The Watchman

TRUTH AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL.

HENRY HAYS, WM. FORNEY, | EDITORS.

BELLEFONTE, PENNA.

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 1856.

To Readers and Correspondents.

ECONOMY.—*"Were not the expenses of the Legislature during Gov. Ritner's administration very large?"*—Enormous. *It increased, in three years, to the stupendous amount of* $58,000.00. *The following table will prove interesting:*

1834-5	-	$108,122.33
1835-6	-	134,000.31
1836-7	-	142,388.61
1837-8	-	106,079.10
1838-9	-	261,044.85
1839-40	-	195,472.28

It will be seen by the above that in '38 and '39, the years of the Buckshot war, the expenses were $261,044.85. *The same party which supported Ritner in his extravagance has only changed its name, and delights to be called Black-Republicans.*

SUBSCRIBER.—*We have no faith in the plan you propose, nor can we consent to its adoption. Personal abuse rarely convinces a reader—and it is an evidence of a low nature to stoop to scurility.*

ARTHUR.—*In Murray's Grammar, first edition you can be enlightened. The subject has, for some reason, been omitted in all after editions. Had we the book, we would publish the rule.*

POST MATILDA.—*We mail your paper regularly. If there is any delay, the fault is in the post-office. Speak to the post-master.*

J. L.—*We will consider your proposition, and if feasible, will adopt it. In the meantime you go to work.*

DECLINED—*A review of the Jug Law. It is entirely too long, and the arguments are stale.*

We would rather have a personal interview with a Friend, before we comply with his request.

We did not receive a letter from Philadelphia.

THE NEWS.

—The Cambria Iron Company, at their rolling mill and furnaces, in Johnstown, have about fifteen hundred men at work.

—Jefferson Davis has been elected U. S. Senator from Mississippi, by a Democratic Legislature, with a majority of fifty-eight votes.

—The difficulties with the Indians on the plains leading to Utah and California, still continue. They are the cause of great embarrassment to emigrants.

—Petitions for the repeal of the liquor law are daily pouring into the Legislature. Berks county has already sent in papers containing nearly three thousand signers.

—Over one hundred returns were made by the Constables of Lancaster county, of persons who had violated the liquor law. True bills have been found against forty-seven.

—George W. Cass has been elected President of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad. The Bridge over the Allegheny river is to be immediately finished, thus securing the connection with the Pennsylvania Central Railroad.

—The work on the Northern Central Railroad, under the contract lately made for its completion first to Sunbury and thence, at the option of the Company, so far as the time is concerned, to Sunbury, Pennsylvania, has been commenced at two points.

—The *Independent Press* of Williamsport is pronounced to be dead. After a protracted illness of many months it has drawn its last breath, and like the party whose cause it advocated (the late Know-Nothing party,) its existence is identified with the past. Peace to its ashes.

—The steamship Golden Gate left San Francisco on the 5th inst. for Panama, with $1,300,000 in treasure, and 500 passengers.

—There are manufactured annually in Massachusetts 21,840,064 pairs of boots and shoes, the value of which is $12,180,810. The number of persons employed is 33,500, of which 15,105 are males and 19,395 females.

—The body of a Jersey farmer, named Samuel Hilman, residing near the White Horse, below Philadelphia, was found on Sunday morning last, imbedded in the ice, opposite Delaware avenue, with his head and shoulders below the ice the feet and body above. He is supposed to have fallen into the dock head formost, and breaking through the ice, was held in that position.

—In a circular, addressed by Baron Steinecld, the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, to all the Swedish Envoys, distinctly states that the terms of the treaty only binds Sweden to a defensive alliance with the Western powers. "It will depend upon Russia," says the circular, "to prevent its application; as this would not occur unless caused by an aggression on her part. Let Russia respect our rights—let her cease to inspire just cause of alarm for the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe—and this treaty will not be of any prejudice to her. The treaty does not imply any change in our actual position; our declaration of neutrality still subsists, and will continue to be adhered to, as has hitherto been the case."

IT IS AMUSING to look over our exchanges and see the contradictory positions which the opponents of the administration assign to it in regard to the long-delayed contest for Speaker. The New York Evening Post taxes all its ingenuity to prove that the administration does not desire an organization of the House, but would prefer to see the present state of things continue until after the Presidential election. On the other hand, Horace Greely, in his paper, contradicts the position of the *Post* in the most emphatic terms.

