

day. [The honorable gentleman, from physical debility, had been compelled to be seated while he spoke.] I will not ask for a continuance to any other day, because I know that the time of the Senate is precious. I can only say in relation to this whole project, that it will regrettably be the country with the slavery question; that it is I think, contrary to the spirit of our institutions to put money in the President's pocket. I suppose to be sent to Madrid, for Mr. Preston to use in an emergency. I think it would be improper, unjust, and ungenerous to our successors, who are to ratify the treaty, to take this advantage of them. I think it is an unfair way of negotiation. I think it would injure Louisiana above all the States in the Union. I think that at this time we ought to compact and bind together and build up and strengthen what we have. We are young let the gristle grow into the bone; let us get our muscles developed. Let us feel strong before we enter into such a contest; let us cultivate the arts of peace, for peace hath its victories, no less renowned than war. That would be my policy, and I hope it will be the policy enforced upon the President by Congress. I am going to look for some sensible man for the next Presidency—a sound man, I would rather he had no platform; I do not want to run him in blinds. I confess to you that, in my opinion, my colleague (Mr. Crittenden) would, of all men on the face of the earth, suit me the best. If you will give him a chance, I will risk him upon my personal confidence, without laying down a creed of faith for him to stand by; I do not want to stand a man upon a platform, or run him in blinds.

Second, the platform is all nonsense.—Let me say to my friend, the Senator from New York, if he should ever get to be President, I want him to recollect that this platform business is all humbug, and when he gets in power, to kick down the ladder by which he got there. The two or three last platform Presidents we have had, when they got in the ear of State and safely seated, all around, everywhere, you could see, "do not stand on the platform when the cars are in motion." [Laughter.] That is the way they manage it. There is always some emergency, or something to justify a departure from it. Well, sir, I hope I shall be forgiven. I have been to four or five conventions myself, on account of Mr. Clay, chiefly, and once, I believe, on account of my colleague, to keep him out of a scrape of some sort, and I know a good deal about them. In the time I was in politics, and I was dominant, I always knew a long time before the convention came on who would be Governor. It used to be said that you never could know who was Governor until the election was over; but it was all fixed up—all done in advance. I wish the country to get on prosperously, and peacefully and gloriously, without any slavery agitation. I want a man of sound heart and sound head, who will administer the government with that view. I can say for myself, as was said by the immortal Webster, that I trust it will be one and unchangeable, now and forever, and that the God who overrules us and guides us now, as heretofore, and as I hope for ages to come, will so shape our ends that all will result in good.

RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.—A great revival of religion is in progress in the Lutheran Church in this place. For the past ten days the Church has been crowded, and the benches around the altar are thronged nightly by many anxious and pious worshippers, and the spirit appears to be still on the increase. Many have professed conversion. Rev. Sam'l Yingling of that Church has sustained all the arduous labors of the occasion, until the last night or two, when the assistance of Rev. F. Benedict, of Somerset former pastor of that Church, and Rev. Mr. Seifert of Woodbury, were secured.

LOCOFOCO-LIKE.—The present Locofoco House of Representatives, have, in their extreme anxiety, to reduce the expenditures of the government, passed an Act, that no future Congress shall be entitled to mileage! This is good so far as it goes. But why did the present Congress, a large majority of whose members are Locofocos, pass an Act to repeal the mileage of members of future Congresses but continue it for themselves? This is Locofocoism with a vengeance. We would like to hear the opinion of the Gazette on the subject.

We have received a communication from a friend in one of the South eastern Townships, informing us of the conversion of one of the delegates of the late Locofoco meeting. The people won't belong to a party that is guilty of such frauds as those of Kansas, and of such as have been proved on Mr. Buchanan and his Secretaries.

WE notice that a bill has been introduced into the Legislature for the purpose of selling the Poor House property, and purchasing another. Mr. Schell, of the Senate, and Williams and Walker, of the House, have offered a number of remonstrances against the dismemberment of our County.

WE intend to commence in our next, a story headed "The Gunmaker of Moscow," the continuation of which will be found in the New York Ledger of the 19th March, inst. Unless our readers will get the Ledger of that date, it will be of no account to them.

