Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1851.

☞ The House of Representatives has passed a bill to incorporate the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, designed for the promotion of Agricultural knowledge, and appropriating $2000 annually from the State Treasury for its support.

Our Harrisburg Letters.

We refer the reader to our Harrisburg letters for a correct exhibit of the position of our representatives at Harrisburg, and the railroad prospects at the time they were written. These letters were intended for our paper last week, but were not received until Saturday and Sunday mornings.

☞ CLEMENT'S "*Western Literary Messenger*," Buffalo, N. Y., for April is on our table. As usual, it is one of the most readable and instructive magazines we receive.

☞ "Harper," for April, has been received, and can be had at O. D. Spafford's, State Street. This number is not at all inferior to any of its predecessors. Call and buy a copy.

☞ The Harrisburg correspondent of the Pittsburgh *Post*, under date of March 29th, says:

"Mr. Walker to-day answered some charges made by placard in the streets of Erie against him for having sold himself to Philadelphia, and procured the passage of the bill through the Senate secretly and unfairly. He delt very severely with some of his own constituents in regard to this matter."

Indeed! Well, "some of his own constituents," and in fact some of his own party, have "dealt very severely" with him; but it is nothing to what they will do, if they have an opportunity.

☞ The Mercer *Press* comes to us now considerably enlarged and improved. We are pleased to see such substantial evidence of prosperity in this old and reliable paper.

WHO CAN ANSWER?—Will there be a line of Packets on the Erie Extension this season? Our citizens are interested in this question and we would be glad to have a reply. Who can answer?—*Crawford Democrat.*

We can't; but of one thing we are assured. Never, since the completion of the Canal, has there been so good a prospect of such an enterprise paying as the present season.

☞ HARPER, of the Pittsburgh *Post*, has associated with him in the publication of that paper Mr. JOHN LAYTON. The *Post*, under Mr. H's management, has been one of the best papers in the country, and the new arrangement cannot but add to its efficiency.

One of the "Riders."

When Walker's Senate "Snake" received its death blow before the Committee on Corporations in the House, it is said the Senator from Erie, like that Army in Flanders, "swore terribly," and among the oaths registered was one that he would attach it, "as a rider," to every bill brought before the Senate. The following is one of his first attempts in this line:

"The bill for the relief of sundry old soldiers and widows of soldiers, and for various other purposes, came up in order on second reading.

A discussion of some length ensued in regard to a section relating to railroads in the county of Erie, and the bill was laid aside without any definite action."

A Word about our Firemen.

The disaster of Tuesday morning demonstrated to a certainty that Erie has no efficient Fire Department, considering the niggardly, penny-wise-and-pound-foolish policy heretofore pursued by our municipal authorities, as any city of its size in the country. We hear a great deal of complaint, from those who ought not to complain, and a great many unjust and ungenerous comparisons, but for boldness, and feats of daring, we think our firemen have exhibited themselves in a most favorable light. Had they been equipped, as they should have been, with sufficient Hose, and Hooks, and Ladders, and above all with Water, much of this calamity could and would have been averted. That they were not is no fault of theirs—on the contrary the blame, and the whole of it, must lay at the door of those who complain—we mean, our heaviest real estate owners. Let any proposition for the improvement of our town be started, we care not what it is, and those who are to be benefited most are the first to raise that bug-bear cry of "Taxation." This is the reason why, in every expenditure, dimes have been counted instead of dollars. To verify this, look at the fire department and the Water Works. And yet this same Fire Department is abused, and unjust comparisons drawn between it and that of New York where they have the Croton river for a supply, and in the purchase of Hose and other equipments, an almost unlimited appropriation. Do such grumblers ever think that most of those who perled their lives and health on Tuesday morning last were poor men, with hardly a cent at stake? If they do not, it is time they did, and cease, for it is a fact. We recollect, an incident in our own experience illustrative of this grumbling propensity on the one hand, and the enthusiasm of those who have not a cent at stake to be firemen on the other. "In the hey-day of youth," as our friend of the *Gazette* would express it, a number of boys, just verging into manhood, formed themselves into a Fire Company and called it the "Eagle," No. 2. Not one of them had ten cents in world; but the fun of running with the "machine" and the enthusiastic desire of youth to benefit mankind, was all powerful, and the company flourished like "a green bay tree." One night the cry of Fire on French street started us all for the Engine House. The streets were almost impassible—the mud being hub deep, and partially frozen—nevertheless "No. 2" was on hand the first one, and succeeded in saving the building, though at the expense of some of the silks and satins it contained. We went back to the Engine House as proud as young peacocks, and sweating like rain. The "machine" was safely housed, and, as we stood against the outside of the building panting and blowing as one unused, as we were, to much manual exertion could, we overheard part of a conversation, something in this wise: "Pshaw," said the speaker, in reply to some remark of his companion, "such firemen as yours are not worth a d——n." We looked at the speaker and we saw a man with thousands—we involuntarily fumbled in our pockets and found they were as empty as a contribution box—not a half-dime was there we could call our own. Our fireman's pride and patriotism oozed out at our finger's ends in a moment, and turning on our heel we bid a long and last farewell to "No. 2" and all its glories; and from that day to this, we have never laid a hand upon the "brakes" or tugged at a rope. That is our experience as a fireman, and it is similar to that of a great many more.

