Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1851.

From Harrisburg.

We learn from Harrisburg by private despatch, that the bill regulating the width of gauge of railroads running East and West from Erie, has passed the House by a decisive majority. There ought not to be a doubt of its passage in the Senate.

Mr. Fillmore's Message.

President Fillmore sent a message to the Senate, in reply to a resolution of that body, on the 21st, in relation to the fugitive slave riot at Boston. The President quotes the laws of the Massachusetts legislature; passed expressly to prevent the execution of the laws of Congress with regard to fugitive slaves. He recommends the prompt execution of the laws, and repeats the assurance that they shall be faithfully enforced, and all forcible opposition to them suppressed; and that to this end, he is prepared to exercise the power vested in him to the fullest extent.—In regard to this point, he says: "I use the occasion to repeat the assurance, that, so far as depends on me, the laws shall be faithfully executed, and all forcible opposition to them suppressed; and, to this end, I am prepared to exercise, whenever it may become necessary, the power Constitutionally invested in me, to the fullest extent.—I am fully persuaded that the great majority of the people of this country are warmly and strongly attached to the Constitution, the preservation of the Union, the support of the Government, and the maintenance of law. I am persuaded that their earnest wishes and the line of my Constitutional duty concur; and, I doubt not, firmness, moderation and prudence, strengthened and animated by the general opinion of the people, will prevent the repetition of occurrences disturbing the public peace, and reprobated by all good men."

New Jersey U. S. Senator.

The election of Com. R. F. Stockton to the United States Senate, from New Jersey, will give the Democracy an additional member in that body. Mr. Stockton is also a decided Union man, and a friend of the Compromise measures. His principal opponent was the Hon W. L. Dayton, whig, one of the present Senators, whose term expires on the 4th of March. We believe the election of Commodore Stockton is the first instance that a gentleman belonging to the Navy has been sent to either House of Congress.

The Railroad West.

We learn that the Franklin Canal Company, "authorized to construct a Railroad to Lake Erie," has purchased iron sufficient to lay the entire track of the Erie and Ohio section of their road. The iron was bought on very reasonable terms and is of the best quality—fifty-six and one half pounds to the yard, and of the same pattern used on the New Haven Road. A portion of the iron is to be delivered on the 13th of June next, and the balance as fast as wanted

A Voice of Warning.

The people of Painesville and the adjoining towns have held meetings for the purpose of organizing a plan to connect Painesville and Pittsburgh by a Plank Road. The Road from Painesville to Bloomfield will be completed next summer, and strong efforts are making to extend the road to West Greenville, in this State, which is forty miles from Pittsburgh. The Painesville *Telegraph* says that a company will soon be formed to build a road from West Greenville to Pittsburgh, and thus complete the chain. A road from Ashtabula will, also, connect the lake shore with this projected road to West Greenville and Pittsburgh. Now is this not a voice of warning to the citizens of Erie county? What are we doing. We almost said nothing!—but we have done something—That something, however, has been suspended because demagogues have got a crotchet in their heads that "mono-po-lies" should not be allowed to use a township road. Well, "whom the Gods wish to destroy, they first make mad."

Gen. Houston's Letter.

According to promise the admirable letter of Gen. Sam Houston, alluded to last week, will be found in our columns to-day. The reader will agree with us, we think, in ascribing to it the character of a bold and manly document, which speaks the language of a fearless Statesman, and a stern and inflexible Patriot. There is no non-committalism, no mincing of words, no pandering to faction—but the Hero of San Jacinto scores the Disunionists, whether at the North or South, with an unfaultering hand, and with tones of indignant eloquence that mark him as a worthy successor to the Hero of New Orleans. Indeed, since the immortal Proclamation of the gallant and iron-nerved Jackson, the hydra monsters, Nullification and Disunion, have not received a more bold and overwhelming blow, than in this same missile of the Texan Hero. No wonder all such should wince at this plain spoken home-truths, and the disciples of South Carolina and Free Soil Nullification feel sore under his castigation. With everybody else this blast from his trumpet will be greeted with unbounded satisfaction.—His sentiments of devotion to the Union will meet a response in every patriot's bosom.

Naivgation.

From present appearances navigation will open early this spring. There is nothing to impede boats now west of this, and it is now too late for much more cold weather. Indeed, this morning (Thursday) is as warm as April.

The Postage Bill.

The postage bill is at last out of the Senate: and the telegraph reports that it has escaped from that body with a provision allowing papers to circulate free within the county in which they are published. This is better than we expected. It also provides for a rate o postage of three cents on all letters pre-paid and 5 cents on those not pre-paid. It imposes on newspapers a tariff from 5 to 25 cents per quarter for weekly, according to distance; semi-weekly 25 cents: tri-weekly three times that amount and on daily papers four times the above rates. This is better still, and we do hope the House will not hesitate to consummate the good work, by concurring immediately.

Supreme Judges.

That excellent Democratic paper, the "Valley Spirit," of Chambersburg, in speaking of Supreme Judges, says: "About as good a ticket as could be got up on the Democratic side, would be James Campbell of Philadelphia, George W. Woodward of Luzerne, Ellis Lewis, of Lancaster, James Thompson of Erie, and Walter H. Lowrie of Pittsburgh."

Buffalo and Erie Railroad.

The Fredonia *Censor*, in speaking of the prospect of the speedy completion of this road, says: "The work is all under contract, the right of way all purchased, or in progress of appraisal, the grading, bridging and clearing of the track in a tolerable state of forwardness; the iron and other materials for the superstructure bought, and locomotives and cars contracted for, so that before another first of January comes, the friends of this important enterprise may reasonably expect to see the iron horse snorting over the whole distance from Buffalo to the borough of Erie."