We are under obligations to A. Geary, Esq., J. G. Laurimore, Wm. Allison, Jr., George Gross, Maj. Reynolds, Saml. Frank, Jno. Richel, Esq., Jesse L. Test, W. L. Musser, Thomas Sanky, B. Schmeltzer, John Beck and others for large lists of subscribers: and, indeed, to the entire Democracy of Centre county for the cheering evidence that they have given us, and that we have met their expectations to assist them in redeeming Central Pennsylvania from the thraldom of Know-Nothing misrule and Black-Republican corruption.

The County Commissioners.

"Whom the Gods wish to destroy, they first make mad."

The mountain has been moved, and lo, a mouse. The sapient controllers of the sheet which claims to be the organ of the Commissioners, labor through two columns of verbiage and falsehood, low slang and childish abuse, to attract public attention from the real issue, and, if possible, escape from the disgrace which their conduct has invoked. The real facts are—that the majority of the Know-Nothing Commissioners did not act in good faith as men, when they violated the usage of their office. They showed a reckless disregard of the public money, when they squandered it to support favorites—and they showed a meanness congenial with their politics, when they accepted proposals made in such a manner as to defeat every other bidder. We appeal to the public, and leave it to the good sense of honest men, whether a bid of "a hundred dollars, or one dollar less than any other," is in the spirit of fairness. Was not such an offer made and considered? We answer yes—and in order to satisfy these plunderers, the bids for the printing were postponed. We made an honest bid. We knew what we were doing—and before making it we consulted only our ability and our interest. The charge that any deficiency would be made up, is so maliciously false, and so totally reckless and callous, that it scarcely deserves a notice—yet we hurl the falsehood back into their teeth, and defy them to the proof. Not a single man among these oath-bound wretches knows a particle of the printing business—we are practical printers, and possess an office ample in all respects to fulfil all that we promised in our bid. But, argue these cormorants—heretofore it was customary to pay a large price, and it is too late to talk of extravagance when we have the example of former Commissioners to justify *us*. We only imitate the "locofocos." But, let us ask, who were the "locofocos" that squandered the public money? They were the very men who now compose Know-Nothingism. They were the men who are now clamoring for plunder and power, until the treasury has been drained. Is Centre county a pauper? Yes! and the fact is humiliating. Has not her official acknowledged that the treasury was empty, and are they not begging for money? But, a Know-Nothing Board of Commissioners must be liberal. They must maintain their pimps at the expense of the taxpayers of the county. They must devise means to support them in their dying agonies—but we are mistaken if even by falsehood, by threats, blackguardism, oaths and abuse, they will be able longer to deceive the people.

The allegation, that no man is able to act as Clerk for $80, is simply a falsehood. We know Mr. Kealsh—knew him before we came here as bearing the reputation of one of the best bookkeepers in the state; and therefore it is not reasonable to suppose that he would make a proposal to do work at a loosing price. He, of course, made his calculations—and like an honest man, he made them thinking that they would be honestly received. The last clerk was able to attend to the duties of the office, conduct his own business, attend to that of others; and yet we never heard him of being accused of possessing more than ordinary ability. Why, then, could not Mr. Kealsh do the same? He was willing and fully competent—but the grevious fault of being a sound Democrat, stuck in the throats of these Know-Nothing Commissioners, and with a liberality practised only by those who use other people's money, they generously give $200 for doing that which was offered to be done for $80. They first ask for proposals—and when they have them in their possession, they endeavor by every dishonorable means, to abuse the confidence of the lowest bidder, and discourage him in his honorable efforts to make a livelihood. Mr. Kealsh is charged with ignorance because he did not happen to know how many meetings were held by the commissioners during the year. Alas, for the county, that there are not more as ignorant, and then it would not have been necessary to advertise an empty treasury. The corruption which has flowed through that office, since in the hands of Know Nothingism must be kept secret. They are fearful of all Democratic contact—because the exposure that would necessarily arise from the supervision of a Democratic Clerk, would arouse the people to an examination of the frauds by which they have been imposed upon. Those who doubt this, will be convinced of its truth, by examining the conduct of the Commissioners at their last meeting. We have the record in our favor. The bid for the clerkship, was reasonable and honorable—backed by sufficient security, and made by one whose abilities are admitted by all who know him. We stand by our bid—and demand that the Commissioners hold the "One Hundred dollar, or a dollar less" saints to their proposal. They are bound by every sense of honor, every usage and principle, to do the work for *Thirteen Dollars*—and even at that price, if they commence to earn their bread by the sweat of their hands, they will learn what it is to make an honest living.

—A few words regarding the personalities of the organ which makes music to charm the ears of its friends and supporters. Our connection with the Democratic press of Pennsylvania commenced with our youth, and we trust, will only end with our death.

