

TERRIBLE CALAMITY—BURNING OF THE STEAMER, "BELLE OF THE WEST."

From the Cincinnati Enquirer, of Thursday.
There was a rumor put in circulation yesterday, about noon, that the steamer Belle of the West, caught on fire and was burned so badly that she blew up. Of course such a rumor caused no little excitement, and all the sources that could be suggested were hurriedly visited by a large number of interested persons. The Belle left here on Monday evening for St. Louis, with 200 to 250 passengers, in the cabin and on deck. The steamer arrived about one o'clock yesterday, and the second clerk of the steamer, who informed us that the Belle caught fire in the hold, near the hour of 12 o'clock, Monday night at the foot of Waresaw Bar.

As soon as it was discovered, one of the pilots ran up on the deck and communicated the fact to his partner on the wharf, and he instantly headed her in shore, but so combustible was the material under the freight she carried, she burst into flames, and before she could reach the shore, the whole boat, from stem to stern, was in a light blaze. When the flames burst from the hatches, a scene commenced which was of the most distressing kind; men and women, some a passenger, Vm. Daniels, who came down on deck from the cabin, and others to gain the guards of the boat, in order to escape, were driven back in the flames and burned to death. After he gained the shore, which he did by running down a plank the mate had ordered to be put out upon the beach, he looked back and saw many, both male and female, clinging to the guards, uttering the most piteous shrieks, and when they perceived the pain of burning, they relinquishing their hold, fell into the river, and were drowned.

One young lady had gained the hurricane deck, and was seen holding on the casing of one of the chimneys until she was perfectly overpowered with fear, when she sank down in the flames and was seen no more. Mr. Daniels says that it was the most heart-sickening sight, that he could possibly imagine—to see so many human beings wrestling with the consuming element with no possibility of saving them.

In about thirty minutes after the fire was first discovered, an explosion of the connection pipe took place, which rendered the boat a complete wreck and then she sank in the river.

A young man, having in charge his father and mother, when the fire made its appearance, caught hold of their trunk containing valuables, and carried it ashore, attempting to return, in less than a minute, he was prevented by the instant spread of the flames and he could not see his parents consumed by the raging element.

It is supposed there were not far from two hundred passengers on board, and when the call was made from the register, only 69 answered to their names, which, allowing for some who may have strayed away from the boat, would make upward of one hundred lives lost.

Among the sufferers were many ladies and children, and the severest loss was of cabin passengers.

It is believed by all that the fire caught in the hold, and the carpenter gives it as his opinion that it must have burned for an hour or two before it reached the cabin. He says that he was in the hold, this increasing the flames, and while in the act of closing it a man ran against him, fell into the hold, and he had hardly time to notice him when the heat forced him off.

One gentleman on board, bound for Iowa, a portion of his baggage being a gun, threw his trunk ashore and started back for his gun, and while in the act the cabin blew up, and he was killed.

—“Never mind the gun,” thought he, and he gathered three of them and carried them to a safe place, before he would return for the others it was too late to rescue them.

Some one had cut the yawl loose, and floated off in one of our citizens, Thomas M. Rutherford, who was on board, a passenger to Louisville, describes the affair as being truly awful. When the alarm was given he rushed out of his state-room caught up a lady who was in his way, and succeeded in reaching the shore with her in his arms. Mr. R. confirms the statement as to the probable number lost.

DREADFUL OCCURRENCE—JOY SHOT.—On Monday morning last, a German named Fahlman, of Yankeshush, Connaway township, deliberately shot his son, a lad some sixteen years of age, causing his instant death.

Gossip from Washington.

We compile from several sources, the following items from Washington news, which will be found deeply interesting.

Since my short stay in this city, enough has passed under my observation to satisfy me that the accounts we have of the extraordinary proceedings in Congress have not been exaggerated.

The Senate yesterday presented one of those unfortunate scenes. Col. BENTON, in offering a resolution to make a separate report upon each subject referred to the Committee of the House, indicated an impetuous exhibition of feeling that I had never witnessed. Among other things, he not only charged Major BORDMAN indirectly with falsehood, but declared his intention to oppose to the extreme the admission of California, if connected with any other subject of legislation.

I could plainly see that this declaration was unlooked for by those Senators under the lead of Col. BENTON, and from what I have heard several of them say after the adjournment of the Senate, they will not support or vote with Col. BENTON in any such fashion.