☞ We thought the Whigs were in favor of River and Harbor improvements, but it appears that their salt-river boat, in New Hampshire, now fitting out for its downward voyage, is likely to be wrecked by snags and sawyers. Their candidate for governor is named Sawyer; two of their candidates for councillors are named Sawyer; one of their candidates for senator is named Sawyer; and their list is not completed.

☞ The Buffalo *Express* learns from Albany, that the Canal Board have reduced the tolls on wheat and flour to three mills, and on railroad iron to two and a half mills. This is an important reduction and will be hailed with joy throughout the west.

The Puritan's Love of Law and Order.

The recent disgraceful affair in Boston, which has called out a proclamation from the President, commanding all well disposed citizens to rally to the support of the laws of their country, and requiring all officers, civil and military to aid and assist in quelling all such riotous conduct, is eliciting, as it should, the full and complete condemnation of the whole country. We scarcely pick up a paper that is not decided in its denunciation of the conduct of the citizens of this boasted "law and order" loving Boston. It is as incredible, as it is disgraceful, that the officers of the law, in the very sanctuary of Justice, should be overpowered and put down by a mob of negroes, aided and urged on by men of Education and refinement—citizens who boast of their free schools, their vast libraries, their works of literature and art, and their far reaching and active benevolence! Look at the picture presented by this proceeding! A prisoner, duly arrested, under a warrant authorized by law, was held in custody by the officers of the law, before the court which was about to try his case. A mob of some two hundred blacks force open the door of the court room, knock down the officers, take the prisoner out of the custody of the law, and release him. The resistance of some dozen officers against the sudden rush of such a mob is wholly unavailing, and the rescue is complete. One of the black mob, as if to give the United States distinctly to understand that the power of enforcing law in Massachusetts was gone from the whites, seizes the sword of the marshal, which was suspended as the badge of authority in the court room, and, unsheathing it, makes into the street to head the mob in aid of the rescuers! No state officer stops him—no constable arrests him. In all its legal turpitude and atrocity, this act of insolent defiance of law is the same as if, during the trial of Dr. Webster, which our readers recollect recently took place in the same city, a mob of persons conscientiously opposed to capital punishment, had rushed into the court room and rescued the prisoner. The example of forcible resistance to law and to courts of justice is contagious. If the marshal is lynched to rescue the prisoner, the judge may next be pulled from the bench and hanged at the lamp post, or at least tarred and feathered! We were going to say that in all our reading we have never seen a parallel to this, but it is not so; we have, and that too in the surbubs of this very city of Boston. A few years ago, these same "law and order loving Puritans" sacked and burnt to the ground a religious institution in the vicinity of this "modern Athens" because its inmates chose to worship God "according to the dictates of their own conscience," and in manner and form somewhat different from their neighbors. We refer to the burning of the Catholic Convent at Charlestown, Mass. Verily are not the citizens of Massachusetts a "law and order" loving people? Most certainly they are, and here is another proof. Not long since a gentleman from another state visited her soil for the purpose of recovering a piece of property which the Constitution of the country emphatically says, in such cases, "shall be delivered up," but no sooner was his presence known than a mob, headed by a Clergyman, beset him and finally prevented the accomplishment of his purpose. Again, a noted English agitator, named Thompson, a member of the British parliament, from the Tower Hamlets, a locality in London which is analogous to the Five Points in New York, came over by invitation of some of her citizens, and at a stated time attempted to address the people; but the mob-spirit which those, by whose invitation he was speaking had so industriously fanned, new broke forth in another quarter, and effectually prevented his being heard. We beg leave to say we are no defender or apologist of this representative of John Bull, or of any of his sayings, and only refer to it as another evidence of the love which the descendents of the Puritans bear to the supremacy of law, and the maintenance of order. No section of the country is more unrelenting or intollerent towards all infringements of the rules and regulations of society by others than New England; yet, it we look carefully at history we shall find that upon New England soil more outrages upon private rights and the freedom of opinion have been perpetrated than in any other section. Had such outrages as we have noticed been committed in that much abused section of the Union, south of Mason & Dixon's line, we should never hear the last of it—but as it is, it has been the work of the descendents of the Puritans, and in the name of liberty and freedom, and is therefore all right.

Connecticut.

The Democratic State Convention, held at Hartford on the 19th inst., John Cotton Smith, of Sharon, presiding, with entire unanimity nominated the present State officers for re-election. Gov. Thomas H. Seymour received, on the informal ballot for Governor, 241 of the 250 votes cast, and was nominated by acclamation, as well as the rest of the State ticket. This, says the Albany *Argus*, is a well merited vote of confidence in a fearless, sound and able State officer—and the harmony which reigned throughout the sitting of the Convention, promises the best results for the democracy in the coming canvass.

A Singular Fact.

The Ohio papers call attention to the fact that out of a colored population in the State of 23,556, 20,840 reside in the southern counties of the State; while but 2,696 reside in the northern counties. 40 reside in Ashtabula, 7 in Geauga, and 36 in Warren county. Who can account for the fact that so few of the negro population reside in the midst of their professed friends? One would very naturally suppose that the most of them would direct their footsteps to the northern section of the State, inasmuch as it is the hot-bed of abolitionism.