Profits of Plank Roads.

The following item from the Louisville *Democrat* of the 24th March, will be interesting to such of our readers as take an interest in Plank Roads:

Good Business.—The weekly receipts on the Jeffersonville and Charlestown Plank Road are rapidly increasing. In the past few days they have amounted to about $150 per week, or twenty cents on the cost of construction.

☞ Jenny Lind is now on a visit to the Mammoth Cave in Kentuckey. She is to sing at Louisville to-day. It is said she will stop here on her way East, but whether she will sing or not we have not learned.

☞ The Ohio press generally speak favorably of the new constitution. The whigs croak a little, but they dare not openly oppose to it.

☞ The Daughters of Temperance of the Rosebud Union of New Bedford, Illinois, have removed the last grocery in that place. They marshalled their forces at noon—waited upon the "dealer in hardware beverages"—demanded the price of his stock in trade—paid it down, and, with due solemnity, poured it upon the sand. So says an exchange paper.

☞ Boyer, of the Carlisle Democrat, says he would sooner see a pretty foot than a pretty face. Boyer knows.

Destructive Conflagration!

Brown's Hotel, William's Block, and the Keystone Block are in Ruins!

We are called upon this week to record one of the most destructive fires that has ever occurred in Erie. One of the best business and most valuable points in our city is in ruins. The particulars are briefly as follows: On Tuesday morning, April 1st, at about 3 o'clock, a fire was discovered in the jewelry store of W. N. Lewis, adjoining Brown's Hotel, by the driver of Brown's omnibus, who had just returned from a boat with a load of passengers. The alarm was immediately given, and the fire department was soon upon the ground—not, however, until the building was completely in flames. The buildings adjoining on the East, being of wood, soon caught and shared the same fate. They were occupied and owned as follows: N. Murphey, tin and copper smith, Loss of building $700, insured for $300; stock and tools loss $2,000, fully insured. W. H. Sherman, daguerrian gallery—total loss—fully insured. A. Mortfort, gun smith, stock and tools lost—fully insured. J. Johnston's book store—books saved—building insured. C. Kolb, barber, slight loss, no insurance. John Malstatter, shoe shop, saved most of his effects—loss small. R. S. Hunter's hat store—effects saved in a damaged state—fully insured. G. B. Keene, tailor, loss $300—no insurance. B. French, confectioner, effects all saved—the building was owned by E. D. Gunnison, and was insured for $600. It cost probably from $800 to a $1000. Here the fire was arrested on the East by the high brick wall of the Reed House.

On the west, notwithstanding the almost superhuman efforts of the firemen and some of the citizens it soon found its way through the windows of Brown's Hotel, and then commenced a scene of destruction we never wish to see again. Major Brown's loss, in buildings, furniture, stabling, &c., cannot be less that $20,000—$7,000 of which we are glad to say is covered by insurance. Several of his boarders are also considerable loosers. John Hearn's loss is somewhere about $500. C. B. Wright about $1000—$800 of which, however, was in obligations of the North East and Erie Railroad, and can be recovered. Several others are losers, the exact amount of which we have not ascertained. C. J. M. Justice's clothing store, in the same building, was removed with slight loss.

J. & J. William's brick block adjoining, occupied in the basement by Harris' Alhambra Saloon; on the first floor by J. H. Williams' exchange office, and above by Thompson & Grant's law office, and by Brown's Hotel, is completely in ruins. The Messrs. Williams are insured for $2,000—their loss must be considerable.—Thompson and Grant saved their valuable library, but estimate their loss at $150. Harris saved most of his furniture, and sustained but a trifling loss.

The Keystone Buildings adjoining, owned by W. H. Knowlton, and occupied by himself as a jewelry store, and by O'Reily's telegraph office, and the Masonic Lodge, was also destroyed. Mr. Knowlton is insured for $2500—loss three thousand dollars. The Masonic Lodge was not insured—loss $530. At this point, the fire-proof roof of Cadwell's Empire Block and the exertions of the firemen arrested the flames. Mr. Cadwell's loss in damage to his goods and building is considerable, all of which, however, is covered by insurance.