Yesterday, the Democratic Senators held a caucus, and agreed that Cass should be proposed as chairman of the Committee on Finance, and his party the most powerful in congress. But the old General rose and declined the honor which he conceived due to HENRY CLAY. Had CLAY been at this caucus, and heard the voluntary tribute paid to his genius and character by men, the most prominent in the movement, and opposed their efforts to increase his faith in the generosity and virtue of his countrymen! After the adjournment of the Senate, CLAY, being surrounded by ladies as usual—and women are better judges of character than men—several Senators passed him, when remembering the old adage, “Business first and pleasure afterwards”—the Roman cried out, “I shall call the Committee together to-morrow!”

A correspondent of the Herald says:—“From conversation which I have had with some of the northern whigs, I understand the President makes no distinction in his hostility to Mr. Clay’s compromise. The cabinet consider it a game for the presidency and there is some talk of the possibility of a veto, if California is mixed up with the territories. I am informed that the army officers at Santa Fe have been instructed to encourage the people of New Mexico to organize a state government as soon as possible, and if nothing is done this season, they will be ready by the next.”

The Journal of Commerce says:—“Gen. Houston has resumed his seat in the senate, and goes strongly for the compromise. The committee on the charges against Secretary Ewing, have had one meeting and agreed to a report.”

THE FOOTER AND BENTON AFFAIR.—The Merchant’s Day Book, a paper published in the city of New York, and by no means friendly to Mr. Foote, says:—“The people in this section of the country are not very likely to judge impartially of anything Mr. Foote may say for they have been taught by the newspapers to look upon him as a sort of ranting blackguard, who never says any thing except through southern spectacles. But we shall not discuss this question with the newspapers or their readers. We do not believe Mr. Foote is at all such a man as the Northern papers represent him, and in most of his movements we coincide. In the affair before the Senate, Benton was clearly the aggressor. He had repeatedly threatened to fog Mr. Foote upon the floor, if he (Foote) ever alluded to him again in his speeches. Mr. Foote is a small man, and no match for Benton in a foot and a tumble fight. He therefore took the same precaution that any prudent national man ought to have taken. He got back out, or run, or dodge behind some larger man’s chair, but coolly stepped into the passage way and stood prepared to meet Old Bull-head on equal terms. When Benton saw that he was completely foiled in his determination to fog his pugnacious, he threw himself into a theatrical attitude, bared his breast and cried out sloop!”

DOINGS AT HARRISBURG.—The correspondent of the Bulletin states:—Mr. Drum’s supplement to the general act, relative to divorces, passed by the House, yesterday morning. It provides that hereafter, the jurisdiction of the several Courts of Common Pleas of this Commonwealth, shall extend to all cases of divorce from the bonds of matrimony, for the cause of willful, continued and malicious desertion, without reasonable cause, by either parties, from the date of the desertion, and it shall be the duty of either party to make application, in such case, by petition or libel, to the proper court, in accordance with the provisions of the several Acts of Assembly now in force, at any time, not less than six months after such cause of divorce shall have taken place; but the said court shall not proceed to make a final decree, divorcing the said parties from the bonds of matrimony, until after the expiration of two years from the time at which such desertion took place. That it shall be lawful for the said several courts to entertain jurisdiction of all cases of divorce from the bonds of matrimony, for the causes of desertion as aforesaid, or adultery, notwithstanding the parties were, at the time of the desertion, or of the adultery, as aforesaid, in any other State: Provided, That no such divorce shall be granted, unless the applicant therefor shall have resided therein for the term of one year, as provided for by existing laws. This bill having become a law, and the members of the Governor, will allow the act of Mr. Forrester to be brought before the Courts. I esteem its provisions just and equitable.

CRIME AND SUICIDE.—The N. O. Crescent of the 10th inst. gives an account of a young man named Henry Heimer charged with robbing his employer. Being arrested, and overcome by the sense of his situation, the unfortunate man attempted to stab himself with a pair of carpenter’s compasses, but was prevented. He made a second effort to commit suicide when he was taken to the city, and jumping from the train while under full headway. The officers fortunately caught him by the feet and swung him around before his head touched the track; he was then arrested and watched until he was locked up in the guard-house of the First Municipality. Since writing the above we are informed that Heimer hung himself in his cell about half past 8 P. M. with his own hand which was attached to the job over the door. When he was discovered he was perfectly dead, with his neck broke. Heimer was 26 years of age, a native of Germany. The value of the goods stolen was \$30.