PETERSONS' COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR for March has come to hand. It contains a list of seventy new counterfeiters since the last issue.—It is the best Detector published in the country.

BEDFORD FOUNDRY.—We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Shires & Jordan. Persons in want of anything in the foundry business, will do well to call on them.

Attention is called to the advertisement of John Alsip, Esq., in to-day's paper. The Sheriff has a good assortment of goods, and sells them cheap.

OUR FRIEND, S. S. WHARTON, Esq., of Huntington, will be a candidate for Auditor General, before the next People's Convention. He would make a good officer.

OUR MUSICAL FRIEND.—We call attention to the advertisement in another column, of this popular musical work.

Our advertising columns are rich this week in land sales, &c. See them.

The Post Office has been removed this week to the store of Messrs. Ferguson & Co.

FOR THE INQUIRER. OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.—NO 1. MR. EDITOR:—I am now nearly through visiting the schools for the present term. I desire to say a few things in regard to them. If you give me a little room in your paper, I will furnish a few short articles on the subject.

The Navy Yard Corruption.

We publish to-day from the N. Y. Tribune, a lengthy article on the recent Report of a committee in Congress in relation to the gross frauds of the Locofoco party, at the Philadelphia and New York Navy Yards. It will be seen that Mr. Buchanan and J. Glancy Jones, are seriously implicated. At New York, on the first of May last, about 1300 men were employed. In November there were 2400. At Philadelphia, on the 1st of May last, about 1100 men were employed. On the 16th of October, there were over 1700. In both cases, these aggregates were reduced after the elections to the ordinary standard, thus proving conclusively why the numbers were temporarily doubled. There is no such ratio of increase at any of the other yards.

The Democratic organs will have plenty of work to do, after this report is exposed. It brings to light many of the frauds practiced. We shall next week publish several extracts from the Report of Messrs. Sherman and Ritchie.

Our young friend from Woodbury, who publishes a long communication of over two mortal columns in the Blair County Whiz, over the signature of "Fair Play," had better keep cool, as it is a long time till the dog days, and it will be longer yet until he gets Middle Woodbury attached to Blair. His communication might have been condensed within a square, and if he had had reference to facts, two or three lines would have amply sufficed, and then there would have been less room for so many blunders, truthful, grammatical, typographical, &c. We repeat, keep cool, it is no use making yourself so unnecessarily warm so long before the hot weather.

RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.—A great revival of religion is in progress in the Lutheran Church in this place. For the past ten days the Church has been crowded, and the benches around the altar are thronged nightly by many anxious and pious worshippers, and the spirit appears to be still on the increase. Many have professed conversion. Rev. Sam'l Yingling of that Church has sustained all the arduous labors of the occasion, until the last night or two, when the assistance of Rev. F. Benedict, of Somerset former pastor of that Church, and Rev. Mr. Seifert of Woodbury, were secured.

LOCOFOCO-LIKE.—The present Locofoco House of Representatives, have, in their extreme anxiety, to reduce the expenditures of the government, passed an Act, that no future Congress shall be entitled to mileage! This is good so far as it goes. But why did the present Congress, a large majority of whose members are Locofocos, pass an Act to repeal the mileage of members of future Congresses but continue it for themselves? This is Locofocoism with a vengeance. We would like to hear the opinion of the Gazette on the subject.

We have received a communication from a friend in one of the South eastern Townships, informing us of the conversion of one of the delegates of the late Locofoco meeting. The people won't belong to a party that is guilty of such frauds as those of Kansas, and of such as have been proved on Mr. Buchanan and his Secretaries.

WE notice that a bill has been introduced into the Legislature for the purpose of selling the Poor House property, and purchasing another. Mr. Schell, of the Senate, and Williams and Walker, of the House, have offered a number of remonstrances against the dismemberment of our County.

WE intend to commence in our next, a story headed "The Gunmaker of Moscow," the continuation of which will be found in the New York Ledger of the 19th March, inst. Unless our readers will get the Ledger of that date, it will be of no account to them.

