

Report of the Postmaster General.

We report exceedingly that the limited space of our columns compel us to omit the full report of the Postmaster General, and to content ourselves with giving a condensed view of it, publishing only the principal and most important parts.

The Postmaster General states that, upon the 30th of June last, there were 5,500 routes by which the mail is carried. The increase which has taken place this year in the number of these routes amounts to 649. The amount of postage paid on the 30th of June last was 178,673 miles, and upon these routes were engaged 4,760 contractors. The annual cost of transporting the mails over these routes was \$2,724,456, making an average cost of five cents and eight and a half mills per mile.

The mail service in California and Oregon is in so unsettled a condition, that no satisfactory statement can be made with regard to it. The report recommends the following modification of the Post Office law:

1. That the contract and fiscal year for the Post Office Department in respect to the service in California, Oregon, New Mexico and Utah, be changed, and that it commence and end three months earlier than for the rest of the Union; so that the returns, accounts and all other statements for the last quarter of the fiscal year in that portion of the Union can be made to the General Post Office in Washington in time, after being duly audited, to be embraced in the annual reports submitted at the opening of Congress.

2. That authority be given to the special agent in that country to open, at San Francisco, the dead letters returned from the offices of California and Oregon, and there dispose of them as is now done at the General Post Office, under such regulations and restrictions as the Postmaster General may prescribe. For this purpose a clerk or clerks, with suitable salaries, should be allowed to the special agents.

3. With regard to the reduction of Letter Postage, the Postmaster General recommends that three cents be the fixed inland rate, when prepaid, and when not prepaid, that five cents be the uniform rate. He also recommends the reduction of the postage on California letters, and that the rates on the foreign mail be made equal to those on the inland mail.

4. He also recommends that pamphlet postage be reduced to two cents when weighing two ounces or less. And one cent for every additional ounce over two. He recommends that if this reduction of postage be authorized by Congress, it should not go into effect until the 30th of next June, the fiscal year then commencing.

5. In consequence of the increased labor the Postmasters will have to undergo to fill their decreased compensation, he recommends an increase in their commissions. He also recommends that the locks and keys which have been in use for several years, be exchanged for new ones; and that the Postoffice at Washington be repaired and improved, as it is now not suited to the office of such importance, as the Post Office of the city of Washington.

6. He also recommends that the laws regulating the Department and its offices, be revised and improved. He concludes, in acknowledgment of his obligations to his assistants and clerks in the Department, for the cheerfulness, zeal and assiduity with which they have labored in the discharge of their respective duties, and to renew the recommendation of his predecessors, that the Assistant Postmaster-General be placed upon the same footing, in respect to their compensation, as the heads of bureaus in the other departments.

A Government Commission has been appointed to report upon the desirability of removing the

trans-Atlantic mail station from Liverpool, to some point on the Western Coast of Ireland.

The American and Liverpool Chamber of Commerce oppose the project. A magnificent mail steamship, named the "Scotia," is being built in the Clyde, to run between Liverpool and New York. The Government have recently dispatched six men-of-war to the coast of Brazil, for the suppression of the Slave trade, making their force of 11 men-of-war.

The building for the exhibition of 1851 proved to have been calculated on altogether too small a scale, and the erection of a new gallery has been authorized, by which an additional exhibiting surface of 48,000 feet has been obtained, and even this will not be sufficient.

A terrible explosion occurred on the 8th ult. on board the French mail-of-war Volmy, on her passage from Furby to Brest. The explosion was from powder, kept in a place entirely out of the rules of the service, for the manufacture of rockets, a night signal. 20 sailors were dragged from the ruins; 10 of whom died immediately, and the remaining 10 it is supposed cannot recover.

The advice from Germany are more pacific. Prussia has acceded to the demands of Austria, and has evacuated the whole of Electoral Hesse, except the military road, to which she has a right, always. The Franklin Diet is to be allowed to act as the organ of the old Confederation, and the troops of the old Confederation are to "pacify" Hesse Cassel and the people of Westphalia. The Prussian army and people are much dissatisfied with the result.

The Federal troops have already entered Cassel, although they have taken no action. There is nothing that "a burly child drags the fire," and we think our whig friends in the Legislature will be slow to try on a pair of "bargain and sale" gloves again. We are of the opinion, therefore, that the election of Judge Black to the Senate is a foregone conclusion, sanctioned by the people and the press, and imperatively called for by the wants of the State.