The total loss of property by this disaster cannot be less than from $50,000 to $60,000, from $20,000 to 25,000 of which is covered by insurance.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to our firemen, while too much censure cannot be bestowed upon the large and respectable number of citizens who stood by with their hands folded and saw them work until nature was completely exhausted. One incident we cannot help recording. While these very disinterested gentlemen were standing by, as unconcerned as though they had not a dollar's worth of property in the town, refusing absolutely to fall into line for the purpose of passing buckets, there was a gentleman from Fredonia, N. Y., a mere casual visitor to the city, exerting himself to the utmost to stay the conflagration—we refer to Mr. A. E. Tyler. We saw him after the danger was passed completely worn out and exhausted, and his clothes entirely spoilt. It was the general remark that no man upon the ground rendered more efficient aid than the person to whom we refer, and we are glad to be able to say that, as a slight testimonial of his services, Mr. Cadwell's superintendent, Mr. Bennett, has ordered his measure taken for an entire new suit to replace those spoilt.

Several others are worthy of mention, as having contributed efficient aid—Mr. Hubley, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Barney—the latter, we are informed, sustained a severe injury to his left arm while engaged about the Empire Block. There may have been, and doubtless were others equally entitled to notice, but where so many behaved so nobly it is impossible to particularize.

Had there been any wind the destruction would have been much greater. At one time we thought Wrights splendid block would go among the rest: and at another, that the block across the street, in which our office is situated, would be a mass of ruins, and the "Observer" take its flight in a blaze. Happily, however, we are left to tell the tale, in brief, as above.

We learn that active measures will immediately be taken to rebuild the entire space in a more substantial and imposing manner.

More Fires.

On Wednesday evening the cry of fire was heard again in our streets: but this time the fire was not in town. It proved to be the barn of Mr. David Wolf, about two miles out. It was totally destroyed, with its contents. We have not ascertained the loss. At first it was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, but upon more mature reflection, we believe it is ascertained that Mr. W. had been feeding his horses with a lighted pipe in his mouth, and that a spark from that source caused the conflagration.

The next day the barn of Mr. Levi Wolf, situate a few rods from the one consumed the day before, caught, as it is supposed from the unextinguished remains of the other, and it with its contents was also consumed. Both, we believe, were insured in the Washington Mutual, but what amount we do not know.

Another Fire.

The trite adage, "it never rains but it pours," is very aptly illustrated by fire this week. On Thursday night, about 10 o'clock, an unoccupied building on the corner of Sixth and Holland streets was discovered to be in flames, and before the alarm could gather the firemen, it was consumed. As it stood some distance from any other building no further damage was done. It was evidently the work of an incendiary—probably for the purpose of pillage and robbery.

MR. EDITOR:—How did it happen that the "writing" Editor of the *Gazette*, in his enumeration of the various losses by the late fire, entirely omit to mention that the Masonic Hall was in the 4th story of the Keystone Block, and the loss of that institution is between $400 and $500? As straws show which way the wind blows, so does this omission clearly exhibit the feelings of the Editor. The institution, since its reorganization in this place, has met with many and serious difficulties, but the poor and destitute can attest its beneficial effects.

JUSTICE.

☞ The Warren *Ledger* states that the Harrisburg letter in regard to the Presidency, upon some of the positions of which we commented last week, was not written by the senior Editor as we surmised, and asks if we are satisfied. Certainly we are satisfied, so far as the authorship of the letter is concerned, but as to its position that it would be "base ingratitude" for the Democratic party to thorow Gen. Cass, or any other candidate, overboard, we say never! Such doctrine is wrong in theory, and slavish in practice!

☞ The married ladies of Fairmount, N. J. have organized themselves into an independant order of Odd Ladies, in order to be revenged upon their Odd Fellow husbands. Their lodge is kept open half an hour longer nights than the Odd Fellows.

☞ The Democracy of Richmond, Va., his old neighbors, tendered a public dinner to Thomas RITCHIE, Esq. the veteran editor of the Washington *Union*, a few days ago, which he declined accepting, owing to indisposition.

Modern Quill Drivers.

Under this trite and inelegant caption allow us to call attention briefly to a single feature of the intellectual impress of the day—as a Connecticut critic termed it, "the skim-milk style of composition." The character of this manner of writing may be aptly illustrated by a bit of a biographical sketch, that sometime ago, providing our assertion is true, was wandering through the literary world, and read as follows. "At an early day, during the sunny hours of gleesome youth, when all nature seemed green with gayety and redolent of rich varieties, when "hope, bright, joyous hope," threw its rapturous garb over the adolescent fancy, and portrayed the future in the jasper-like jewels of anticipatory ecstacies, when poesy caught out very souls upon golden, burnished wings, and bore with erratic, restless, fascinating wildness to realms of ethereal extravagance, when the mere mention of woman's talismanic name dazzled the delighted eye of warm, gushing affection, with a scintilating halo of corruscating sensation, when, in short, the idlest thought strayed us into flowery meads and along limped streamlets,—we owned a pup, a peculiar pup. His dam was a direct descendant from the Alpine spaniel race of canine creatures, while his male parent boasted pure mastiff blood. This was no ordinary commingling of eminent characteristic elements, and the result was striking. The pup, as he grew to rds maturer years and maturer form, became the admiration of the entire circumjacent community, as well as the beguiler of our individual solitude. His lithe, symmetrical figure, his glossy, ornate coat of hair, his unique elegance of limb, his terminal appendage with vigorous curl, his surprising elasticity of gait, his ceaseless display of versatile sagacity, the graceful laxity, during the torrid months of summer, of his lambent tongue, and the chaste terseness of his inartificial bay, formed, when in the minds eye grouped, an elaborate epitome of perfected doghood. But again, the pup had a *peachant*, not indeed, novel in its nature, but remarkably phenomenons in its development, which palpable precivity we studiously sought not to foster. He ever hungered for *borine* flesh. Not far removed from our hearth-side stood a structure, long, low, and of antique air, wherein at periodical times were vended articles of varied nutriment. To this locality our favorite regularly hied, and availing himself of each early advanced opportunity, as regularly purloined a meal. This conduct, based as it was, upon the direst socialist principles, met not our approbation. We visited him with repeated condign castigations of no indifferent severity; but alas! how ineffectual human effort." &c., &c.