The man who has been reared, nurtured, supported and sustained, by honest patrons—who was educated, and who drew his first breath beneath the prosperity which charity created, should at least evince an emotion of gratitude, or the evidence of a principle of honor. It is not he who makes the loudest profession, that is always the possessor of the purest principles—and it is this grand truth which has always guided our editorial career, that the assertion of a fact is more honorable, than the vindication of fraud, falsehood, and pious hypocrisy. We came to Centre county, to print a Democratic paper—we came to issue a journal independent of all secular-control—and thus far the columns of the *Democratic Watchman*, have been read and appreciated by a people who were deceived heretofore by the meek-faced smiles of rotten-hearted hypocrites. Men, who, while they are boisterous in prayer "weave the winding sheet of souls and lay them in the urn of eternal death." When, we ask these ministers has the *Democratic Watchman* departed from an honorable or a strict courteous course? We are proud to write that the Democratic press of the State have given us a united commendation—and we are prouder to record the fact, that the only man who has the control of a paper, and who uttered a word verbally or orally against us, is one who unclouks himself of his holy profession, and who stoops from the mild atmosphere of the pulpit, to gather the fruits grown in the political field. We came to Centre county as strangers emulous to do our duty to the people who have so nobly sustained us—and more anxious now to unmask those who have lived, and who have grown fat upon Democratic bounty. While we have avoided all personal allusion and attacked no man—we will, so far as our ability permit, resist the hypocrisy of manufactured gospel pedlers and shallow-pated pettifogers. This is not to be a mere discussion of words—but the examination of the great principle, whether the people of Centre county are to be robbed and deceived by a set of men who hide their own sins under the specious charges which they trump up against their neighbors. We can rest under the accusation of being the "rum organ;" so can we rest easy, nor fear the effect of the falsehoods which these inmately bad politicians and worse men circulate regarding the *Watchman*—but in the meantime, we say, "Lay on Macduff."

A Patriotic Letter.

The following noble and patriotic letter, was written by John W. Forney, to the Democracy of New York, in reply to an invitation to participate in the celebration of the Eighth of January. It breathes the true spirit of Democracy, and is another evidence of his devotion to a cause in the advocacy of which he has almost grown grey. Few men in this country have labored more zealously in the Democratic party, than John W. Forney. He commenced his editorial career when he was seventeen years old, and from that time until the present, he has written unfalteringly against all the phases which the opposition have assumed against Democracy. His zeal has made him many enemies—but his warm heart and enthusiastic character, have drawn around him a host of admiring friends. Long may he be preserved to the country and the party, as the defender of both their interests and their principles:

JANUARY 6 1856

L. B. SHEPARRD, ESQ.—Gentleman—My public duties will prevent me from accepting your invitation to participate with you in the celebration of the anniversary of the victory of New Orleans, on Tuesday next. May the memory of the illustrious past you honnor, and the inspiration of future duties, render you meeting worthy of yourselves and your principles. We are already engaged in the great struggle which is to be decided in November next. Our first obligation is to principle. Let us be true to that, and leave the consequences to God. Let us enunciate our opinions upon the great issues of the day, without reservation and then let our champions go forth to the hills and the valleys and advocate our principles without hesitation, and if we are not triumphant, we shall at least have done our best to defend a beleaguered Constitution and strengthen a beloved Union. If the immortal hero whose great military achievements you will assemble to commemorate, were now living, his could be the voice that would arouse the sleeper, that would reanimate the doubting, and that would ring along the line of battle, bidding the hosts of freedom to the combination arrayed against us. And whether he spoke to vindication of those whose fathers and whose brothers fought by his side on the *prey* battle-field—of those who were the companions in arms of DAVILAC and CROGAN—of the fellow countrymen of his Irish father, or of the descendants of the German STEUBEN and the Frenchman LAFAYETTE—or whether he turned his unfazzled eyes upon the combined hosts of the same fanaticism which through thirty years of his illustrious career, had tried to hunt him down, while he discharged his high duties to that Union which he vowed "must be preserved," his example would encourage the Democracy and rebuke those who now usurp his name and stain his memory, by quoting him in sympathy with their dangerous dogmas. Be but faithful to the JACKSON standard and you will inaugurate a canvass in the State of New York that must bring the separated wings of your party into such harmonious action, that you will soar above the bitter waves of opposition which now delight in your divisions

Very truly and respectfully yours,

J. W. FORNEY.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE for the current year contains the latest legal decisions respecting Banks, Banking, Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Usury, &c. 2d. Banking Statistics of the several States 3d. Finances of the States 4th. History of Banking Institutions in New York, Maryland, &c 5th. New Banking Laws of the States. 6th. Account of New Banks in Europe.—7th. On the liabilities and Duties of a Cashier; and the responsibilities of Banks as Agents. 8th. Suggestions to Young Cashiers on the Duties of their Profession. 9th. Currency or money. By Robert Hooper, Esq., of Boston. Messrs. Parry & McMillan are the Philadelphia agents for this work. We learn that the current volume will contain a series of designs for country banking houses, for the best plan for which a premium of one hundred and fifty dollars has been offered.

