

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1850. Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, is to lead off on the part of Governor Seward's body guard, in the case of assaulting the message of Mr. Fillmore...

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1850. The Scott stock is evidently uppermost in the Federal market. The General is apparently uncommitted upon the slavery question, which renders him positively the only whig who may be started with the faintest hope of winning the race...

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1850. Among the rumors current in the city, is one that Gov. Seward has recently called upon the President, and made overtures of peace, which the Government's attention is not readily known...

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1850. Sure enough, yesterday saw the opening of the slavery discussion in the House, to the evident amazement of the friends of Mr. Fillmore, who within the last two or three days had managed to cheat themselves with the belief that the...

terday, Mr. Giddings being the orator for the occasion. The subject matter being considered was, Messrs. Giddings, and the standing Committee of the House. On these occasions it is customary to have a protracted debate, generally upon the most exciting topic of the day...

Advices were to-day received by telegraph, from Mississippi, saying that the disunion Legislature of that State, had determined to have nothing more to do with efforts to dissolve the Confederacy. They have concluded, wisely, to let their successors determine whether or not to call a Convention...

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 1850. I mentioned a few days since that, although a sectional calm had succeeded the bitter-tempests of late session, there was a disposition to revive old party distinctions, preparatory to the opening of the year 1851...

The Secretary of the Treasury is still perplexed with his report. Printers are beginning to resemble tailors—they are always prepared with their work, and yet never ready to furnish it. It is now declared positively, that to-morrow will witness the first of the session...

Two Southern Editors.—The following article from the Mobile Tribune is in happy resemblance to a well known passage of Sidney Smith's on British taxation: "We frankly tell you that, so far as we are concerned, we despise the Union, and hate the North as we do hell itself..."

Acquittal of Jacob Green, charged with the Murder of the Sedition of his Wife. The Delaware Republican gives the following account of the trial and acquittal of Jacob Green: "Jacob Green was tried on Tuesday last, at New Castle, for the murder of Abraham Reddon..."

He was mistaken. The law in Delaware makes it no higher offense than misdemeanor for a husband to kill a man found in the act of adultery with his wife, and the jury, considering that even as beyond the guilt of this defendant under the circumstances of aggravation and outrage presented by his case, acquitted him entirely.

THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTIONS RESPECTING ST. DOMINGO.—We object to the president's suggestion that the Spanish question should be referred to the Spanish Ministers on that island are quarrelling.—The president says that European powers have suggested interference to restore peace, and that the proximity of the island to the United States, and the delicate questions involved, render a speedy and permanent settlement important to us...

CHARLES, Pa., Dec. 9, 1850. FIRE AND LOSS OF THREE LIVES.—Late on Saturday night our citizens were startled by the cry of fire, occasioned by the burning of a two story brick dwelling in the southern part of the town...

HORRIBLE MURDER.—A terrible murder was committed in this city night before last. A Frenchman who kept a toy and variety shop on Woodward Avenue, below the Post office, was found murdered in his bed yesterday morning, and before the door was broken open, by which the murderer escaped...

FROM TEXAS.—The steamship Palmetto, at New Orleans, brought Galveston papers to the 29th ult. with the important fact, that the Legislature has accepted the peace bond bill.

ARKANSAS GOLD.—The editor of the Little Rock Gazette has been shown a lump of Gold found in Johnson county, Ark. by a Mr. Shell, of New Orleans. It was imbedded in small pieces of quartz, and weighed 12 pennyweights, and was said to be worth little over \$9. Mr. Shell found it in a cove in a reef of rocks projecting out in the Arkansas river, near the mouth of Shoal Creek...

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1850.

Our Reading Room. We have a Reading Room in a "Grand Exchange" Rooms have been engaged in the Commercial Exchange Buildings on French street, and committees appointed to select papers, and transact other preliminary business...

Spanish Quarters. We gave currency last week to a statement that, by a recent act of Congress, Spanish Quarters, and other fractions of a dollar, had been reduced in value. We saw the statement in several papers, and supposed it to be correct. It appears, however, that no such regulation has been adopted...