☞ The Crawford *Democrat* and the Erie *Gazette* have been engaged in a lengthy controversy in regard to the wisdom, justice, magnanimity, honesty, morality and popularity of the Directors of the Erie Canal Company. Our neighbor, as a matter of course, contends, *ex officio*, that that body combines all the virtues of the callander, and holds up their acts as a shining light for the Canal Commissioners of the State to follow. Our friend of the *Democrat* justly demurs to this, and attacks the rates of toll established, at a recent meeting of the Board, as unjust to the citizens along the line. Much is said pro and con on both sides, but as usual our neighbor wont adhere to the text, but flies off here and there and everywhere, and at last descends into personalities. We wonder at this, for this Editor never uses personalities, *he don't* (?) but aims to "publish a dignified journal." The *Democrat* is justly provoked at such a course, and styles it "as mean and trifling as it is unexpected and unprovoked," and that the whole controversy has grown out "of the *Gazettes* toadyism of the Erie directors." Speaking in a Pickwickian sense, we think the *Democrat* is wrong—we never knew the Editor of the *Gazette* to play the "toady" to any body. However, it is a pretty good fight as it is, and we have no doubt we shall have more fun out of it yet. If it should become necessary to call for "coffee for one and pistols for two," we hope we shall be one of the invited guests—*to look on!* We therefore speak in time "for a horse to ride."

☞ A "silver-gray" paper in New York asserts that the "higher-law" promulgated by Gov. Seward, and endorsed by Thurlow Weed, the man who calls the Constitution an "atrocious bargain made by our fathers," has recently been put in practice and beautifully illustrated in Boston.

☞ Senator Douglass, of Ill., has been presented with a watch, by the young men of Illinois, worth $300, and towards which no individual subscribed more than five cents. The watch was purchased in New York.

☞ The Niagara Falls *Iris*, of the 22nd says that the Chasm Tower, located on Mount Eagle, was lifted by the wind from its foundation on Saturday last. The wire cables by which it was stayed were broke and it fell to the ground, crushing it in a heap of ruins.

☞ We see that California is fast becoming *civilized*.—like Boston, for instance. Their papers say "crime stalks abroad with an unchecked hand, rendering life and property dangerous in the extreme."

☞ A wag at our elbow suggests that the Editor of the *Gazette's* defense this week, headed "Personal," is not complete into one word. The last line should have read, "We are done"—*brown!*

The California Gold News.

The gold news from California is startling, and if one tenth part of it is true, the expansion of the circulating medium of the world is destined to no limit. The Philadelphia *Bulletin* in referring to these reports, remarks that this discovery favors the idea, now daily gaining ground, that the western Eldorado is destined to prove a greater prize than even its most sanguine friends had supposed. Certainly, up to this point, the yield of gold from Califoania has steadily increased; and that in the face of many prophecies that, before this, the decline would begin. Moreover, whatever ill-success may have attended many adventurers, the results, on the whole, have been amazingly beneficial. An extension of the currency was absolutely needed to develope the growing resources of this country, and as the popular will forbade that extension, to any great degree, through a paper currency, the discovery of California, and the consequent influx of gold, may be regarded almost as a Providential occurrence. The extension of a nation's currency, provided it is founded on a solid basis, is a fertile cause of prosperity, as the contraction of it is the reverse; and that, in consequence, the influx of gold from California is a benefit to all classes, which cannot be too highly estimated. Indeed, for many years prior to the discovery of the Sacramento washings, the currency of the United States had failed to keep pace with the growing prosperity of the people. In proportion to the population and productive wealth of the country, there was more money afloat in 1828 than in 1847. In that period of twenty years the republic had advanced with rapid strides. The value of lands had immensely increased; millions of acres had been brought under cultivation; and the corn, as well as the cotton crop, had risen almost incredibly. The circulating medium, however, had not increased in a similar ratio. The consequence was that the price of money had gone up, to the disadvantage of every class in society except that of the mere capitalist. The discovery of the California gold mines fortunately occurred, at this crisis, to relieve labor of its pressure, to stimulate industry, to reduce the value of money. To every body, from the farmer down, this change has proved beneficial; and the prospect of a still further harvest of the precious metal should be hailed with general satisfaction.

Publication of the Laws.

The Reading *Gazette* says a bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives, by Mr. Mowry, providing that in lieu of the docket fee of three dollars, now allowed to attorneys in all cases on the docket of the Prothonotary, there shall be paid the time of entry, for the use of the county, two dollars on all suits entered on said docket, (except in testation cases) to be paid by the Prothonotary semi-annually to the County Treasurer, after deducting two per cent. for his services, to constitute a fund to be applied under the direction of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to the printing of public and local laws in two papers in each county—the County Commissioners to pay the printers for such publication, and to apply any surplus there may be to general county purposes.

The lawyers will oppose this bill, of course; and as they generally outnumber the printers and the printers' friends more than ten to one in all legislative bodies, there is no hope for its passage. But whatever opposition there may be to the *means* designed for carrying out the provisions of the bill, its *object* is certainly entitled to support. Under the present system of publishing the laws, they do not appear until months after their enactment, and then reach only a small fraction of the community, who are professionally interested in obtaining a knowledge of them. The great body of the people are never informed what our statute laws enjoin or prohibit, unless they unfortunately have occasion to seek the information at second hand from some *fee-bill* retailer at the bar.—Now, as it is a maxim older than *Coke* that "ignorance of the law excuseth no man," any project which is designed to diffuse a knowledge of the laws among the people generally, should find favor at the hands of those who make them.

☞ As the Editor of the *Gazette* has bespraised and bepuffed every Lecture, good, bad and indifferent, heretofore delivered before the Irving Institute, his notice of Mr. Black's, last week, has created some surprise. We did not have the pleasure of listening to this Lecture, but have heard it spoken of as one of the best of the course, and as free from the criticism of the *Gazette* as it well could be. One curious phase of this matter is, that the tenor of this criticism was predicted by those who "know a thing or two" some days previous to its appearance; all of which goes to prove that Shakspeare was correct, when he makes Hamlet say: "There are more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreampt of in your philosophy, Horatio!"

