Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1851.

A Mistake.

The Fredonia *Censor* is mistaken in stating that the action of the Legislature in chartering the "Susquehanna, and Erie Railroad company," and giving it the right of extending to the Ohio line, "shuts off the Franklin Canal Company," and "places" it in the power of the new Company "to shut off all communication west from Erie for a long time to come." All the rights the Franklin Canal Company ever possessed it now possesses, and is proceeding to exercise. So, also, the President and Directors of the Pittsburgh and Erie road, claim every right necessary to connect with the Ohio line. We have had, and have still, difference among ourselves, but of one thing the *Censor* can rest assured, that the people of Erie county are a unit as to the right and necessity of some company building immediately the Western road. The resolutions upon this point, passed at a meeting of our citizens, friends of both the rival companies west, on Tuesday evening, is conclusive as to public sentiment here.

The Gale.

The gale on Thursday was as severe as any that has occured upon Lake Erie for a number of years. We have not heard yet—(Friday morning,)—of any accidents, but we fear we shall before this paper reaches its subscribers. The steamers Diamond and Sultana road out the storm in Erie harbor in safety—so did several sail vessels, the names of which we have not learned. The Sultana came in from above in the height of the gale!

At three o'clock on Thursday we learned by telegraph that a large portion of the lower part of Buffalo was under water, and that much damage had been sustained.

We have not heard from Dunkirk, the terminus of the great New York and Erie rail road, and the "best harbor" on the Lake, but when we do, if there is a timber left to tell where a store-house or a dock existed, we shall be much mistaken.

☞ We are requested to say that an Educational Meeting will be held on Monday evening next in the Presbyterian Conference room.

"The Other Side."

We are willing to let the speeches of the Messrs. Galbraiths, Lowry, Reed and Walker, before the meeting assembled on Wednesday evening, at the Court House, to hear the "other side" of our western railroad questions, go before the people without a word of comment. We think to every unprejudiced mind, it was pretty evident that the billingsgate slang, the whining, cringing appeals in behalf of his wife and children, and the sophistical arguments the Honorable Senator from Erie used on Monday evening in defense and justification of his course during the past winter, proved a very poor investment. Neither of the two gentlemen Mr. Walker so virulently assailed on Monday evening, the Messrs. Galbraiths, saw fit, or deemed it necessary in order to sustain themselves, to resort to the language of the pot-house or the bully, but in a clear and lucid manner went on to make a plain statement of facts which carried conviction to the mind of every unprejudiced person. It is not necessary for us to follow them though in detail—the people were there to hear and judge for themselves, and they will judge. We were glad Mr. Walker attempted to answer the charges and facts paraded against him by the Messrs. G., for as he is wont to express it, his whole manner was "confirmatory evidence" that the shots hurled by his antagonists had taken effect. In a word, it was a most lame and impotant conclusion to a most outrageous course of Legislative conduct. Mr. Lowry, who closed the discussion, was as usual, happy, pointed, sarcastic and severe, and more than once caused the "galded jade to wince." His allusion to the Honorable Senator's "long harbored antipathy to the Biddle family," from "old Nick" himself down to his cousins, was the unkindest cut of all. We are really afraid, if Judge Church was there, he will direct the Grand Jury next week to bring in a bill against him for "unnecessary cruelty, &c."

What is a "Selfish Policy?"

We hear a great deal from the New York papers about the "selfish policy of Erie." The Fredonia *Censor*, and its enemy mous correspondents, talk about the policy of Erie in regard to the gauges of railroads running East and West, as one no other town would think of pursuing. Now, we beg leave to ask of these grumblers, these back-biters, what they consider a "selfish policy." We know what our reason teaches us is a selfish policy, and it is this. The eternal harping against Erie because she seeks by legitimate means to secure to herself the benefits arising from the break of guage between the Eastern and Western roads. This is a policy which has its origin in the most selfish and ignoble passion of the human breast. Because they cannot enjoy the benefits arising from such a break, their rampant selfishness and envy causes them to desire that none of their immediate neighbors should be so fortunate. Thus Fredonia would much rather Erie should enjoy it than its immediate neighbor Dunkirk, but would prefer Cleveland to Erie. Buffalo is seeking to secure the break of guage, so is Dunkirk; so is Cleveland. There is no selfishness in their course, according to the *Censor*; but let because Erie, situate on neutral ground, exactly half-way between the two width of tracks, seeks to make these different tracks meet upon her soil, she is pursuing a "selfish policy." Were the Ohio and New York roads of the same guage, and she sought to make them change for her benefit, then Erie would deserve all and more denunciation than she now receives. But seeking not for the east, Erie desires nothing that does not exist, and will exist somewhere by her course be as it may. In this state of the case, should Erie act otherwise, and magnanimously consent that Cleveland or Dunkirk shall enjoy the benefits arising from the anomaly which the different width of tracks of the Eastern and Western roads forces upon some place, she would be like that philosopher who was so far above the passions of humanity that he cared nothing for his principles or his interests. But Erie cannot be thus magnanimous even if she would. She is but a small portion of a great State—that great State has commercial interests as dear to her as the commercial interests of N. Y. are to her. Those interests demand that the Lake shore line of railway, connecting the roads of Ohio and of the other western states with New York, should possess no advantage over the Central railroad line connecting Philadelphia with the same territory. Unless the "selfish policy" of Erie is adhered to then, and the law of the State on that subject lived up to in good faith, great injury will result to the trade of this Central route, for that route has a similar break of guage at Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania is not prepared to be so magnanimous as this. But it is not necessary to waste words. The whole interest of the State is arrayed upon our side—state pride is with us—the *law* is with us,—common sense is with us—force is with us—and if the New York companies desire to reap the benefits of a Western connection they must reap the field with such a sickle as we prescribe, or not reap at all. If that is selfish, then Erie is selfish, and we glory in it. But it is not selfish—it is only her just rights, rights guaranteed by *law, contract* and geographical position. These she will never surrender, no matter what the sacrifice. This fact, the railroad operators in New York may as well understand first as last.