This will probably suffice the reader for a specimen of what, at the outset, we subscribed to as having been appropriately dubbed, "*the skim-milk style of composition.*" The whole article quoted amounts to about this: Dogs, whether handsome or homely, love meat, and will steal. The great antidote for such sickly diffusiveness is, when you determine to write or speak be very sure that you have something to say; and also bear in mind, allowing a liberal scope of application, the pregnant truism of Shakspeare—"*Brevity is the soul of wit.*"

MEADVILLE AND EDINBORO PLANK ROAD.—We are pleased to learn that this road is rapidly advancing. All the contractors, who are amongst the best men in the county, are now hastily engaged upon the work. All the grubbing is done; the grading is rapidly progressing, and two-thirds of the plank and timber is sawed and ready for laying. The exertions of the officers, in all concerned in the prosecution of this work, is worthy of great commendation. They assure us so far as their end of the road is concerned, the plank road to Erie will be opened early this fall, and a considerable portion much earlier.—*Meadville Gazette.*

The above exhibits how such things are done in our neighboring county of Crawford; and it also presents a most striking contrast to the policy of the "Regency" in Erie county. Last fall we had a fair prospect of having three plank roads leading into our town ere another year—now we have the prospect of but one! And who is to blame for it? It is probably not necessary to tell here, where the *modus operandi* is understood, but to set those abroad right who read the statements at that time of our plank road prospects, we unhesitatingly say that at the door of the "Regency" we have heretofore rallied at the political destinies of this county, and who are now attempting to rule its finances, must the fact be laid. Let us look at the history of the Edenboro road. That work was surveyed and located, and ground broke, at which John H. Walker made a flaming speech on the advantages of such means of intercommunication, and concluded by wishing the contractor good speed in his enterprise. Five miles were graded and the plank mostly put down, when the bad winter weather compelled him to desist. About this time the "Regency" took the alarm. If this road should be completed, it would materially facilitate the contractor's success in another enterprise in which he was engaged—viz: the railroad to the Ohio line! Something must be done, and that quickly. The word was passed along the line, and soon the hounds were upon the scent. Our Senator and representatives went to Harrisburg, but they were soon followed by the baying of the pack, they had let loose, in the shape of petitions, *in the handwriting of one of these Representatives*, praying that the Edenboro road should not be allowed to occupy the route it had located, because it was partly upon the turnpike, a majority of the stock of which the contractor owned, and partly upon a town-ship road. Men who had sustained monopolies all their lives—who had bowed down in worship at the shrine of the United States Bank, and all other similar temples for the worship of the whig trinity—became now the most vociferous denouncers of what, in their vernacular, they called "mo-no-po-lies." They succeeded—all legislation in regard to the Edenboro road was smothered, and the interests of that large section of country sacrificed in an attempt of the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad company to drive the Franklin Canal Company from building the road to the Ohio line! The same causes have conspired to delay the Waterford road. Verily, is not Erie a "Regency" ridden county!

Partial Repeal of the Act 1847.

We learn from Harrisburg that the bill repealing the obnoxious and unconstitutional act of 1847, relating to fugitives from labor, after been amended so as to repeal only the sixth section of that act, passed the Senate by a vote of 18 yeas to 7 nays. This section denied the use of the jails of the Commonwealth, to pursuers of the fugitives from labor, for the purpose of lodging such persons therein, for safe keeping for trial, and the repeal will of course yield the use of Pennsylvania prisons for this purpose. This is one step in the course of justice to the country, and loyalty to the Constitution, and for the next, which will doubtless sweep all the odious sections from this law, we must look to a future legislature, which, it is hoped, will have less Whigs in it. The original bill included all these sections, but every Whig with only one Democrat in the Senate, voted to strike out all but the one above mentioned, and thus very materially crippled a noble effort of the Democratic party. Let the glory of this blow at the Union belong to Governor Johnston and his friends in the Senate. Gen. Packer made a short but powerful speech, in which he certainly must have troubled the sleepy state of Whig consciences to some extent. He referred to the section of the Constitution of the United States, which declares that the constitution *and the laws enacted under it*, shall be the supreme law of the land; also to the features of the fugitive slave law, and showed plainly that the fourth section of the act of 1847, was in direct conflict with the spirit and the letter of the act of Congress, and hence with the Constitution, which all Senators had sworn to support; but the schemes of the executive chamber had usurped the place of conscience, reasoning failed, and oaths were disregarded. If the Whig party of Pennsylvania can gain any strength by this base truckling intrigue with the spirit of abolitionism and disunion, let them have it—the worst defeat will be better than such dishonor, with success.

