

At 11 o'clock, the Vice President called the Senate to order. After reading the journal of Thursday last, a great number of petitions were presented and referred to appropriate committees.

Mr. Douglas, of Illinois, asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill, to be read at the next session, for the purpose of constructing a railroad to connect the Mississippi River with the Northern Lakes.

Mr. Douglas next moved that the bill for the admission of California into the Union as a State, be referred to the Committee on Territories; the bill incorporating the amendments laying off the territory into the election districts, for the purpose of electing delegates to a Convention to form a State Constitution, and defining the qualifications of voters.

Mr. Benton moved that the bill be referred to the Committee of Judiciary. Upon this motion, a very animated debate took place, in which Messrs. Douglas, Berrien, Hale, Clayton, and others took part.

On the other side, it was contended with equal warmth, that its reference to the Committee on Territories was in every respect appropriate, and in accordance with previous practice.

The motion of reference to the Committee on Territories was lost by a vote of 24 yeas to 25 nays. The motion to refer to the Committee on the Judiciary finally prevailed.

Mr. Down's resolution of inquiry, in regard to the establishment of a branch mint in California, with a Director and Treasurer, was adopted, after a few remarks by several Senators.

Mr. Miller introduced a resolution calling upon the President for any information which may have in his possession, with reference to any official correspondence with Spain, having for its object the purchase of Cuba. The resolution was adopted.

A motion was made and agreed to, calling upon the memorial of W. H. Aspinwall, John L. Stephens, Henry Clay, and their associates, in relation to the construction of a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama.

Mr. Miller, in reply, stated that the bill before the Senate did not in any way affect that right.

Mr. Dix is of opinion that our Government had no right, under the treaty with New Grenada, to confer the power of constructing a road across the Isthmus of Panama.

Mr. Benton said that the memorialists did not ask for the delegation of such a power. They merely wished to enter into a contract with our Government for the transportation of troops, supplies, &c., across the Isthmus.

Pending the discussion, a sealed message was received from the President at the hands of his Private Secretary.

On Monday, Mr. Cameron, the Senate went into Secret Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—At 12 o'clock, the Speaker called the House to order. The Journal of the preceding day was then read, and the Speaker announced as the first thing in order, the reception of petitions by States. Several were received and referred.

On motion, the House went into Committee of the Whole, Richard W. Thompson in the Chair, for the purpose of taking up Mr. Vinton's resolution referring the President's annual message to the standing Committees of the House.

Several amendments were offered. One by Mr. M. referring to the President's message, which relates to the new territories of California and New Mexico, to a Select Committee of nine.

After a brief, but animated debate, the motion was lost.

Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, moved that the tariff part of the message be referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Commerce. This motion was warmly discussed by Messrs. Cobb, Ramsey, Charles J. Ingersoll, of South Carolina, Henry Thompson, of Pennsylvania, and others.

Mr. Ramsey was in favor of referring it to the committee on manufactures.

certain degree of prudence should be observed. In private as well as public affairs, much that was strictly honorable in its character, was concealed, with the ultimate view of preventing any undue advantage on the part of others.

Mr. Miller replied, giving his reasons somewhat at length for offering the resolution in question. He did not desire to infringe upon the prerogatives of the President—the least as well as the greatest—but his sole object was to obtain information on a subject which all classes of our citizens felt a lively interest in, and which he thought might be communicated with perfect safety.

Mr. Benton moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the special order, being the bill to make compensation for the transportation of troops and supplies, for a limited time, to the Isthmus of Panama. This motion was agreed to.

Mr. Benton stated that at the close of the debate yesterday, a call had been made upon him by Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, for a copy of the contract made by the government of New Grenada with a company of certain citizens of France, in 1838, for the purpose of constructing a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama.

Mr. Aspinwall and his associates, Mr. Deane, and Mr. H. de la Roche, had submitted to the Senate, in compliance with the promise which he had made yesterday, a copy of that contract or grant. But before doing so he would endeavor to enlighten Senators who desired to know the terms of the contract under which Messrs. Aspinwall and associates, the present memorialists, claim the exclusive right of way across the Isthmus.

Mr. Thompson said he could not charge his colleague for whom he had the highest regard, with any want of consistency, not in the least. But it seemed to him to be within his recollection, that his colleague, at the last session of Congress, proposed a reduction of duties on liquors to fifteen per cent.

Mr. Thompson said he did not know—he could not answer—he did not deal in these articles.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll inquired, if his colleague did not consider specific duties necessary on liquors, why he proposed a reduction of them to fifteen per cent.