☞ O, Dear?—The *Gazette* says that after Gen Scott is "once in the field" it will "have no doubt of his success—even in the face of the 'a Ivance battery' opened upon him by such prints as the Erie *Observer!*" Now that is very unkind in the *Gazette*, very! To call a letter written by its own candidate the "advance battery" of "such a print as the Erie *Observer*."

☞ That able and fearless Democratic journal, The *Pennsylvanian*, has been enlarged and otherwise materially improved. We rejoice at these evidences of business prosperity, and hope that its circulation and influence will continue to increase so long as it remains the faithful, consistent and patriotic champion of the National Democracy that it now is.

John H. Walker upon His Knees.

According to announcement, on Monday evening last, Mr. Walker appeared before a meeting of his constituents to explain his course in the Legislature in regard to our rail and plank roads, and the above heading is a correct description of the position the Honorable Senator occupied upon that occasion. He was no longer the great I AM of his party—he was no longer, "I am sir oracle; when I ope my mouth let no dog bark," but he appeared before them as a criminal pleading for mercy. He was upon his knees! No language can portray the spaniel-like appeal of this heretofore bully of the political rostrum for a stay of judgment. He told them he was a husband and a father, and for the sake of his wife and children, if not for his own, he implored the people to hear his defense and explanations before they condemned. We certainly did not expect this. We had no idea that a man who prided himself so much upon his boldness and independence of character, would deem it necessary to exact the John Rogers, and parade his "wife and nine small children" before an audience in order to excite sympathy. But so it was, and it was unfortunate. Unfortunate, because it could not but subject those to the ridicule of a thoughtless and unfeeling crowd who, of all others, he should have sought to protect. But enough; if the Senator from Erie is satisfied, we certainly should not complain, for one great point is gained. That spirit which has heretofore ruled with a high hand, has been forced to succumb before the popular will. It may do him good, and I we trust it will, for he has need of reform. But to the Honorable Senator's defense.

He commenced by attempting to explain his course towards the Elsinboro plank road by stating that he had received petitions, signed by overwhelming hundred citizens of the county, praying that no further legislation be granted to that company; whereas, in regard to the other roads for which he had procured acts, no one had objected.—This is all very true, Mr. Walker, but it is not the *whole truth*. The Honorable Senator forgot to say to the meeting that upon the other hand petitions, as numerously signed by equally as good citizens, and as deeply interested in all that pertains to our prosperity, were presented asking that the necessary legislation might be granted to the Edenboro plank road. He kept this fact in the dark. He had not a word to say about the public meetings held for the same purpose in Erie, McKean and Washington, the proceedings of which were duly forwarded to him. Not a word. But, he took particular pains to impress his hearers with the idea that his whole course towards the Edenboro road was dictated by a desire to obey the public voice as heard through those petitions. Very well; let that fact be borne in mind and we will see where it lands Mr. Walker. But there is another point which the Honorable Senator did not explain, and which the meeting assembled to hear explained. One year ago he was so anxious that the turnpike should be granted to the Waterford plank road that he carried a bill through the Legislature, tacked on to the tail of a Divorce bill, granting said road that privilege; the Waterford plank road did not avail itself of such permission, but the Edenboro road did; supposing of course that the necessary legislation to make it legal, if it was not already so, would be granted. But lo! a change came over the spirit of Mr. Walker's dream. It became necessary that certain men should be crushed, and consequently what John H. Walker did in 1850, in 1851 John H. Walker refused to do. These are very important items in the account which the meeting on Monday evening was called to settle. Yet, this man who was heralded as able and capable of clearing up all charges against him, was as dumb as an oyster in regard to them. Poor Walker; even his "wife and nine small children" cannot save him.

