

Things in California.

San Francisco, May 16, 1860. I have again resumed my position at San Francisco after an absence of nearly five months, and find it by no means improved in a business point of view, and very little in any respect, during the period of my residence at the seat of government. The limits of the city, it is true, have been greatly extended, but many, very many, of the buildings which have been erected, during the period referred to, are vacant, and some of them offered for rent at rates far below the prices demanded for those of a similar description on my arrival in California. Nor has the recent disastrous fire, which you will remember particulars in the San Francisco papers, increased either the price of demand for houses and stores, or materially, though that fire has certainly consumed three of the most valuable blocks in the most business portion of the city, destroying property estimated at \$5,000,000. This is a remarkable fact, however, that at the date of this letter, the entire lower district is again covered with buildings, many of them already completed and occupied by the same owners or tenants, though only ten days have elapsed since the fire occurred. Many of these buildings are far inferior, and but few of them are equal, to those destroyed.

Crimes in Kingsville, Ohio.

Public indignation has seldom been excited by a more base, and cold-blooded, and murderous attempt than that which, on Thursday last, the 27th inst., was planned, and all but consummated by Reuben Harmon, farmer and citizen of Kingsville. The contemplated victim was the wife of Harmon—young, amiable, industrious, and a wife wedded to him but three months ago. She brought to her felon husband a handsome property; and it appears that the desire, on his part, to have this to himself—to rid himself of the cost and care of housekeeping—to make money, and to lay out none—to carry out the old idea, which it seems possible to the exclusion of all other feelings—that of amassing property—these were the motives, and these alone, as the facts in evidence show, which moved him to plan the murder of his young wife, and as far as lay in his power to carry out his plan.

The Democratic Candidate for Canal Commissioner.

In the Lives of the Members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, published in 1848, we find this notice of Mr. Morrison, the Democratic nominee for the office of Canal Commissioner:—William T. Morrison, whose parents resided from Petersburg, Virginia, and located in Abington township, Montgomery county, in the year 1801 was born, and now resides, on the farm where his father first located. He received a liberal education, and at the age of 21 he engaged in agriculture, which pursuit he has continued to follow up to the present time. He has frequently been called by his fellow citizens, to fill various places of trust and honor. He has officiated as Justice of the Peace, Director of the Public Schools, County Commissioner, and in 1848 he was elected to the State Legislature, in which he performed the part of a faithful and able representative, and the good opinion of his fellow members by his correct deportment and gentlemanly manners.

Democratic Nominations.

WM. T. MORRISON, of Montgomery. AUDITOR GENERAL, EPHRAIM BANKS, of Millin. SURVEYOR GENERAL, J. P. BRAWLEY, of Crawford. We are indebted to Gen. Lewis Cass and Hon. James Thompson for valuable Congressional favors. Obituary.—We regret to announce that J. P. Coker, Esq., Editor of the Commercial Advertiser, died at his residence in this city, on Sunday evening last, after a somewhat protracted and extremely painful illness. It is scarcely necessary to say that this sad event is regretted by all. To the estimable Lady it is an irreparable bereavement and we tender her the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

The Demagogue and the Statesman—A Graphic Picture.

The following graphic picture of two characters, whose likenesses are familiar to every observer of the political events of the day, is painted by the Hon. David G. Kayser, of Texas, in an address before the Literary Societies of Princeton College. His subject was "The Present Crisis," and graphically and faithfully has he depicted some of the prominent actors in the "present crisis" in the States. "The Demagogue," as drawn by his master hand, the sleek and stealthy Scaur, who, when he awakes to support the constitution, does so with a "mental reservation" in favor of a "higher authority." There, too, is the bold and blustering John P. Hale, intent upon proving that his "acts done for one purpose were done for another,"—"his brow" "insensible to shame," and his principles as "inconsistent as the weathercock." And who but Clarendon, and Benton, and the factotums of that ilk, are—

The Aspect of Affairs at Washington.

The present aspect of our political horizon at Washington is anything but cloudless. While we see the truly good and great of all parties, such statesmen as Cass and Clay, Houston and Webster, Fremont and Dickinson, men who look above and beyond the petty triumphs of the hour, endeavoring to ally the forces war of section against section,—or brother against brother—in order to avert the threatened danger to our glorious Union, sorely and bitterly assailed by the "Demagogues" of the North and the South, urged on and aided by a corrupt and venal Administration, which it is now evident, desires nothing so much as its own aggrandizement, no matter at what sacrifice, we cannot suppress our doubts as to the result. Will the Demagogues triumph or will the Statesmen? We know full well, were the question submitted to the people, what their response would be. The "sober second thought" would prevail, and the Compromises be sustained. But unfortunately the people cannot speak fearlessly until it is too late, and in the mean time we fear that demagoguery will have done its work. We write this gloomy foreboding in a few days we have confidently anticipated the passage of the Senate adjustment, but the delay of bringing it to a final vote, the innumerable amendments offered by those who wish to defeat it, and the hearty co-operation of the statements of both sections, Davis and Soule being as "thick as two thieves" with Seward and Hale, verus ut that nothing will be left to do to secure its defeat that faction and fanatical convention. We therefore say to our friends, be not surprised if Congress should adjourn without accomplishing any thing towards an adjustment.