ENGINEERING AND FINANCIERING.—In an investigation recently held by a committee of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, it was ascertained that one of the assistant engineers, in certain instances, made his pay-roll at one sum, and paid some of his subordinates a smaller and different sum. To what extent this has been practised is not known. The same engineer also proved to be a partner of the contractors, and their work, as measured under his direction, exceeds the amount, as computed by the present engineer, near $70,000 in a whole sum of less than $600,000.

DEATH OF MR. BANKS.—The father of Hon. John Banks, of Reading, and William Banks, Esq., of Indiana, died recently in Mifflin county, at the advanced age of 89 years. The Juniata *Register* states that he voted for every President from Washington to Pierce. He regarded the Democratic party as the "the great conservative party of the Union," and made it a matter of conscience to attend all elections, and vote for its candidates. His first vote was given in 1788, at which time he was required to take the oath of allegiance, a certificate of which oath he carried in his pocket book till the day of his death. Mr. Banks was elected a commissioner of Mifflin county in 1800.

THE CONTRACTORS IN THE ENGLISH ARMY have a profitable business. Some of them clear $300,000 a year. One man who furnished fodder for horses made the sum of $233,000 the first year of his contract.

John J. Pearce—His Party, his Principles, and his Apology.

During the stormy reign of the veteran soldier and statesman, Oliver Cromwell, he was in the habit of saying to his confidential friends: "Religion is a glorious cause to fight for—but a parson, in Parliament, brings both disgrace on his religion and confusion to his constituents." Cromwell was a stern advocate of morality—yet he carefully excluded from the legislature of his domain, all who had espoused a holy cause, and frowned upon that man, who for the purpose of political elevation and profit, sacrificed his clerical calling to the behests of cliques and parties. There are men who imitate Cromwell, even at this late day—and they are the men who are now most active in denouncing the deep duplicity of the Reverend John J. Pearce. He was elected to Congress to represent the interests of his constituents, and not the prejudices of a clique. But his whole political career has been such, as to prove all we have heretofore published in regard to him; and it is corroborated by the teeming columns of the organs of his own party. When John J. Pearce first offered himself as a candidate, he did so as a Democrat—when he discovered that the honest Democracy of the Thirteenth Congressional District would repudiate him, he was ready to violate his promise, and became an independent candidate—and even then his chances of success were so precarious, that he was compelled to allow himself to be dragged from the sacred precincts of the pulpit, to become the associate of a band of midnight conspirators. Conspirators alike against the political and religious opinions of all who differed with them—sworn to use every dishonorable means to subvert the constitutional rights of the adopted citizen and his descendants.

With this introduction, we will attempt a review of the Reverend John J. Pearce's apology to his constituents for his late disgraceful conduct in the House of Representatives. He avows in every paragraph (badly as they are written) the real charge we have made against him, and in his attempts to clear himself of the odium attached to his name, he elicits our contempt, and exposes his deceit. The real charge against John J. Pearce, was, that he engaged in the business of huckstering for Mr. Banks. We proved, from the record, and by the admission he made on the floor of the House of Representatives, that he offered a bribe to a colleague; that he was employed to buy votes—and that he was guilty of falsehood. When interrogated upon these charges—he declared on his *honor* that they were false—but when pressed to the wall, he admitted that he did offer a bribe, but it was done in a *playful* manner. Pity that he could not be recalled, to do his *playing* at home.

We have no disposition to wade through the fallacies of the "*Firstlys*" and "*Secondlys*" of this lame and ill-tempered letter—but the assumption that he made a single issue during the canvass of his election, is basely false. He was all things to all men—promising every thing and performing nothing. In no single instance did he make an issue of the Nebraska question. He had not the courage to avow a bold sentiment in the presence of a dozen men part of whom differed with him. Allison White proved that he was guilty of falsehood—Democrats are witness that he promised to abide by the decision of a Democratic conference—Whigs are witness that he offered to sell himself—and every intelligent man in the district knows that he was elected by the oaths, the machinations and the falsehoods of Know-Nothingism combined with Black-Republicanism.