From the plank roads he branched off to the consideration of his course towards our railroads. And here we thought him peculiarly lame. He based his action in this particular upon the hypothesis that the Franklin Canal Company had conspired with operators in Ohio and New York to run the New York and Erie guage through the State to Cleveland, and to prevent this he introduced and procured the passage of the guage bill.—Even if such a conspiracy ever existed," which, however, he by no means proved, then, according to Mr. W's own showing, he ought to have gained his efforts at legislation when the guage bill became a law. But Mr. W. did not prove, or even make out a respectable plea, in favor of this charge of conspiracy on the part of Franklin Canal Co. alluded to. His first evidence of the conspiracy was that of the "friends of the Franklin Canal Company" opposed the guage bill. This, Mr. Walker called "strong confirmatory evidence," but in five minutes after he asserted boldly, as he had previously done in a letter to the *Gazette*, that the Franklin Canal Company *had no friends in the Legislature*—"*not one*." It is not often one sees a Lawyer thus ruthlessly strangle his own witness, yet Mr. W., as great a lawyer and logician as his friends profess to look upon him, did so on Monday. The friends of the Franklin Canal Company did so-and-so in the Legislature, says Mr. Walker; but in five minutes, the same mouth proclaims that the Franklin Canal Company had no friends in the Legislature—"not one." We leave Walker to eat Walker, and proceed. His next evidence was that the Franklin Canal Company had entered into an arrangement with the Ohio road to unite—to consolidate—to become part and parcel of that company,—and that the Legislature of Ohio had passed an act allowing that company to lay down any width of track it pleased. This is just no evidence at all; but suppose it is; when the guage bill became a law, such design, if it was ever entertained, was frustrated; and hence Mr. W. should have ceased his efforts at legislation. Certainly, Mr. Walker is Lawyer enough to know that no accused person or company can be put in danger for the same offence. Mr. Walker had put the Franklin Canal Company in jeopardy by his guage bill—he frustrated the designs he attributes to it—but he was his client, and he attempted to destroy it in another way and how he comes before an audience of intelligent men and gives *a guessed at design* on the part of the Franklin Canal Company *before* the guage bill passed, as his excuse for attempts at legislation against it *after* it had become a law. Verily the Honorable Senator's logic is lame. But it is not the only place he was lame. It will be recollected by the reader that he based his whole course towards the Edenboro plank road upon his desire to obey the will of his constituents as expressed through certain numerously signed petitions. Well, after the guage bill became a law, to the passage of which nobody objected, he attempted the legislation for which he is now arraigned before the bar of public opinion. This attempt created the most intense excitement here and in the western part of the county; public meetings were held, petitions were signed, telegraphic dispatches from our business men and private letters were written and sent on, all appealing to him to desist. If ever public opinion was unerring in one direction it was in this case; and it pointed contrary to the course of the Senator from Erie; hence he did not obey it—he disregarded it—defied it! Now how stands the Honorable Senator! In one breath he excuses his conduct by pointing to public opinion as expressed through petitions, but in the next he defies this same public opinion as expressed through the same channel. Verily, we say again, we do not wonder that one so pressed for an excuse should enact the John Rogers, and seek for sympathy through his family. We are done—we might pursue the inconsistencies of the Honorable Senator further, but our time and room is worth more than the game!

☞ Terrible Volcanic Eruption!—Of all the volcanic eruptions, that of Mount Heela, in 1783, was the most severe. It proceeded from the Skapta Jackul Peak, and spread desolation and death throughout the whole of Iceland. Nine thousand souls perished from starvation; the fires of the mountain burning up all vegitation. And now having stated these interesting facts, we would say go to Justice's low price clothing store, Reed House, all ye who want a cheap and elegant spring fit-out.

☞ Mr. Webster, on Tuesday of last week briefly addressed the citizens of Boston. The meeting was a spontaneous one! held in front of the Revere House for the purpose of rebuking the Board of Aldermen of that city. The gathering is represented as a large and enthusiastic one, the ladies crowding the windows of the hotel to listen to the eloquent remarks of the speaker. Daniel has not given up the hopes of becoming the successor of Mr. Fillmore.

The Cost of Partyism.

The people of Erie pay more, to support, "in riotous living," the tools of party than any similar number of tax-payers in the United States. And why? Simply because Partyism, in its worst and most slavish form, rules their municipal elections from Burgess to High-Constable. There never was a community in the dark ages, when the voice of the Father Confessor was all powerful for weal or for wo, so completely priest-ridden as the tax payers of Erie are party ridden. This is bold talk, and we have no doubt some will elevate their eyebrows and spread out their hands in holy astonishment at our temerity in making the assertion, nevertheless it is as true as the proposition that two and two make four! We don't say that the whig party is to blame for this state of things; by no means! It is the tax-payers themselves. The Whig party does just as every other party *has*, and *will do*, when continued in power for such a length of time—becomes corrupt and regardless of the people's wants! For this we say the party is not to blame. It is the tax-payers themselves. They have adhered so strict to party lines—have paid so little heed to the historical truth we have alluded to, of the corruption engendered by the continued success of party—that the behests of that party, no matter at what cost of both money and self-respect, are as implicitly obeyed as though they were the commands of Omnipotence. Occasionally there has been faint efforts on the part of some to break loose from this thraldom—to think, act and vote for themselves—but the strong arm of power has soon drove the rebels back to their posts, and thus the wheels of this party Jangernaut have rolled on as before.