☞ The late disaster having made the "Alhambra" too hot to hold Harris, he has, we learn, rented the corner store of Koch's Commercial Exchange, and is now fitting up a splendid Restaurant and Ice Cream Saloon and Confectionary. He calls it the "Merchants' Exchange"—a very appropriate name, by-the-by, and which, together with his well-known ability in that line, will insure him a liberal share of patronage. Give him a call.

LETTERS FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Erie Observer.

HARRISBURG, March 23, 1851.

DEAR SIR:—I know you are anxious to hear from us. Things here look blue in more ways than one. As to our plank roads they are almost lost sight of. I think, however, that Mr. Walker will pass the Wattsburg bill with such restrictions as will defeat the building of the road. To put on a provision that we shall not collect tolls upon that portion where we take the public roads, I need not tell you, is death to it, and this seemes to be his determination. As to the Edenboro road, I look upon that as lost. No Legislation of any kind will be got for it. Walker and Reid are opposed to it, and as it is purely a *local question*, they have the power to defeat it. What the committee will do with the bill which has passed the Senate relative to the Franklin Canal Company, is yet in doubt. My opinion is they will report it and that it will pass the House in its present shape.—We certainly will defeat it if we can, although our desire to do so has diminished to some extent from the fact that most legal men are of the opinion that after a road has been located the legislature cannot give a construction to an act of Assembly which could change its location. It would effect us, therefore, in no way except the tax. The Pittsburg company, having made no investment, having no debt, no mortgage whereby its corporators could be injured, will experience all the injurious effects of the law, without the consolation of stabbing those who stand behind "vested rights." So much upon this branch of the subject. As to the Sunbury and Erie, the belief is that the project of constructing this road will be revived and the work completed speedily; but strange as it may appear to you, Walker alone stands in the way. He is opposed to some of the terms deemed necessary to ensure the project success. The bill as it passed the House, authorizes the company to construct branches. Walker says it contains a "*snake*"—that such a reptile would enable the road to get to the State line along the south shore of the Lake; consequently he had it reported to a committee, as he termed it, "to pull the teeth out of it." That Philadelphia should object to this is not surprising, but that Walker should is! He very shrewdly *suspects* that *somebody* owns a majority of the stock, who would relieve Mr. Galbraith in case they kill him by the Legislature he has got thro' the Senate and which he is trying to place upon the Statute Books. Those interested in the Sunbury and Erie road say that three railroads of great capacity will terminate at Erie, and that they are not willing to trust any *one* company, and that one interested in steamboats, to let them out at pleasure and upon its own terms. In this way perhaps I can make you understand why extremes meet—why Philadelphia and Erie unite. Walker may possibly think he is procuring the building of the road to Pittsburgh, whilst Crabb thinks it defeats a rail road connection west. This is the most *charitable* conclusion that can be given to Mr. Walker's extraordinary position. I *think*.—but I won't say here what I think. I need your prayers, however, for the greatest of christian virtues—*charity*. This important measure will be before the Senate in a day or two, however, and I will keep you "posted up." "The order of the day" for to-day, is the General Banking Bill, and from the vote given to place it thus early upon the calander, I derive my strongest hopes of its passage. I shall not be surprised at its containing a provision to apply the revenue derived from this source to the redemption of Pennsylvania's step-child, "the Erie Extension," the twin brother of "the North Branch," which was sold seven years since into bondage by its unnatural parent.

Yours, &c.,

ERIE.

HARRISBURG, March 25, 1851.

The Committee on Corporations, to which was referred the Senate bill in reference to our railroads, held their second meeting last evening in the east committee room of the Capitol. The meeting was one of unusual interest and attracted the attendance of a large number of persons. The debate was opened by Mr. Walker, who spoke twice, and was replied to as often by Mr. Lowry of your place in opposition to the bill. It was debated also by Messrs. Kill, Blanchey, Hoge and Power, in favor, and by Messrs. Galbraith and Lane in opposition. The Committee, after mature deliberation, have agreed to report that the bill ought not to pass, and such will probably be its fate.