There to be a "Cleveland & Buffalo Rail Road."

A correspondent wishes us to tell him whether there is a project on foot to build a continuous railroad from Cleveland to Buffalo. He says he has seen a good deal lately in the Cleveland papers about the "Cleveland and Buffalo Rail Road," and although he lives in the corner of Pennsylvania, through which such a road would have to be located, he has heard of no such project being contemplated. We are willing to give our correspondent all the information we possess on the subject, and then he can judge for himself. In the first place, we know of no charter or charter under which a connected line of road can be built from Cleveland to Buffalo, which ever could be run from point to point. There is a charter for a road from Buffalo to the State Line, and the work is under contract. From the State Line there is no charter under which the Buffalo and State Line road can be continued on, even as far as the place, much less to Buffalo. It is well known that the Erie and North East road, which, by the way, is a third road, have entered into an arrangement with the Great New York and Erie road, and as the Buffalo and State Line road, if it ever crossed beyond the Pennsylvania line, will be a four foot eight inch gauge, we cannot see any possible chance for a connected road ever being built farther east than this place. Perhaps, however, the Cleveland Herald, from which our correspondent very kindly obtained his information in regard to the road he inquires about, can furnish the desired information. It ought, at least, or else cause the talk about the "Cleveland and Buffalo Rail Road."

Professor Webster's Confession.

By a dispatch to the Buffalo Courier, which will be found in another column, it will be seen that Professor Webster has seen to the Governor and Council of Massachusetts, by the hands of his clergyman, a written confession of the killing of Dr. Parkman. It is unfortunate that the storm east should have interrupted the communication before that part of the dispatch containing his confession was received. We will, however, not wait very probably be enabled to lay the confession itself before our readers. It is sufficient to know that the long-quoted question as to the guilt or innocence of Dr. Webster, has been solved by himself. He is guilty, and the over-wise gentlemen who so strongly claimed to know more than his Judge and Jury, and were more conversant, according to their own story, with the facts of the case, than almost the entire intelligence of Boston, will have to baffle up their sympathy for some other criminal in broadcloth. We are opposed to special punishment in every case, but we prefer to see the law repealed altogether, or strictly enforced, rather than to repeat for criminals in robe, but not enforced in cases like the one under consideration.

A Worth Son of a Noble Sire.

A letter from Italy, in the New York Commercial Advertiser, states that Mr. Cass, our Charge at Rome, on paying his congratulatory visit to Pius IX. at the Vatican, did not kneel and kiss the Pope's slipper, as was done by the other Foreign Ministers. To a remonstrance from his brother diplomatist against this breach of etiquette, he replied, that as a representative of a republican government, he could not kneel to any monarch on earth; and as a Protestant he certainly could not perform such an act of homage to the Pope. This is becoming the dignity of our Foreign Ministers. Such cringing servility as he refused to submit to may do for the lick-spittles of a monarchy, but will never do for an American Democrat. It is repugnant to his nature and to his war with his education.

Congressional Convention.

The delegates to the Congressional Conference Convention, for this county, will be held in mind that the third Wednesday of August, the 21st, was fixed by resolution of the last convention, as the day for the meeting this year at Warren.

The Galphin Claim.

A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune states that Mr. Brooks member of Congress from the City of New York, has received from Georgia a large number of letters in regard to the Galphin claim, with certified copies of certain papers from the archives of that State, which it is said will place the justice of the original claim in a still more objectionable light before the public than it has yet assumed. Will our neighbor, the Galphin Gazette, "put this in its pipe and smoke it." There is evidently a "good time coming" among the Cabinet speculators in interest on claims for work done to Noah's ark.

A Fortunate Escape.

We see it stated that on Saturday, just five minutes before the part of Table Rock fell, T. D. McGee, Esq., Editor of the Nation, in company with two friends, sat on the verge of the doomed ledge, and the former gentleman plucked some wild flowers, which he says he would not now part for a chunk of California metal.

The Fall of Table Rock.