Do we want evidence of the high-handed with which the partizan government of this Borough is disposed to rule us, we have but to look at the course the Council has chosen to pursue in regard to the High-Constable and the Supervisor of the Streets since the spring election. Party tactics secured the renomination of Mr. Foster by the Whig Caucus for the office of High Constable, but as there had been considerable complaint of the manner he had discharged the duties of Supervisor of the Streets, a strong feeling was formed against his re-election, and on the day of the election the people decided that he should be superceded by Mr. Landon, who ran as a volunteer. Of course, every body supposed there would be an end of Mr. Foster and his gang of "bird scratchers," but not so. The rejected of the tax-payers was a good party-man; he was reliable when party work was to be done; whereas, the choice of the tax-payers, was the exact opposite; he voted as he pleased, minded his own business, never meddled with caucus tactics, or suffered himself to become the tool of party, hence this party Council determined that the will of the people should be disregarded. For years the person who accepted the office of High-Constable had regularly been appointed Supervisor of the Streets by the Council. Indeed, no one could be found to accept the former unless appointed to the latter. This precedent, however, this party Council set at defiance; they swore in Landon as High Constable, but continued Foster upon the Streets. This, too, in the face of the fact that the change was made by the people for the very purpose of securing a new administration upon the streets. If partyism can go farther than this we should like to know it.

But this is not all. We have other facts in the history of the partizan administration of the affairs of this borough that are equally black, and which show, at least, peculation if not actual fraud *somewhere*. It is well known, we presume, to every tax-payer, that the Borough has been sued a number of times for debts during the past year: and the excuse of the "powers that be" for thus allowing cost to be made, and thus adding to the expense of the government, was that there was no money in the treasury to meet these just demands. Well, is this so? Let one fact suffice. At the last election the Treasurer for the past year was elected Burgess; consequently a new Treasurer was chosen. Of course, says the tax-paying reader, the old Treasurer had no moneys to pay over to the new. Not so fast, Mr. Tax-payer—the old Treasurer of a town that has been sued repeatedly for a year—whose property has been sold under the hammer to satisfy just claims—paid over to the *new* Treasurer the sum of *seventeen hundred dollars!* Is'nt this a beautiful commentary upon the partizan administration the affairs of this Borough? Does'nt it call in thunder tones for a new administration of affairs—for a cleaning out of the Augean Stable—for a general sweep of the Market-House dynasty! But we are not done with the doings of our municipal government, and its party peculations. We have said that the property of the Borough had been sold under the hammer, and that, too, but a short time previous to the paying over by a retiring Treasurer to his successor of the sum of $1700. We refer particularly to the sale of a Water-Lot belonging to the Borough not long since. That Water Lot, the property of the people, was advertised by a *party* sheriff in *party* papers, and was sold—whom think you to? Who think you bid off this property of the people for a mere song, when the people's money was lying idle in the hands of the people's Treasurer? Why the people's most humble servant, the Clerk of the Council! Now, we don't blame the Clerk of the Council—not a bit. He has just as good a right to pluck a feather or two from the back of that dear patient old goose, *the public*, as any body—but certainly the tax-payers of Erie must be struck with worse than judicial blindness if they suffer many more such quills plucked from their wings.

Of course those who to bread-and-butter is dependent upon *party* fealty or who are in expectation of hereafter receiving a goodly slice of that nutricious article from the hands of *party*, will raise the cry that all this is "a pack of Lo-co-fo-co lies;" but we appeal to the tax-payers of Erie if there is not enough evidence of what we have said, known to all, to make it prudent in them, at the coming charter election, to bring into the city government a few officers unconnected with the "Market-House clique." In a word our new city government ought to be watched. We don't care whether such "watchers" are of the Whig or Democratic school of politics, only so they are not politicians by trade. What we have written has been dictated by no unkind feeling towards any of the present authorities, or with the remotest design of making political capital, but that the tax-payers of Erie may understand the exact state of affairs, and so understanding be enabled to act for the best.

Excitement in Michigan.

A gang of desperados have been arrested in Jackson county, Michigan, who have, for a year or two, been engaged in counterfeiting, horse stealing, incendiarism, bulglary, robbery, and every conceivable crime. Their last plan was to destroy the railroad depot at Niles, and another device was to place under the railroad track a torpedo, contrived to explode as the cars passed over it, and blow the train to atoms. They were detected by an employee of the company, and thirty-three men were arrested at Leona. Among them are 3 justices of the peace, 5 physicians, 1 judge, and 4 constables. Their leader was Joe Dows, who lately passed through here to Pittsburgh, on a requisition from Governor Johnson. Since then, O. D. Williams, of New York, has been the leader.