☞ The two concerts given in this city, on Tuesday and Wednesday evening, by Mrs. Mary Shaw Fogg, and Gustave Krollman, were the best musical entertainments we have had in Erie for some time. Years ago we heard Mrs. Fogg, (then Miss Shaw) and thought her one of the sweetest performers in the country. Since then her name has become celebrated, and she has been endorsed by some of the best musical critics of the day. The instrumental part of the entertainment, by Mr. Krollman, was unique. His skill upon the Violin we never saw equalled.

☞ The Oswego *Palladium* is now published daily as well as weekly. Under the Editorial management of our friend Brockway, than whom a better fellow personally we don't know of, it cannot fail to meet a generous support from the business men of that enterprising city. Politically, we shan't puff it, for although professing much Democracy, it is too much mixed up with the new fashioned isms of John Van Buren, Greeley, &c., &c., to suit us. Perhaps, however, *that* is not what the Editor aims at:

Our State Canals.

As previously announced by the Board of Canal Commissioners, the water was let into the Main Line at Columbia, on Monday last. The Philadelphia *Ledger* boasts that this resumption of trade upon the public works is at least two months in advance of the New York canals, and says that the transporters intend to open the spring business at the following low rates of freight: dry goods 90 cents per 100 lbs; hardware 75 cents, and groceries 75 cents.

☞ A scientific committee in Buffalo have discovered that the Rochester knocking girls produce the mysterious sounds with the bones of their *knees*. We have often heard it said that science was bound to investigate every nook and corner, animate and inanimate, but we had no idea it would pursue its explorations into such a field.

☞ A London Milliner was the sender of the first article designed for exhibition in the World's Fair. She sent a neat little box with a lock and key, and on opening it, two neat little caps were seen of a new and taking pattern.

☞ The *Yankee Blade* remarks that it has been forcibly said of affectedly grave people whose faces "do cream and mantle like a standing pool," as Shakespeare says, that as rivers, which run slowly, have always the most mud at the bottom, so the solid stiffness in the course of the former's life, is the sign of a thick bed of mud at the bottom of their brains.

☞ It is said that the Pope intends to appoint three Cardinals in this country. Archbishop Hughes, will probably be one of them. This would leave Hughes but one step below the Pope. We believe that he will yet be Pope, and have no doubt that he would make a most excellent one.

☞ The preparations for the Spring Races over the Buffalo Mayorality course are now complete. The Democrats have entered James Wadsworth, Esq., of the "barn-burner" breed, and both sections are betting their "pile" on his coming out at least a length ahead. The Whigs have brought out S. S. Jewett, Esq.. but whether his color is a "silver-grey" or a "black dapple," we have not learned. He evidently, however, is deficient in "bottom," and will be distanced the first heat.

☞ The new German paper, called "*Our World*," noticed sometime since, will be issued to-day from this office.

AN ODD DREAM.

For the Erie Observer.

Like the rest of mankind who, from dyspepsia or other sufficient causes, are are apt to dream, I have an occasional nocturnal fancy. Sometimes its "terribly tragic," sometimes purely business like, and not unfrequently one or both of these strongly tinctured with the ridiculous. As a specimen of the last class, I'll give the following:

I was amid numerous strange faces, and in a large building, which proved to be a temple of justice in full blast. The Court had been occupied for a day or two, as I understood, with a case of breach of promise. The facts had been industriously and acutely gathered from the witnesses; the Defendants counsel had made his argument, the Plaintiff had finished the principal part of his reply, and, as I entered, was directing his fire at the Bench, by way of "points" to be adverted to in "the charge." Judging from their number and the universality of their character, the prior discussion must have been slightly discursive. Three of them I remember, and for curiosity will transcribe. First, the plaintiff requested the Court to charge, that man is essentially gregarious in his constitution, and that all social habits are in laudable compliance with the law of his nature.—Second, that revealed law is explicit and peremptory affirmatively on the subject of matrimony. Third, as a regular sequence of the first and second points, that he who fails to obey these express and authoritative rules of action is *prima facie* culpable, and deserves but the *minimum* of leniency. With these the case was submitted, and his honor, whose eccentricity appeared unbounded, proceeded to the discharge of his judicial duty in the following unique style. "Gentlemen of the Jury, you are about to consider a grave matter; questions affecting the human heart, human pockets, and the human head, possibly, are by you, to be this day determined. Before you do so, it will be proper to direct your attention to some facts and considerations that have a remote bearing, at least, upon the matter in hand. I will commence with a few historical references. The ancient orientals were accustomed to win their wives by services for the parents of the damsel. A slight resemblance to which may be discerned among us, in which the young suitor materially accelerates the consumption of fuel and lights, turkeys and tarts, &c., not to mention the proverbial wear and tear of rocking chairs. It may very properly be adverted to in this connection that, in those early times two or more wives for one man was of common occurrence, and is only to be accounted for on the hypothesis that the age being so primitive, the *birch* principle had not yet been fully developed. Alas! how altered now;—even the legislative power of modern society has had to interfere, and with heavy penalties too, to prevent the possibility of such pitiable predicaments.

Quite a remarkable usage is said to have been obtained in Assyria. The marriageable girls were sold at public auction, and the proceeds thus realized were philanthropically appropriated as marriage portions for those whose charms were insufficient to attract. Whether the recent political idea of a *sinking fund* was primarily drawn from this source, or not, is indeed an abstruse inquiry. But certainly the original scheme was profoundly ingenious and philosophical. More especially will its wisdom be observed, when we glance at its probable operation on that crusty class of mortals technically termed "old Baches" A platform, I presume gentlemen, was erected about on a level with the shoulders of the purchasers, who were studiously kept from a too-close proximity. A double degree of fairness, by the aid of gorgeous garbs and delicate tints, being dealt to the fair chattels, and, as is invariably the case in such transactions,

"Distance *lending* enchantment to the view,"

a very aggravated spirit of competition must necessarily have been induced. Man being highty sympathetic, these occasions were, I'll venture to assert, in less than ten minutes after the opening of the sale, rich scenes of rival racing between bachelors, youths and widowers, for the cho ce "better halves" Let no man hereafter, in view of the sagacious policy of such-like institutions, refuse to venerate antiquity.