We briefly announced on Saturday the falling of Table Rock, on the Canada side of Niagara Falls. It produced quite a sensation in the city, as the rumor was current that some two or three persons were killed, which proves to be wholly untrue. The rock, which fell in width and twelve in length, fell about half past six on Saturday evening, making a loud report which was distinctly heard about the roof of the castrat. A number of persons were on the rock a moment before it fell, but were warned, by the breaking away of some rocks underneath, to make no attempt to escape. Among them were a man and a boy, who were engaged in trimming a carriage standing on the rock. They had barely time to save themselves, but the carriage went down with the rock. A gentleman and lady, accompanied by the guide, had quite a narrow escape from below. They were passing under the rock at the time it commenced falling, but were so fortunate as to escape without the slightest injury.—Buffalo Republic.

Awful Tragedy.

BRUTAL MURDER.—JRAUJUST.—About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, a most revolting murder was perpetrated in a house situated in the alley between Jackson and Hancock, and Main and Market streets in our city. Our reporter has given us the following facts:—It appears that the man, whose name is William Jackson, had been addicted to quarreling and squabbling with his wife. Yesterday afternoon he became exasperated against her from the fact of her mending the pantaloons of a man who was distantly connected to her by marriage. He thereupon said to her (her mother and brother-in-law being in the house), that he intended to go out with the fence, and that she must go with him.—She said she would willingly go, but he would not have a conveyance, on which she might receive her furniture and clothing. He said he did not care a damn for bedding or furniture,—and cried out "Will you go, God—d—n you, or not." At the same time seizing an axe or hatch, he inflicted four wounds upon her head and arms, entirely severing the skull, and cutting the left hand in twain.

Buffalo and State Line Rail Road.

The late Frederick Cassar states that the whole line of this road is under contract, from Buffalo to Lagrange, to Am Wood & Co., of Buffalo, and the latter place to Fredonia, to Hays & Co., of Rochester, from thence to place near the line of the town of Ripley, to Cook & McDonald, of St. Catharines, Canada, and from that point to the Pennsylvania line, to Messrs. Lee & Ely, for the people of Ripley, who have agreed to construct the road among themselves, for the purpose of keeping out the foreign population which usually floods in to construct the public works. We understand the contractors are to have the work ready for the superstructure by the first of January next.

Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad.

We are pleased to announce that T. J. Power, Esq., of Beaver, visited our city this week for the purpose of making arrangements for commencing the survey of the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad. He purposes to organize his corps of Engineers, and commence the survey next week. David Guber, Esq., is to be his principal assistant.

The Philadelphia and Erie Road.

The Philadelphia and Erie road is now in the completion of the New York and Erie road to this city. The Pennsylvania, in noticing the fact, says that next summer they may expect to see the N. Y. and Erie road "entirely completed, with a terminus at Erie, in our own State." This terminus to Pennsylvania will be established through the control it has obtained of a Pa. charter from Erie to the State line. The result will be that the trade from Erie to the Lakes at Erie, and from the north to the New York and Erie Railroad, to swell the revenues of the New York and Erie Railroad, and to enrich the merchants of our commercial rival, New York city.

Deploable Affair.

YESTERDAY ABOUT 9 A. M. an occurrence took place at the corner of Mill and Columbia streets, which, in its effects, was most deplorable. A man named Anthony Putnam and Catherine Sumner had just been married at the Fifth Street Church, between Smith and Park, and were returning to her father's residence, and just entering from the yard, when a duelling pistol, in the hands of a young man, about nineteen years of age named Richard Overbeck, was discharged at the party. Some shots were fired, but the bride's face, neck and bosom! She shot entering the yard, fell in the face of Joseph Linenkuhn, who was both severely injured, but the young bride is in an awful situation, and it was feared she would die. It was impossible to extract the shot, as they were deeply embedded in the flesh, and two near the jugular vein. Mrs. E. was mortally wounded, and an hour later she expired. Some shots were fired near the brain. The young husband, when our reporter saw the couple, was wiping the blood from his wife's wounds; as it oozed out. The wife was in great agony; a crowd of some three hundred were standing round. The fellow who discharged the pistol had fled for Kentucky. Dr. Cooper attended the unfortunate patient. There were little hopes of the recovery of the wife. What a sad affair.—Cin. Com. June 26.

Humanitarian Discovery.

A barrel closely headed and marked freight, was found in the Ohio, near the mouth of Green River, last Friday afternoon, which the body of a man, most horribly murdered, was found within. The head, arms and legs, had been cut from the body and were in the barrel. An inquest was held over the remains, and as they were entirely decayed, and considerably decayed, they could not be identified, appearing, however, the fact that he had been foully murdered beyond a doubt, and the jury of inquest returned a verdict accordingly.—Evanville (In) Journal.