munroe was appointed the Representative delegate, and A. Beaumont, of Luzerne, the Senatorial delegate, with instructions to support Col. HENRY C. EYER, for Canal Commissioner.

MISS DIX, who is a lady of some fortune, and sister to Mr. Dix, U. S. Senator from New York, in her praiseworthy and humane efforts in behalf of the insane, visited every Jail, Hospital and Almshouse in the State, excepting one or two. She speaks of the Jail in this place, and pays Sheriff Maurer the compliment of keeping it in decent order, which is more than can be said of most of our prisons.

"NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY JAIL, in Sunbury, was in decent order. I found no prisoners, but learned that this prison was subject to all the objections which apply to the majority of county prisons. The prisoners were well supplied at their meals from the keeper's table, as I was told. This county has no poor house; the poor are distributed in the several townships as conveniently and economy may determine. I learned from a medical practitioner, and others, that there were in the county many cases of insanity, urgently claiming appropriate care; but the entire number of idiots, epileptics, and insane, I could not learn. Many suffer from absolute neglect, and some become, it is feared, incurable through want of remedial treatment."

TICKLE ME AND I'LL TICKLE YOU.—The Harrisburg papers, of both parties, are engaged writing short sketches of the characters of the members of the Legislature. According to those sketches we have the congregated wisdom and virtue of the whole State assembled within the four walls of the Capitol. It appears there is not a man among the one hundred and thirty three who is not distinguished for something.

SUSQUEHANNA PRODUCE.—The first consignment of Susquehanna produce reached Baltimore on Friday; about 1800 barrels of flour, to Messrs. Hazlehurst and Walters.

COAL TRADE.—The whole amount of coal from the Schuylkill region, from the 1st of January till the present time is 59,985 tons.

IMPROVED CANAL BOAT.—An improved canal boat, avoiding the burden of steam engine, and worked by horse power on its decks, has been invented and patented by Messrs. Delvan & Richards, machinists and boat builders of Reading. A boat with the improvement is in progress of erection at that place, and will be tested in the course of the summer.

ACTS OF CONGRESS.—The session of Congress just closed passed seventy-nine acts and sixteen joint resolutions. The acts of general importance which were passed have already been mentioned. The other acts are for the relief of individuals and for local purposes.

COMING.—Fresh shad are served up in Baltimore daily.

RESIGNATION OF MR. BUCHANAN.—The following message was received by the Legislature on the 5th inst., from the Executive:—

Executive Chamber, }  
March 8, 1844. }

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Gentlemen—the Hon. James Buchanan, having accepted the office of Secretary of State of the United States, has forwarded to me his resignation as one of the Senators of Pennsylvania in the Senate of the United States, a copy of which I have the honor herewith to transmit to the Legislature, that the vacancy may be supplied agreeably to law.

(Signed) FRANCIS R. SHUNK. [COPY.]

WASHINGTON, 5th March, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR.—Having accepted the office of Secretary of State, to which I have been called by President Polk, I now respectfully tender to you my resignation as one of the Senators of Pennsylvania, in the Senate of the United States, and request that you may communicate the same to the Legislature.

In thus severing the bonds which have so long bound me to the Legislature and people of Pennsylvania, I cannot, in view of their past kindness, repress the rising emotions of my heart. My gratitude shall terminate only with my existence; and my anxious desire to retain their approbation shall animate my future exertions to deserve it on the new theatre of duty to which I have been called. Imploping the blessing of Heaven upon my efforts, I humbly trust, that during the remainder of my public life, I shall not disgrace the glorious old Commonwealth which gave me birth, and has ever treated me with parental kindness. With sentiments of the highest respect, I remain sincerely your friend, JAMES BUCHANAN.

ELECTIONS.—The annual election in New Hampshire took place on the 11th inst. Four members of Congress and a Governor were chosen. John H. Steele, the former Governor, was the Democratic candidate for re-election.

In Rhode Island, the annual election comes off on the 2d of April, and is for Governor and two members of Congress. James Fenner, the present incumbent, is the Law and Order candidate for the gubernatorial chair.

The election in Connecticut, for Governor and four members of Congress, will be held on the 7th of April.

In Virginia, on the 17th of April, fifteen members of Congress and the Legislature are to be chosen.

A correspondent of the Boston Atlas, dated London, Feb. 3, says: "Autographs are highly valued in this country, and even at an auction sale they often command very high prices. There was a large sale, last week, of autograph letters and historical documents, at Fletcher's, in Piccadilly. Out of several hundred lots of autographs of sovereigns, noblemen, statesmen, and literary characters, it is a proud fact, that an autograph letter of Washington's commanded a higher sum than any other autograph letter! For example, a letter of Shennstone's, the poet, brought thirteen shillings—one of Dr. Franklin's brought thirty three shillings—two letters in the handwriting of Mrs. Jordan, brought only seven shillings—while one letter in that of Clas. James Fox brought only eight shillings, and one of Canning's letters brought the same sum. Autographs of George II., III., and IV., brought from seven to fourteen shillings—and one of 'Marye the Queen' brought twenty-two shillings. Sir Walter Scott's autograph brought eight shillings. The grand lot of all, No. 100, commanded a much higher sum. This lot was thus described in the catalogue: 'A letter of the celebrated GEORGE WASHINGTON, dated Fairfax, county of Virginia, June 24, 1771.' There was a spirited competition for this lot, which was finally sold for two pounds and five shillings. It is remarkable that the letter of an American President should command a higher sum than the autographs of British Kings and Statesmen! This simple incident shows, in some degree, the high estimation of Washington among Englishmen."