The Hebrews conducted the marriage ceremony with much pomp and display, distinguishing somewhat, in the extensiveness of the affair, between maidens and widows. The wedding was called *mishch*, (i. e. festival meal) which, gentlemen, you will instantly discover to have been an exceedingly injudicious appellation, contrasting so strongly, as it no doubt did, with subsequent "cold cuts." The only redeeming feature seems to have been the fact, that in no one item was the feast at the expense of the groom. "The conversation was enlivened by songs and enigmas," in the latter of which an analytical mind might perceive a sly fling at prospective connubial felicity.

Much show likewise took place at Greek weddings. Among other things that were done, the bride carried about with her some *bailey*, the precise intention of which antiquarians have not yet concluded upon: but which, I beg leave humbly to suggest, would become of infinite importance in after life, by simply inverting the first letter of the word. At Athens a quince was some times eaten; the reason for practising this puckering process, at this remote day must be extremely uncertain. It was probably calculated to procure that witching primness of expression, modernly acquired by pronouncing the word *persimmons*. The Lacedemonians were very peculiar in their nuptial proceedings, carrying them on, *in toto*, clandestinely as sheep-stealing. A subjection to the sway of the "tender passion" must have been considered unmanly—a gross pagan delusion, gentlemen.

A careful recital of the minutiæ of the Roman marriage would only serve to weary, and therefor one or two of them must suffice. The bride's hair was ornamented with a wreath of flowers; the matron's tunic was pat on her, and her waist encircled with a wollen zone—incontrovertibly the prototype of the present flannel—excuse me gentlemen—skirt. In addition, a red veil covered her face and symbolised bashfulness, the genuine quality, it is fair to infer, being usually scarce in their communities. Her first step into her new home was made on a *fleece* (emblem of domestic industry:) the succeeding steps *out*, "to shop" for instance, probably consummated the *fleecing* operation Among the ancient Germans divorces were rare, "and there," says a misanthropic commentator, "the way of the transgressor must have been lamentably hard."

The poorer Mohammedans have generally but one wife; the richer, two; the very rich more: by which admirable arrangement, you discover, Gentlemen, is promoted the versification of certain scripture—"Riches take wings to themselves and flee away."

In China, the wife is as regularly bargained for and bought, as in colder climes are warming-pans or other articles of personal property. This may, at first blush, strike us as unanswerable evidence of deep moral and intellectual debasement, but when we reflect that our own countrymen, through their judicial functionaries, have pronounced matrimony to be only a "civil contract," patriotic pride rebels at the inference." This terminated the first branch of the charge; the remainder, in which are disposed of "the points" above quoted, will be contained in another number; also an excuse for his honor's ungallant peculiarity. D.

☞ The "Spirit of the Times," Philadelphia, which was once one of the best political penny papers in the country, has ceased to exist. It fell into the embrace of Free Soilism, and has been smothered; a warning to all similarly inclined. Its advertisements and good will (if it had any?) has been transferred to a new paper, called the "Pennsylvania Statesman," the character of which we can tell better by and by. At present it *professes* too much.

☞ Some of the New York papers complain of the scarcity of *silver*: while, per contra, others assert that there is one *silver*-gray to many in the State. We think both complaints are rather *Fish*-y!

"Most persons cherish a very inadequate estimate of the *delicacy* of an Editor's position."—*Gazette*.

We should be extremely sorry to learn that the bachelor Editor of the *Gazette* was in a *delicate* position—much less situation.

☞ We are requested to say that the regular monthly meeting of the subscribers of the Reading Room will take place on Tuesday evening next.

General Sam. Houston's Letter.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 1851.

MY DEAR RELATIVE:—I thank you for your favor recently received, and in reply I must assure you that I realize all the solicitude that you could expect me to do in relation to the present attitude of our national as well as our sectional affairs.

In connection with these, I have recently seen in the public papers a letter from Gen James Hamilton, of South Carolina, dated Retrieve, (Texas,) Dec. 15, 1850, and addressed to Langdon Cheves, containing some suggestions and sentiments in which I cannot concide. These are times of wide-spread agitation, and of deep and earnest feeling on the part of many of our fellow citizens, and such ideas as those expressed in the following extract from the letter of Gen. Hamilton are likely to be productive of evil consequences, however well meant by him. His name has long been familiar to the public as one of the most ardent and active of the champions of South Carolina in the times of nullification, and his late conciliatory admonitions have invested his opinions with increased influence among the moderate and rational friends of the country. Those suggestions, therefore, if erroneous or hasty, should not be allowed to pass by unnoticed. The object I have in view is not to engage in a newspaper contest with the General, but merely to intimate to you and some other friends at Richmond, that, as he places Virginia in the vanguard, in his contemplated movement, it appears proper that steps should be taken there to manifest her dissent from the high honor proposed These are the extracts to which I desire especially to invite your attention. In many other portions of the letter, opinions are thrown out which I also deem justly obnoxious to criticism, but as these are the most essential, I will confine my observations to them alone:

"In the letter which I addressed to the people of South Carolina, I likewise asserted broadly that it was unnecessary for the South to incur the moral responsibility of dissolving the Union; that the fanatics, abolitionists and profligate demagogues of the non-slaveholding states would save them the trouble, that events were traveling quite fast enough towards this consummation.—Have I been a false prophet? They have journeyed with an unanticipated velocity. Since my letter was written, has not Vermont, within her limits, repealed the Fugitive Slave Bill? and has not Massachusetts *de facto* annulled? May not the *casus fœderis* be said now to have arisen? Will not Virginia now move? Will she not call a convention of all the Southern States to meet at Richmond? Will not each and all of them respond to the invocation of this great and renowned Commonwealth, mother of so many States? I believe, as I believe in my own existence, that if Virginia moves, she will save, not dissolve the Union. I believe it will lead to a convention of all the States, and if possible, to a fresh understanding of the bargain, and that we may obtain fresh guarantees for the protection of our slave institutions by an inhibition of the slavery discussion in Congress, and also secure amendments to the constitution restricting the taxing and appropriating power within due bounds. But may not the trial of these resources and these truths never be put to the test. May Virginia in her wisdom, with all the dignity and gravity which belong to that august Commonwealth, summon all the slaveholding States to meet at Richmond, for the purpose of saving, if possible, the Union, by referring the ulterior solution of this mighty question to a convention of all the States. If they decide that they can give us no security for our domestic institutions—that they cannot live in the same Union with those who have the blight and plague spot of slavery on their hands—let us part in peace, and endeavor to live in the cultivation of its charities, however hopeless, from the intervention of human passion, may be the effort."

The first point to be noticed is the alleged fact that the demagogues and abolition fanatics of the North are pressing on the contest with fearful velocity—that Vermont has nullified the Fugitive Slave law, and that Massachusetts has *de facto* annulled it—that the *casus fœderis* has arisen; and he appeals to Virginia to move forward.—Now it must be very obvious that the sources of Gen. Hamilton's intelligence are not very trustworthy; for nothing is clearer to those who are on the spot, and can judge for themselves, than that the anti-slavery agitation in the free States is in a great measure subsiding: that demagogues who were participating in it are deserting its ranks, and that it is fast falling into the exclusive hand of the thread bare white fanatics, like Garrison and Gerret Smith, and those of the negros who belong to the Fred Douglass order of runaway patriots. The unwarranted agitation that prevailed has been productive of one most salutary result, and that is, to arouse the popular attention of the sober, quiet, patriotic masses of the free States to the character and danger of these abolition machinations. The moment they arrested public notice that moment they were destined to be crushed. We see the process daily going on; the Union movement is heaving up society from its greatest depths of feeling, and abolition fanaticism is vanishing before its mighty power, as chaff is driven before the whirlwind. The action of Vermont took place during the extreme violence of the fanatical fever in her legislative bodies; and even, as it was, the act passed by a fraudulent trick, and since its exposure has excited in the breasts of the people the most determined hostility. It is believed they will hasten to repeal it, and to wipe out the disgrace it has entailed on the State. So far as Massachusetts is concerned, only a single case has occurred there to warrant Gen. Hamilton's remark, and no well informed citizen of hers believes it will be very soon followed by another of a like nature. There are three other points in these extracts deserving of consideration. Gen. Hamilton thinks Virginia should lead off at once in favor of a Southern Convention, to be held at Richmond, that a convention of all the States would be the fruit of this movement; and that the Federal Constitution should be amended, so as to secure new guarantees for the rights of the South, and a fresh understanding of the bargain.

Now, to all and singular of these things, I object, because they are wholly unnecessary. This Southern convention is the bantling of the abortive Nashville Convention, and could secure no good end, but to protract agitation and furnish a sort of safety-valve for the overcharged patriots of South Carolina and Mississippi to let off their extra gas. This can just as well be done in town meetings, legislative assemblies, Fourth of July orations, and on other suitable occasions, for these pyrotechnic displays. If a Southern Convention should be held at Richmond, or elsewhere, it would be likely to contain a large portion of the violent and active ultraists of the Southern States, for they would be vigilant and industrious, and would seek a place among its members for the convenient opportunity it would afford them to create disturbances, to pledge the people in advance to some extreme measures, and to organize a body of co-operators, who might control legislative assemblies and their respective communities, and watch *perdu* for the moment when they could give the Union its death blow.—This is their only hope—this is their real design. And should a convention of all the States afterwards assemble, what could it accomplish? It could meet with no valuable purpose in view but to amend the federal constitution. And now let me candidly and seriously ask any man in his senses, if he believes a general convention could be assembled in these times of turmoil and excitement, of sectional jealousy and animosity, from which any real good could be expected? If, in the days of our fathers, when our territory was comparatively small, our condition distracted and anarchial, our confederation a loose and frail league, observed or violated, as interest or prejudice dictated, there was so much difficulty in forming a constitution by a convention presided over by Washington, and composed of many of the most illustrious statesmen and patriots of the revolution, what could we hope for now, when every cause of repulsion and antagonism has been augmented a thousand fold! But in addition to all this, the South needs neither new "guarantees" nor "recognitions of the bargain." The constitution is ample guarantee for her rights already, and stands in need of neither new readings or new sanctification.—This great palladium of the freedom and the rights of every State and of every citizen in the Union, cannot be fritted away by special pleading, nor overthrown by open force. Both means have been tried and both have ignominiously failed. Its eternal and immutable principles rise up with renewed vigor after every assault; and the more they are contemned and denounced by fanatics and demagogues, the dearer do they become to every patriot's heart. What wrong can there be inflicted on the Southern States, without equally wounding the constitution? None—absolutely none. And what necessity can there be for amending its provisions? By seeking to do this the South abandons her strong ground of constitutional safeguard, and impliedly at least concedes that the constitution does not already protect her rights. Is any wise statesman of the South ready to admit that the federal constitution is not the very *ægis* of his sectional rights and privileges, as well as those of the free State! I should regard such a man as little less than demented.

