

The Democratic Watchman

BELLEFONTE, PA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1856.

VOL. II.

NO. 8.

OUR NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

TARY OF THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, gives a detailed view of the operations of the Navy, during the last year and its present strength. Among his recommendations are, for another squadron in the Pacific, rendered necessary by our extending commerce; for the adoption of the English and French system of gunnery on practice ships, and for the despatch of small steamers to survey the Guano Islands, on which Commodore Mirvick made an unusu- factory report. The Secretary regards the constructing of the six war steamers as an- auguration a new era in the naval service and repeats his former recommendations for building steam-sloops of war of small draft. The sending out of seamen to relieve distant crews is spoken of as an experiment, and will be continued if it shall work well. The Secretary likewise recommends the employ- ment of Assistant Purser, with moderate compensations.

STATE FINANCES.

Summary of the receipts of the State Treas- ury, from the 1st day of December, 1855, to the 30th day of November, 1856, both days inclusive.

Land	\$ 2,292 71
Auction delinquencies	50,438 48
Tax on bank dividends	266,184 36
Tax on corporations	135,911 97
Tax on real and personal estate	1,623,082 21
Various licenses	150,528 93
Justice's licenses	100,482 80
Sample licenses	1,167 00
Palmer's licenses	2,343 91
Boatmen's licenses	5,511 96
Charity, Clergy and Me- morial licenses	3,417 82
Distillery & brewery licenses	4,426 86
Billed and unbilled ac- counts, do., licenses	1,660 54
Excise on beer houses	43,376 22
Excise on saloons	2,048 25
Excise on hotels	4,820 24
Excise on taverns	18,901 00
Excise on hotels	4,436 30
Excise on liquor agents	7,989 96
Excise on wine, do.	8,833 80
Excise on spirits	13,335 85
Excise on cigars	14,226 42
Excise on tobacco	2,900,818 60
Excise on rum	25 00
Excise on brandy	120,356 52
Excise on wine	1,241 00
Excise on spirits	1,941 00
Excise on tobacco and pos- sibilities	250,947 24
Excise on rum	115 18
Excise on brandy	1,173 59
Excise on wine	267 57
Excise on spirits	20,887 87
Excise on cigars	1,241 00
Excise on tobacco	3,764 57
Excise on rum	2,774 15
Miscellaneous	\$5,078,210 33

Summary of the payments of the State Treas- ury, from the 1st day of December, 1855, to the 30th day of November, 1856, both days inclusive.

Public improvements	\$1,948,986 82
Expenses of government	1,212 92
Military expenses	3,511 54
Pennsylvania volunteers in the late war with Mexico	190 00
Debt and interest	11,827 34
Orphan's institutions	68,288 20
Public transit colonization	276 00
Pennsylvania State Agri- culture	3,063 11
County schools	169,718 00
Commissioner of the sinking fund	38,817 80
Land	32,224 80
Interest on loans	2,041,959 99
General interest	25,017 17
Debt and interest	52,281 21
Old claims on the main body of the public works examined by the Board of Commissioners, and paid under the act of May 28, 1854	130,512 00
Special Commissioners	105 00
State Library	4,443 00
Public buildings do.	12,251 91
George's Ferry	45,000 00
Penitentiary	18,962 00
Prisoners	687 90
Orphan's institutions (Penn- sylvania)	6,777 00
Commissioner of the Con- sideration	132 80
Orphan's institutions	6,000 00
Public buildings do.	65,223 80
George's Ferry	12,251 91
Penitentiary	18,962 00
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Col. Britton is now travelling through New England, lecturing on the Union. He conceives that the Union is in a precarious situation; and hence he is induced to strike at the root of the evil existing in the Eastern States. The Colonel will have as unopposable a set to preach to as ever sat under the sound of the voice of man.

Remission of the PUBLIC DEBT.—During the Presidency of Gen. Pierce, since the 4th of March, 1853, the public debt has been reduced from \$69,120,087 to \$30,737,129.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

RESULT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 1796 TO 1856.