THE LOST MAN—A long fast.—It is known that a Mr. Brown, of Kenosha, was carried out on the Lake, in a small boat on Saturday the 13th inst. The Telegraph says:—His escape is almost a miracle, and his appearance was greeted with the surprise and satisfaction of all who had arisen from the dead. The weather, it will be recollected, was very cold, the wind high, and his boat half full of water most of the time, and thus for forty hours without food or sleep, and worse than all, he says, without tobacco, he drifted, until by unwearied exertions with a single oar, he finally reached land.

ROMANCE AND REALITY.—The Trenton Gazette has received a letter from a printer in Honolulu who went to California in Col. Stevenson’s regiment, in which he remained till the war was over, then took his chance as a common sailor, abandoned that business, sailed for China, was wrecked at Honolulu, was taken to favor by a chief, married his daughter and is now one of the first citizens of the village. He is perfectly contented with his situation, and is thinking of negotiating the project of the annexation of his Hawaiian majesty’s dominions to the United States.—Phil. Ledger.

THE TWO PEDLARS.—A pedlar overtook another of his tribe on the road, and thus accosted him:—“Hallo, friend, what are you carrying?” “Rum and whiskey,” was the prompt reply. “Good,” said the other, you may go ahead, I carry grave stones.”

News by Telegraph to Buffalo.

From Dispatches to the Buffalo papers.

AWFUL CATASTROPHE—STEAMER WAYNE BLOWN UP!!!

CLEVELAND, Sunday evening.
From Mr. Vorce, Clerk, who arrived here to night, we learn the following particulars of the explosion of the steamer Anthony Wayne: The Wayne left Toledo at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning with about 25 passengers, and took some 45 more at Sandusky, leaving there at 10 o'clock. There and the crew made the number on board 90 to 100. About half past 12 this morning, (Sunday) just below Vermilion and eight miles from shore, the steamer boiler exploded, throwing them into a perpendicular position, tearing away the steering cabin and shattering the hull badly. She sunk in fifteen minutes, going down bow foremost. The yawl was launched, and 12 persons reached the shore in it. The life boat half filled on launching and leaked badly. But six persons got ashore in her after six hours’ exertions. Capt. Gore, James Edgewood, 1st mate, and Mr. Vorce, Clerk, are saved. J. Elmore, 1st and Edward Barber, 2d engineer, are both lost. Mr. D. A. Eddy, of Cleveland, was seen after the explosion, but whether he is lost or not is not known. The state room of the Captain, next to the steering cabin, was blown to pieces, but he was unhurt. When the Wayne went down she was on fire and the flames were just bursting out. The cause of the accident we cannot state. The boilers were only a year old and in good condition. A fireman who escaped says he tried the boilers just before the explosion, and there was plenty of water in them. The hurricane deck is supposed to have floated and was thought to be seen from shore this forenoon. Two small vessels went out from Vermilion to pick up any survivors.

Monday, 9 A. M.
One of the vessels which went out took off from the hurricane deck some thirty passengers. Six died. D. A. Eddy is safe and he telegraphed from Sandusky. We are informed by Capt. Edmunds, of the St. Louis, that the boilers were entirely new last season, and were built and put in under his superintendence by Wolcott, of Detroit. The engine is the one which was used in the steamer Columbus. She exploded off Vermilion, on her way from Sandusky to this port.

CLEVELAND, April 29.
The “True Democrat” of this city gives the following particulars of the steamer Anthony Wayne which occurred opposite Vermilion, about one o’clock on Sunday morning. The first mate says the Anthony Wayne, came to Sandusky with ten storage passengers, and twenty cabin, from Detroit. She took from the train 21 passengers, and her crew numbered 23—total 84.—About 10 of the crew and 30 passengers who were saved and likely to recover. The total number of lost and missing is from 35 to 40. The passengers killed are killed as follows: Matthew Falkner, Sheffield, Mass.; Willey Robinson, Henry McDonough, John Williams, and Harvey Kelly. The Anthony Wayne was an old boat, not in the regular line with the Buffalo and Sandusky steamers. She was owned by Charles Howard, of Detroit; insurance \$10,000. The accounts vary the number on board.

Passengers known to be killed.—Moran Titus, Dayton, O.; O. W. Hart, near Perryburg, O., formerly of Lower Sandusky; John Ellis, wife and child, Mt. Hope, Mich.; J. W. Doty, Warsaw, Ill.