PETERSONS' COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR for March has come to hand. It contains a list of seventy new counterfeiters since the last issue.—It is the best Detector published in the country.

BEDFORD FOUNDRY.—We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Shires & Jordan. Persons in want of anything in the foundry business, will do well to call on them.

Attention is called to the advertisement of John Alsip, Esq., in to-day's paper. The Sheriff has a good assortment of goods, and sells them cheap.

OUR FRIEND, S. S. WHARTON, Esq., of Huntington, will be a candidate for Auditor General, before the next People's Convention. He would make a good officer.

OUR MUSICAL FRIEND.—We call attention to the advertisement in another column, of this popular musical work.

Our advertising columns are rich this week in land sales, &c. See them.

The Post Office has been removed this week to the store of Messrs. Ferguson & Co.

FOR THE INQUIRER. OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.—NO 1. MR. EDITOR:—I am now nearly through visiting the schools for the present term. I desire to say a few things in regard to them. If you give me a little room in your paper, I will furnish a few short articles on the subject.

Perhaps they will be interesting to many of your readers.

I do not wish to trouble you or any person else, with an extended detail of statistics, and therefore would merely remark that there are one hundred and seventy-nine schools in the county at this time. Two hundred and twenty-eight applicants were examined during the term. Two hundred and eight certificates were issued, many of which were of the lower grades. Some of these were employed from necessity and not from choice. In some districts letter teachers could not be obtained for the wages offered, and in others, better ones could not be had at all. The standard of the teachers' qualifications was raised a little higher than it was last year, requiring a little more to get a good certificate. The schools throughout the county, wherever I was able to visit them, have been doing better this term than the last, with only two or three exceptions. The signs of general improvement are beginning to be seen in many places. Teachers' institutes are regularly held in most of the districts, for purposes of mutual improvement; a disposition to build better school houses, and employ better teachers, is showing itself, and in many places there is a more general waking up to the claims and responsibilities of the subject.

One of the true principles of political economy is, that every State should educate its own children, or at least see that they are educated. This is nothing more than carrying out the principle that calls for every government to establish laws for the protection of life and property, and the punishment of crime. It is not difficult to see that a good school-house, well occupied, is worth much more than any jail or any code of penal laws, as a preventive of vice and wickedness. The legislation of our State has hitherto acknowledged this principle, and has acted upon it, especially so during the last twenty-five years. Hence educational means, fully able to accomplish the purposes for which they are designed, have been liberally provided. The question then forces itself upon the mind: Are the common schools of our county, as they are now organized, accomplishing the purposes of their institution? that is, do they give thorough elementary instruction and proper moral training to the children of the people? I am sorry to say that this question cannot be answered fully and satisfactorily in the affirmative. It is true that much, very much has been accomplished already, and the standard of the schools is higher now than at any time in their previous history; and, as a general thing, they were better taught, and more thorough instruction was given during the past session than ever before; and, though more interest was taken in their success, by directors and parents, than formerly, and though it is acknowledged that the interest is increasing, and the tendency is upwards, yet all this does not bring us up to what we ought to be. We are so far back! There is room for great improvements. Much must be done before we can enjoy the full benefits of our school system. It is said, by competent judges, to be one of the best in the world, yet there are many persons who object to it in its present form, and would object to it in any other form. Those are not wanting who object even to the laws of God. It is true, there may be some things to object to in the present system, but whatever these objections may be, they bear no comparison with the hindrances to its proper working, thrown in the way by some parents, some directors and some teachers also. Of these I will speak hereafter, and of each district in particular, as some are deserving of much praise.

SUPERINTENDENT. Bedford, Feb. 1859.

The Navy Department Corruption.

In the general slough of corruption into which, according to Mr. Buchanan's Duquesne report, the United States, including both Federal and State Governments, have drifted, no greater or fouler depth has as yet been explored than that which is treated in the report of Messrs. Sherman and Ritchie, of the Naval Corruption Investigating Committee. It will, we think, be seen from the facts detailed in this Report that in making his charges of corruption, Mr. Buchanan need not have gone beyond the recollections of his own personal experience for ample proof of everything that he alleged.

