GEN. PACKER AND THE CINCINNATI PLATFORM.

The resemblance in political character, which Gen. Packer and President Buchanan bear to each other is striking in many particulars, and has been frequently made the subject of remark. Both are intensely selfish. Both are exceedingly timid.—Both are afflicted with a lamentable coldness of heart, and both are accused of losing their friends in one extremity, and abandoning them in another. But there is another and more important similarity of condition, to which we wish to direct the attention of the reader We allude to the position both occupy in regard to the famous Cincinnati Platform. It will be remembered that Mr. Buchanan merged himself in that monstrosity—became a part of it—took upon himself the inanimate qualities—and played the "dumb uncle," during the entire Presidential campaign—The enquiring people who honestly demanded a specific declaration from the candidate himself, were coolly referred to the Platform's studied ambiguities and florid generalities, as the only answer which would be vouchsafed to them. Gen. Packer in his own way, has also mixed with this identical instrument, and we notice the circumstance at this time as a matter of reference for the future. The gentleman was a delegate to the National "Democratic" Convention, which nominated Mr. Buchanan, and when the hackneied resolutions, which constitute the platform, were reported, he affected an unusual degree of enthusiasm during their reading, and finally, on behalf of the "great North," moved their adoption without the "scratching of a word, the crossing of a *t*, or the dotting of an *i*,"—(we quote his own peculiar language) This was all very well then—but we should keep a watchful eye on Mr. Packer as the campaign waxes warmer, and his condition becomes more desperate, and see that he does not fly from his position. We should remember that it was in his Assembly District, and probably under his supervision, that the "Buchanan and *Free* Kansas" handbills were circulated for the call of meetings, and it may be again convenient to ignore troublesome issues between this and the October election. At this time, it is true, when the embodiment of the platform has the bestowal of government positions and patronage, it is popular enough with the politicians, but the application of the "national sentiments" which it contains, to Kansas by Walker and Staunton, may render it obnoxious to even some of Mr Packer's new neighbors.

Even at this distance of time our Republican readers will remember with indignation the course of the Democratic politicians of certain sections of the State, who endeavored to take advantage of the anti-slavery sentiment existing among their friends, by evading the Kansas issue.—They remembered well the appeal in the "Anti-Nebraska" speech of Congressman Gamble, somewhere on the west branch of the Susquehanna, at a Buchanan meeting, where the "Border Ruffians" were denounced but Buchanan and the "democratic party" extolled. They remember, too, how small politicians laughed at the honest apprehension of the true friends of Kansas, and comfortably assured us that Buchanan, if the situation of our opponents demand such efforts on their part. Let us then, be ready for this game and in the meantime hold Mr. Packer to his unqualified endorsement of the Cincinnati platform, and suffer no more artful dodges, if we can help it. Nor should we allow minor issues to divert our attention from the great question, which should only be decided with reference to the two candidates before the people—Wilmot and Packer—*Pitts. Gaz*

Strike of Railroad Conductors.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad freight conductors are on a general strike. The Baltimore papers are full of it. The Sun remarks:

The parties engaged in resistance to the company have proceeded to the extremity of violence, and a state of open warfare now exists between the civil authority of the State, the universal rights of, society and the red hand of indiscriminate lawlessness There is no alternative now but the triumph of law and order or the temporary success of a band of outlaws We say "temporary," because at the best they can hope for nothing more Law and order—the authority of the company—must be sustained. One is identified with the other, and the whole affair is inseparable from the first principles of organized society.

The Baltimore American of Saturday says:

The more violent of the strikers joined by outside parties of riotously disposed persons, assaulted, stoned and fired at the burthen trains. One train, protected by a resolute and fully armed body of men succeeded in beating off the assailants and forcing its passage through the blockade.—Three other trains were stopped and forced to return to the city. The Company will to-day have such arrangements completed as must at once effectually suppress the insurrection, and make those who attempt to obstruct the operations of the road suffer severely for their unlawful proceedings—The Governor of the State is prepared to act in the promptest manner, bringing if necessary, a sufficient military force into requisition to crush out every attempt at riot.

New Swindle.

The Cincinnati Commercial notices the operations of a man by the name of Mathews, who pretends to have a town in Dacotah county Minnesota Territory. He has sent circulars all over the States offering give away three thousand lots in his town to any one who will make the application. He only requires one dollar, he says, to pay for the deed. It is perhaps, needless to say that it is all a swindle, and the police of Cincinnati are on the track of the fellow. He has lately received thro' the post office hundreds of letters, indeed, so extensive had his correspondence become as to excite the suspicions of the Postmaster, when the above swindle was developed. Mr. Lawrence, Postmaster at Newville in this State, says in a letter to Dr. Vattier that he alone sent the fellow thirty dollars. This kind of Swindle, we notice, is getting quite common in the East also.