Death of Com. Barron.

The telegraph announced some time since, the decease at Norfolk, on the 21st inst., of the venerable Commodore Barron, the senior captain of the United States Navy. He was a native of Virginia, and entered the navy March 19th, 1799. His present commission dates May 23d, 1799. Commodore Barron has seen much service, though his opportunities of distinction were not so frequent as might have been expected. The affair of the Leopard and the Chesapeake, and the subsequent controversy and the fatal duel with Decatur, are matters of history which it would be unprofitable now to disturb. Commodore Barron was eighty-three years of age. By his death Commodore Charles Stewart, of this State, becomes Senior Captain of the Navy.

☞ The snow of Thursday knocked all the poetry and romance out of May-day and May Queens. Even our usually romantic and sentimental contemporary of the *Gazette* could not raise as much sentiment as a half frozen Leplander. We trust the white blossoms from the clouds had no bad effect upon the newly budding fruit.

Rail Road Meeting.

At a meeting, according to previous notice, held at the Court House, on Tuesday Evening, the 29th ult. Hon. Joseph M. Sterrett was appointed President, James C. Marshall and Presley Arbuckle, Esqs., Vice Presidents, and James C. Reid, Secretary.

G. A. Elliot, Esq. addressed the meeting, explained the object of it, moved that a *Committee of five* be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, which was adopted. The chair appointed Geo. A. Elliot, Col. I. Camp, Wm. A. Brown, C. B. Wright, M. Whallon, Esq., who retired and Mr. Marshall was requested to address the meeting, after a few remarks, he concluded by calling upon Mr. Hinckley, of Westfield, to address the meeting. After he had concluded, the Committee, through their Chairman, Geo. A. Elliot, reported the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, we have recently heard, and have reason to believe that the New York and Erie Railroad Company have abandoned their intention of extending a road with a six foot guage from Dunkirk to the State Line, and have compromised with the Buffalo and State Line Company, by which a Railroad with a guage of four feet ten inches is to be made to the State Line, with the evident intention of *compelling* the Erie and North East Company to adopt a similar guage, and thereby secure a continuous route from Buffalo to Cleveland;

And Whereas, the said two Companies in the State of New York, have in their mutual rivalry, by various negotiations among themselves, manifested a fixed determination to pass over the Erie North East Railroad with such guage as would suit their own interest, regardless alike of the solemn contract fairly and auxiously entered into by the New York and Erie Railroad Company, as also of the feelings and wishes of the people of this County, heretofore publicly expressed, and worse than all, in defiance of the law of our State, passed during the last session of our Legislatvre, fixing the guage at six feet or four feet eight and a half. Therefore.

Resolved, That we will aid and sustain, by every means in our power, the Erie and North East Railroad Company, in exacting compliance on their contract with the New York and Erie Railroad Company, and more especially we will *support* and maintain the laws of our State, requiring the guage of *all* Railroads running East from Erie to the N. Y. State Line, to be either six feet or four feet eight and a half, and those running West from Erie to the Ohio State Line, to be four feet and ten inches.

Resolved, That we have entire confidence in the honesty and integrity of the Directors of the Erie and North East Railroad, and are much gratified to learn from them that they cheerfully acquiesce in the obligations of the law, fixing the guage of their Road, and will be ready to comply with their contract with the New York and Erie Rail Road Company.

Resolved, That should any Railroad Corporation in the State of New York or Ohio, in opposition to the interest and feelings of this County, and in violation of the laws of the State, "*attempt*," by any *sinister influence*, to cause a track to be laid for any *other guage* than such as are authorized by law we pledge ourselves individually, and collecively, to devote our time and money to sustain our own laws and our own interest on our own soil.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Lowry, was adopted.

Resolved, That the people of this County are in favor of a Western connection by a four-foot ten inch track, and will sustain all efforts to construct it, and meet Ohio upon her guage, and it will be completed as soon as they are prepared to meet us.

A Newspaper Case.

We copy from the *Ledger* the following report of a case tried in Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, a few days ago, in which Major Freas, of the Germantown Telegraph, was plaintiff. We are glad to see that he gained a verdict without difficulty, in accordance with the common sense rule that when newspapers are left agreeable to order, subscribers are bound to pay for them. The case is of some importance to that numerous class of very respectable individuals who consider it no crime to cheat a printer:

Philip R. Freas vs. Jacob Kurz.—This was an action to recover the value of twelve years' subscription for the *Germantown Telegraph*, amounting to $30, on which a credit of $7,50 was allowed. The paper was ordered by the defendant, who is now Coroner of the county: at the time of the subscription he was a victualler, and had his stand in Callowhill street market. He directed a paper to be left at a Tavern near at hand; at the place mentioned it has been served ever since, until a year ago, when it was discontinued. The defence was, first the statute of limitations—and secondly that the paper was served at the tavern long after the defendant had quitted the market. His residence was known to the plaintiff, and it was argued the paper should have been served there, and that defendant was not liable for it. To the *statute of limitations*, it was replied that defendant had made payments within the six years.