Stand Firm Under! We had the following announcement in the Consent, Ohio Reporter, of Thursday: REPUBLICAN.—A bill passed the Legislature last week, authorizing the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashland Railroad Company to ALTER THEIR GAUGE, SO AS TO CONFORM TO THE GAUGE OF THE N. Y. & ERIE, OR ANY OTHER ROAD WITH WHICH THEY MAY CONNECT IN PENNSYLVANIA...

Our party-giving readers will do well to look at the advertisement, in another column, of our friend Jacob Schuchard. Did he need recommendation, we would cheerfully give it, but he has so long, in the employ of others, served our citizens that a word in his behalf is not necessary.

The Crab State. Father Ritchie, of the Union, this satirizes Vermont, the crab state. "It is stated in some of the papers that the returns of the census show a decrease of population in about half of the towns of Vermont since 1840. We believe this is the only State in the Union in which such a phenomenon occurs as a backward progress. The last nullification law passed by her legislature may be regarded as a general order of invitation to fugitive slaves to their way to Canada to stop and make up the deficiency of Vermont, in the loss of increasing population, a decidedly sad omen. It is evident that if the harassed manly fugitive slaves in their borders, they have been overwhelmed by fugitive whites out of them. The emigrating "Green Mountain boys" are fellows of sense, beyond question."

By telegraphic despatch from New Orleans, we learn that the Hon. Alexander G. Penn, Democrat, has been elected to fill the vacancy in the third Congressional district, occasioned by the death of the Hon. John H. Harmon.

The Gazette says "Gen. Cass is bound to be the Democratic nominee for the next Presidency, if Pennsylvania can bring about such a result." Perhaps, we should like to see the Editor of the New York Tribune think Sam Houston is the man, and we are inclined to think Hancock as far as to a million-stone as our contemporary. If Greeley should be right in this prophecy, and we think he is, it would be the hottest "plenty plate of soup" the Gazette's candidate ever set down to. Gen. Houston was never beaten in the field or upon the stump; and he never will be, let the opposing candidate be who he may. We should like to see justice done Gen. Cass by an election to the Presidency, but justice to the Democratic party by the success of our principles demands our first care!

The Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post, writes as follows: "It is said that a disposition prevails in Congress to do something for iron, and that a number of Democrats from Pennsylvania and the western slave States, have laid their heads and hearts together for the purpose of getting up something like a harmony and conciliation upon this question, and for the official suppression of agitation by the removal of all railroad and the substitution of specific duties. Mr. Strong and Mr. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Hammond and Mr. McLean of Maryland, have been mentioned as favorable to the change referred to."

It was Mr. Walker, late Secretary of the Treasury, who first suggested this, of a similar change in the tariff, for the purpose of increasing the revenue. Mr. Porpoise Skin Lather, said to be of most excellent quality, as soft and pliant as kid, while it is strong and tough, was exhibited at a recent industrial exhibition in Montreal, Canada. Very likely, and while skins, we suppose, will, in time, be made into rope leather, which ought to have the merit of being water proof.

We have received the first number of the "Philadelphia Saturday Express," a new literary Weekly. It is published by S. McHenry, at \$3 per year, and is exactly what it professes, a paper for the "House Circle." The first number is an excellent one, and as the price of subscription is high enough to enable the publisher to do justice to his subscribers, we have no hesitation in recommending it to public favor. It has no need of the appearance of those catch-penny "Saturday Paps," "Scott's Weeklies," or "Model Coriaries."

A resolution was introduced into the Legislature of Ohio, last week, instructing the Senators and Representatives of that State to vote for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law. It was laid on the table by a vote of 38 to 33. Thus has Ohio, a State we least expected, declared against the further agitation of this question.

Odd Fellow's Ball. We see by notice in the Gazette that Philadelphia Lodge of I. O. F., of this city, are to give a Ball on New Year Eve at the Reed House. Tickets \$2.

Matters and Things in Washington.