Year	Name of Candidate	Electoral Votes
1796	John Adams	71
	Thomas Jefferson	68
1800	Thomas Jefferson	73
	John Adams	65
1804	Thomas Jefferson	162
	Charles C. Pinckney	14
1808	James Madison	128
	Charles C. Pinckney	45
1812	James Madison	122
	Do W. Clinton	89
1816	James Monroe	183
	James H. Clay	34
1820	No opposition but I vote, Andrew Jackson	213
	John Quincy Adams	84
1824	W. H. Crawford	41
	Henry Clay	37
	John Quincy Adams	36
1828	John Quincy Adams	87
	Andrew Jackson	220
1832	Andrew Jackson	49
	William Floyd	11
	William Van Buren	170
	William Henry Harrison	73
	Francis Pickens	26
1836	Francis Pickens	11
	William Henry Harrison	334
	Martin Van Buren	60
1840	James K. Polk	170
	Henry Clay	123
	Zachary Taylor	163
	Lewis Cass	327
1848	Franklin Pierce	106
	Gen. Winfield Scott	42
	James Buchanan	174
	John C. Fremont	114
	Millard Fillmore	8

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

The Secretary of the Interior's Report states that the quantity of land surveyed since the last report, and up to the 30th of September last, is 10,973,699 acres, exclusive of the school sections. The execution of the graduation act has raised many grave questions, which call for the interposition of Congress. He says it is an important matter and should be promptly disposed of, either by sanctioning and affirming the Land Office or directing the patents to be issued without further requirement. The quantity of lands sold for cash, during the fiscal year, amounted to over nine and a quarter million of acres, and the receipts therefrom are \$8,821,414. The total amount of land disposed of is over thirty-nine million of acres.

THE PEDDLER'S PIPE.

A cold winter's night found a single load of us gathered about the warm fire of a tavern bar-room of a New England village. Shortly after we arrived, a stranger dropped up and ordered his horse stalled for the night. After we had eaten supper we repaired to the bar-room, and as soon as the barman had broken the ice, several anecdotes had been related, and finally the peddler was asked to give us a story, as many of his profession were generally full of adventures and anecdotes. He was a short, thick-set man, some where about forty years of age, and gave evidence of great physical strength. He gave his name as Daniel Viney, and his home was in Dover, New Hampshire.

THE PEDDLER'S PIPE.

"Well, gentlemen," he commenced, knocking the ashes from his pipe, and putting it in his pocket, "suppose I tell you the last thing of any consequence that hap- pened to me. You see that I am now wintered from the far West, and on my way for winter quarters. It was about two months ago one pleasant evening, that I pulled up at the door of a small village, in Hancock county, Indiana. I said to myself, 'I meant it was warm, but it was cloudy and very likely to be dark, so I went in to call for supper, and had my horse taken care of, and after I had eaten, sat down in the bar-room. It began to rain about 8 o'clock, and for a while I poured down, and it was a fearful dark outdoors. Now, I wanted to be in Jackson early the next morning, for I expected a party of goods there for me, which I intended to dispose of on my way home. The moon peeped about midnight, and I knew it did not rain, I could get along very comfortably through the mud after that. So I asked the landlord if he could not see that my horse was all right about midnight, as I wished to be off about two. He expressed some surprise at this, and asked me why I did not stop for breakfast. I said my last load was all sold out, and a new lot of goods was waiting for me at Jackson, and I wanted to be there before the Express agent left in the morning. There was a number of people sitting round when I told this, but I took but little notice of them, one only arrested my attention. I had in my possession a small package of placards, which I was to deliver to the Sheriff of Jackson, and they were noticed for the detection of a notorious robber, named Dick Hardhead. The bill gave a description of his person, and the man before me answered very well to it. In fact it was perfect. He was a tall well-formed man, rather slight in frame, and had the appearance of a gentle- man; save that his face bore those hard, cruel marks which an observing man cannot mistake for anything but the index of a vil- lains disposition.

THE PEDDLER'S PIPE.

"When I went to my chamber I asked the landlord who that man was, describing the suspicious individual. He said he did not know him. He came there that after- noon and intended to leave the next day. The host asked why I wished to know, and I simply told him that the man's counten- ance was familiar, and I merely wished to know if I was ever acquainted with him. I was resolved not to let the landlord into the secret, but to hurry on to Jackson, and there give information to the Sheriff, and per- haps he might catch the impostor, the vil- lain, for I had no doubt in regard to his identity.

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