Why, then, broach the idea of amending that glorious instrument, which is as near perfection now as human wisdom can make it? If it be abused or violated, amendment will not prevent that; for it is as easy to abuse or violate the amendment as the original instrument itself.

It is impossible to close our eyes to the conspicuous figure S. Carolina is endeavoring to cut in this emergency. She coquetted with Mississippi, and produced that unlucky non-descript, the Nashville Convention. She courted Georgia, and offered the lead in the great enterprise to her, but that noble State contemptuously rejected it. She is now coaxing the Old Dominion to join her mad scheme, and offering as an inducement, to place in her giant hands the original flame of disunion. Will Virginia refuse or accept the proffered ensign of treason? I believe she will spurn it with disdain. The Union and the Federal Constitution are too dear to Virginia to be cast idly away. They are her own children. They were dandled on her knees in their infancy, and now that they have arrived at the maturity of Herculean manhood, they will stretch forth their powerful arms with her own to uphold her honor and vindicate her rights. No—Virginia will be the last to desert them. The bones of Washington and Jefferson and Madison would not repose quietly in their honored graves, if she were to mar and blast their great labors of patriotic devotion to their country and mankind. How does it happen that South Carolina is the only beacon-light in the Union? Who constituted her the pole star in our glorious constellation?—Surely Virginia will not confess that her star is in the wane, and that the Palmetto State in the ascendant.—Virginia is, as she has ever been, her own mistress, and can say to South Carolina, or to any other grumbling State, "Be still! We want no family jars; we will neither espouse your quarrels, nor follow your mutinous example" I feel proud to refer to the course of my own gallant State. Texas had too much trouble to enter the Union, to be willing to go out. She knows full well the evils of war and of faction fermented by foreign interests and domestic traitors. She had enough of separate independence to be able to appreciate the benefits of union and fraternity. Let who may veer off after the false lights of South Carolina, Texas will stand by the flag of the Union, and defend all the stars that gem it, with the same bravery and devotion with which she clung through so many hours of gloom and peril to the banner in which glittered her own.

It may be asked whether a contingency might not arise when the duty every man owes to the firesides and homes of his family and friends would require him to surrender the Union. Undoubtedly such a sad spectacle might possibly be presented. Gross injustice, rank oppression, and persevering tyranny, might produce it, but I think that day will never come. It has never yet come and I believe it never will. When it does, if ever, it will be a law unto itself. It will have to be met, not by evasive hypocrisy of secession, or nullification, or sectional conventions, but in the bold and manly spirit that actuated our fathers in the revolution—that noble spirit which proclaims that the preservation of liberty will justify any measure necessary to that great end. In the meantime let us all, within our appropriate spheres, contribute our utmost exertions to subdue fanaticism and violence, to resist sectional encroachments, to restore kind and harmonious feeling, and to cherish those expansive sentiments of patriotism, in which the Constitution and the Union originated, and which rendered our fathers a band of brothers. We are admonished by the highest wisdom, that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Let us give up to the croakers and prophets of ill the task of trampling on the Constitution, ruining the country and blasting its prosperity. This employment is congenial to their feeling, and affords them the only chance they have to attract public attention. If the strength of our system of government be destined to pass through another fiery ordeal for its purification, I can pray for no higher blessing to be conferred on my country than that our Chief Magistrate should possess the iron will, the Spartan virtue, the patriotic ardor of Washington, all of which qualities characterized Andrew Jackson, the "pilot who weathered the first storm."

I have hastily sketched these crude suggestions, and now submit them to you, in the hope that they may stimulate you and others to adopt some effective measures to rescue Virginia from the last shade of suspicion that she has been invited to lead. The invitation that has been tendered to you requires an answer; let it be such as is worthy the proud fame of Virginia.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant and friend, SAM. HOUSTON.

Hon. JOHN LETCHER, Richmond, Va.

☞ The Harbor Bill, which has passed the House, appropriates $40,000 for our Harbor, and $20,000 for a Dredge boat on this Lake. At the last accounts, it had not been seen in the Senate, and as there are but two more working days in this session its friends will have to "hurry up" the dish, if they expect it to pass.

☞ A lawyer in the Ohio Legislature introduced a bill in favor of instructing convicts in the State Prison in the art of printing. Whereupon the printers of Columbus presented a petition that the said convicts might be instructed in law. That was a retort in kind.

☞ The Steamer Arrow, from above came in on Thursday bound down. She reports no obstruction from ice west. The Hendrick Hudson left here on the same evening for Cleveland.

MARRIED.

On the 18th inst., in Waterford, by Rev. Chas F. Diver, Mr James Dunn, of McKean, and Miss Sarah Gray, daughter of F. B Gray, Esq., of Waterford

In Union, on the 10th inst., by M. Niles, Esq., Mr Nicholas Borgordoes, of Randolph, Crawford county, and Miss Issabella Hoffman, of Union.

DIED.

In this city, on the 26th inst., of consumption, Mrs Ann, wife of Wm Richards, in the 54th year of her age

ANOTHER SCIENTIFIC WONDER!

PEPSIN, an artificial Digestive Fluid, or Gastric Juice a great Dyspepsia curer, prepared from Rennet, or the fourth stomach of the Ox, after directions of Baron Liebig the great Physiological Chemist by J. S. Houghton, M. D., No. 11 North Eighth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. This is a truly wonderful remedy for Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Liver Complaint, Constipation and Debility, curing after nature's own method, by nature's own agent, the Gastric Juice. See advertisement in another column.

A SMALL CONSIGNMENT OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE JUST RECEIVED, AND FOR SALE BY CARTER AND BROTHER, NO. 6 REED HOUSE. Also, by DR. P. HALL, No. 1 HUGHES' BLOCK.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Houses to Rent.