As Washington is the point towards which all eyes are just now directed, the reader after news as well as the politician, the sectional agitator as well as the patriot, we deem an excuse necessary for the very liberal quotations we have made, in this week's paper, from the correspondence of our exchanges. Every thing from that point, either fact or rumor, is interesting; and as the following are condensed views of the state of affairs, sectional, personal, national, and political at the seat of Government, we add it. Editorially, the extracts already given in our preceding columns. The storm, says the correspondent of the Post, raised by contending factions in different parts of the Union will scarcely trouble the waters here; the agitators are silenced at the capital, and are now at their game in the provinces. We have a majority of two to one in the house against any further agitation of the slavery question, and a majority of four to one on the same subject in the senate. In the next session this majority in favor of peace and the constitution will be considerably increased; hence the hopelessness of agitating successfully in congress, and the determination of the unionists, north and south, to keep up the puppet show in the shape of conventions, resolutions, organization of squads of disunionists into political bodies, and "stated preaching" at a Butler. All these things are done with a view towards the presidency; for the purpose of legislation they are utterly worthless and nugatory. Take it all in all, the north has, by the compromise measures of the last session, gained immense advantages without incurring the least loss; but the agitators, north and south, have been signally defeated. The free soil cry now is "mustard after dinner," there being no more territory to dispose of and consequently none to which to apply a bare and nugatory abstraction. The Poutal a la Marengo has made the tour of the world; but Seward and Benton will scarcely be able to bring the diadema a la Waterloo into fashion.

Mr. Seward and Mr. Benton will be very quiet during this session, and will take no active part in the debates. They will not stir up the slavery question; the former having laid a plot to entrap the administration in a treaty of peace and amity with the forces still remaining at his disposal; and the latter being too much occupied with legislation in regard to California and other business matters, which will not bear delay, as the honorable senator himself will, on the fourth of March next, be nothing but a lobby member—perhaps a correspondent for several papers in Missouri and elsewhere. The present session, therefore, will be marked by nothing but its appropriation for government and other purposes, and by attention to the real wants of the country.

But while the external calm prevails we shall have combats for the presidency in the mass rooms of members and senators, and a variety of schemes for breaking down the present administration. Seward and his friends are determined either to rule or ruin the cabinet of Mr. Fillmore, and then himself. They want him to be so exceedingly good natured, as to use his power and patronage to elevate the man whom the ex-president has recently brought forward for the presidency in 1852, and by that means to patch up the old whig organization as it existed prior to 1848. General Scott is the free soil candidate of the north; if, in addition to that, he shall be made the compromise candidate of the administration, he would be in a tolerable way to take both tracks, carrying with him Kentucky and Tennessee, and perhaps one or two more southern states. This would be sufficient to elect him, if the trump be kept up in New York for the purpose of dividing the democratic party, and if Ohio can be secured by the same manoeuvre. Should the agitator north cause revolutionary movements in the southern states, "the hero of Lundy's Lane" would be the very man to put them down. Being unable to hold power by the prostration of business and the ordinary sources of prosperity of the country, the demons in human shape are determined to bring the country to the verge of bloodshed and civil war; nay, to plunge us into it, and to jeopardize the Union, so that in the last extremity they may be called upon to save us. They do not stop to calculate the chances; their whole hope of success rests on the gullibility of the people—the fanaticism of demagogues, and the disaffection of the south, produced by the incessant meddling of the north with their internal affairs. Governor Seward well knows that it was the distress of the country which first brought him into notice, (as in times of distress even quacks will make a living, and he has ever since been ready to "pile on therapy,") hoping thereby to create a market for his nostrums. Gov. Seward and Thurlow Weed remind us strongly of the partnership between the man who had the itch and the fellow who sold the ointment. The one was all affability and kindness to every body; shaking pipe by the hand in every direction, treating them to small drinks, and offering them the hospitality of his house, until he had spread the detsemper. Then came the partner with the ointment, and made a handsome profit on the cure. Seward has applied to congress for a patent, but is unable to convince the faculty. Let us hope he will keep the itch out of the white house.

Another object which Seward, Benton, &c. have in view in promoting free soil agitation, is to strengthen the hands of the southern disunionists which they may be able to prevail against the moderate Union men and patriots who have thus far nobly stood by the country and the constitution. In proportion as the mad men of the south are strengthened by the fanatics of the north they will detach the masses from the friends of the Union, and thus uniting, the south will thus select the weakest man north, and if the northern democracy accept him, a split of the party is inevitable. The best course to be pursued by the north is to select a candidate who shall be strong in the north, yet unexceptionable to the moderate part of the south. Such a candidate would be par excellence the Union candidate and be elected beyond a doubt. A strong national democrat of the north would run successfully well with the southern whigs to secure the votes of those states which, from their momentary disaffection, seem to be doubtful. Let the democracy of the north stand firm and undivided on national principles, and it will compel the true men south and north,—the popular Americans,—to enlist permanently under its glorious stripes and stars.