This was private bill day, and Mr. Reid called up a bill, which he reported some days since, to reorganize the Sunbury and Erie road. A bill similar to this passed the House some time ago, but it contained a proviso Reid and Walker are opposed to—viz: enabling that company to construct "lateral branches", and thus allowing this road to reach the Ohio line in case all other charters failed. It was deemed a fatal blow, therefore, by those who govern the "Erie Territory" to smother that bill in the Senate and pass Reid's bill which does not contain that obnoxious clause. After the reading of this bill, Mr. Scofield, of Warren, presented the following new section: "That immediately upon the organization of the company, it shall be lawful under the provisions of their charter, and of the supplements thereto, to construct a railroad from the borough of Erie to the Ohio state line and equip the same; and the whole revenue derived by this extension shall be appropriated to the construction of the main branch of said improvement, after paying an interest of six per cent. on the actual expenditure upon this branch of their road." To this Reid objected, and the amendment together with the bill was passed over; and as, by his own act, it has lost its place upon the calander it is doubtful whether it can be again reached. I am quite confident, however, if we could get a fair vote upon it, we could carry it over Walker and Reid. The Sunbury and Erie is now a decided favorite, and of our ability to build it, it we can get it with this provision, I have not the least doubt. The fear that exists everywhere, east and west as well as here, that a few unprincipled men wish to hold at Erie the whole improvements of the country and there terminate them, is the only impediment now seen. Capitalists will not invest their money in building a third road from the East to Erie without an outlet west. They have no idea of placing so many millions of capital at the mercy of any one man upon his own terms, and at his own time and caprice. Poor Erie! "she is a blind giant." In days past she was led astray by the Hamot-Branch of the United States Bank, and her "prodigalson" will not now let her accept rings upon her fingers, shoes upon her feet, or a crown upon her head. Her prospects, present and future, have been put in jeopardy by improper appliances or criminal selfishness.

ERIE.

☞ It will be hardly credited that the good people of Erie have actually got an act past not only for changing all the gauges at their place, but are also empowered to levy black-mail of each passenger to the tune of half a cent each. Pity they hav'nt more than half a soul!—*Ashtabula Telegraph.*

Don't say it to the "good people of Erie," don't! especially the "black-mail." It was the *bad* people, neighbor; headed by your particular whig friend John H. Walker—the man that did'nt go to Congress, for which you, and your whig friends, shed rivers of tears. We told you then John was'nt "any better than he should be," and you called it a "Locofoco lie," but now, as the old lady said, "feelus' the naked truth," and you begin to "*feel.*"

☞ The Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle says, that in passing through one of the Brooklyn markets a few evenings ago, he encountered a meat vender, shouting at the top of his lungs, "Ere's your cheap meat for boarders."

☞ The Boston Post says it is estimated that more than $1,000,000 in sales have been lost to Boston this season, on account of the impression among Southern merchants that Boston would not sustain the compromise measures.

☞ A suit for damages was tried in Norristown, last week, brought by Abraham Gehman against Charles Schwank, for seduction of his daughter. The jury gave a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, for $2,500.

☞ Husband, I hope you have no objection to my being weighed." "Certainly not, my dear, but why do you ask the question?" "Only to see, love, if you would let me have my weigh once."

JOE BRILLIANT.—The Cincinnati *Enquirer* tells the following good story.

THE LITTLE FORSAKEN.—It may have been observed by those who have traveled upon the steamer Brilliant, that they were waited upon at table by a bright eyed, dark-haired boy, apparently not more than six years of age. Ask him his name and you will always hear him respond "Joe, sir." "Joe what?" "Joe Brilliant, sir."

It appears that about two years ago, on a trip of the *Brilliant* from this city to Pittsburgh, the next morning after arriving there this boy was found on board, fast asleep, the sole occupant of the cabin used by the deck passengers. Inquiries were made by Capt. Grace as to its parents; but nothing could be heard of them, and the Captain scorning to thrust the little fellow upon the cold charities of the world, resolved to take care of him, and he accordingly gave him in charge of the steward's wife, who at the time was chambermaid of the boat. When asked his name he could only answer "Joe," knowing no other, and his protrectress named him after the boat. In the course of another year, Captain Grace, if he is not claimed, intends sending him to school; and should he prove as bright a scholar as he seems a boy, he will give him a liberal education. Who knows but the same little outcast may be President of the United States some day? Stranger events than that have happened in this changing world of ours.

MR. ASA WHITNEY.—Among the passengers by the steamer Asia, was Mr. Asa Whitney, known throughout this country as the original projector of the railroad communication between the Atlantic and Pacific. He goes to England by invitation of the directors of the company interested in the railroad from Halifax westward. During the last nine years, Mr. Whitney has devoted himself, with singular energy to his subject, undismayed by objections, indifference and ridicule. He has himself surveyed a part of the route; he has collected and classed a mass of statistics and geographical facts, which fortify his project; he has laid his plans before the Legislatures of the principal States, and eighteen of them instructed their Senators and Representatives, almost unanimously, to vote for it; he has attended at each session of Congress to urge the passage of a bill empowering him to undertake the work, and had every reason to feel sure of a majority in both houses. Yet, owing mainly, we believe, to sectional discussions in Congress, he has never been able to get his bill fairly before Congress.—And now, like Columbus, having been refused at home the means of accomplishing the transport of Asia across the United States, he leaves the republic to offer his services to the British Government.—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