The attention of the Committee has been chiefly directed to four distinct items of expenditure: 1. The purchase of fuel for the Navy. 2. The purchase of live oak timber. 3. The management of the navy yards, and especially that of Brooklyn. 4. Contracts for steam machinery.

1. The mode of purchasing the coal, the selection of the Coal Agent and his compensation are by law left entirely to the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy. In May last, Benjamin Tyson was the Coal Agent, with a compensation fixed at five per cent commission on the total cost of the coal purchased, and on the cost of freighting the coal to the various navy yards. The amount purchased in 1858 was 55,000 tons. There were several applicants for the office held by Mr. Tyson. In May, 1858, some of these applicants met at Washington, and at a conference with each other and their friends—among whom was Glancy Jones, since appointed by Mr. Buchanan Minister to Austria—it was agreed that Dr. Charles H. Hunter, of Reading, Pa., should be appointed Coal Agent, and that the emoluments of the office should be divided equally between him, John F. Smith, and J. Lawrence Getz—warm personal and political friends of President Buchanan, who had contributed largely to his election; Hunter and Smith were both applicants for the office of Coal Agent, and Getz is the editor of that sterling Democratic sheet, the Reading Gazette.

Mr. Smith testified that he was in Washington in May last, and was present when the arrangement for the appointment of Hunter was made; that the "arrangement" was communicated to Glancy Jones, then a member of Congress; and that the President also understood that the emoluments of the office were to go to the three. As this point was deemed important by the Committee, the witness was examined in pursuance of the arrangement, Dr. Hunter was appointed Coal Agent. Smith received the commission from the Navy Department, took it to Dr. Hunter, at Reading, and narrated to him the arrangement, to which Hunter agreed. Getz subsequently declined to share in the profits; because, as he says, the "arrangement" was distasteful to him.

Mr. Cochrane: Mr. Callen tells me that you are to take men on Tuesday; now I ask you to take him on and the others I have asked you to take on. I will have my proportion of men under you. If you do not give them, I will lodge charges against you. He also wrote in similar style to the master blacksmith.

In another case, Lewis W. Berry, the master painter, discharged a man for habitual drunkenness, who had been appointed upon the recommendation of Mr. John Kelly. Mr. Kelly requested that the man be taken on again.—Berry demurred, telling Kelly that the man was a disgrace to the service. Kelly said he could not help that—the man must go to work again. Berry still refused. Upon which Kelly told him, "You may set it down as a fact that I

ined and re-examined by different members of the Committee as to the knowledge of the President. He repeated that the President knew that the three were to divide the emoluments of the office, and that the parties were satisfied with the decision.

Mr. Getz testified that he was at Washington at the time, and was informed of the arrangements for the appointment of Dr. Hunter, and that he, Getz, was to have one-third of the profits. He conversed with the President about the appointment of Dr. Hunter, and the President said to him: "Mr. Jones urged me to appoint you, but you are no applicant; I have made up my mind to appoint Dr. Hunter."

Dr. Hunter had been for years, as he then, and still is, a practicing physician in Reading. He had never purchased coal for sale; he did not know its market value, took no pains to ascertain it, did not purchase any coal for the Government, or do any act in the performance of his duty, except to sign formal papers sent to him by Tyler, Stone & Co. Philadelphia, certifying that a specific quantity of coal of the best quality, had been duly inspected and weighed by him and shipped on board a named vessel. These papers were sent to the proper bureau, and all parties knew, or out to have known, that the certificates were false, so far as relates to his personal knowledge of the facts certified. When the Government needed coal a requisition was sent to Dr. Hunter, which by him was sent to Tyler, Stone & Co., who became at once the purchasers for and the sellers to the Government. Tyler, Stone & Co. and Dr. Hunter fixed the price at \$3 85 per ton. The testimony of many witnesses establishes, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the market value of such coal as was delivered to the Government would not exceed \$3 50 per ton, and several respectable dealers would have furnished the Government at that or a less price, and then made a profit. The amount of emoluments received by Dr. Hunter and divided by him with Mr. Smith was at the rate of about \$15,000 per annum.