What does this Mean? We clip the following from the last Freedom's Cause: "We learn that notices are being given to the owners of land through which the Dunkirk and State Line road is surveyed. The holders of the land have fifteen days from the time the notice is given to make their objections to the location of the road."

What does this mean? Has the management of the New York and Erie road come to their senses at last, and decided to make an effort to comply with their obligations, and stand their ground to this city by the first of August? It would appear so; but what will become of the splendid fortunes, made from "corner lots" and "dilapidated taverns," of the Seymour, and French, and Risley, of that stupendous terminus of the New York and Erie road, Dunkirk? But we shall see what we shall see, and until that "good time coming" let us watch and pray.

The army board which recently assembled at Washington, by direction of the President, to deliberate upon the expediency of providing additional grades in the army, have recommended the creation of an officer with the rank of Lieutenant General. Their report will soon be communicated to congress by the President, with proper suggestions on the subject.

The St. Louis Republican says the census taker for the Third Ward of that city, reports having met with a child, only eight months old, twenty-eight inches in height, and weighs thirty lbs. But the curiosity exists in this—that this child now talks and speaks fluently and distinctly.

A special election for a member of Congress in the Luzerne District has been ordered on the 31st of the present month. We hope that our friends in this naturally strong Democratic district will make such a nomination as will be supported by the Democracy, and that they will send such a man to represent them as will be able to advocate their interests in the National Congress.

Major Wm. H. Bissell was re-elected to Congress from the first district in Illinois by 12,941 votes, every vote cast in the district!

Errors or Omissions.—Please announce through the medium of your paper that the undersigned, members of the Committee appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania with reference to the Industrial Exhibition to be held 1851, will receive and examine any articles designed for Exhibition at said Convention by citizens of Luzerne and adjoining counties of Pennsylvania.

JAMES MILES, Grand. J. B. JOHNSON, Esq. The subjoined extracts from the letter of instructions of the Executive Committee of the United States, will probably contain all the information requisite for those who desire to become exhibitors: 1. Committees appointed by the Governors of the several States are recognized as the proper judges for selecting articles suitable to be sent to the Exhibition from the United States.

2. Articles intended for exhibition will be examined by the Committee of the State or Territory of which they are the products. 3. The State Committees will furnish duplicate certificates of all articles examined and approved by them, to the Executive Committee at Washington, who will give the sanction required by the British Commissioners.

4. Articles approved in the manner above prescribed will be forwarded to London free of charge, from the port of New York, in a national vessel, by the Navy Department at the disposal of the Central Commission for that purpose; and, at the close of the Exhibition, they will be returned in the same conveyance, to the same place, unless otherwise directed. 5. The Executive Department will afford, so far as practicable, through the Revenue Cutter Service, facilities for forwarding objects from the different Atlantic ports to New York.

6. Should the vessel designated to convey the goods to London not be in readiness to receive them upon their arrival at New York, they will be stored at the New York, and afterwards put on board, free of expense to the exhibitor. 7. All goods intended to be forwarded to the Exhibition, by the Government vessel from New York, should be delivered at that place fully marked, and with appropriate notices, containing the corresponding marks. In addition to other marks, there should be inscribed on each package, the words "London Exhibition."

8. The articles were to be received at the New York after the 25th day of January, 1851, as the vessel will sail soon after that period. 9. All expenses in London, for cartage, packing, arranging for exhibition, and removing of packages, must be paid by the owners of the goods or their agents.

