

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY-MORNING, OCTOBER 25, 1851.

Letter of Senator Fenton.

A letter from Thomas S. Fenton, Esq., State Senator from Philadelphia county, to Wm. A. GALBRAITH, Esq., of this city, on our Gauge Law, and the questions connected therewith, will be found in our columns to-day. We publish this letter with pleasure, and invite for its careful perusal. It is devoted to the discussion of questions of the most vital importance to Erie, and in the opinion of the writer, (and we coincide with him) to the whole State. The Senator handles the subject with great force and power, and coming, as it does, from one whose voice will be potential in the body of which he is a member, it cannot fail to awake a general interest in the question throughout the whole State. But we forbear comment. The letter speaks for itself, and to it we refer all interested.

The Result in the State.

We are still unable to give full returns of the election in the State, but hope to do so next week; in the meantime, we do not dare to rely upon our columns with partial reports. The majority may not be, officially, as large as we claimed last week, but it will be sufficiently decisive—say about 10,000. Closer majority will be larger, while the Judges of the Supreme Court will be less, and Campbell perhaps defeated. The Legislature will be, in the House, 54 Democrats, and 46 Whigs; in Senate, 16 Democrats, 16 Whigs and 1 Native.

The Grand Result in Ohio.

The rest of the whigs of Ohio, (anything, surpasses that of their political brethren in Pennsylvania. There is scarcely a greater spot of whiggery left in the gallant Buckeye State. Reuben Wood is re-elected Governor by a large majority, probably 15,000, and the Democrats will have a majority in both branches of the Legislature. In that State, as well as in Pennsylvania, the whigs endeavored to keep themselves from sinking by pinning themselves to the military coal-tar of Gov. Scott. It was of no avail, however. The Cleveland Plaindealer states that majority for Governor Wood will range from 15,000 to 25,000!! We think Ohio is fairly entitled to the laurels.

EF Non-Intervention.—The Washington Republic has a strong article on the interference of England in the affairs of Cuba, and cautions England that the first show of British intervention will be the signal for a movement which neither Cuba nor Great Britain, nor all the European powers combined, can resist, for on this point the mind of the American people is made up.

It stated the only security for Cuba is to be the protection of the United States government. "We are glad to observe a determination on the part of the Fillmore administration to plant itself on the Monroe doctrine (heretofore so much denounced by the whigs) of non-intervention by European powers in the affairs of this continent, even in reference to Cuba. We hope that the administration will, reduce its steps, and extend the application of the doctrine to affairs in Central America.

What Causes Hard Times.

"Where all the money goes to?" and "What causes the tightness in the money market?" are two questions as hard to solve, as the opinion of some, as that world-wide problem, "Where is Sir John Franklin?" Does a Bank break, or some mercantile house in New York or Boston burst up—does some speculating visionary without capital, but a superabundance of brass, succeed in getting others as visionary as himself upon his paper to the tune of half-a-million or so, and then, when credit can no longer be got by hook or by crook, make "one grand failure," and flourish in the newspapers as paying but three per cent, we are immediately saluted from a thousand prefaces with the cry of "hard times;" and then it is that the political tricksters of Greeley school seize upon the event as evidence of a want of some kind of patent legislation. That stalling, the Tariff, is generally made to bear the burthen, especially if some important election is about to take place—if not, then we hold it is the want of more Banking facilities, or some other modern contrivance to secure a living to the rapidly increasing numbers of non-producers in the country. Now, in our opinion, the whole question is contained in a nutshell, and the solution as easily extracted as the meat of a nut, if the inquirer will but go as naturally to work—Over-trading, over-speculation, and extravagance generally, we take it, is at the bottom of the whole matter.