WHIG RULE.—Since the Whig National Administration came into power, one of its achievements has been to produce as profound a riddle to solve as that of the natural history of Sphinx. We allude to the business concerning Nicaragua, and Mosquito King and Great Britain, so important in reference to the question as to a ship canal to connect the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific. Can any one tell precisely how the matter stands—where was the beginning and what was to be the end—and how the mess which has been made of it, is to be cleared away? We suspect that the Whig *employers* who have been in the State Department, are often tempted, like the Irish Ambassador, to enquire what they have been doing and what it is all about, for the purpose of finding some difficulty in understanding the matter?—*Pennsylvanian.*

A BAUMBELL AMONG "THE WORKING."—A correspondent of the N. Y. Sunday Courier thus describes an eccentric individual at New Orleans:

"We have a man here by the name of Duncan who has a most singular taste in regard to clothing and jewelry. He wears an immense white broad-brimmed hat, and a gold embroidered suit of clothes, that cost in Paris over $800. He has a gold watch-chain that would fasten an elephant; five or six pounds of rings dazzle on his fingers; his boots are encased in silver coats of mail, and he carries a cane bedzoned with massive clusters of silver.—There is an amiable bearing about the man that warrants me in considering him a most singular fancy and not a christian love of notoriety. He is a cleanly, hardworking stevedore, and the jewelry on his person is valued at $8,000, which he wears only on a Sunday. Pity they hav'nt another about him, so often mistaken for true democracy, to give vent to gratify this odd fancy with some propriety."

THE GAMBLER'S FATE.—The New York *Globe* gives the particulars of a young man's fate at the gaming table. He was a resident of Western New York, very highly connected and wealthy. He married an accomplished wife. His property attracted the eye of the genteel gamester, into whose hands he soon fell. The embrakes of home were neglected, and in a few months about thirty thousand dollars were squandered away in the purchase of lottery tickets, and at the gaming table. Discovering at length the vortex into which he had plunged himself, he came to New York. Having spent what little money he had made, we next find him resorting to the lowest subterfuges to raise money. He borrowed several valuable watches, &c., from his friends, and took them to a pawnbroker's shop to raise money to gratify his base inclinations, and last week was compelled to flee the city a fugitive from justice. Of his future it requires no prophet pen to speak. A broken-hearted wife, desolate home, and inevitable disgrace, are now his portion.

A NEW KIND OF FENCE.—Mr. John R. Remington of Montgomery, Alabama (the inventor of the remington Aerial Bridge) has patented a new and useful invention. It is a *cement, for making solid* fences, as durable as granite, and at a very reasonable cost of construction. The chief ingredient is sand, and it can be easily manufactured by plantation hands. The cement panels are conveyed to the spot where the fence is to be located, and the two legs of each let into the ground like common posts. The cost to the planter is estimated at 10 cents per panel of ten feet by five—four inches thick—far cheaper than wire fences. It does not, or at least should not detract from the merit of this invention that it hails from Alabama, this time, rather than from Maine or Pennsylvania, or that the modest little town of Montgomery ventures competition with the great manufacturing cities of the East for the honor of originating some of the useful discoveries of the age.—*Charleston Courier.*

IMPORTED SHEEP.—J. D. Patterson, Esq. of Westfield, Chautauque county, passed through this city to-day on his return home, with another small flock of those splendid sheep which he has just imported from France. No man in the Union, probably, is doing so much to improve the breed of sheep in this country, as Mr. Patterson, and the wonderfully rapid improvement in quantity and quality made within the last few years in the wool grown in Chautauque county, is attributable solely to the superior breed of sheep introduced there by him. The lot which he has now recieved are young sheep, but of prodigious size and covered by a fine, silky wool, some five inches long. They appeared in excellent condition after a long sea voyage. We wish every wool grower in the country could see Mr. Patterson's stock, they would require nothing further to induce them to cultivate more extensively this superior breed. The Paterson sheep are already extensively known and justly celebrated in all parts of the country and we hope the spirited importer may yet be amply remunerated for the large amount of money he has expended in procuring and introducing among farmers these invaluable sheep.—*Buff. Rep.*

ANOTHER LUCKY LAW FIRM.—Every one has heard of the wonderful success of the firm of Fillmore, Hall & Haven. There is also a firm in Ohio which is on the high road to almost as eminent a success. Giddings, Wade & Rapney, late partners and Attorneys at-law in Ashtabula, Geauga Co., are apportioned as follows: Giddings is a member of the House of Representatives, Wade is a U. S. Senator, and Ranney has been elected to the Supreme Bench of Ohio—a pretty fair deal.—*Milwaukee Wisconsin.*

Wife. "Why, dear me, William, how time flies! I declare we have been married ten years to-day!"

Wretch. "Have we, love! I am sure I thought it had been a great deal longer."