"Some Poor will Be So." We never knew a superstitious fool that was an aristocrat; and, vice versa, we never saw an aristocrat, a satirist or broadsheet, that was not a superstitious fool. To set on fire a leader of the ton because one's husband or father has made a few thousands above and beyond what is actually necessary for comfort, shows not only a weak spot somewhere, but an ignorance that is in like degree and disgraceful. Perhaps we ought not to say that, but to account the pot as you will, "some poor will be so." What is "bread in the hole," will not come out of the milliner's, says the adage; and where we see the wives and daughters of plain citizens, attempting to see the air of our neighbors across the water, we can't help looking back in order to find from what shop-keeper or tailor's board, carpenter's bench or mason's trowel, they received their parent's nobility. Now we take it, that man or woman is bound to play the fool, whatever his or her soft-headed neighbor may do. Every democrat will be a democrat from choice. There is no law against it. As lobster candy is made of various colored substances, so into the warp and woof of civil society are woven all sorts of educators, among whom the many of the descendants of the unhung torso of '76, who escaped with tarring and feathering, but did not quite reach the gallows.

Very Wrong. We would be sorry to see our friend of the Eastern Argus indulge in such ill-considered and uncalled for remarks in regard to any of the gentlemen named for United States Senators, as he has twice since the friends of Col. Seward's brought his name before the people for that office. In the first place it can do no good, as the contrary is calculated to engender bitter feelings in the breasts of our common friends. There is disrespect to some of the staunchest democrats in the state, the friends of the Colonel. He is not our first choice, certainly; but we would much prefer him to some that have been named; and for qualifications, which the Argus seems to think he lacks, he is certainly a head and shoulders above the present incumbent, and in comparison with some of his competitors, he certainly has much more than his advantage. We have earnestly requested the selection of Judge Black, but yet it has not prevented our speaking a kind word for Col. McCannless, who, as every body knows, is eminently qualified; nor will it prevent us rebuking the spirit shown by the Argus towards Col. Seward or any of the other choice of some of the members from glorious "old Berkshire," while he has been endorsed by the organ of the Democracy of Clarion, and spoken favorably of by others, as good Democratic papers as the Argus. Respect for the opinions of such, if not for the man himself, should deter our contemporary for indulging in the remarks we allude to.

The Jamestown Route. We learn from Mr. Camp, who, as we have before stated, was engaged in the re-exploration of the route from here to the summit, on the proposed road via Jamestown to intersect the New York and Erie road at Little Valley, that he has succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. By throwing his summit at the feet of East of that of his first survey, he has succeeded in finding a route which will only require a grade of about 37 feet to the mile, and also avoid almost entirely the expensive crossings encountered in his first survey. The cheapness, feasibility and expediency of this route for a connection with the New York and Erie road, is thus demonstrated beyond cavil. What action the New York and Erie Board will take in the matter, we are not yet advised, but as the whole fate of the case are now before them, and as the Central interest is turning every plank to head them off, we presume we shall have something definite shortly.

The First Response. The following, from the "Warren Mail" is the first response to our suggestion last week to continue on the Warren Plank Road to Warren: "We, and so many as we have named before, appear on the work." And we are glad to hear that every citizen who understands their own interests will join to put shoulder to the wheel and help push the thing through to this place. We would like some way, either by water, Railroad, or Plank Road, by which we could get to the lake without the rough and tumble, mud and mud break neck roads which we have now. There is no kind of doubt about the feasibility of this project. It will pay richly, every man who makes an investment in it, besides being a great public benefit. Push on the work then, and let us push at this and till we walk it together, and then we will all have a ride."

That is the talk, Mr. Mail. Keep up the fire; agitate, agitate, agitate our word for it, the day is not far distant when we can visit one another at any season of the year without danger of mud and hubs.

Railroad Letting. As considerable anxiety has been manifested in the community to know to whom the contracts on the Railroad west of this have been allotted, we have been furnished with the following for publication: Sec. 1 to 9, to Jackson & Lowry; " 10 and 11, to Becker & Co.; " 12, 13, 14, 15, Miles, Hart, & Co.; " 16 to 28, Edgemoor & Co. The Methodist Ministers of New York, Williamsburg and Brooklyn, have come out in a document pretty freely denouncing the "fugitive slave law," and calling very loudly for its immediate and unconditional repeal. We thought a "preliminary meeting" was intended rather for the consideration of the spiritual condition of the church, than the litigation of political questions.

It is now ascertained that the Democrats and Democrats in Georgia, had but thirty members of the Convention in its session—and the greater portion of these elected as opponents to be Union men. There never was a more complete triumph than this obtained in Georgia or the Union. The majority that way, is in the neighborhood of 35,000.