Mr. Thompson said there was a difference between the tariff act of 1842. They fixed by law an artificial value, without any regard to its real value, and assessed a duty equal to its whole value in some cases, without any regard to supply, demand, market, or anything else.

Mr. Thompson, I am not wrong, I think. The act of 1842 contained specific duties—and minimums, not as a consequence of the abolition of the tariff act of 1842. They fixed by law an artificial value, without any regard to its real value, and assessed a duty equal to its whole value in some cases, without any regard to supply, demand, market, or anything else.

Mr. Thompson proceeded. He wanted specific duties, moderate and reasonable. Those fluctuations that contingencies produced abroad, he wanted to avoid, and he wanted to protect any part of our industry was of the kind to be injured, as affected by foreign revenues. Let us have a system, uniform, that will not run up prices to-day, and depress them to-morrow, by the accident of want of demand in other countries.

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tariff of 1846, and that of most of his colleagues, the tariff of 1846 was passed. The objection to the new system was great. The doctrine of a tariff for revenue, discriminating for protection, seemed to be universally held. This was a doctrine that all seemed to go for: protection for the revenue, and revenue for protection. But the act of 1846 discriminated against protection. It operated badly, when most needed for protection as well as revenue. Look at its operation; take, for example, iron. As he instanced this article, as he was most familiar with it. He put it as an example. We will suppose, at the time of the passage of that act, that pig metal was selling for \$30 per ton; the thirty per cent, on that would be a duty of \$9. This was a high duty—more than was wanted; but to the example. When the price of iron abroad came down to \$18 per ton, thirty per cent, was \$5.40 duty; a loss of \$3 60 cents revenue, as well as \$12 cheaper by way of competition. But if it came down to \$9—and he believed it had at one time—the duty was \$2 70 per ton, and a reduction of \$21 per ton in the price, to facilitate competition.—Thus, sir, you lost \$6 30 revenue per ton, and \$21 protection, if you choose. It discriminated against labor when prices were abundant abroad, and against the manufacturer when they were scarce, without a shadow of a shade of protection.

Now, sir, what is the remedy for all this? It is plain. Specific duties—moderate specific duties—moderate, not inconsistent with revenue. Take iron again as an example; fix a price for it, say \$20 or \$25 per ton; calculate it at \$30, if you please; say thirty per cent, on this valuation: this would be six dollars. Now, sir, when it would be abundant abroad, and should come in at nine dollars, (the tariff per ton, and you would still get your six dollars to the ton; and the more the should come in, (the evidence of superabundance, and want of market abroad,) the more revenue there would accrue to the country. Let this be the system in regard to the great articles of manufacture and produce of the country. Specific duties would give stability. Our affairs would not be made to fluctuate, nor our revenue either.

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realize inordinate gains, out of the toil and sweat of half paid operatives. It was high time that these slanders and misrepresentations should be answered, and answered in a manner which could not be misunderstood by men of the most ordinary capacity. He thought that the Committee on Manufactures could best do it. That committee had reported a tariff of words, which was recommended to the Committee of Ways and Means, as he hoped this would be. For his part, he would be satisfied with either committee, provided the proper kind of report went forth to the world—a report that would detect and expose the misrepresentation of the President's message.

Mr. Greeley was listened to with profound attention by the House, which had listened to him as if he were one of those who were about to be called in to answer for his conduct.

Mr. Martin followed with a history of past legislation on the tariff question.

Mr. Fisher has the floor on this question to-morrow.

THE ACQUISITION OF CUBA.—This is the actual position of the matter: Spain consents to "entertain propositions." England will only interfere by a protest to save her dignity, and Cuba will make, and is making, such a mine of anxiety, that even slow-sighted, inactive Spain, perceives that as many millions as we are content to give for her, can never be obtained in any other manner out of the Island, and United States is pressing for an answer to her liberal "propositions." The commercial revenue of Cuba will cover the cost of purchase—principal and interest—in ten or twelve years, when she has paid the price for her emancipation, she can, if she chooses, take the position of an independent Republic. Meanwhile, we shall have the moral triumph of ending the African slave trade in North America, and secure forever all the benefits—commercial and political—of that unrivaled center of trade.—Times and Krystone.