Building cities on paper, like Dunkirk, and then speculating in corner lots—building factories where factories won't pay—constructing railroads where plank roads would pay better and answer the purpose as well—buying goods on credit and selling them on the same terms—all these, and much more of the same sort, are among the causes that conspire to make "hard times," and consequently, stringency in the Money Market. Again, a New Yorker, a Bostonian, or a Philadelphian, is a more nobody in upper-torso now—a day uses he has made the grand tour of Europe—unless he has spent thousands in the purchase of "old paintings" in Italy, which, if the truth were known, are not as "old" as they profess, but have been manufactured by some causing artist to satisfy the parveneability of such connoisseurs; or thousands more in obtaining letters-patent to "good society" at home by giving grand dinners or superb suppers in London and Paris, at which his son or his daughter had the "honor" of dancing with the "accomplished Lady Betty Nonconformist," or the "distinguished Lord Diddlefaddle." And when they come home the plain and simple style of living to which they had been accustomed, appears insipid and stale, and then comes boxes at the Opera, grand parties which cost not less than \$1,500, according to the newspapers, splendid "turn outs," and servants, in every complete the receipt for "tightness in the money market," so far as they are concerned. If the effect of such extravagance stopped here, no one would have a right to complain, but its influence is felt down through every strata of the body politic. In the middle walks of life thousands have been spent in a single night, much of which no doubt ought to have been appropriated to the payment of debts, upon a Swedish singing girl and her troupe of foreign followers. But why pursue the subject farther—let this one fact suffice. According to the New York Herald, it appears that 21,000 persons attended the different places of amusement in that city night, and the receipts of these places are over \$10,000 per evening. Add to this the immense sum received by saloon-keepers, gaming establishments, and other places of equal interest, and we think it will not be difficult to answer the question, "What causes hard times?"

EF Dissertors Postscript.—The election in South Carolina, which took place last week, was for members to a Southern Congress—the date of which, as near as we can gather it, is to divide the South from the North. One would naturally suppose that in South Carolina, after all her "finest feathers," there would be no difficulty in choosing men ready for "war and carnage," but not so—in every other election there were two sets of candidates, and the result turned upon the following inference:

"**EF** Secession is for immediate, instant, dissolution of the Union."

EF Co-operation is for dissolution of the Union: as soon as other States, or one other State, can be got to co-operate."

On these issues, the Secessionists have been most gloriously beaten, and the hot-heads of South Carolina must rest as easy as possible until "one other State" will join them in the attempt to break up the Union. Judging from the result of the elections in Georgia and Mississippi, they will have to wait some time.

"**EF** It has been suggested that an Editor who uses the phrase, "base fidelity," for "base fide," is the last person who ought to twit others of "badly-spelled letters." The Editor of the Gazette, we presume, will understand this."

"**EF** Evidence of Tightness in the Money Market.

"The amount of gold received for coinage at the U.S. Mint, from the 1st to the 15th inst., was \$2,610,000. At the same rate the receipts for the month will exceed \$3,000,000."

Gen. Scott's Prospects.

"Now that I am so soon dead, I wonder what I was begun for." Of all men in the country Gen. Scott can best realize the inquiry contained in the above casket. His Presidential prospects have indeed been "scared down 'er," and it now seems a wonder of wonders what in the name of politics they were "begun for." Last spring all seemed fair for the "gallant looking officer on the white horse" quietly walking off with the whig nomination for President; and with that to back him, we have no doubt, he thought it would go hard indeed if his friends could not carry him in on the strength of his military seal. Pennsylvania and Ohio, the very back-bone of the country in a political contest, led off by nominating him a year in advance of the proper time. This, we doubt, the General looked upon as a most adroit manœuvre—equal to taking a fortress of the enemy by surprise; but as it turned out, this does not appear to be as much advantage gained as his friends hoped for. Indeed, Pennsylvania and Ohio, although taken by the Scott men that year in the nation, have proved to be like many other prisoners of a victorious army—true, strong to be kept. In other words, although the levers of "soup" took the Keystone and the Buckeye States early in the spring, they could not keep them through the Autumn—hence, Gen. Scott's Presidential prospects that looked as fresh as a new born rose in June, are now, in October, as yellow as the autumn leaves, and give evidence of their sure decay. And that, too, let us add, is heralded with satisfaction by some of the most reliable whig journals in other States, thus indicating the popular feeling in those quarters. For instance, the New York Courier and Enquirer, in speaking of the result in this state, declares "that as friends of the Compromises and the Union" it "long since deemed it a duty to place on record" its "conviction that the success of its party in Pennsylvania "would be a national misfortune." Of course, Col. Webb knew that the success of Johnston in Pennsylvania this Fall was equivalent to the nomination of Scott in the whig National Convention next summer, hence he declares, in another part of the article, his belief that the defeat of Johnston "does not prevent the State being won in 1852 upon the Presidential question, but only goes to prove that the sentiments of the convention which nominated Scott and Johnston, are not the sentiments of the whig party, and that the nominees of that convention, cannot command the vote of the whig party of that State." Scott and Johnston have been defeated in Pennsylvania but not the whig party." And again the Courier and Enquirer declares:

"But there is still another lesson taught the whigs by their recent defeat in Pennsylvania and Ohio. It is, that Gen. Scott cannot be elected to the Presidency in 1852. His nomination by the same Convention which nominated Governor Johnston, effectively drove him from every Southern State, and rendered it certain to us that he would not be supported by any Southern support. We, therefore, proclaimed, in the course of our discussion of the question, even if he were certain of the votes of Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. And we now repeat, that even if the recent elections the whig party had succeeded in Ohio and Pennsylvania, Gen. Scott could not have been the candidate of our party with any reasonable prospects of success. But defeated as we have been in these two great States, when rallying 'round the whig party, under the name of Scott, that defeat puts at rest all expectation of his being our candidate for the Presidency in 1852."

So much from the Courier and Enquirer, a paper that gave to its party the same Whig.

The New York Mirror, the paper that first nominated Gen. Taylor, is still more explicit. Hear it:

"Let us say, frankly, that we rejoice in the result of the election in Pennsylvania, which set the seal of popular recognition upon the sound decisions and wisdom of Abolitionism, under whatever name they may be called. The whole is greater than a part: the Union is greater and better, than a fraction or party. The people, thank God, have a Disunionist as their traitor Tressen; and the days of Fanaticism, both at the North and at the South, we trust are numbered." No man with the smell of Presbyterian upon his garments is worthy to be trusted with the smallest public office and every true patriot should swear, and wish, like the old Roman, make his children swear, to give no quarter to these enemies of his country's peace."

Gen. Scott, backed by Ward, Johnston, and the Abolition whigs of Ohio, cannot divest himself of the "smell of Free-soulism upon his garments." With them he must stand or fall. Johnston has already fallen, and with him the hope, if ever, was entertained, of carrying Pennsylvania for Scott. Ohio stands in the same attitude—her politicians, imitating those in Pennsylvania of the same way of thinking, declared for Scott in hopes his military name would help them to carry the State for Vinton. Vain hope. With all his glory—with all his military achievements—with all his renown acquired in two wars, the "smell of Free-soulism upon his garments" was too strong for the people, and in both States, they overthrow his friends and with them his hopes at the same time! While this is the state of His Presidential prospects at the North, what are they in the South? His friends never hoped much from that quarter, and they are not likely to be disappointed, if we may judge from the tone of the Southern press. The following, from the Louisville Courier, by no means an ultra Southern paper, is indicative of the feeling in that quarter:

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Gen. Scott, published in the Courier of Vinton last, may be justly regarded as defining his position for the cause of 1852. Promptly he declines to answer interrogatories, now and hereafter, as to his political opinions; and refers to his past life for "character and principles"; if he shall continue to sustain him so as to offend, his friends cannot justly expect for him a single electoral vote South of the Ohio River. The suspicion of his disloyalty to the Union, and his opposition to the compromises of 1850, and the fugitive slave bill particularly, would be required from the man of his choice.

The maintenance of the fugitive slave law and of the Compromises of 1850, are now engraven among the cardinal principles of the Southern Whig school, and must be openly, without mental reservation, and publicly subscribed to by any candidate who hopes to obtain the support of the Southern people.

The South does not affiliate with any who feel not the same, and the Convention shall adopt as its base the affirmation of the principle suggested, the Southern Whigs will be arrayed in 1852 under the banner of a conservative statesman of their own school.

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