Passengers dangerously wounded.—J. H. Jolin, Chittenango, N. Y.; Robt’s Shaw, Dayton, O. (Body not dangerously wounded).—John S. Gray, Louisville, Ky.; C. G. Lawrence, Angeles, N. Y.; A. W. Gray, Stillwater, N. Y.; a son of John Ellis, Mt. Hope, Mich.

Slightly Scalded.—John Bradley, Cleveland; Mathew Falkner, Sheffield, Mass.; Henry McDonough, Trenton, Mich.

Eleven of the crew lost, viz:—J. J. Elmore and E. Burchard, Engineers; Henry Sturgess, Steward, from Mt. Clemons, Mich.; Franklin Freeman, of Detroit; A. H. Mead, bar-keeper; Willey Robinson, John Williamson, and Henry Kelly, cooks; two waiters and Alexander Cartwright, deckhand, missing.

Missing.—John Brainerd and James O’Neil, fireman Whitney Parsons, (Porter), and Henry Blain, deckhand. New York, April 26.
The building adjoining Barnum’s Museum, in Broadway, and formerly occupied by the Chemical Bank, fell in this morning and buried several persons beneath the ruins. One man has since been taken out dead. A portion of the bonded warehouse also fell in this morning and buried 10 or 12 workmen who were engaged in removing the rubbish from the Water street fire. It is not yet known how many have been killed.

Washington, April 29.
The compromise committee have agreed upon a scheme and instructed their chairman to prepare the bill and report.

Boston, April 27.
The Brig Boston, from Bahia on the 10th ult., reports Yellow Fever had been raging terribly there, sweeping off men of vessels and on land in great numbers. The government reports make total mortality in the province 8000. Just before the Boston left a severe thunderstorm occurred after which the disease began to abate. Several vessels arrived from Hayti with dates to the 7th ult. Business was improving. The Blacks are preparing to invade St. Domingo in May.

Virginia Election.—The election for members of the State Legislature took place in this State on Thursday, 26th inst., and it is important, from the fact that a Senator in Congress from that State is to be elected, at the next session, to supply the place of the Hon. Jas. M. Mason, whose term expires on the 4th of March next. We have received but few returns.

Wierling, April 27.
It is believed that West, Dem., is elected Senator, Edington, Whig. The friends of the State Convention for amending the Constitution are almost so far ahead from.

Baltimore, April 27.
By telegraphic dispatches from Alexandria last evening we learn that in Alexandria county, Mass., Whig, was elected Governor of the county of 160 votes. For the State, Love, Whig, leads Thomas, Whig, 130 votes. Love is probably elected. The majority in favor of the Convention is 447. In Fairfax county, there is little doubt that Stuart, Whig, has beaten Williams, Dem., by a considerable majority. No doubt the Democrats will have a majority in both branches of the Legislature.

The Richmond Times says that the Democrats have so far gained five members of the Legislature and the Whigs four. The Legislature will be Democratic.

Eric Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.
SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 4, 1850.

A Rare Opportunity.

We call the attention of capitalists and business men to the Advertisement in another column, offering for sale at Auction on the 5th of June next, some valuable real estate in this city. To business men it is a rare chance, as the property is very eligibly located for mercantile operations. In fact there is none more so in the city, and as real estate will unquestionably advance in a short time, those having means had better invest now.

Information Wanted.
Somebody has sent us a copy of the Pennsylvania containing a letter from Harrisburg, conspicuously marked, so as to call our attention to it, describing the debate in the Senate on the Forrester divorce case, in which the Senator from this district, Mr. Walker, took a very prominent part. What the object was in sending it to us, we can hardly understand. We reply the Pennsylvania actively, and the letter referred to did not escape our notice at the time of its publication, hence, if we had seen any thing in it worthy of notice, we should have laid it before our readers. If the person who sent it happens to see this, and has any special object in view, he will understand we want information.

Still Sticks to Him.
We see it stated in one of our exchanges that the notorious “Buckeye Blacksmith,” of 1840 memory, was recently nominated in Sacramento City, California, for a seat in the Legislature, to fill a vacancy. Of course he was defeated. The waters of the Pacific, nor the great overflow of the Sacramento, could so far wash out the smell of “hard-cider,” as to make him acceptable to the people.