TRAGEDY AT BATON ROUGE, LA. The usual harmony and order of this city, says the Baton Rouge Advocate, of the 5th inst, was interrupted on Monday last, by one of the most lamentable affairs that ever marked its history. Our population was thrown into the most profound and melancholy sensation, at hearing that an affray had taken place between Dr. Edward Skillman, of Washita parish, and Dr. J. G. Byrd, of this place. The causes which have led to this affair are stated by the New Orleans Delta, of the 9th, as follows:

It seems that Dr. Byrd, who has resided for some time at Baton Rouge, is implicated in an offence against the peace, honor and happiness of one of the most eminent families in this section.—It is for which it is difficult to find any excuse, to commit in this State with impunity. Dr. Edward Skillman, a most worthy and excellent young man, a native of West Point, but at the present residing at Douchette, bearing of the in-laws of the family—and name of which he is one of the props and defenders, came to Baton Rouge, to save that honor which was dear to him than life. Shortly after his arrival, Dr. S. was introduced to Byrd, and then respecting his introduction to leave them members of a family, by the social of Louisiana we closed. From the subsequent dying confessions of Dr. Skillman, it appears that he asked Byrd if he was ready to make the usual statement which the nature of the injury he had done to his family's peace and honor allowed—to which Byrd returned a negative answer. Skillman then drew a pistol, and fired twice at Byrd, who retreated into a back room, the door of which he closed on the inside.

Skillman struck at the door, and endeavored to force his way into it, but it was so locked, that he being forced forward, Byrd, who was standing near to the door as it opened, sprung upon him with a knife, and inflicted no less than seven wounds upon Skillman's body. The latter defended himself as well as he could with his pistol, with which he inflicted several severe wounds on Byrd's head, and finally succeeded in throwing Byrd down, and taking away his knife. He was in the act of stabbing him, when some persons rushed in and pulled him off.

IMPORTANT ARREST.—The police of Waterville, says the Union Gazette, have recently arrested several members of a family, by the social of Louisiana we closed. From the subsequent dying confessions of Dr. Skillman, it appears that he asked Byrd if he was ready to make the usual statement which the nature of the injury he had done to his family's peace and honor allowed—to which Byrd returned a negative answer. Skillman then drew a pistol, and fired twice at Byrd, who retreated into a back room, the door of which he closed on the inside.

THE IRISH INFORMERS. The arrival at New Orleans of several of the cattails who have made themselves infamous by hunting up the Irish patriots for British judgment, has excited the indignation and indignation of the city. The Greenbackers of Louisiana, in their last numbers, have published a list of the Irish Informers, and have called upon the Irish-American community, to take up arms in their defense. The list of names is as follows:—The Irish Informers.—Cavanaugh, the Irish detective, who was beaten in the Third Municipality on Thursday, was yesterday learned that the Charity Hospital, is not considered by any means in a dangerous condition, and is doing well. The attack upon this man and the threats against his confederates have been the subject of various comments with the press. Every good citizen who respects justice, and who is not averse to moral punishment, would have ultimately moved sufficient, but there ever has been an instance in which popular indignation overbearing the law admits of palliation, it is this. No republican, no honest, no honorable man, can sympathize for a moment with these detectives. They have been employed as an instrument—the dirty instrument of a tyrannical government—to make abortive the efforts of a band of patriots for the freedom of an enslaved land. They are a curse, not only in destroying the hopes of a nation, but with their hands in the pockets of spirits, and with their hands in the pockets of spirits, they seek to pollute a free and pure air with a breath stinking of perjury and treason. It is to be earnestly hoped, however, that it may not be necessary to record another instance of violation of law; and we trust, henceforth, the "discernants" may be treated only with the utter contempt their infamy deserves.

HARD TIMES. A farm of one hundred acres, lying upon the river about three miles above this place, with the usual buildings and improvements was sold last week for \$15,500, cash! This we suppose is an extraordinary price for such a tract of land. Let me advise them, however, for some time to come, Amend, and not destroy. No more of these measures, ever occupied the mind of man of greater difficulty than the financial system of this country. It must frequently be revised and altered, and our great error has been in overhauling, and not amending established systems, slowly and cautiously.

Mr. Fries begged to ask the gentleman a question. Were not the prices of iron higher now than they were in 1846?

Mr. Thompson said no, they were not; and gave a statement showing considerable difference at this time. As to the passage of the act of 1846, Mr. T. said he could not now say whether the other side of the House, who opposed it now, were to blame for its passage or not; now he said, but he would have something to say about it at some future time. [A laugh.]