THE DRED SCOTT DECISION SET ASIDE.

We have hitherto noticed the arrest of several negroes in Chicago for stealing poultry. Their counsel, on the 18th, attempted to obtain their release from custody on the ground that, under the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the famous Dred Scott case, they were merely chattels or merchandize, and not persons, as alleged in the indictment. The plea in abatement was accordingly filed, followed by a demurrer by the State's Attorney, setting forth that the plea was insufficient to "oust the said court of jurisdiction." In support of the demurrer, the State's attorney urged that, although the defendants were really and bona fide slaves, and subject to rendition to their masters, still they are reliable to be tried and punished under our local or State laws for felonies committed by them within the State. The counsel for the defence submitted the following reason why the plea should be sustained and the demurrer overruled.

1st. That however repugnant to the ideas of the people, the opinion of the Supreme Court is the law of the the land.

2d. That the demurrer admits the fact in this plea that the defendants are chattels and property.

3d. That the defendants being chattels not persons are consequently incapable of being incarcerated therefor. "A chattel cannot commit a crime—an article of merchandise cannot by and within the meaning of the law be punished, and Africans, the descendants of slaves, brought and sold, are held to be chattles and merchandise."

4th That the opinion announced in the Dred Scott case decides that no distinction exists between slaves and descendants of slaves. *and other property.*

5th. That the constitution of Illinois being a limit of power, not a grant, if the United States Constitution has declared the African race brought to this country as slaves (for none others were brought) to be property, and merchantable chattels, then the Constitution or laws of Illinois can not change that character, such State Constitution being a limit of power, and the State laws being dependent thereon for their validity, and that the constitution of the United States so declares them.

6th. That the defendants being slaves or their descendants, they cannot be held as citizens of Illinois, nor of any of the States, because by the Supreme Law they are chattels, not persons.

7th. That the State laws authorize the conviction of persons only, not property, nor can the warden of any prison hold such property in custody. "If a chattel commit a wrong act, he should be punished as a chattel, and not as a *man*. The fox that steals property cannot be indicted and punished as a man."

The Court was therefore asked to overrule the demurrer.

His Honor, Judge Wilson, however sustained the demurrer, stating that, "If Chief Justice Taney ever intended by that decision to make Africans or the descendants of Africans, so far chattels that they may appropriate other people's chattels, by larceny, without being answerable to the laws of this State or the local police regulations, then this Court does not recognize the "merchantable chattels" were placed upon trial The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

The Robber's Cave.

It has been known but to a very few persons in this city for some time, that a discovery of great wealth has been made in the interior of Kentucky, on the line of Louisville and Nashville Railroad, by a poor family who formerly lived in this city. The discovery was made by a young man while ploughing in the field, about six months since As he was plowing leisurely along, the earth suddenly gave way under his feet, and he was suddenly precipitated into an immense cavern.—Much injured by the fall, the young man in casting about him for some means whereby to get out, discovered bumbers of iron safes and strong boxes which upon investigating were found to contain gold and silver coin, jewelry and other valuable to a fabulous amount. The plantation upon which all this treasure was found does not belong to the fortunate discoverers, who only rent the property, and from motives of security they have kept the secret of their good fortune to themselves. An eminent legal gentleman of this city is about interesting himself to secure the fortunate family in the ownership of these great treasures, the result of whose labors, in connection with other particulars, we will give in a few days.—*Louisville Dem* April 14th.

—A clever hoax, no doubt.

NEVER PROCRASTINATE.—It is stated that Mr. Andrew Hoover who died so suddenly on Tuesday, left his home in the morning in fine health and spirits, casually remarking to his family that on that day his policy of life insurance would expire. His son in the course of the morning took the policy and had it renewed.—In a short time, on that very day, the father was speechless and has departed—His remark and prompt attention has saved a worthy family $5,000 —Washington Union April 23.

☞A fellow in North Carolina, having been put in jail for marrying thirteen wives recently made his escape. A gentleman afterwards recognized him, and anxious to secure the reward for his apprehension, invited him to dinner, and then slyly slipped out in pursuit of a constable; but great was his horror on his return to find that the culprit had absconded with his own wife

——Secret Societies of all kinds are said to be increasing in France the aims of which are supposed to be political and their existence is said to be very annoying to the peace of the Emperor Louis Napoleon. The Government officials find it impossible to follow them up and they are said to be more rife than at any period since the revolution.

☞Mrs. Margaret M'Farland of Baltimore, came to her death on Saturday morning last, in consequence of having taken a dose of arsenic in mistake for magnesia.

BEAVER ARGUS.

M. WEYAND. J. WEYAND.

M & J. Weyand, Editors & Proprietors

BEAVER, PA.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1857.