Live-oak timber, like other material for the Navy, is required by law to be purchased by contract with the lowest bidder; but, unlike other material, it is not kept on hand in large quantities by dealers in timber. It has, therefore, been the uniform custom of the Government to allow contractors from one to two years to furnish the supply needed, unless the exigencies of the service demand an immediate supply, in which case it may be bought in open purchase.

Mr. W. C. N. Swift, a whaler of New-Bedford, Mass., had, prior to 1844, been contractor for the supply of live-oak and other timber for the Government. In 1844, he entered into a written agreement with George Plitt of Philadelphia, an intimate friend of President Buchanan, by which Plitt agreed to aid Swift all he could in obtaining live-oak contracts with the Navy Department; for which Swift was to pay to Plitt ten per cent on the gross amount of the contracts made. Pending the Presidential election of 1856 Plitt introduced Swift to Mr. Buchanan. Plitt himself, at the time, was Treasurer of the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania, and, as such, received from Swift the sum of \$18,000, to be used in the pending election. Mr. Buchanan was informed, before the election, that Mr. Swift was an Old-Line Whig who had come over to his party, and was taking active part in the election; and he was subsequently informed of the amount contributed by Swift. Plitt also introduced Swift to Mr. Secretary Toucey, telling him that he was a very warm friend, who had contributed very liberally toward the election of 1856, and who had a number of Old-Line Whig friends in Massachusetts who were equally liberal, and that such gentlemen, of course, ought to be patronized.

The result of these introductions and these interviews with the President and the Secretary of the Navy was, that in 1857 contracts for live-oak were awarded to Mr. Swift to the amount of \$32,940. And in 1858, by a series of artful and fraudulent maneuvers, which are fully and clearly set forth in the report of the Committee, it was contrived that Mr. Swift should get a further contract for 150,000 feet of timber, amounting to \$166,700, about \$25,000 more than it would have cost the Government if the contract had been honestly and properly offered to public competition, without the disgraceful favoritism which the testimony proves to have been practiced.

The investigation into the condition of the Brooklyn Navy Yard disclosed, in the first place, the fact that the patronage of the Yard was systematically divided among the Democratic members of Congress from N. York. Thus, the constructive engineer, the master plumber, and the master block-maker, represented Mr. Sickles; the master spar-maker, master blacksmith, and timber inspector, Mr. Mealy; the master boat builder, and master ship-carpter, Mr. Taylor; the master caulker, Mr. Cochrane; and the master stone-cutter, Mr. Ward. In the general division of patronage, Lawrence Collins was appointed master carpenter upon the nomination of Mr. Haskin. He was removed on the 9th of June, 1858, on account of Mr. Haskin's anti-Locomotionism. Alexander Ward, the master laborer, represented Mr. Clark, and in May, 1853, after Mr. Clark had taken his position upon the Kansas question, Ward resigned, to avoid being turned out.

This system, Mr. Sherman justly remarks, has reduced the Navy Yard to a mere political machine, where idleness, theft, insubordination, fraud and gross neglect of duty prevailed to an alarming degree. Members of Congress took a scandalous interest in the appointment of the lowest workmen, sometimes pressing appointments upon the master workmen, as a reward for partisan services, without regard to the qualification or character of the applicant. For example, Mr. John Cochrane, on June 13, 1857, wrote thus to Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Haskin's master carpenter.

"Mr. Cochrane: Mr. Callen tells me that you are to take men on Tuesday; now I ask you to take him on and the others I have asked you to take on. I will have my proportion of men under you. If you do not give them, I will lodge charges against you. He also wrote in similar style to the master blacksmith.

In another case, Lewis W. Berry, the master painter, discharged a man for habitual drunkenness, who had been appointed upon the recommendation of Mr. John Kelly. Mr. Kelly requested that the man be taken on again.—Berry demurred, telling Kelly that the man was a disgrace to the service. Kelly said he could not help that—the man must go to work again. Berry still refused. Upon which Kelly told him, "You may set it down as a fact that I

will have you removed if I can." And he was removed two or three months afterward, Mr. Kelly having applied for his removal. Mr. Kelly, the report states, testified that he did not know the man was a drunkard.