There is a resort sometimes to a smile, when an answer is not at hand, (said Mr. T.) and it has been said that some men can laugh who cannot always reason. It was enough for him to remark now, that a Whig Senator in the other branch voting for the doing so, carried it, or his vote had the effect of doing so.

"But we shall see," he said, what the gentleman on the other side will do with this question—whether they will reform or destroy systems. It is with them, and the responsibility rests with them. I invoke the spirit of moderation as the only medium of stability, or the means by which it may be arrived at. He said he had no great choice as to the committee to which this subject should go, so that reform should be the result.

Mr. Greeley then followed Mr. Thompson, favored Mr. Ramsey's motion, to refer the tariff question to the Committee on Manufactures. Mr. Greeley said that it was quite fashionable of late years, for the ignorant and unthinking to assail the manufacturers of our country—denouncing them as aristocrats—pure-blooded capitalists—as selfish and as soulless—banded together to

The California gold fever—or as it is very appropriately named, the yellow fever—still rages with unabated vigor in almost every section of the country. People are going, or preparing to go, by thousands; and it requires no check before spring, our western prairies will become a well traveled thoroughfare. The route by Chicago costs too much for the majority of those who will seek that country, while that around Cape Horn, occupies too much time, hence the overland route, being cheaper, and otherwise better, will be chosen as the route to the El Dorado of the Pacific. There is a company of young men now forming here to take this route who propose leaving on the 8th of January, and from all sections of the west, we hear of similar companies of the young and enterprising preparing their rifles and other accoutrements for the same destination. If we had not others depending upon our labor for support, we'd pack up, bid adieu to pen, scissars, paste brush, and non-paying subscribers, and see if amid the sands of California we could not collect more of the "filthy lucre" in a year than we can here in a life time at publishing a paper. Situated as we are, however, we shall try and be content to see and hear of others reaping the golden harvest we are satisfied is in store for those who have the enterprise to grasp it.

The following are some of the paragraphs we daily see in our exchanges, calculated to "prick and comfort" to those who have this species of the yellow fever:

LUCKY AT LAST.—The Union Gazette has been shown a letter from a young man in San Francisco, who formerly lived in Utica, showing that after seven years of change and hardship, he has at last dropped anchor in a lucky spot. He left Utica seven years ago, at the age of fifteen, and went to the Pacific on a whaling voyage. Getting tired of whaling, he left the ship at the Sandwich Islands, and some time after, shipped on board a Spanish vessel bound to California for hides. While in this service he was wrecked on the coast and his next move was to enter into the employ of the great New York company, Prime, Ward and King, who had vessels at California gathering hides. He has been in this business for the last five years. The letter, just received, is dated "San Francisco, August 10, 1848," and the touching passages in it read as follows:—

"I have more gold than I can lift, and am getting more every day. I shall soon be home independently rich. There have been some who have tried to get rich in this way, but they have not succeeded. They dig no deeper than five feet, but I found the most of mine in the creek."

A young man named Palmer, says the New York Sun, who went out to California a year or more ago, returned recently with \$15,000 in gold, to be expended in gold for second California speculation. A merchant who failed in Boston about fourteen months ago, and was arrested in New York under the Shilwell act, but who managed to make his escape, and with a cargo of tin ware went to California, has returned to that city with, as he informed Albinus Stevens, \$61,000 in gold. A man living in the Third Avenue has returned with two thousand and seventy thousand dollars, and the sons of a merchant of New York are also reported to have made large quantities of the gold region. No wonder all classes are intensely excited when such reports are given of the realization of the riches of El Dorado.

A California correspondent of the New York Sun, represents the soil of that country to be superior for agricultural purposes. He says that the Yankees have done well in that country, and that the soil is rich and fertile. Nature has done every thing for us; let the industry of man be brought in requisition, and it will become the greatest country in the world. We have not the least doubt that those who go to California for the purpose of cultivating the soil, rather than digging gold, will in the end be best.

THE GOLD REGION.—A. P. B. of New York, has received a letter from his son, Edward Gold B., furnished Paolo de los Angeles, Upper California, July 31. The following is an extract:—

People who have been to the "placers" say there is ample room for fifty thousand people to work fifty years. It is doubtless the richest place in the world. Within a week or two past, diamonds and platinum have also been found. The stories, strange as they may seem, are entirely true. I know them to be so. There will probably be a great emigration to the country as soon as the news gets spread at home, and I wish you would show us this letter, and recommend him to come by all means.