It is useless for John J. Pearce to attempt to extract himself from the disgraceful position he now occupies, by means of a sanctimonious appeal. The country and his constituents point to him with shame. The people of his district do not acknowledge him as their representative. The are anxious to get rid of him, and impatient for the opportunity to hurl him from power.

THE FOLLOWING extract from the *Lancaster Intelligencer*, will be perused with gratification by the many friends of the gentleman to whom it refers. It does him no more than justice, because he is known to be a ready writer, a fluent speaker, and one of the most promising young lawyers in the State:

The Lecture before the "Paradise Union Lyceum," of which we gave notice in our last, came off on Wednesday evening last. A very large and intelligent audience assembled in the New Hall which has been recently fitted up handsomely, and conveniently by our enterprising citizens A. K. & A. L. Witmer. Samuel H. Reynolds, Esq., of this city, favored the audience with a beautiful, entertaining and instructive lecture upon "Our National Literature." The impression which Mr. R. has made upon the citizens of that section of our county as a gentleman of talent and most captivating oratorical power, is enviable, and having but recently come amongst us we one and all wish him success in his profession.

IOWA.—A letter from Dubuque, Iowa, dated January 1st, says that the Government lands of that district are now nearly all disposed of, only a few scattered tracts of refuse lands remaining. On the 19th of November two ranges of townships were thrown into market from the Des Moines, at the reconstruction of the Iowa land district, and on the first day thereafter 200,000 acres were applied for. Notwithstanding the severity of winter, emigrants continue to arrive daily at Dubuque.

GOOD SUGGESTION.—Rev. Warren Burton, of Boston, has re-issued a circular to the press, urging them to recommend a movement he started some two years since, in his own State, that there be meetings of parents in every school district, during the more leisure season, to discuss questions of Family Discipline, and the Relations of the Home to the School. The cause is a good one; and, if carried out in the spirit of its author, will result to the mutual advantage of scholar, teacher, and parent.

☞At Chicago on the 19th inst., the thermometer stood at 24 degrees below zero, at Cleveland 17 degrees, and at Springfield, Ohio, 24 degrees. At Detroit on the same day, it ranged from 16 to 23 degrees below zero. At Pittsburg it was considered that the 9th inst. was the coldest day ever experienced in that city. Everything froze, even gas, one half of the pipes in that city imparting no light whatever after night, whilst the others dispensed very sickly rays.

FROM HARRISBURG.

JANUARY, 28, 1856.

Our advices which the mails transmits, lack importance. The bill for the repeal of the "Jug Law" has passed a second reading in the House—but, this passage only commences the discussion of its different clauses. There is no doubt that the "Jug Law" will be repealed—but there is some doubt as to the provisions of the law which is offered as a substitute. Legislation on this subject, is becoming stale—and the movements of the people show that they are weary of its delay.

THE ASIATIC COOLIE TRADE.—The United States and Great Britain spend a great deal of money and sacrifice valuable lives every year on the African coast, for the prevention of the African Slave Trade; but they have done nothing to interfere with the Coolie Trade from China. The fearful story of the American ship Waverly, in which about three hundred poor wretches were suffocated, has opened the eyes of the world to a business that equals in atrocity and cruelty the worst horrors of the slave trade. These unfortunate creatures were shipped from Amoy for Callao or Havana, and slavery was to be their fate; for although other terms are given to the condition they were destined to, the fact is slavery of the worst kind. A tragedy like this of the Waverly, lamentable as it is, was perhaps, needed to bring the enormity of this Coolie trade home to the minds of civilized nations. It will most probably be brought to the notice of the United States government, as the mate and crew of the Waverly have been imprisoned by the Spanish authorities at Manilla. Congress should lose no time in instructing the East India squadron to prevent all American vessels from exporting Coolies from China.

EUROPEAN EMIGRATION.—The emigration at several important ports in the United States during the last year is shown by the following statement:

New York	136,233
Boston	18,313
Philadelphia	7,602
	162,148
Arrived at Quebec	21,274
Total	183,422

This shows a remarkable diminution in the amount of emigration compared with the two or three previous years. The aggregate number who arrived at the four ports named is less by nearly 36,000 than in the year 1854 at the port of New York; and, in connection with this fact, it must be considered that the number of emigrants returning during the last year was very large, and is likely to be continued.