MARRIED.

In Waterford, on Sunday last, by Rev. D. Rowland, Mr. C. B. WHITE, to Miss MARGARETT KENNEDY, all of Waterford.

In Wattsburg, on Sunday last, by Rev. D. Rowland, Mr. C. B. WHITE, to Miss MARGARETT KENNEDY, all of Wattsburgh.

On the 24th ult., in Waterford, by P. P. Judson, Esq. Mr. THOMAS G. BARNETT, to Miss CATHARINE LYMAN, all of Waterford.

In Fairview, on Saturday last, by the Rev. J. Vance, Mr. N. J. CLARK, to Miss SARAH V., daughter of John Cagney, Esq., all of Fairview.

A CARD.

Hiram L. Brown returns his sincere thanks to the firemen, citizens, officers and crew of the U. S. Steamer Michigan, for their earnest endeavors to secure his property from destruction by fire on the morning of the 1st inst.; also, to many guests and strangers, who done efficient and praiseworthy service.

A CARD.

The undersigned, in the absence of Mr. Cadwell, proprietor of the Empire Stores, and in his behalf, takes this method of returning his sincere thanks to those citizens who kindly volunteered their services to save and protect his property on the morning of the first inst., and particularly to the Fire Department, by the exertions of which his building was mainly saved. His thanks are also due to Mr. A. E. Tyler, of Fredonia, N. Y. for services rendered on that occasion.

E. A. BENNETT.

Erie, April 5, 1851.

A CARD.

The members of Eagle Fire Company, No. 2, whose station was at the fire on the morning of the 1st., desire to express their obligations to Col. A. E. TYLER, a brother fireman from Fredonia, for his arduous exertions in assisting in the direction of their Pipe during the conflagration of the fire.

D. B. DERBY, Foreman.

Erie, April 5, 1851.

DIED.

In this city, on the 27th ult., Mr. SETH ALEXANDER, aged 32 years.

On the 27th ult., in North East township, Mr. DAVID M'COMB, aged 42 years.

In Harborcreek, on the 24th ult., Mr. JAMES M'WILLIAMS, aged 47 years.

On the 26th ult., suddenly, Mr. JOHN BUSY, of Millcreek township, aged 72 years.

In Ashtabula, O., on the 28th ult., GEORGE HILL, Sen. formerly of this county, in the 56th year of his age.

In Girard, on the 3d ult., Mrs. SALLY, consort of Abraham Fisk, on the 53d year of her age.

In Washington township, on the 28th of February last, of inflamation of the lungs, Mrs. MARY MARSHALL, consort of John Marshall, formerly of this place, aged 64 years.

On the 30th ult., Mr. JOHN E. LAPSLEY, one of the first settlers of this place, aged about 75 years.

In Waterford, on the 27th ult., JOHN JUNKIN, son of Rev. J. J. & Jane S. Findley, aged 3 years, 1 month and 9 days.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

☞ J. H. WILLIAMS' Exchange Office will be found at the Corner Store of William's Block.

DR. C. BRANDES.

Physician and Surgeon—Office corner of State and Seventh Streets. Residence on Eighth Street, between French and Holland, Erie, Pa.

THOMPSON & GRANT.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

Are happy to inform their clients, that although hastily driven by fire from their office, on the morning of the first inst. they are again located and will be happy to serve their clients and friends. Office, three doors north of the Public Square, over Zimmerman's store, opposite the one they occupied before the fire.

Mr. Grant is Commissioner for the States of New York, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Michigan, and Pension and Bounty Land Agent. April 2.

No'ice to Teachers.

A MEETING of the School Directors of Millcreek township, will be held at the Mill-creek House at Eagle Village, on the 12th of April, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of Examining applicants, for the Summer term of the Common Schools.

By order of the Directors,

Erie, April 27, 1851. J. R. CALDWELL, Sec.

REMOVAL.

G. B. KEENE, Fashionable Tailor, has removed to the rooms over the store of Smith Jackson, Esq., Cheap Side, Cunningham's as usual. Spring Fashions just received.

N. B.—As I am among the unfortunate in the late disaster, has lost all my Books and accounts, all *honest* men who owe me will confer a favor by calling and paying what they think is justly due me—all *dishonest* ones by calling will receive a receipt in full.

Erie, April 5, 1851.

NEW SPRING GOODS. I am in receipt by Express, of the Spring style American and English Prints, American Calicoes and Scotch Ginghams, Linen Ginghams, Lawns, Mouslin De Laine &c. C. M. TIFFANY.

New Firm! New Goods!

P. ARBUCKLE and S. P. KEPLER having formed a Co-Partnership in the Mercantile business at the old stand (late Conner partner, No. 3, Perry Block) take this method of thanking their friends for the patronage they have received in the Spring and Summer stock, which will be sold cheap. A new invoice already on hand and which the ladies are particularly invited to call and examine.

Erie, April 1, 1851.

A CARD.