A NEW and convenient two story brick Dwelling House, pleasantly situated on 7th street, a few rods west of Peach street. Also, a large Brick House, on the southwest corner of the Public Square, in Erie, for rent on reasonable terms.—Inquire of E. BABBITT

Erie, March 1, 1851. 2t8

Coal Boat Extension for Sale.

THE "Extension," now lying at Erie, with Furniture all in good order, will be sold at a bargain and on accommodating terms. Apply at the Exchange office of

Erie, Feb. 28, 1851. M. SANFORD & CO

Take Notice.

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber are requested to call and settle their accounts before the first day of April next. Erie, Feb. 25, 1851.—2t42 S. DICKINSON

LAND AGENCY.

THE subscriber acts as a General Land Agent and Land Broker for Lands in Erie county, Pa. Several Farms, of 30 to 300 acres, wanted by good purchasers, if offered cheap

Erie, Feb. 28, 1851.—42 WILSON KING.

Land and Lots for Sale.

300 ACRES in Bloomfield township, 120 acres cleared, buildings and orchard—price $2000. This is an excellent grazing farm.

150 acres, nine miles west of Erie, in Fairview township, 100 acres cleared, buildings and orchard—price $22 per acre. an excellent grain or grazing farm

77 acres in Union township, 45 acres cleared, buildings and orchard—price $1200.

100 acres in LeBoeuf township, on the east bank of French Creek, 6 miles below Waterford—65 acres cleared, house, barn, and orchard, price $2000 This is a beautiful farm of bottom lands and hills—being good for grain or grass.

76 acres two miles east of Erie, on Lake Road, good buildings an orchard, and a valuable power for a mill—price $50 per acre.

34 acres Erie Academy land, one mile south of Erie, on the Turnpike road, all cleared—price $75 per acre.

350 acres of Wild Land, part of tract No 2900, in Wayne township—price $750.

91 acres of wild land in Le Boeuf tp—price $3 per acre

Also, a large number of In Lots and Out Lots of the town of Erie. WILSON KING.

Feb 26, 1851. 42 Land Agent, Erie, Pa.

PLASTER.—100 tons of fine ground plaster for sale by Feb 28 LAIRD & RUST

OLD CHEESE.—15,000 lbs nice old Cheese, made last summer for sale by Feb 28 LAIRD & RUST

CLOVER and Timothy seed for sale by Feb 28. LAIRD & RUST,

RAILROAD LETTING.

Office of the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad Company.
Erie Pa. Feb 22, 1851.

PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad Company, in Erie, to the 20th day of March next, inclusive, for the grading and bridging ready for the superstructure, of about twenty miles of said Road, from the Borough of Erie to a point near the village of Springfield; also for the grading and bridging, ready for the superstructure, of a Branch or Lateral Road from said point to the Ohio line, a distance of about eight miles. Plans and Specifications will be ready for inspection on and after the 15th of March next. Payment in the capital stock of said company.

CHARLES M. REED, President
4t41 Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad Company.

W. H. SHERMAN,

DAGUERRIAN ARTIST!

Park Row, Three Doors east of Browns Hotel, Erie Pa

"Let Nature copy that which Nature made."

Daguerreotype Likenesses of all sorts, sizes and prices, from twelve shillings to twelve dollars faithfully executed and warranted unfading 4t41

M. SANFORD & CO.,

Dealers in Gold, Silver, Bank Notes, Drafts, Certificates of Deposit, &c. Sight Exchange on the principal cities constantly for sale Office in Beatty's Block, Public Square, Erie.

COPARTNERSHIP.

WILLIAM BEATTY & M. SANFORD have this day formed a copartnership as Bankers and Collection and Exchange Brokers, under the firm of M. SANFORD & CO. Office in "Beatty's Block," between State and Peach streets, Public Square. M. SANFORD, & CO

Erie, Jan. 1st 1, 1851. 41

MONEYS remitted to the Old Country on the most favorable terms, on our responsibility. M. SANFORD & CO.

Feb. 22 1851. Beaty's Block Erie Pa

SHARON COAL.—A few tons first quality for sale at the Erie Foundary, or delivered as desired.

Erie, Feb. 22. LESMER SENNETT & CHESTER.

FOR SALE.—One yoke of oxen, wagon and chains. Enquire of M. Spaulding at Jacksons Store, or at his residence on Sixth street west of canal. MERRITT SPAULDING.

Erie, Feb. 22d, 1851. 4t41

Dissolution.

NOTICE is hereby given that the firm of Middleton & Murphey, was dissolved on the 5th inst., by mutual consent. All debts of the firm will be paid by Nathaniel Murphey. The Books and accounts of the firm will be found at the old stand, where, those knowing themselves indebted, will call and settle the same

ROBERT MIDDLETON
NATHANIEL MURPHY

Erie, Feb 15, 1851. 3t40

The subscriber takes this method of informing his friends that the Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron business, will be continued by him at the old stand of Middleton & Murphey, in all its various branches, where he will be happy to wait upon his old customers and as many new ones as may favor him with their patronage.

Erie, Feb. 15, 1851. NATHANIEL MURPHEY

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons interested, that application has been made to the Court of Common Pleas of Erie county for incorporation of "the first Baptist Church in Wattsburgh," the object of which said church is for the purpose of religious worship, and the promotion of the gospel among men &c., and that the said court directed the said application to be filed in the office of the Prothonotary of said county, and notice of the same to be given according to act of assembly, in a paper published in Erie county, for at least three weeks, and that the said application will be presented for final order on the first Monday of May next. JAMES SKINNER, Pro.

Erie, Feb. 15, 1851. 3t40

Grass Mats.

A LARGE assortment of Buggy and Door Mats at MOORE'S GROCERY STORE