The Judge charged the Jury that the defendant having ordered the paper to be left for him at a certain place, was responsible for it as long as it was left there—It was not the duty of the publisher to follow the subscriber from place to place, but it was the province of the latter to notify the publisher when he wished the paper to be discontinued, or the place of its service changed.—Verdict for plaintiff, $22,50.

☞ The *Gazette* is writing about "Erie and Her Prospects," "by means of Railroads and other improvements." We apprehend the *Gazette* will have to write such articles for some time before it will bring Erie back to the prosperous point she held in prospective previous to the meeting of the last legislature. We like to hear the advocates of the conduct of the Senator from Erie talk about our "railroad prospects!" it reminds us much of a boy whistling in a grave yard to keep up his courage. When Erie is back to the point she was last Fall in relation to rail and plank roads, articles about "Erie and her prospects" will have more of the ring of the pure metal. As it is, they sound much like the jingle of bogus coin.

☞ Three children were playing in the woods in Sheffield, Ashtabula county, Ohio, last week, when they came upon the lifeless body of a woman with legs and arms cut off. They told their story to their father and mother when they went home, and to some of their neighbors. Search was made the next day, but no body was found. Suspicion is fastened on the father of these children, who probably secreted the body after it was seen. His name is Herridan.

☞ The *Syracuse (N. Y.) Standard* says: "Several ladies appeared in the streets yesterday with dresses of very *laconic* pattern, and pantaloons *a la Turk*. The new style looks decidedly tidy and neat, and imparts to the wearer quite a sprightly and youthful appearance."

☞ Tupper admires Mill's statute of Jakcson. The editor of the Richmond Whig does not. So the latter thinks the former a blockhead, and his celebrity "Tupper's shallow." "What Tupper said," in rejoinder appeareth not yet.

☞ The West Chester Village Record, relates the following:—The mother of George Pharoah, recently visited her son, now under sentence of death in the jail of Chester county, and in her conversation stated to him that before his trial she had a remarable dream. She said she dreamed she came to West Chester and bought a bonnet. On putting it on, she discovered that instead of being trimmed with ribbons it was trimmed with *ropes!* This was before George's conviction. She considered the ropes so ominous of George's fate, that she hastened home without the bonnet.

☞ Among the Patents recently granted, we notice one to Thos. J. Sloan, of New York. "For *apparatus for setting up ten pins!*" There, we thought our name would be immortalized some day. "Set 'em up."

☞ The Wilmet Proviso has assumed a new form in Pennsylvania. Hon David Wilmot is to be *provided* with a Judgeship.—*Ex paper.*

Yes, and that, too, by the manoeuvering of Governor Johnston and the whig members of the late Legislature. Verily, the laborer is worthy of his hire.

☞ A relative of the Fox family in Syracuse has publicly stated that she was taught by one of the Fox girls how to produce the rappings; that the secret was given to her on the promise that she would become a medium. She states that it is done by the toes and knees.

☞ Hon. John W. Davis is spoken of by the *Mississippian*, a leading Democratic paper, for the Presidency; and it says that he would get the electoral vote of every southern State. Pretty well to begin on, but we guess it is not enough.

☞ General Winfield Scott is still suffering, it is said, from disease contracted in the Mexican campaign. The Louisville Journal says he would have protracted his stay in that city had not the feeble state of his health made it advisable for him to hasten southward.

☞ It is stated in our Western exchanges that a heavy emigration is going forward towards Oregon—The emigrants are principally from Indiana, Iowa, and Michigan.

☞ The patent for Paine's Light taken out in England, is published in the Scientific American of this week This light was patented on the 12th of June last, but ha only been recently enrelled.

☞ The Boston *Times* closes a long eulogistic article on Mr. Barnum, by saying that he owes his fortune to as proper, judicious and liberal plan of advertising in the newspapers.

A Boy's Head Cut Off—Dreadful Accident.—We are informed of a dreadful occurence that took place on Friday afternoon last, on the Little Miami Railroad, at the "Gravel Bank," two miles this side of Morrow. The lumber train had passed along a few minutes before the passenger train for Springfield came along, and as it was making the curve there, the engineer saw, when within about thirty yards, a body apparently asleep on the track! The whistle was blown, and every effort was made to prevent the disaster, but to no purpose. The wheels of the locomotive were fatal to the sleeper, instantly severing the head from the trunk! It was ascertained that the person thus sent to eternity was a youth who had been loitering around the Gravel Banks for several days, but who he was or where he came from, no one could tell. His body was lying inside the rails, his head resting on one rail for a pillow. The gentlemanly superintendant, Mr. Clements, procured a coffin, and had the remains decently buried.—*Cin. Com.*

Shocking Tragedy in Green County, Mississippi.—The Paulding (Miss.) Clarion of the 5th inst., contains a long account of the elopement of the wife of a planter in Florida, with a Mississippian from Hancock county, by the name of Hardly, who was living in Florida. The guilty wife assisted her paramour to steal from her injured husband, a negro boy, a pair of horses and carriage, and some other property, with which they started for the residence of Hardly's mother, in Hancock county, Mississippi, which point they safely reached. The outraged husband finding himself robbed of property as well as his wife, made preparations to pursue, a friend named Smith was delegated the task of pursuing the fugitives. Smith traced them to Green county, Mississippi, where he learned they had arrived in Hancock, and were at the residence of Hardly's mother. The assistance of a couple of resolute men was obtained; and the three made a descent on the house, and entered the room where Hardly and his guilty companion were found before he was aware of their presence.