It appears from the testimony that it was by order of Mr. Secretary Toucey that the patronage of the Navy Yard was divided among the members of Congress. Under date of July 30, 1858, Mr. Toucey wrote to Com Kearney, the Commandant of the Navy Yard, telling him that Mr. Sickles had complained of the master joiner because he had not employed, under him, a single person from his district. And the Secretary directs the Commodore "to inquire into and report upon this matter." "Very extraordinary business," remarks Mr. Sherman, "on which to detail an officer of the highest rank known in the Navy of the United States."

The Commodore, in reply, transmitted to the Department a letter from the master joiner, who justified himself for not accepting the recommendations of Mr. Sickles by saying, that "in nine cases out of ten the men who are most strenuously recommended are very indifferent hands, many of whom cannot obtain employment from private employers."

Abuses of the grossest nature are shown to exist in the other civil departments of the Navy Yard, especially in those of the Navy Agent and Naval Storekeeper. Similar abuses exist also at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. But one of the most flagrant violations of law and of propriety was disclosed by the inquiry into the contracts for the machinery of the steam sloops-of-war directed to be built by the Act of June, 1858. On the 26th of July, sealed proposals were invited by the Secretary of the Navy for the machinery of these vessels. Bids were accordingly sent in by most of the leading marine engine-builders of the U. States. For the large sloop at Philadelphia there were seven bids, the lowest being from the Norelty Iron Works of this city, offering to do the work for \$98,000. Merrick & Sons of Philadelphia offered to do it for \$102,000. Before the Secretary had passed upon any of the bids, Col. W. C. Patterson of Philadelphia wrote, under date of Sept. 13, 1858, to Mr. Buchanan the following letter:

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 13, 1858. "DEAR SIR: I venture to suggest to you the expediency of awarding the contracts for the machinery of the sloop, now building at the Navy Yard at this time, and if it can be done without prejudice to the public service, to Merrick & Sons. Theirs is the only establishment in the First District which employs a large number of mechanics—at this time, 300; when in full work, 450.

"The managing partners (Mr. M., sr., being absent in bad health), are full of energy, striving every nerve to keep their force during this depression, and, in so far as I know, the only Old Whigs of any influence in that District who are in favor of the re-election of Col. Florence.

"I know, from former experience, the value of that influence, and feel persuaded that it is the interest of the Democratic party to increase it.

"The First District will, I hope, be carried in any event, but with that shop at work, full-handed, two weeks prior to the election, the result would I think, be placed beyond all doubt.

will have you removed if I can." And he was removed two or three months afterward, Mr. Kelly having applied for his removal. Mr. Kelly, the report states, testified that he did not know the man was a drunkard.

It appears from the testimony that it was by order of Mr. Secretary Toucey that the patronage of the Navy Yard was divided among the members of Congress. Under date of July 30, 1858, Mr. Toucey wrote to Com Kearney, the Commandant of the Navy Yard, telling him that Mr. Sickles had complained of the master joiner because he had not employed, under him, a single person from his district. And the Secretary directs the Commodore "to inquire into and report upon this matter." "Very extraordinary business," remarks Mr. Sherman, "on which to detail an officer of the highest rank known in the Navy of the United States."

The Commodore, in reply, transmitted to the Department a letter from the master joiner, who justified himself for not accepting the recommendations of Mr. Sickles by saying, that "in nine cases out of ten the men who are most strenuously recommended are very indifferent hands, many of whom cannot obtain employment from private employers."