Powell’s Erie Theatre.
Powell’s Erie Theatre opened for the season, at the large Hall of the Reed House, on Tuesday evening, to a pretty fair house. The company, taken as a whole, is decidedly good, while Mr. and Mrs. Powell for versatility of talent, are seldom equalled on the boards of our first theatres. They are always welcomed with applause whatever part they undertake, and deservedly so, too, we think. Then there is the good-natured quizzical countenance of Tom Morris—he has only to look at the audience to get them into good humor with themselves, as well as the rest of mankind. Mr. Brink is a young actor of decided merit, and destined, we doubt not, to become a vast favorite with our play-goers. Then, again, there is our old friend McKibbin—but it is useless to speak of him, as he is at all times, to use one of his own expressions, “g-o-o-d.” Mr. De Vere, in the Highland Fling, drew down the House in a perfect shower of applause. He has improved much since we last saw him. Mr. Churchill is a new actor here, and we have not seen him in a part yet of sufficient depth to enable us to form an opinion of his merits. He will probably have a chance before the season closes. So also with Mr. Banker, and Miss Bess.

An attractive bill is presented to-night. “The Lady of Lyons,” and the laughable vaudeville of the “Wandering Minstrel, or Music Mad.”

Mr. Clay and the “President’s Plan.”
We are treated almost every week by the Gazette with high-wrought commendations, and when needs be, to defenses of the “President’s plan” for settling the question of slavery in the territories. It often strikes us, when reading these articles, as though we had some faint recollection of the same man being once engaged in denouncing this same “plan” as a “monstrous usurpation” of the part of the Executive. But we may be mistaken, therefore, to decide the question, and ascertain what the “plan” of President Taylor really is, let us call Mr. Clay to stand. Perhaps his testimony, being a good Whig whose authority never was doubted, will be satisfactory to the Gazette. The other day, in the Senate, in reply to some of the advocates of the “President’s plan,” he made use of the following language:

“You say you are satisfied with admitting California, and letting the territories continue under the present military government till they are ready to come in as States, and yet you call yourselves Whigs. Do YOU not cry out against the military government in New Mexico under Polk, and in time of war? And yet YOU WOULD CONTINUE THAT SAME MILITARY GOVERNMENT, in time of peace, on what grounds?—For what purpose? Is this a Whig doctrine?”

Certainly, Mr. Clay—Polk’s military usurpations, in war, over which his press and orators howled so piously, is good orthodox whigery now in time of profound peace. Circumstances alter cases—the Democracy were then in power; the country was engaged in a foreign war, and by the laws of nations and a pressure of circumstances, were compelled to exercise military jurisdiction over the conquered territories. To embarrass the President, and “give aid and comfort to the enemy,” this military government of the territories—this very same “President’s plan” in time of profound peace—was denounced from one end of the country to the other by such Zachariah Statesmen as compose the cabinet, as well as every paper in the interest of the whig party. The fact is, Mr. Clay, you are entirely behind the age of your party—you are getting too old to “wheel about and turn about,” as often as the exigencies of your party demand, and hence you were assassinated in the house of your friends at Philadelphia. This, too, is the reason you are just now the object of assault by the “powers that be,” from the occupant of the “white house” down through the several grades of employees to the various county organs—like the Gazette, for instance. This is why your efforts in favor of compromise are stigmatized as “unwhig and uncalculated for,” and the reason they have “no confidence in its ultimate success.” This is why, also, these same employees are just now endeavoring to “kill you with faint praise,” knowing full that a manly and open denunciation would rebound and hurt themselves. You cannot stultify yourself and swallow a “military government” in time of peace, and hence you are no longer the political God these men worship. Verily, the ways of whigs are not past finding out.

Cuba, Not California.
A company was recently formed in Cincinnati to go to California. It was organized with officers, much after the fashion of a military company, and when they arrived at New Orleans, the officers coolly told the private their destination was Cuba instead of California. Upon this document a number of the members withdrew, some of whom returned immediately to Cincinnati and resumed their ordinary occupations, while others went out to California by the first opportunity. The correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, who furnishes these particulars, says “he is not disposed to turn big game yet,” and others of his companions felt as he did.

A Sensible Determination.
The Pennsylvania, of Monday, publishes a letter from Hon. Morris Longstrech, in which that gentleman states his determination not to be again a candidate for the gubernatorial chair of this state. This is a very sensible determination to make, and one which if it had been arrived at about this time in the Spring of 1848, would have saved the Democracy from defeat, and the nation from the speculations of the cabinet and the blunders of an inefficient and confessedly ignorant President.