There is no humbug about it. New papers are being discovered every day, and from Mexico and California, they sink into the hands of the community, and are followed by every thing connected with mining, as well as all goods and provisions, are selling in the mining region at most exorbitant prices. Pick-axes are worth fifty dollars each, shovels twenty-five dollars, hoes ten dollars, four \$100 a barrel, cotton cloth \$1 50 a yard, and every thing else in proportion.

CURIOUSLY CALIFORNIA.—VALUE OF GOLD.—A public meeting at San Francisco, the 12th September, fixed the value of the gold dust, in the absence of coin, at \$16 per ounce, as the medium for doing business. It appears that the value of the gold in June was \$11 per ounce in cash; in July \$12, and at a later date \$10 for cash. In exchange for goods it was somewhat more. The gold could be had of many poor holders of \$2 75 lbs. of gold, at the rate of \$7 per ounce cash. Gold was taken by Gov. Mason in pledge for duties at \$10 per ounce.

NOTHING STRANGE.—The papers are publishing it as something strange because a red was seen in the streets of Albany lately. We are thinking it is not the first wolf that has visited that city, nor the last. Its "hunting predecessors" might not have had four legs, but they were wolves nevertheless—in sheep's clothing.

ENGLISH ANTI-SLAVERS.—The English horror of Abnegation is strikingly exemplified in India. It is now determined, the London Times says, to "annex the Punjab definitely to the dominions of British India." What will those writers employed on the London press, who furnished distasteful upon American rapacity think of themselves, when they are conceiving articles in support of the British policy in India. What, also, do our mock philanthropist, the abolitionists, think of their pattern nation!

ANDHRE ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.—A very favorable grant from the Mexican Government is now in the hands of several American gentlemen for opening a ship canal or building a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The route has been carefully surveyed by an intelligent engineer, and found to be perfectly feasible. The grant is for fifty years, and can be extended to any reasonable time. The distance across the Isthmus is about 130 miles, of which 40 or 50 may be navigated, by the river Costaquezales, and with some enlarging of the channel of the river may be used for a still greater distance. On the Pacific side two large lakes, called Lakes Superior and Inferior, set in some distance, thus reducing the number of miles to be canalized very materially. The cost of a ship canal across the Isthmus has been estimated at about twelve millions of dollars, and it is believed that it would yield per annum, from transit duties three and a half millions; sale of lands, &c., two hundred and fifty thousand; timber, mahogany, &c., a million and a half, other produce half a million, making a total of five and three-quarter million of dollars, or nearly fifty per cent on the outlay, from which the repairs and management of the Canal must be deducted.

VERY TRUE AND SENSIBLE.—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, who is now lecturing in Boston, said the sensible thing that follows, in a discourse on Amusements, delivered the other evening before the Mercantile Literary Association:—"Amusements were indispensable to sound morals. If the young were not provided with harmless and virtuous amusements, they would have vicious and corrupting amusements. Some parents are so much afraid that their children would do wrong, that they would not let them do anything. But when they obtain their liberty, with none to control their pleasures, never having learned to act right, they were quite sure to riot in self-indulgence."

ANOTHER PATRIOT.—We see by the last Gazette, that Wm. S. Linn, Esq. of this city, is willing to give the country in the capacity of Marshall for the Western District. Good—his letter declining to serve as a Judge-elect will be sufficient recommendation to "old Jack" to secure the appointment. By the by, his predecessor, incumbent (intimated that he intended to resign? We have not heard of it—and we are certain no complaint has been made in regard to the manner he fulfilled his duties of the office? Why then is he to be removed?

IF any apology is due for the lack of interesting editorial contents this week, it may be found in the fact that we have been, and are still laboring under a severe attack of the prevailing disease of the season—cholera—which has totally incapacitated us for mental labor of every kind.

PLANK ROAD.—Our citizens, having talked about plank roads until it has become a by-word, have now commenced organizing the construction of a plank road through various parts of the surrounding country. As far as improvement they are much to be commended, and we believe we trust this like the former, will not be "talk" and no road. Strange things happen now-a-days, and this may result in something. We hope it will, and cheerfully tender the use of our columns toward promotion of the object.

HO! FOR CALIFORNIA! We are requested to say that some ten or twelve of our young men have formed themselves into a company, and are about to leave for the gold region of California. Their preparation are so nearly completed that they propose leaving on the 8th proximo, taking the overland route. They move all who have any desire to visit that favored region to join them; and we can safely say no objection, if opportunity will be offered, as they are "hungry" for the right kind of fun or danger!