Now that it is certain the Plank Road to Watsburg will be finished by the first of November next, we deem it our duty to call public attention to the importance of taking immediate measures to have the road extended to Columbus, with a view of ultimately extending to Warren. We are informed that a charter is already in existence for that purpose, and it only requires a little exertion to set the ball in motion. Once set going, it will roll itself. So far as we can ascertain the public mind is ripe for the enterprise. Indeed we are told that responsible men have offered to build it, with their own private means, as far as Wayne, nearly half way from Watsburg to Columbus. Certainly the citizens of the flourishing village of Columbus, who are noted for their enterprise and public spirit, will meet the road half-way.

It is through a country admirably adapted to this kind of road; and what is more, will prove a profitable investment. There is no doubt of that. To our citizens the extension of this road is all important. One fact will be sufficient to demonstrate it. The citizens of New York have already a plank road completed from Westfield to Clymer, within six miles of Columbus. This road is taking all the trade and travel from the North-western part of Warren county to the lake that way, whereas it used to come here. A fact illustrative of this was told us the other day. Last year all the merchants and traders in that section of the country had their goods shipped from New-York to this city. This year but one solitary bill of goods was received, by our Forwarding Merchants for them—they had all found an easier and cheaper way of reaching the lake by the Plank Road from Clymer to Westfield. This is but one item, but how much more trade our city has been deprived of by the same cause, it is impossible to tell; it is not unlikely, however, that it is no inconsiderable amount. This fact speaks volumes, and we trust it will have the effect of awakening the attention of our citizens to the importance of the Road to Watsburg and its extension to Columbus.

The Erie Bank. Gen. C. M. Reed publishes a card in the last Gazette denying that the above named institution has failed, and that the notes, as has been stated in the Eastern and Western papers, and asserting that the Bills are properly redeemed at the rate, and by Dr. Reed & Co. Philadelphia; Kramer & Rabin, Pittsburg; and Paine & Bank Individually, N. Y. He further says he holds himself individually liable for the redemption of every Bill put in circulation while he presides over the institution.

P. S.—Since the above was in type, the following statement of the condition of the Bank has been handed us, by the Cashier, with a request to publish: Erie Bank, Dec. 11, 1850.

Dr. Capital Stock, 101,850 00
Notes in circulation, 101,850 00
66,375 00
Due Depositors, 12,631 29
Dividend unpaid, 19 30
Profit and loss, 519 34
\$191,853 13

Dr. By Discount of notes and bills Ex., 123,727 05
Erie Bank Stock, 15,215 00
Real Estate, 4,904 00
Erie Canal Stock, 5,000 00
Erie Canal Bonds \$13,551 cash value, 6,713 13
Erie Deposit and Cash from Banks, 17,570 08
Notes from other Banks, 8,410 00
Specie Funds, 10,493 89
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C. M. SPARREN, Cashier. The Northern Democrat still persists that there are two democrats in the present Congress from Michigan, and that both voted for the Fugitive Slave Bill. In authority is Greeley's Whig Almanac. We prefer better authority, and that is the Democracy of Michigan themselves. Although Kinsley S. Bingham was elected as a Democrat, it is well known that he has not acted with that party since his election, in consequence of which his constituents have kicked him so far out of the pale of the party that even that ancient gentleman, now almost forgotten, Martin Van Buren, can't see him. Perhaps this mis-called "Democrat" will still say that Bingham voted for the Fugitive Slave Bill, even when it is continually shedding cobwebs and dust, and most heartily rejoice at his defeat;—then he was a candidate. Truly, the knowledge displayed by this paper of its own kidney is "excruciating."

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14, 1850.

So far Congress has behaved well. No attempt at agitation has yet been made by either of the extremists of the North or the South, and the indications are that we shall have a very fair working session. We hope so. The country needs repose; the people are tired of crimination and recrimination between different sections of the country; and desire more work and less speech-making for "theme consumption." It is true, the proceeding thus far have been devoid of any general interest, but it takes some time for the members to get used to the tedious routine of business after so long a time spent in excitement and agitation. After New Year we presume they will strip off their coats and go to work.