Prospects at Washington.
The correspondent of the New York Tribune writes that “there is no room to doubt” that the compromise plan of passing the California bill and the bill for organizing the Territories, will pass the Senate, and that “in the House its chance of success is as seven to ten.” He says “there is no disputing that there is a bad state of feeling here among the whigs, and which I am apprehensive will result in great injury to the cause of freedom and redemption from the power and influence of slavery and localism.” A proper bad state of affairs, truly. By “injury to freedom” we presume the writer means, that agitation will receive its death-blow, and the Democrats who have made the slavery question a hobby-horse for their ambition, will be forced to exclaim with Shakespeare’s hero, “Othello’s occupation’s gone!”

What is a “Thoroughly Whig” Administration?

The Gazette says Gen. Taylor’s “Administration has been capricious, dignified, patriotic and thoroughly whig, and it would be strange, indeed, if whigs—pure, zealous, country-loving whigs—should desert it under such circumstances.” So it would, passing strange! But then it appears they have deserted it—these “pure, zealous, country-loving whigs”—and are doing so daily. The Buffalo Express, which no whig paper stands higher in this region, asserts that “the annals of our party contain few instances of change so great, and so sudden, as disastrous, in the same period of time, as the whigs have experienced since Gen. Taylor’s accession to the Presidency.” And this is because the Administration has been so “thoroughly whig” when it promised to be so “thoroughly whig” “no party.” Such has always been the result of fraud, and such always will be the result. But what is a “thoroughly whig” Administration? Let facts answer, and in these cases if we cannot discover the reason these “pure, zealous, country-loving whigs” have repudiated and denounced it so emphatically through the ballot-box. This “thoroughly whig” Administration has paid to one of its Secretaries \$100,000 interest on an old claim, (the principal having been paid by a previous administration) which had been rejected time and again by the proper officers, both whigs and Democrats. This “thoroughly whig” administration, has also paid another old claim, called the “De la Francia claim” of \$40,000, after having been refused by Mr. Polk and his immediate predecessor. This “thoroughly whig” administration has paid the old Chickasaw claim, of \$108,000, dismissed by previous administrations, and which the Secretary under whose control it came during the Administration of President Polk, scarcely gave a hearing. A Committee of the House of Representatives has been appointed to investigate this, and similar other charges against Mr. Ewing, viz, the re-opening and payment of a rejected claim of the Ewing family upon the Treasury amounting to \$77,000; and the allowance of \$31,000 as interest on the claim of Commodore James Barron, of Virginia, for services in the Navy during the Revolutionary War, after the principal had been paid. Under this “thoroughly whig” administration, we find one Robert E. Horner, Door-keeper of the House of Representatives, has been arranged before a Committee of the house, charged with having made false certificates by virtue of which his brother drew pay as an officer of the House, when it was notorious that he was absent from Washington, and held office in another State, the duties of which he was discharging, and at the same time receiving a salary from the United States.

This dark catalogue ought to complete the list, but we are compelled, reluctantly, to add “one more of the same sort,” which is thus alluded to, in the New York Evening Post:—“Our whig friends so seldom get a whig at the national fair, that when they occasionally meet them, they moderately know how to avail themselves of it with any moderation. Though they have carried the keys of the treasury only about a year, they have already not only got outside doors unlocked, but have left them standing wide open.”

One would suppose that the recent humiliation of one member of the Cabinet would have inspired the government with some caution, to enable us to form an opinion of the prudence or the self-respect of Gen. Taylor’s advisers. By the last accounts it appears that the Hon. Bailey Peyton formerly District Attorney of Louisiana, under Gen. Harrison, has been selected by the example of Mr. Secretary Crawford, and has presented a claim for extra services rendered during his attorneyship, to the amount of \$12,000, and that it has been paid.

We understand that the claim was passed upon and rejected by the administrations of Presidents Tyler and Polk successfully.

If the government proposes to review all the stale claims which have been passed upon by preceding administrations, it is likely to be fully employed, even though some member of the Cabinet should happen to be familiarly conversant with the merits of every case before it is presented.

Thus we have answered the question at the head of our article, “What is a thoroughly whig Administration?” and thus, too, we have given a little insight into the reasons why the “pure, zealous, country-loving whigs” are deserting it. But comment is unnecessary—the party that has so long delighted in stigmatizing the Democracy as the “Spoils party” have been caught in the act themselves, and must reap the consequences.