Abuses of the grossest nature are shown to exist in the other civil departments of the Navy Yard, especially in those of the Navy Agent and Naval Storekeeper. Similar abuses exist also at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. But one of the most flagrant violations of law and of propriety was disclosed by the inquiry into the contracts for the machinery of the steam sloops-of-war directed to be built by the Act of June, 1858. On the 26th of July, sealed proposals were invited by the Secretary of the Navy for the machinery of these vessels. Bids were accordingly sent in by most of the leading marine engine-builders of the U. States. For the large sloop at Philadelphia there were seven bids, the lowest being from the Norelty Iron Works of this city, offering to do the work for \$98,000. Merrick & Sons of Philadelphia offered to do it for \$102,000. Before the Secretary had passed upon any of the bids, Col. W. C. Patterson of Philadelphia wrote, under date of Sept. 13, 1858, to Mr. Buchanan the following letter:

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 13, 1858. "DEAR SIR: I venture to suggest to you the expediency of awarding the contracts for the machinery of the sloop, now building at the Navy Yard at this time, and if it can be done without prejudice to the public service, to Merrick & Sons. Theirs is the only establishment in the First District which employs a large number of mechanics—at this time, 300; when in full work, 450.

"The managing partners (Mr. M., sr., being absent in bad health), are full of energy, striving every nerve to keep their force during this depression, and, in so far as I know, the only Old Whigs of any influence in that District who are in favor of the re-election of Col. Florence.

"I know, from former experience, the value of that influence, and feel persuaded that it is the interest of the Democratic party to increase it.

"The First District will, I hope, be carried in any event, but with that shop at work, full-handed, two weeks prior to the election, the result would I think, be placed beyond all doubt.

"With much respect,  
W. C. PATTERSON.

"THE PRESIDENT." The President sent this precious document to the Secretary of the Navy with the following indorsement:

"The inclosed letter, from Col. Patterson of Philadelphia, is submitted to the attention of the Secretary of the Navy."

"J. S." Mr. Sherman's Report puts this transaction in its true light: "It is the duty of the Secretary to determine which of the bidders was the 'lowest responsible bidder,' and to award to him the contract. It is a judicial act. The rights of parties under the law, and the rights of the Government, were involved in the award. Any suggestions of fact or motive, except those which would enable the Secretary to adjudge which of the competing bidders was the lowest responsible one, was improper. The Secretary was the subordinate of the President, holding office at his pleasure, naturally controlled by his will; and by law he is frequently required to award and adjudge without regard to the President.—(Declar. act. Paulding, 14 Pet., 513; 6 How., 101-2.) Under these circumstances the President suggested to the Secretary, and in writing called his attention to the importance of awarding one of the contracts for machinery to Merrick & Sons, in order to secure the potent political influence of that firm in favor of the re-election of Col. Florence, and thus place the result of the election in his District beyond doubt, and generally to increase the influence of that firm, that it might be exercised in favor of the Democratic party.

"If the President had suggested to a Judge of the U. S. Courts that he render a judgment in favor of one of the parties litigant in a cause pending before him, because that judgment would aid in the election of a party favorite, or would contribute to the success of the Democratic party, the general voice of the people would demand his impeachment. Is it a less serious offense when this suggestion is made by the President to the Secretary of the Navy?—The Judge is beyond the power of the President; the Secretary is within his power. Each is required to perform judicial functions. The suggestions by the President of corrupt motives to either is equally dangerous, and is more likely to succeed with an officer whose tenure of office is the will of the President.

"The terms of the note of the President could not be misunderstood by a subordinate. No one can read the letter and note without a conviction that the indorsement in the letter was regarded by the President as a proper one to be submitted and to require the attention of the Secretary. Thus indorsed, the corrupt motive suggested would decide the award without regard to cost, unless the Secretary evinced a higher sense of public duty than his superior."

It is needless to add that Merrick & Sons got the contract; though the most extensive workshop of the kind in the country had offered to do the work for \$4000 less than Merrick & Sons.

Is it possible that the American people are so desensitized to official corruption that they can contemplate with insensibility and indifference relations like these!

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN WASHINGTON.

Philip Barton Key Shot Dead on Pennsylvania Avenue, BY DANIEL E. SICKLES, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM NEW YORK.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Philip Barton Key, U. S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, a gentleman of high social standing, and long a resident of Washington, was killed to-day by Daniel E. Sickles, member of Congress from New York.