FOR GOVERNOR,

DAVID WILMOT,

Of Bradford County.

FOR SUPREME JUDGES.

James Veech,

Of Fayette County,

Joseph J. Lewis,

Of Chester County

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,

WM. MILLWARD,

Of Philadelphia.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The President of the late Republican Convention has appointed the following State Central Committee, viz:

LEMUEL TODD, Chairman.

Simon Cameron,	Joseph Casey,
John J. Clyde,	George Bergner,
John M. Sullivan,	William D. Kelley,
Joseph B. Myers,	J. M. Sellers,
Henry White,	James Edwards,
Lindley Smith,	J. B. Lancaster,
P. C. Ellmaker,	Jacob L. Gossler,
H. L. Benner.	Edward C. Knight,
David Newport,	Edward Darlington,
William H. Keim,	Wilson Cowell
Peter Martin,	T. J. Worth,
Peter S. Michler,	Samuel E. Dimmock,
Thomas E. Cochran,	David E. Small,
H. M'Pherson,	B. Rush Petriken,
John Penn Jones;	W. P. Miner.
John Laporte,	L. P Williston,
D. Gillespie,	C. B. Curtis,
John N. Purviance.	D. L. Eaton,
Robert P. M'Dowell,	D. E. Finney,
John H Wells,	J. R. Edie,
T. J. Coffey,	A. S. Fuller.
John Covode,	Robert M Palmer.

Apprentice Wanted.

A boy, 14 to 17 years of age, of steady, and industrious habits, will be taken as an apprentice to the Printing business, if application is made immediately at this office.

☞At the recent Session of the Western Virginia M. E. Conference, Rev. Franklin Moore, formerly of this place, was transferred to the Philadelphia Conference.

☞Mr. William Bonbright, formerly a resident of the neighboring village of Rochester, and well and favorably known in this community, died at Philadelphia a few days since.

☞A project is now on foot to tear down the St. Clair street Bridge across the Allegheny river at Pittsburgh, and supercede it by a splendid wire suspension bridge.

☞D. F. Williams, Esq., a writer of considerable reputation in the Eastern portion of the State, has purchased an interest in the Pittsburgh Gazette. The firm an business relations of the paper will remain as heretofore.

☞A formidable conspiracy, it is said, has been put on foot, to drive Gen. Cass out of the Cabinet, in order to make room for Robert J. [illegible]

☞The Pittsburgh Post has changed hands Messrs. Gillmore and Montgomery have disposed of the entire establishment to James P. Barr, Esq., formerly of the Pittsburgh Chronicle.

☞A report prevails in New York, that a coalition is about to be formed in this State, between the Fillmore Americans, and some factious Democrats, whereby Gov. Geary is to be brought out as a candidate for Governor The rumor is without foundation.

☞The Pittsburgh M. E. Conference now in Session at Monongahela City, was organized on Wednesday last. Bishop Simpson presides, assisted by Revs Pershing, Endsley and Horner as Secretaries. Among the supernumerary preachers continued, was the Rev. Z. H. Coston, and among those continued in the relation of superannuated ministers, we notice the names of Revs. Wm. Stevens, Joshua Monroe and S R. Brockunier. The Conference will probably adjourn, finally, to-morrow or next day.

☞At a meeting of the Stockholders of the New Castle Bank, held on Friday last, it was resolved to reduce the stock of the present holders to fifty per cent.; that sufficient be paid in immediately to make it par, and that the Bank shall resume operations at the earliest possible moment. The notes of the bank, according to the Journal, are now selling at 80 and 90 cents on the dollar, and will probably be par before long.

The White Murder in Washington County—Clue to the Perpetrators.

The murder at M'Keesport on Thursday last, as will be seen from the subjoined article, taken from the Pittsburgh Dispatch, will, in all probability bring to light the real murderers of Mr White, who was killed in Washington County in March last. We are heartily rejoiced at this, as it will relieve Mrs White of whatever suspicion may have attached to her at the time or since the murder of her husband, of being in any wise implicated in the dreadful affair, which has made her a desolate and bereaved widow, while yet in her youth The Dispatch says:

In the statement of Charlotte Jones before Justice Clemens, she charged the murder of Wilson and his sister on her brother and James Williams. This was a mere evasion to shield Fife and Stewart. The two former have not been seen by any one in Washington county or about M'Keesport She knew that they were and are, at a safe distance, and if she could charge them with the present outrage, Fife and Stewart would escape, while the arrest of Williams and her brother would be very doubtful. We have it from creditable authority that the night she was arrested, while her person was being examined, she stated that, prior to the murder of White (which occurred March 30th,) her brother told her he must have money to pay Montgomery and Gibson "to clear him of the poisoning scrape," even if he had to take life for it; that shortly after the murder of White, she met her brother at her father's and he was flush of money—bought dresses and bonnets for his wife; that having heard of White's murder, she charged Williams with it, who at first denied, but afterwards confessed that he and William did it. (This agrees with Mrs. White's statement of the two men seen standing at the wood pile at the back door of her house) She further stated that her brother drew a knife on her and threatened to take her life, if she "peached," or told of it, and that both them (her brother and Williams), threatened her, using precisely the same language and threatening her in the same manner that she falsely alleges in the Clemens statement was used by them on the night of Wilson's murder.