Treason Most Foul.
Treason to the infidelity of the cabinet is showing itself in almost every quarter. The pent up thunders are not loud and deep, and ere long we shall hear such a crash as will “wake up the sleepers” everywhere. We were weak called our reader’s attention to the tone and temper of some of the most influential of the New York press, and we now have to direct their gaze to an ominous sign in the political heavens of their State. The following from the “Pennsylvania Democrat,” a whig paper, published at Uniontown, Fayette county, derives importance from the fact that the paper is the organ and echo of a no less whig personage than Hon. Andrew Stewart, more familiarly known as “Teriff-Andy.” To our mind it sounds like treason most foul, but we will let it speak for itself. After referring to the rumors of a “blow up” at Washington, the Editor says:—

“Our own past we hope it may occur. We are not disposed to question the legal abilities of Mr. Meredith, but he is among the last men in Pennsylvania, who, if the whigs had been consulted, would have been selected for his present position. In truth, we believe the people never thought him an office. His standing in the whig party had just then been tested in an attempt to elect him to the United States’ Senate. He got, we believe, but the four votes. He was utterly unknown to the mass of the people, and had neither sympathy for them nor any for them. He had engaged but little in politics, and steadily devoted himself to his practice as a lawyer. In all the great struggles for the vital interests of Pennsylvania, he has been a silent if not an indifferent observer. He has opposed no wrong, he has devoted himself to the support or defense of one of the great issues which has resulted so disastrously for the whigs and people generally of Pennsylvania. Who ever heard of William M. Meredith addressing a public meeting, or making a speech, in behalf of the party which he represents in the cabinet? He is as unknown to the people, and is judged by his acts, or non-acts, indifferent to their interests, as if he did not hold them in contempt. If Mr. Meredith had loved his country or his party, with more zeal than he did his profession as a lawyer, and the pecuniary advantages arising from it, we would have had some tangible evidence of it. No party cause, or a public meeting, had ever been held in his honor, or in honor of his party, by the appointment of men unknown to it, or wanting in confidence. We have little faith in the statesmanship of mere lawyers. The appointment of Mr. Meredith was a great mistake, growing out of Gen. Taylor’s want of knowledge of Pennsylvania politics, and the standing of the public man. In appointing Mr. Meredith he conferred no favor on Pennsylvania, and acquired neither friends nor favor by it. Any other distinguished whig out of Pennsylvania would have done more for our peculiar interests, and given the party more strength here and elsewhere. It was no favor to Pennsylvania to appoint Wm. M. Meredith.”

Col. Benton.
The New Bedford Freeman, a Taylor whig paper, says:—“Mr. Benton is likely to be sustained in Missouri after all. The whigs have rallied to his support. He will probably be elected, through their union with the Benton Democrats. In St. Louis the Benton party, it seems, is four to one of the anti-Benton.”

Now this, says the Pittsburgh Post, is all stuff. It is sheer nonsense for Col. Benton to expect support from the whigs of Missouri. They no doubt will profess any amount of friendship for him, but time will show that it is only for the purpose of widening the breach in the Democratic ranks in Missouri. “Divide and conquer” is now and always been their motto.

What a Profound Statement.
What a profound statement is Mr. Meredith, the present Secretary of the Treasury! The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, says the Revenue from Customs, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1850, exceeds already the estimates of Mr. Meredith, for the whole year, by more than half a million of dollars. It will probably reach between thirty-six and thirty-eight, perhaps forty million of dollars. This is not a “famine year,” and the phenomenon must therefore be explained on a new principle.

“The Erie Observer, in the course of an article upon clothing, remarks:—‘So you see my dear brethren, there is something in a coat.’ We fear it will puzzle them to determine its nature in the case of his garment.”—Frederick Cresser.

Which proves us very unlike the Editor of the Censor. Now, nobody will ever mistake the nature of the something covered by his coat—the length of his ears is too unerring a guide-board to allow of a mistake, even by a blind man!

AUDITOR GENERAL.

Mr. Editor:—The late act of Assembly, among other things, makes that of Auditor General elective, and consequently a part of the duty of the Williamsport convention will be to place in nomination a candidate to be supported by the Democracy of the Keaysone for that office. But a short time will elapse before the meeting of the convention, and a still shorter before we shall meet to appoint delegates to it, and we deem it proper to fully consider this matter, and place in nomination some man upon whom the Democracy can unite—no against whom there are, or can be no prejudices to lessen the chances of his election. We have looked through the list of names, and among the many who would do honor to the station discover no one better qualified than MORRIS WHALTON, Esq. of this city, and therefore beg leave to recommend him to the favorable consideration of the Democracy of this County and of the State.