Many different rumors are circulating regarding the tragedy, but all concur in the following facts:

About two o'clock this afternoon, the deceased was standing on Pennsylvania Avenue, in the neighborhood of Lafayette Square, and near the residence of Sickles, conversing with Mr. Butterworth, when Mr. Sickles approached and exclaimed, "D—d rascal, you are the destroyer of my honor and happiness, and I've come to kill you." At the same time drawing a pistol and firing, when Mr. Key staggered forward and Sickles stepping back fired a second shot which brought him on his knees. At this time Key exclaimed, "I am murdered," and implored Sickles to spare his life; but the latter fired a third time, which shot penetrating the heart caused death in a few moments.

Sickles immediately proceeded to the residence of the Attorney General, which was close by, followed by an immense crowd, and delivered himself into the custody of that gentleman. Shortly afterwards he was conveyed to jail where he now remains, surrounded by numerous friends.

The cause of the deed is said to be the infidelity of Sickles's wife with Key, the former having yesterday been apprized of the fact by an anonymous letter, and prepared himself accordingly. The widest excitement prevails throughout the community, and the death of Key is universally lamented.

SECOND DISPATCH. The verdict of the Coroners Jury is as follows: "That the death of Philip Barton Key was caused by a pistol in the hands of Daniel E. Sickles."

It is reliably asserted that Sickles has a paper in his possession, signed by his wife, acknowledging her guilt.

See advertisement of Sanford's Liver Invigorator.

MARRIED.

On the 22d ult., at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. Sam'l Yingling, Mr. THOMAS M. LYONS, of Bedford, to Miss ELIZABETH MARGARET LUTZ, of Snake Spring Tp.

The happy couple may cur thanks for a supply of wedding cake. May their career through life be one of unalloyed happiness.

On the 22d ult., by John Smith, Esq., Mr. JOB BRIGGS of Bedford Tp., to Miss SARAH M. SLEEK of Napier.

BEDFORD FOUNDRY.

THE subscribers having purchased the Bedford Foundry of Messrs Washbrough & Bannock, would most respectfully announce to the citizens of Bedford and adjoining counties, that they are prepared to make and furnish all kinds of CASTINGS for

CRIST AND SAW-MILLS, Thrashing Machines, Ploughs, Apple-mills, Cooking, ten plate, and coal stoves, and Sleighs, wash kettles, of different sizes, wagon boxes of all sizes, farmers' bells, (a superior article,) oven doors, and every thing usually made in a country Foundry.

WOODOCK, SEYLER and HILL-SIDE PLOUGHS. Also, a new PLUG PLOUGH, to which we call the special attention of our farmers—a superior article to the old Plug Plough, with two kinds of points, shares and landsies to suit all ploughs in general use in this county. Turning and fitting of iron patterns made to order, and all kinds of repairing done at the shortest notice and at low prices. All our own work made of the very best material, and warranted to give satisfaction.

Farmers and others would do well to call and examine our work before purchasing elsewhere, as we are determined to meet the emergencies of the times, we will sell LOW FOR CASH, on CONVEYANCE. Pig and bar iron, horses and lumber, taken in exchange for work.

March 4, 1859.—ly SHIRES & JORDAN.

CHEAP CASH AND PRODUCE STORE!

Great inducements to Purchasers. THE undersigned having purchased the Store lately owned by Samuel Brown, deceased, offers to the Public a large assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries, Queensware, Boots and Shoes, &c., &c., at the lowest cash prices.

His stock of goods is so increased in every point of excellence, and purchasers need only visit, and see to be convinced that it is their interest, to buy at his establishment for CASH, or COUNTRY PRODUCE.

He will make the most advantageous sales to purchasers, as immediate payments will enable him to make

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES! Those who wish to secure bargains should not delay giving him a call.

Store Room same as lately occupied by Samuel Brown, immediately opposite the Washington Hotel. JOHN ALSIP. March 4, 1859.

BEDFORD RAILROAD.

ALL persons having books loaned by the Commissioners appointed to receive subscriptions of stock to the Bedford Railroad, with stock subscribed therein, are earnestly requested to return the same immediately to the secretary of the company, as it is