Hardly came near making good his escape from the three. But a blow with the butt of one of the guns knocked him down, when he was securely bound. The property was recovered, but the woman declined going back to Florida and was left.—The party returned to Green with their prisoner, when Smith dismissed his assistants, and after ironing his legs, took his seat by the side of Hardly in the carriage, the negro boy riding on Smith's horse. Two miles from where he left his assistants, Smith was afterwards found murdered, his money all taken as well as one of the carriage horses, and Hardly and the negro gone. The conclusion is that the negro, who had imprudently been permitted to carry a bowie knife, stabbed Smith from behind, and then relieved Hardly, and that the latter, as his hands were loose, also assisted.

Something to be Explained.—On Saturday morning last, a clerk in the Philadelphia post office was detected with the mail received on that morning from Vicksburg, Miss., secreted in the breast-pocket of his great coat. There was, of course, a great stir in the office. The postmaster, the government agent who has charge of the deprideation department, a number of the clerks, and the young man charged with the crime, were assembled together; high words passed; threats, criminations, and recriminations, but it all amounted to nothing, for the guilty party was allowed to go unmolested. More than this, he was not suspended until the matter should be investigated. Yesterday morning he made his appearance in the office to perform his duty the same as if nothing had happened, and would have been permitted to do so, if the *clerks* in the office had not had more regard for the public interest and their own safety than the authorities in that establishment.—*Pennsylvanian.*

Murder in Lawrence County.—A party of men and boys, in Shenango township, Lawrence county, were engaged in serenading a newly married couple, one evening last week, when a man presented himself at the door of the house with a pistol in hand, whereupon the crowd dispersed, except one young man, named Thomas Mornes, who was shortly afterwards found dead near the dwelling. How he came by his death is not known. We know the deceased well; he was a poor, inoffensive creature, and doubtless enticed by others to go upon the expedition which resulted in his premature death.—Let this be a warning to others who would engage in such unlawful sport.—*Beaver Star.*

Shocking Occurrence.—On Tuesday last, the 22d inst. four little boys, living at Frankville, in Cattaraugus co., were amusing themselves by digging wells, on the banks of the Ischua creek, a small stream running through the village, and finding some roots, three of them commenced eating them. A son of Mr. James Worden, a lad five years old, was immediately seized with convulsions, and died in about half an hour. Another lad, son of Elder Towsley, died in the greatest agony about three hours after eating. Another son of Mr. T., who had eaten, though not entirely out of danger, is likely to recover. The poison proves to be wild parsnip root. A child, in this city last week, was taken violently sick after eating some roots which she had picked up in the road near the market. It is supposed to have been wild parsnip root, though it was not known for what purpose it was in town. Fortunately the child had not partaken of sufficient quantity to produce serious consequences. Parents should carefully refrain their children from tasting such things.—*Buff. Republic.*

The Kent County Murder.—Drummond, the man who was arrested about a month since, on a charge of participating in the terrible murder of the Cosden family, in Kent county, on the night of the 37th Feb., has made a confession declaring the *true authors of the crime*. He says that five men, named Murphy, Shelton, Ford, Sills and Taylor, were the perpetrators of the murder. He denies that he had anything to do with it; he only knew of the conspiracy of the others for the commission of the crime. The four first mentioned have been arrested at Havre de Grace. Taylor, the other party, is still at large.

Webster, the uncle of Mrs. Cosden, who has been suspected, is not implicated by the confession. Drummond also intimates that if some of the Cosden family had not escaped and given the alarm, it was the intention of the murderers to have followed up their work of massacre and plunder, families in the neighborhood, against whom they entertained feelings of hostility, would have been murdered the same night.

The disclosure thus made, add a deeper dye to the already terrible crime which has agitated the community where it occurred.

Identity of Idea.—A French caricature represents Louis Napoleon trying on a crown, which has slipped over his face, upon which he remarks—*truly my uncle had a greater head than I!* At a recent public meeting somewhere in New England, a sentiment was giving something like this: The honorable Mr. A., the mantle of his father has fallen upon him *and smothered him.*

Melancholy Accident.—We regret to learn, that Justin Nathaniel Folsom, son of Rev. Nathaniel S. Folsom, of this place, a sailor on board the barque Ionia, met with a fatal accident on the 20th inst.—The vessel was on her way from Smyrna, and when one hundred miles from Cape Ann, he was aloft furling sails, when she gave a lurch by which he was precipitated to the deck below, a distance of seventy-five feet, fracturing his skull so that he died in two hours.—*Meadville Democrat.*

MARRIED.