Mr. W. has had much experience as an accounting officer, and if selected to fill the post of Auditor General of this Commonwealth, would no doubt perform all the duties appertaining to that station, with fidelity to the State and honor to himself. It is long since this portion of the State has been represented in any of the Departments at Harrisburg under a Democratic administration, and it is hoped and believed that the claims which are now presented will be selected due attention.

No man could be better qualified for the nomination, whose nomination would be received with more satisfaction by the North West than Mr. Whalton, and none upon whom the party would so cordially unite. ERLE.

Cleveland and Erie Railroad.
An arrangement has been made between the Franklin Canal Company and the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company, under which they will unite their energies and mutually co-operate in the prosecution of the work, virtually forming one line from Erie to Cleveland, in pursuance of which Faxon & Co., Esq., Chief Engineer on the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad, and also of the Ohio portion of the line to Cleveland, has been appointed Chief Engineer on the portion of the line belonging to the first named company. The high character of Mr. Harbach as an engineer, formerly on the eastern roads and later on the western, gives assurance of the skillful and energetic prosecution of the work. Thus our city will be the terminus of the great western lines of improvement also.

Mr. Clay and the Northern Agitators.
When a political opponent says a “good thing”—something we can heartily approve—we like to give him credit for it. Unlike some whig Editors we wot of, we are not afraid to praise a political opponent because he is our opponent. Now, Mr. Clay said a good thing in the Senate the other day, and it is eithers our sentiments to a fraction, and as it is not likely to find its way into the Zacharie press here soon, we will let it stand all by its self, whigs and Democrats; “Sir,” said he, “of all the bitterest enemies toward the unfortunate negro race, there are none to compare with those abolitionists, pretended friends of their; but who, like the Siamese twins, connect themselves with the negro; or like the centaur of old, mount not the back of a horse, but the back of the negro, to ride themselves into power, and in order to display a friendship they only feel for themselves, and not for the negro race. No, sir, there are not worse enemies in the country of the negro race than those ultra abolitionists. To what sort of extremity have they not driven the Slaveholding States in defense of their own rights, and in guarding against those excesses to which they have a constant tendency!”

“The Editor of the Connecticut Courrier cannot conceive that his motto ‘pledged to Truth’” was violated last week in the account he gave of the Benton and Foote difficulty. Of course not—we never knew one of these piratical-neutral gentlemen convinced of error, though they are often convicted. The matter, however, is not of much consequence; not enough, at least, to warrant us in prolonging the controversy, especially as we see our friend of the Democrat has republished our article, and thus sent out the antidote among those who the poison was intended to affect.

Has He a Soul?
The New Orleans Picayune tells of a man who lost his pocket-book containing over \$11,000. It was found by a boy, who restored it to the owner, who, having satisfied himself that he had recovered all his money, magnanimously thrust his hand into his pocket and drew forth a whole dollar, which he generously bestowed on the astonished finder. Now, we would be pleased to have some one acquainted with the subject tell us whether such a man has a soul or not!

A Most Righteous Charge.
In a late charge of the Court in a riot in Northumberland county, his Honor, Judge Anthony, gave notice that any person, engaging in the common riot at weddings, called “Bellings,” “Calabumpias Serenades,” &c., and who brought before him they shall be severely punished. This is right, and if a few should be “put through a course of legal sprouts” for offences of this character, we should hear less of the music.

“The Editor of the Gazette is respectfully informed that,” what he calls our “Hocking County (Ohio) Democratic friend,” as much of a “red-mouthed” whig as he is himself. So far as our knowledge extends, there never was a “drop of Democratic blood” in the family, and the prospect is fair that there never will be.

It is astonishing, says an exchange, how much wisdom can be compressed into three lines; for example, “The most useful sign-painters in the world are publishers of newspapers—advertise your business in the paper, if you would draw custom.”

Just Like Him.
“Observer,” the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, says the Cabinet have refused a cadetship at West Point to Henry Clay’s grand-son, the son of Col. Clay, who fell at Buena Vista. This is just like Gen. Taylor.

A Good Hit.
The following is from the Boston Post, and is decidedly the best hit of the season:—
A NEW BLACK-GULP-IN-CLAIM.
Gen. Taylor is a case.
And Crawford is a case.
And Uncle Sam’s pocket is the best and sweetest “piece.”

Very Probable.
The Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, under the date of 24th inst. states that Gen. Houston quits Mr. Benton, and goes with Mr. Clay for uniting bills.