United States Senator—Judge Black's Prospects. Indications from the popular mind clearly point, we think, to Judge Black as the successor of Hon. DANIEL STRONG in the Senate of the United States. The duty of the Legislature upon this question is as plain as the white of the people's eyes. Judge Black was a rival of Col. BLOOM for the gubernatorial nomination, but he is no longer so. The people have signified their desire that his eminent talents should grace another station, and he has announced his determination to obey. He will not, therefore, be a candidate for Governor even should the Legislature so far disregard the popular will, as to select some one else. Of this, however, we have no fears, unless, indeed, our opponents consent again to become the dupes of some designing demagogue hanging upon the skirts of the Democracy, as they did a few years since upon a similar occasion. It is an old saying that "a burly child drags the fire," and we think our whig friends in the Legislature will be slow to try on a pair of "bargain and sale" gloves again. We are of the opinion, therefore, that the election of Judge Black to the Senate is a foregone conclusion, sanctioned by the people and the press, and imperatively called for by the wants of the State.

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An Editor who recently came in Nashville, in the undisputed possession of a thousand dollars! Baram is after him. We have him on the authority of the Erie state printer, possibly the world's best printer—SAM MARY—Atlantic Telegraph.

Wagon, Sir: wrong-h is Gen. Taylor's Charge to Austria, Gen. James Watson Webb, the man that bled your pie-bald party with the name "Whig," and the money was one of them fifty-two thousand dollars he got from the Bank of the United States for the job.

It is our indebted to our friend Middaugh, of the Red Jacket School, for a fine fat Turkey, "alive and kicking," intended for our Thanksgiving dinner. As we had been previously supplied, it still lives, a monument to our previous good fortune.

A True System of Newspaper Postage.

Greeley, of the New York Tribune, in reviewing the report of Mr. Postmaster General HALL, puts forth the following as his idea of a fair and liberal system of newspaper postage:

"Mr. Hall is very fair so far as he goes with regard to Newspapers, but he does not go far enough. The weight is the essential point in the transportation of Printed Matter; consequently, the considerations in favor of a uniform rate for Letter Postage do not apply to Newspapers, not justly and equal to charge as much for carrying a small newspaper twenty miles as for carrying a large one two thousand miles. One cent per sheet, weighing one far general rate; but there should be a much lower rate for Country Newspapers;—that is, for all periodicals conveyed less than forty miles. We think ten cents per annum as the postage of a Weekly, twenty of a Semi-Weekly, thirty for a Tri-Weekly, and sixty for a Daily. To be paid for a full year in advance—would be a fair rate for all journals conveyed not more than forty miles from their respective places of publication. We believe such rates would be most advantageous, yet but justly so, to the Country Press, which is now unduly crowded by the city journals;—eight cents in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, &c., while the journals printed in the very counties where taken pay fifty-two; this is too little a difference; but to reduce one to fifty-two and leave the other to pay one hundred and twenty, is a fair rate for the printer. One cent per copy, payable quarterly in advance, for every newspaper sent more than forty miles, with appropriate rates for papers printed after that time until General Taylor succeeded to the Presidency, denunciations of the "one man power" was a "pass-card" to the hearts of all true and loyal whigs;—and if any act should pass the two houses of Congress which should appear to him unconstitutional, or an encroachment on the just powers of other departments, as "will not shrink from the duty of restoring it," with his objections. Thus daily repudiating Gen. Taylor's and the whig party's doctrine in regard to the exercise of the veto, and planting himself upon the broad platform of the Democracy. Here again our opponents do not occupy the ground now they did then.

A Tariff for protection—a high tariff—in opposition to one for revenue, has been the rallying cry of our opponents almost ever since Webster's God-father to old anti-masonry and "national republicanism," and beset them with their present cognomen. But Mr. Fillmore has given them a new light—has discarded those dogmas upon which he came into power, and declares, in the language of the Democracy, that "a high tariff can never be permanent."—It will cause dissatisfaction and will be changed,—"it excites competition, and thereby invites the investment of capital in manufactures to such excess, that when changed it brings disaster, bankruptcy, and ruin, upon all who have been misled by its fallacious protection"—and that duties are levied to "replenish the treasury." &c. &c. This, to use the language of a leading whig paper in this State in commenting on the message, "annihilates the whole question of protection" for a high whigery has so long contended, and proves that upon yet one more point our opponents have been forced to acknowledge the wisdom and justice of Democratic measures and principles. We might pursue this parallel further, and show that the very platform upon which Gen. Cass stood in 1848 in regard to slavery in the territories, has been adopted and commended by a whig President, and received the hearty support of whig statesmen in 1850, but it is not necessary. The people see it, and feel it.