In McKean on the 24th inst., by the Rev. S. Green, O. H. Main, Esq., of Erie, and Miss Emma. M. daughter of J. Parmeter, Esq., of McKean.

On the 17th inst., in Springfield, by Rev. J. M. Williams, Mr. Prosper Kerr and Miss Mary P. Harrington, both of Connaut, Pa.

On the 24 inst., by the same, Mr. Azro Goff, P. M., and Miss Harriet Kneeland, both of McKean.

On the 24th inst., by Rev. J. Vance, Mr. Myron Hutchinson Silverthorn to Miss Mary Ann Russell, both of Fairview.

DIED.

At his residence in West Girard, on the 5th ult., Mr James Laughlin, aged 76 years. He was one of the earliest settlers of Erie county.

On Wednesday the 23d ult., Mrs. Isabella Caldwell, aged 22 years.

Very suddenly, in Waterford, on Monday afternoon, Mrs. ——Hutchins, consort of Samuel Hutchins, Esq.

At his residence, in Millcreek township, on Wednesday the 23d ult., Mr. Michael Riblet, in the 73d year of his age.

On the 29th ult., at Girard, Mrs. Charlotte Callin, in the 34th year of her age.

J. W. DOUGLASS,

Attorney at Law.—Office over Williams' & Wright's Banking Establishment: entrance first door west, on the Public Square.

NEW GOODS.

No. 5 Cheap Side, On Reed Square.

THE Subscribers are now receiving daily by Express and Canal a large and general assortment of Spring and Summer Goods, consisting of,

Dry Goods, Groceries,
Hardware, Crockery,
Paper Hanging, Iron, Nails, &c

And a great assortment of Carpenters' and Joiners' Tools, all of which have been purchased for CASH and will be sold at a small advance.

GEO. SELDEN & SON.

Erie, May 3, 1851. 51.

New Goods for the People.

THE Subscriber is now receiving his Spring stock of Goods, consisting of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Glassware, Nails, Liquors, &c. which is large and well selected and bought cheap, and will be sold at very low prices for ready pay (*say word for it.*) and cheap as any other in Erie. Good madder prints from 6¼c to 8c, and the best English and Merrimac at 12½c per yard, and all other goods in proportion.

Wishing to do a more ready pay business will make the prices so low as to induce persons to make ready pay their trade goods. People are requested to call and take a look at our goods and prices. It will cost nothing to do that, and will satisfy you.

Erie, May 3, 1851. SMITH JACKSON

Cheaper Than the Cheapest.

CALL at No. 6, Cheapside, and see the cheapest stock of Staple and Fancy Goods ever offered in this market. Just received a general assortment of Ladies Dress Goods, Bonnets, Bonnet Trimmings, Gloves and Hosiery, &c., &c. These goods were mostly bought at auction for cash, at great sacrifices, and will be sold at corresponding low figures. More hereafter.

May 1, 1-51. C. M. TIBBALS.

Cheap Hardware Store.

I AM receiving a large and well selected stock of Heavy and Shelf Hardware as was ever brought to this market, and will be sold at a small advance, as I do business on the cash system only. Those wishing anything pertaining to Hardware can save money by calling at the Cheap Hardware Store. Among my stock can be found Iron both round and square, from ⅜ to 3 inches, flat bar from 2 to 12 inches, hoop, band, scroll, [illegible] of all sizes, Sable nail rods, English and American blister steel, axel arms, springs, ground boxes, malable castings, brass kettles, anvils, vises, smith's bellows, dirt picks, crowbars, mattocks, grubbes, coil, log, trace, halter, sash and jack chains, spikes both wrought and cut, from four to eight inches, nails, brads, &c., also fence, floor, finishing and wrought nails, horse shoes, butts and hinges of all kinds and sizes, gate latches, nails, cross cut and circular saws, friction rollers, shovels, spades, hoes, scythes, snaths, forks and a good assortment of mechanics tools, &c., &c.

RUFUS SELDEN.

Erie, May, 3d 1851. No 3 Reed House.

TAP BORERS and Box Scrapers at the Cheap Hardware Store

RUFUS SELDEN

SHEEP SHEARS—A good assortment at

May 3d, 1851. RUFUS SELDEN, No 3 Reed House.

Rochester Rappings a Humbug.

WE have no faith in the insane theories of the "Rappers," and so far from desiring to anticipate spiritual intercourse, am for myself contented to remain a little longer and sell my goods of great bargains, giving the usual satisfaction to my customers. We are now fully prepared with a large stock of Cloths, Cassimeres, Vestings and Trimmings, to supply and make up Clothing, and my arrangements for the manufacture of the same of all descriptions, in the prevailing mode, are of the most perfect character. It is my determination that every one shall be satisfied who patronize my establishment.