PRESIDENT PIERCE recently sent into Congress a special message, relative to the condition of affairs in Kansas. The Philadelphia *National Argus* speaks of this document as calculated to attract attention, from the interest generally attaching to Kansas affairs, and the ability and clearness with which the existing state of things in that Territory is presented. The President declares his determination to exercise the powers with which he is clothed by the Constitution, in preserving order, and in enforcing respect for the laws throughout the Territory. He recommends Congress to pass an act to protect the people of the Territory in the exercise of their legal rights, and prepare the way for their early admission into the Union. He finally closes by asking an appropriation, to enable him to take such measures as will secure an observance of the laws and promptly repress any further disturbance.

USURY LAWS.—An effort will be made during the present session of our State Legislature, to repeal, or very essentially modify the laws relating to usury. For several years similar attempts have been made, which have heretofore been unsuccessful. To the money dealers in large cities, these laws are said to be onerous, and from them mainly, springs the agitation of the subject. The people of the country, who are opposed to taking usurious interest, are entirely satisfied with the laws as they now stand. Their representatives in the Legislature will scarcely be found playing into the hands of stock jobbers and money brokers, by voting for a law which will oppress the poor man, while it fills the coffers of his wealthy neighbor.

WE NOTICE that a bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives, for the abolition of the office of County Superintendent of Common Schools. We do most sincerely hope that the attempt may miscarry, aimed as it is at the heart of the system. We should be pleased to see the office continued, and a law enacted requiring as a prerequisite to eligibility to the office of School Director, a knowledge of at least the rudiments of an English education.

A CONFESSION.—The Richmond *Enquirer* says that the American *Organ* speaks of its party, that "not a *single* Northern State stands upon the Philadelphia Platform, and that "to insist upon an adherence by the party to a platform which three-fourths of the American party has rejected, is to insist upon dividing and destroying the party." If this confession of the metropolitan Organ of the Know-Nothings be true, then Southern Know-Nothings have come to the 'jumping off place.'"

KNOW-NOTHING OBITUARY.—Miss McDowell, the beautiful editor of the *Woman's Advocate*, in a very few words, writes the obituary of the great, defunct Whig party. We republish it as a specimen of her womanly kindness. She says:—"We always liked the Whigs and are sorry for their downfall. —They wore such good clothes, looked so gentlemanly, and bore so good-naturedly their every defeat, that really we hope they may have the luck attending Jonah under similar circumstances."

FIRES DURING THE LAST YEAR.—The total number of fires which occurred in the United States, during the year 1855, was 193; the amount of property destroyed has been estimated at $13,049,000. The number of lives lost by fire during the year was 171.

FROM WASHINGTON.

JANUARY 26, 1856.

The condition of the contending parties in the National Capitol is no better now than when I last wrote to you, nor is there any likelihood that a change will soon occur. The Democracy in the House have, from the commencement of the organization, presented a stern front, although they have lost no opportunity either to propose or accept any honorable concession. The last of these efforts to accomplish an organization has been the withdrawal of Col. Richardson. He did not desert his friends, nor did his friends desert him; but he was willing to sacrifice ambition and the prospects of place to harmonise the friends of the Constitution. While announcing his withdrawal, he emphatically declared that he "never desired an election. Still, it is with pleasure and pride that without hope I have stood at the head of my friends in the face of a sweeping fire. It is said to be the exhibition of the highest heroism to lead troops up to a fire which they cannot return, and who know while fighting that there is no hope of victory. Sir, we have presented the evidence to our political friends that there is no hope for success, and we have marched one hundred and twenty-two times up to the fire of a foe, two to our one; and while we have not won the field, they have not been victorious."

The Washington *Union* speaks in the highest terms of the Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, who was nominated in place of Col. Richardson. He is admitted to be highly qualified for the station. He is distinguished for the courtesy and amenity of his manners. He possesses that cool self-possession and dignified firmness which are essential in an efficient presiding officer. As a statesman, Mr. Orr belongs to the school of national men to whom the rights and interests of every section as guaranteed by the constitution are alike dear. He deserved richly the compliment bestowed upon him, and the public interests would be signally promoted if he should be elected.

The Central America question still drags its long length along, without a prospect of even arriving at any satisfactory settlement. The conjectures that it will give rise to a war between the United States and England, are abundant, and afford prolific themes for politic gossips. It is understood that both Cass and Clayton are preparing speeches which will have a great influence in the Senate and the country.

The retired members of the Navy are here in great numbers. They are loud in their protestations, and it is more than likely that a great many will be re-instated. In the Senate memorials from Thomas Ap Catesby Jones and others, was discussed by Messrs. Mason, Benjamin, Clayton, Mallory, Seward, and others.