The Pennsylvania says that James M. Mason (Dem.) has been elected a Senator in Congress from Virginia. He was the caucus candidate, and got a large vote. This result is significant, and shows that although Virginia is warmly attached to the Union, she is not indisposed to keep in power one of those who have been especially devoted to Southern rights. Judge Mason was the author of the Fugitive Slave Law, and is a gentleman of decided ability.

It is announced, and the prospectus has been issued for the publication of a new paper at Harrisburg, which, it is said, will be National in its character—support President Fillmore's administration, and oppose Gov. Johnston and his Abolition and Antislavery dynasty. It is to be called the State Journal. Talbot is "a good time coming." "wait a little longer."

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What Next? It is announced in one of the papers that a Mr. F. C. Bakewell, has invented a mode of telegraphing by which he secures a fac simile of the hand writing in which a message is written. The characters of the original communication may be diminished or enlarged at pleasure, and the new machine may be applied to printed matter with open more facility than to manuscript. The discovery can be made available with the present wires and telegraphic battery.

The "Lawrence Journal" is requested to give credit when it copies from this paper hereafter. The article in its last number headed "God never mad a Loafier," belongs to us. We are not very tenacious about such things, but the Journal is in the habit of taking indiscriminately whatever it likes, without as much as "thank you."

The Magazines. Godley's Lady's Book, for January, commencing the new year and new volume, is a splendid number, worthy of the name Godley has heretofore acquired in its conduct. The engravings are from beautiful original designs, and entitled "The Constant," "The Four Ears of Life," "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," "The Epithets of the Seasons," and others. The publication of a new American drama, called "The Judge," by the talented actress, Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, is commenced in this number. \$3 per annum.

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Col. J. B. Snowden, late Treasurer of the Philadelphia Mint, arrived in town yesterday, and is stopping with his brother-in-law, Judge Thompson. Strange Phenomenon. An English brig, the Ellen Anne, was lately struck by a meteoric stone, while in the British Channel. The report was like a musket charge, and the planking of the deck was torn up and perforated in several places as if by musket shots. No signs of a thunder storm were to be seen or heard, though the day was dull and lowering, with a fresh breeze. The occurrence is said to be very rare in the British Channel, though frequent up the Mediterranean.

Now and Then—A Parallel Drawn.

It is amusing to see with what steady, though not imperceptible stride the Whig party and its leaders approach the Independent Treasury was the "muzzum-kumzum"—the "chief good,"—of a true and loyal whig; and the extra session of Congress, called by Gen. Harrison before his death, was in session but a few days till the law was repealed. Now, however, the Independent Treasury stands so firm upon its foundation—the good sense of the country—that Mr. Fillmore does not deem it necessary to allude to it at all in his message. Whigry now is not what it was then on this point, that is evident.

Again; one of the first acts of that extra session was the passage of a bill for the establishment of a National Bank, in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Ewing, the Secretary of the Treasury. This was a whig measure then, and because President Taylor refused it, he was denounced as a second Arnold; and the light of whigry withdrawn from his countenance. Now, however, Mr. Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury, commends no such measure—the President himself does not even hint at it,—and yet the whig party and its press are as quiet as lambs at the slaughter. Here it is plain again, that whigry is not now what it was then.

This exercise of the President's prerogative by Mr. Taylor, in regard to the Bank, immediately brought into existence a force opposition to the veto power. This was immediately incorporated in the whig creed; and from that time until General Taylor succeeded to the Presidency, denunciations of the "one man power" was a "pass-card" to the hearts of all true and loyal whigs;—and if any act should pass the two houses of Congress which should appear to him unconstitutional, or an encroachment on the just powers of other departments, as "will not shrink from the duty of restoring it," with his objections. Thus daily repudiating Gen. Taylor's and the whig party's doctrine in regard to the exercise of the veto, and planting himself upon the broad platform of the Democracy. Here again our opponents do not occupy the ground now they did then.

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NEARLY PEN AND-SCISSOR SPLINTERS.

"A thing of Shreds and Patches." For the World's Fair.—It is said that Demos is about to make arrangements to send an Erie County Jury to the World's Fair. It would pay. A country girl, in writing home about the Pinks, says the dancing is not much, but the tugging is heavenly! The woman should be died.