ANOTHER BLOODY MURDER!

Scarcely has the public mind become tranquil after the murder of Samuel H. White, in Washington county, until it is again shocked by another near McKeesport, Allegheny county, which, taking into consideration, the age of the persons murdered, and those who did the deed equals in atrocity and inhumanity, anything that has ever came under our notice.

On Thursday night last Mr. ——Wilson and his sister Mrs. McMasters, an aged couple—the former 81 and the latter 78 years old, and who were residing alone, were murdered in cold blood, as will be seen by the following confession of Charlotte Jones, a niece of the murdered couple, and the reputed wife of the man named Fife, who is said to have formerly been employed in Beaver. On Friday last she was arrested, and on Saturday made the annexed statement.

On Monday last 27th of April, 1857, Fife told me wished to see me on Thursday evening, at the bars above George Wilson's. I asked him what for. He told me that he would tell me when I came. I left Monongahela City on the boat, and got off at Elizabeth, and left there in the afternoon, for the appointed place at dark. I waited there until about fifteen minutes after nine o'clock, when Fife came. He had a bottle of brandy. Stewart came about about ten o'clock. He also had a bottle of brandy. They were both in liquor. They gave me some brandy. I drank a good deal of it. Monroe Stewart then told me that they wanted me to go to Uncle George's; I asked them what for. They said they wanted his money. I told them I did not want to go, when Monroe Stewart drew a knife and threatened that if I did not, they would kill me. I went with them. Monroe Stewart told me to knock at the door, which I did Uncle George asked me who was there. "Charlotte Jones." He said he would get up and let me in. Then Monroe Stewart and Henry Fife allowed that they would kill them. I told them for God's sake not to do it. I did not think that they would do it—thought they said it to frighten me. Uncle then opened the door, and I walked in. He said "Good evening," and I walked up to the bed where aunt was lying. I asked her how she was She said not very well—she was sick—Whilst I was talking to aunt, uncle went to the door. Stewart and Fife rushed in. Fife had a knife in his hand and struck him (uncle) in the breast with it. He fell, and never spoke. Stewart took hold of aunt, who cried for God's sake not to kill her—I then told them again not to murder them that way, when they said to "shut up," or they would do the same to me. Stewart first threw her down, and then choked her, and then stamped on her with the heel of his foot on her head. He then called to Henry Fife for his knife, who said it was of no use, it was dull. He then called for a case knife. That not killing her, he ran to the corner of the room and took a poker struck her twice on the head, when I ran out, as I could not stand it any longer.—After I was out in the back yard I heard them breaking open the chest. There was no light but a fire in the fire place I could see uncle and aunt plainly. They were in the house about fifteen minutes I did not go into the house again. When they came [illegible] They then made me swear the most awful oaths, that I would not tell. Their hands were bloody. We then started for M'Keesport—it was after one o'clock—[illegible] together. We arrived at the bank of the Youghiogheny at nearly two o'clock where we all sat down and drank more brandy They showed money to me there; it was all in half dollars. We sat there a very short time, but while there Monroe Stewart threatened me again, that he would kill me if I told on them We then went over the river in a skiff, using pieces of boards for oars. We went from the river to the rail road, and walked down the track a short distance. They stopped and caught hold of me, and allowed that they were afraid that I would tell on them, and they again threatened to kill me, when I swore I would never tell on them.

After that Stewart again caught hold of me, when Fife interfered, and said I never would tell. We all then went to Wolf's We got into the house by going up a back alley and into the back door. We went along the entry and up two pair of stairs before we got to the bed room. It was dark, but I think there was three beds in the room, and a man in one of them in the corner. We all lay down in one bed—Stewart and Fife taking off their boots and coats. The man did not speak. We laid over an hour when we all got up together just before daylight. They allowed that they did not want Wolf's family to see me there, and Fife asked Stewart where he would take me. Stewart answered and said—"To Alexander's tavern." We then went down to the well. Stewart drew a bucket of water. They did not wash themselves, for they saw a light up stairs which I saw also. They then hurried me off, and took me within a short distance of Mrs. Alexander's, and showed me the house and left me At this time Stewart gave me one dollar and Fife five cents. They told me not to go to the [illegible] until six or seven o'clock, but I went there immediately and knocked when a man put his head out of the window. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]