It may not perhaps be generally known that, during the present unorganized condition of the House of Representatives, no money can be drawn from the United States Treasury for the payment of members of that branch of Congress. In this condition of affairs, A. J. Glossbrenner, Esq., the Sergeant-at arms of the late House, and who is still acting in that capacity, having been applied to by members of Congress for money to meet their pressing necessities, procured funds from some of the Pennsylvania banks on his own responsibility, paying it out to them and taking their receipts for the same. The bankers of Washington, aside from the banks themselves, have not loaned to Mr. Glossbrenner one dollar; but the banks have liberally. This course of the Sergeant-at-arms has had the effect of depriving some of the brokers on the avenue of many a good, fat share, and causes much complaint among them.

There is now due to members, on account of per diem and mileage, about 290,000, of which, it is said, Mr. Glossbrenner has paid to them about $80,000.

The *Union* proposes an union of the Democrats and Americans upon the following principles, for the purpose of effecting an organization of the House. The Democrats to return Mr. Orr as their candidate for Speaker, upon their platform, and the Americans also to nominate Mr. Orr as their candidate, at the same time to reaffirm their own platform with the understanding that neither make any concessions of principles while voting for the candidate.

THE LAW OF LIBEL.—A libel suit was lately tried in Philadelphia, and terminated in a manner which cannot be otherwise than highly satisfactory to newspaper publishers throughout the country. In this suit, a Mr. Donnelly was the plaintiff, and the Philadelphia *Ledger* the defendant. The jury assessed the damages to Mr. D.'s character from the publication of the alleged libel, at *one dollar*. We allude to the case solely with the view of bringing prominently before the public the principles laid down in the judge's charge to the jury. His honor said:

The plaintiff is charged with having driven his wife with violence from his house, while she was in an advanced state of pregnancy, and without even the poor excuse which might arise from intoxication. The only real question under these circumstances is, not whether this charge, unexplained and unjustified, is a libel, but whether there is enough to explain and justify it. One thing which meets us at the threshold of this inquiry is the position of the defendants as editors of a newspaper. One rule, which may be stated without fear of contradiction is, that the editor of a publick journal may tell the truth in all cases without fear of the consequences, and that, while he does so, he cannot be made answerable in a civil proceeding, nor, indeed, anywhere, unless on the ground of malice, or a wanton interference with the comfort and happiness of others.

"An assertion that another has made a statement is true, if he has made it; and yet, if that statement be false and libellous, the truth will not protect those who repeat it. This holds good of the editor of a newspaper, as well as of all other persons, for the law will look to the substance, which is untrue, and not merely to the form, and will consider the original wrong as aggravated and repeated by him who gives it currency. Hence a newspaper cannot justify the repetition of a misstatement, on the ground that it was derived from another person, whose name is or is not mentioned, however true it may be that he actually made it"

SHOCKING AFFRAY.—The Barnwell (South Carolina) *Sentinel* of Saturday says:

"An affray occurred a few miles from this place, on Monday evening last, between Samuel Jefcoat and Thomas Gray. The former was severely stabbed, and the latter, it is said, horribly mangled. We have not been able to learn the particulars connected with the case; suffice it to say there was a row, and liquor was the instigator."

SERIES OF GENERAL NEWS.

☞A good dray horse in California, costs $400.

☞There are 40,000 fugitive "niggers" in Canada.

☞The population of Kansas is estimated at 70,000.

☞The taxable inhabitants of Pennsylvania, in 1855, were 366,166.

☞When once infidelity can persuade men that they shall *die* like beasts, they will soon be brought to *live* like beasts, also.

☞An organized band of horse thieves has been discovered and broken up in Westmoreland county.

☞The Cambria Iron Company employs fifteen hundred men.

☞Petitions are pouring into the Legislature for an increase of the pay of Jurors.

☞In Dickens' last Christmas and New Year's story, "The Holly Tree Inn," he acknowledges that the Americans *are a kind, generous, large hearted and great people.*

☞The enemies of the Democratic party, kind souls, are very much alarmed lest that party should pursue a course that may lead to its defeat!

☞The *Lynn News* tells a good story of two boys' one of whom was boasting of the beauties of his father's house. "It's got a cupola," said he, "and it's going to have something else." "What is it?" asked his interested companion. "Why, I heard father tell mother this morning, that it's going to have a *mortgage* on it!"

☞An effort to breath life into the defunct carcass of Know-Nothingism, was recently made in Harrisburg. Messrs. Casey and Kunkel were the operators. It was, however, too late, the animal being beyond resuscitation.

☞A good housekeeper will keep the house bright, the family cheerful and the larder full.

☞The Post Boy who carried the mail on the Coffee Run route, was frozen to death, week before last. It appears he had become lost, and being unable to extricate himself from the drifted snow, perished.