AN EARLY CALL.—Mr. Marcy took charge of the War Department on Saturday. He was scarcely in his place when he received a visit from an applicant, of whom the correspondent of the Baltimore Sun gives the following account: "Yesterday a young man stepped into this Department, and assuming an air of importance, seated himself at one of the tables, and asked one of the clerks, 'Well! is your new man come in yet?' The clerk replied that Gov. Marcy had not yet entered the Department. 'Hem!' said the youngster, 'I'm an applicant for office. I'm from the same town he is—he used to be in favor of superscription, and I believe he is in favor of superscription now; my papers are before the President, and if there is any superscription I shall get an office—that I shall.'

COTTON MANUFACTURE AT PITTSBURG.—The Pittsburg Gazette notices the formation in that city of a company for cotton manufacturing on an extensive scale. (They will run 6000 spindles and 225 looms, weaving all their yarn.) Another cotton mill will be built as soon as practicable, for spinning and weaving—the foundations, 100 by 70 feet, are already laid. This will be the seventh, besides one idle.

OHIO BANKING LAW.—It is stated that there are to be seven new banks under the Ohio Banking law; one in Cincinnati, two at Columbus, two at Cleveland, and two at Zanesville, all independent. The Bank of Ohio, it is said, will never go into operation.

The manufacture of Britannia Ware is about to be commenced in Albany, by a wealthy house of that city.

The Ice trade at St. Louis is quite lively. The article sells at from \$4 50 to \$5 50 per ton.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

HARRISBURG, March 10th.

A resolution passed the House this morning, instructing the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform to inquire into the expediency of allotting the public works, by sections, to the lowest and best bidder.

In the Senate, Mr. Sullivan reported as a reform measure, a bill to reduce the session to 60 days, and to alter the constitution so that it will conform to the bill for the election of President and Vice President on the same day.

The House Resolutions, providing for the election of U. S. Senator on Thursday, was concurred in. The bill providing for a Reporter of decisions of the Supreme Court, was reported, amended, from the Judiciary Committee. The bill for an Out-Let Lock at Black's Eddy, was reported from the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Champeys reported from the Committee on Education, a bill requiring children applying for admission to the Schools hereafter, to be at least 6 years of age.

On motion of Mr. Crabb, the Finance Committee was instructed to report upon the expediency of reporting a bill requiring the State Treasurer to give monthly reports of the receipts and expenses of the State.

CALIFORNIA.—The Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce says:—"There is now a fair prospect that we shall acquire California by Treaty. The Whig party will commence the new movement for this object, by way of a set-off against Texas. The possession of California will be as valuable to us as that of Texas, and it can be, and probably will be, acquired by Treaty. A joint resolution will be introduced, in Executive session, it is said, by Mr. Archer, requesting the President to open a negotiation with Mexico for the settlement of the boundary between the United States and Mexico, and also for obtaining indemnity from that Government for spoiliations of American commerce and outrages on American citizens. Mexico will be expected, of course, to give up the California, in part pay."

THE FAR WEST.—It is almost inconceivable with what rapidity the people of the country are moving towards the Far West. The Western Journal of the 15th ultimo gives the returns of an election in Platt county, on the west line of Missouri, at which two thousand votes were polled, giving a population of more than ten thousand. This county cannot be found on the most modern maps. Yet this Platt county is filled up with a dense population, and a line of four horse post coaches runs from St. Louis to Weston. Towns and cities rise in the West, literally, as if under magic influence. Such are the effects of free institutions, applied to a fertile country.

WISCONSIN TERRITORY.—It is proposed to divide Wisconsin into two territories, one to be called Superior Territory, which will embrace an area of 180,000 square miles.

A STATE IN EMBRYO.—Nebraska is described by one who has often traversed it as among the most inviting regions of the far West. It is said to be perfectly healthy, and the finest grazing country on the continent.

SPLENDID PRESENT TO MR. CLAY.—A rich and beautiful plate, says the Louisville Journal of Tuesday, passed through this city last week as a present to Mr. Clay. We understand it came from New York.

MRS. TYLER has been much complimented by some of the Washington letter writers, on looking "sweetly." It is thought that life on a retired Virginia plantation will not suit her. Mrs. Polk is represented as very gay in the matter of dress, while her husband is negligent.

GOV. DOER, it is said, is at present so feeble in health as to be unable to perform any labor in the prison workshop.

Wild Pigeons, in large numbers, have made their appearance at Buffalo. For the last few days, immense flocks have been in the woods, between Cold Springs and Black Rock.

A LARGE FAMILY.—A Mrs. and Mr. Dealy of Jackson county, Missouri, have twenty-seven children.

Emigrants going into the State of Mississippi are allowed to bring their slaves with them.

SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS.—Cock-fights every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday evenings, are advertised in New Orleans.

PROGRESS OF REFINEMENT.—The Vicksburg Constitutionalist says that no smoking of cigars or pipes is permitted in any church in the city of Vicksburg!

DEMAND FOR RAILROAD IRON.—The Tribune says by reason of the great number of new Railroads in progress, both in England and in this country, the cost of their construction is materially increased. The Iron manufacturers find it as much as they can do to keep up with the demand. On the arrival of the steamer, Iron went up from 10 to 15 per cent.

LAW.—An English paper says there are now no fewer than 1450 statutes in force, and of 376 more supposed to be repealed, or obsolete, there are 142 of which no man can certainly say whether they are repealed or not. Yet we are all supposed to know the law!

SMUGGLING IN ENGLAND.—It costs £500,000 a year to put down smuggling in England, and goods, to the value of millions, are, nevertheless, smuggled there every year.

Cast Iron Monuments for the dead are made in England instead of marble and granite.