How true the saying, that "all manner of crimes may be proved against the unfortunate, but the successful never sin." Nature is spoken of in the feminine gender, because she is so extravagant in rich carpets, dappery, dress and perfume. An honest farmer thus writes to the Chairman of an English agricultural society—"Gentlemen, please put me down on your list of cattle for a bull."

A late English writer, in speaking of the United States says: "It is the land of large farms and thinly peopled grass yards." Elibu Borritt says that the best cough drop for young ladies is to drop the practice of dressing plain when they go out in the night air.

Somebody sent the Editor of the Carlisle Democrat a head of cabbage the other day. Sour-kraut Editorials, it is presumed, will be a discount in "old mother Cumberland" hereafter. The man with a "brick in his hit" was in town on Thanksgiving day. He swore he'd rather have a bottle of the "real stingo" than all the newspapers in the world. Happy Freeman.

If all men were just, says some one, all men would be happy. But there is an "if" in the way, and that "if" is a bad stumbling block in an Editor's path. The origin of the "Vegetarians" or Bran Bread people, which has long puzzled the learned, has at length been discovered. They sprang from Nebuchadnezzar when he was an ox. That accounts for bran-bread Greeley being such a calf.

They are going to have a House of Refuge in Pittsburg. All right—no city in the Union needs it more, and the very first person that should go in it, of the Penitentiary, is the Mayor. James Gordon Bennett has gone to Havana, and will not return until the marks and stripes are effaced, which he received from having indulged too freely in the Graham system.

The Southern Press, published at Washington as the organ of southern disunionists, ridicules meetings in favor of maintaining the Union, in the same style that they are disparaged at the north be free soil, abolition, and quasi free soil papers. Two dramatists of the female gender, in an "affair of honor" in N. York City recently—one flourished a bowie knife and the other pulled hair. The hair puller was victorious.

Isaac Luser, an eminent Hebrew scholar of Philadelphia, appeals to the Jewish people to aid his enterprise in the publication of a "New Translation of the Holy Scriptures." How many times must the word of God be altered before we get it correct? A member of the Connecticut Assembly moved for leave to bring a bill for extending the powers of justices. Another requested, as a previous motion, that a statute might be passed to extend their capacities.

Theodore Parker compares some men who grow suddenly rich to cabbages growing in a violet bed; they smother the violets, but ate, after all, nothing but cabbage root. The bells jingled right merrily in our streets this week. The music was very pleasant, but very dear. They remind us of the bells of our time-flourishing for a brief season, were pleasant to the eye, and very, very dear.

The Whigs of the Empire State are getting unwell. The followers of Fillmore call the Sewards, "Wool-Heads," while the admirers of that "higher-law" politician return the compliment by calling the others "Silver-grays." Both names are quite appropriate. At a printers' festival, held in Nashville, the "type stick" was toasted, and described as "the charmed casket by which the printer holds the destinies of empires and states and communities, as in the hollow of his hand."

If you wish to become a great man in this world you must make a great noise. Modest men stand no more chance for success than a bob-tailed horse in fly time. It is not the shepherd, but the sheep with the bell that the flock follows. Again we say, "Go in lemons," and make a splash. An Ark is being built by a man down East, in anticipation of the next flood—of tears shed by his wife, when he refuses to take her to the opera. He thinks he can weather the storm.

A bale of cotton, recently sent from Liverpool to the Aberdeen railway, was found on being opened, to contain a live cat, which from her emaciated appearance, was judged to have made the passage across the Atlantic, in that manner. Did she go through the cotton press? Whoever answers, do so cat-egorically. The Editor of the Gazette wants about "twelve inches" of snow, "packed and crisped," to "raise his spirits." We hope the Clerk of the Weather will take pity on him; but if not, that of Monongahela would do as well, perhaps. That's Gov. Johnston's experience.

The following beautiful stanza is from the German. How many of us live day after day, till days turn into months, and months into years, in hope of some fancied good, and when at last our goal is reached and that for which we have labored is attained, find "our hope and joy shaded," our anticipations turned to ashes on our lips: Beside the stream that gently flows, At morning dawn I saw a rose In modern beauty blushing. More fair than all I earth beside, It blent above its grateful tide. And I inhaled its perfume. Beside the stream that gently flows, At evening I saw the rose. But all the leaves were faded; Such is thy fate, Oh man—be heed! Thou art in hope, but like the flower, Thy hope and joys are shaded.