☞"Sonny, what are wages here?" "Don't know." "What does your father get on Saturday night?" "Tight as a brick."

☞During the past year, 72 persons over 70 years of age died in Providence R. I.

☞A letter from Argau, in the Suisse of Berne, says—"The prison in Baden, in this canton, has just been destroyed by fire. Out of 73 prisoners, 15 are missing, most of whom, it is supposed, have perished in the flames."

☞Senator Bigler, having been solicited by the Stockholders of the Sunbury and Erie railroad company, to continue in office as its President, has consented to do so, and to devote to the company all the time he can spare from his new duties at Washington.

☞A little one, after undergoing the disagreeable operation of vaccination, exclaimed: "Now I won't have to be baptized, will I?"

☞During a late rise in the Allegheny river, there came down on a raft to Pittsburg, from Warren county, one Michael McKinney, aged ninety-seven years. He says he piloted the first log raft from Warren to Pittsburg, sixty-eight years ago.

☞The Ohio Legislature have rejected a bill abolishing capital punishment.

☞Hon. Timothy Ives, of Potter county, is named as the Democratic candidate for Surveyor General.

☞The Ice in the Lehigh river is thicker than it has been for fifty years. So says the oldest inhabitant.

☞Pennsylvania now produces as much iron as was manufactured in Great Britian thirty years ago, and of a quality that compares very favorably.

☞"My wife," says a critic "is one of the most even-tempered women in the world: She is always mad."

☞Mrs. Mary Butler died at Gardiner, Me., on the 10th inst., aged one hundred years and six months.

☞A State Military Convention was held in Harrisburg on Monday last, and adopted resolutions recommending a bill to be passed by the Legislature for a better regulation of military system in this State.

☞The ladies belonging to the Catholic Church, in Pittsburg, lately held a fair, realizing over $5000, which amount was applied to charitable purposes.

☞Edward Miller, Esq, the Chief Engineer, has been elected President of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, in place of Thomas Fernon, Esq. The contest was a warm one.

☞Usual Knapp, the last survivor of Washington's Life Guard, died at Newburg, N. Y., on the 10th inst., aged 99 years.

☞A farmer, in Greenbush, N. Y., keeps Shanghae chickens in his orchard for the purpose of frightening away Hogs and Know-Nothings.

☞The Know-Nothing organs, like the party, are gradually sinking into oblivion. The Williamsport *Press*, after a sickly existence, has given up the ghost. Peace to its ashes.

☞The Mifflin county Teachers' Institute will hold a County Convention, in Lewistown, on the 31st of January and 1st of February next.

☞The Rock Island (Ill.) *Argus*, in rejoicing over the defeat of a candidate for a Judgeship in Michigan, says: "a man who will take a newspaper four or five years and then refuse to pay for it and swears he never had it, deserves defeat."

☞The mercury stood at thirty degrees below zero at St. Paul's, Minnesota, on the 24th ult.

☞One of the Presbyterian Churches in New Orleans offers the Rev. Dr. Rice, of St. Louis, $7000 per annum, if he will become their pastor.

☞The *Reading Adler*, last week entered upon its sixtieth year. This is a great age for a newspaper to attain, but not too great for such an excellent paper as the *Eagle*. May it long continue to teach the doctrines of the good old Democratic party to the people of "old Berks."

☞In case the next Presidency should be thrown into Congress, and the States should vote as they stand at present, there would be 11 Democratic, 11 Republican, 7 Know-Nothing and two tie.

☞A bill to establish a new bank in Harrisburg, to be called "The State Capitol Bank," has been offered in the Legislature. The capital stock is fixed at $150,000, with the privilege of increasing the same to $500,000.

☞The subordinate officers of Congress have received no pay since the beginning of the session. They amount to about one hundred in number.

☞The citizens of Lancaster have raised $1,000 for the relief of the poor of that city: the money has been placed in the hands of the Union Dorcas Society for distribution.

☞The Hon. Elisha Whittlesey has decided that Mr. Forney is not by law Clerk of the House, and that he cannot draw money from the Treasury for any other purpose than is essential to the conducting of the business of the House pending organization.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.—The Democratic Convention of Montgomery county met on the 21st inst., and appointed Delegates to the 4th of March Convention. Resolutions were passed instructing the Delegates in favor of Hon. James Buchanan, for the Presidency, and Hon. Jacob Fry, Jr., for Auditor General. Also approving of the course of Hon. John Cadwalader, in Congress, and complimenting Hon. William Bigler upon his election to the United States Senate.