Political and General News.

From Washington.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Daily Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.

The President had a reception this morning, which was well attended. The day was fine, and he and the cabinet appeared to be in good spirits.

They have not got through with the Cuban affair and all its consequences yet. Though the British subjects who were sent to Spain among the followers of Lopez have been already returned, there is no certainty that our men will be. None can positively state that the Queen's Government will be satisfied with the propositions and explanations of the Secretary of the State.

But the case of JOHN S. THRASHER assumes an aspect of more importance than that of any of the prisoners. He, without any evidence of having committed any offense against the Cuban Government, is persecuted and is to be cruelly sacrificed, because he is an American citizen, and because he interfered in behalf of the American prisoners.

That this harsh treatment is occasioned by the fact that he is an American and was suspected of sympathizing with the revolution, is not to be denied. Commodore Stockton offered a resolution to-day, calling for information as to the charges against THRASHER, and the proceedings against him, with a view to see whether he had been as much wronged as was supposed.

But it will turn out that this Government has no information on the subject, none indeed upon which they can act, except by asking for Thrasher, clemency and mercy, as for the prisoners of the Lopez expedition.

THRASHER was hurried off to Spain in a vessel specially chartered for that purpose, and for the reason that an energetic appeal in his behalf was expected from the United States Government, through the new Consul, Mr. Sharkie.

The Cuban authorities, it is believed and stated by Americans in Havana, do not wish nor intend that Mr. Thrasher shall come back to the United States, because his energy might be devoted with much ardor to revenge for injuries and indignities that he has suffered.

Mr. Webster has sent instructions to Mr. Barringer, our Minister in Spain to procure THRASHER's release, if possible. He has also applied for a copy of the record of the proceedings against him, so as to be able to determine whether there is ground for an interposition in his favor by this Government.

If there is no ground for the use of force, in case persuasion should fail, then Mr. THRASHER is, I fear in a very bad way.

Representations have been made to-day to the Government in favor of THRASHER by some of his friends and they may have a good effect.

Judging from the constitution of the Committees on Naval Affairs, of the two Houses, I should think that steam projects would be very successful.

Two of them—one for a line of mail steamers to Galway, and another for a line from California to China, were submitted, and referred to Dr. Gwin's Committee in the Senate to-day. X. Y.

A WHOLE FAMILY POISONED.—Yesterday morning, a servant girl in the employ of Elisha Forrest, named Nancy Farrell, was arrested and brought before his Honor the Mayor, charged with murder—by the administration of poison. Within the last five weeks, the entire family of Mr. Forrest have been seized with a sudden sickness at the stomach—and three of them, the wife and two children, aged respectively two and eight years, have suddenly died. Mr. Forrest and oldest son, who were also at one time considered in a critical condition, have partially recovered. The last of the three died day before yesterday, when the physician requested permission to hold a post mortem examination, it being his opinion that the child was poisoned. The result of the examination has not been made public. It has been ascertained that on Tuesday last the servant girl, Nancy Farrell, purchased arsenic at T. Salter's Apothecary, on Broadway, for the purpose as she stated of killing rats. It is supposed that the poison was administered through some of the food of which the family partook. Mr. Forrest resides on High street, near Collard. Nancy Farrell was committed to jail by the mayor, for an examination on Monday morning next at 10 o'clock.—*Cin. Com.* Dec. 5.

LATE AND INTERESTING VISIT TO JAPAN.—We find in our California files an interesting account of a recent visit to Japan, which appears to be somewhat of an improvement on the singular and jealous non-intercourse policy of that people, though they are still sufficiently afflicted in that way:

"The brig Rose, Capt. Anderson, on her recent trip from Singapore to San Francisco, was disabled and compelled to make for the nearest port, which proved to be a village called Nopkiang, in Japan, with a population of 25,000. It is believed this is the first time a foreign vessel ever entered the port, and no sooner had Capt. Anderson dropped anchor than his vessel was surrounded by three hundred Japanes boats, who kept constant guard around him until his departure. He was, after some difficulty, allowed to go singly on shore, and was escorted by sixty men through the principal street. All the places of business was closed, although Capt. A., when he neared the port, saw an extensive market-house open, and an animated trade appeared to be going on. He was treated kindly, and furnished with sixty men to repair his vessel, although, while he remained, three or four thousand additional police were brought from an adjoining island. They appeared to be glad at his departure."

TERRIBLE CRIME IN INDIANA.—The Logansport Journal gives us the following particulars:

"Conrad Sult, whose death resulted suddenly, it is now ascertained by evidences leading to the disinterment and examination of the body, no doubt was the victim of his own wife's wickedness. The body bore the marks of blows, and the stomach had poison in it."

A neighbor named John Hopkin's whose intimacy at Sult's house had been suspected, arrived there before Sult died; he was seen giving something in a spoon to Sult, who made every effort to reject it.—Hopkins had previously told the neighbors that he had a powerful poison for dogs and wolves, which would kill a man if rubbed upon him. At the time of Sult's death, Hopkin's wife was very ill and expected to die. Since that time she has recovered partially, and Hopkin's has gone crazy. One of the children told a neighbor the day before its father's death, that they were going to have a funeral at their house that week, and when asked to explain, said that its mother said that father would die and be buried this week, Mrs. Sult also told a brother of Sult's, that she intended to kill Sult before the snow came.

After the final burial, Mrs. Sult sold off the things and left. She was heard of five or six miles above Logansport.

ERNEST KISS.—This is the singular name of a singular man, and one of the most distinguished of the Hungarian Generals who were taken prisoners and executed by the Austrians in the late war.—The following notice of him, is condensed from an interesting account of Hungarian Generals, published in a foreign journal:

Ernest Kiss was a wealthy proprietor, owning twenty-three villages, and was a man of excessive personal elegance as well as chivalric courage. He regularly sent his linen all the way from Hungary to Paris to be washed, and was, in similar respects, a D'Orsey as well as a Bayard. His coolness in danger was remarkable; and it is told of him that on one day, within reach of an Austrian Battery, making an observation, he ordered his servant to bring him a cup of chocolate. A shot took it from his hand and killed his horse. "Clumsy rascals!" said Kiss, "they have upset my breakfast." When taken out with three others to be shot, he was superbly dressed. The order was given to fire, and his companions fell, while he stood untouched. "You have forgotten me," said Kiss in his usual tone of voice. The corporal of the plattoon stepped up and fired, and the ball striking him in the forehead, he fell dead without a struggle.

FROM NICARAGUGA.—Accounts from Nicaragua state that a good deal of excitement exists there because of the outrage on the *Prometheus*, and hopes are entertained that the occurrence will lead to some positive action on the part of our Government, which will settle the question of sovereignty of that country. Vanderbilt, however, is said to receive universal condemnation for refusing to pay charges which are exacted upon and admitted by all merchant steamers visiting the port of San Juan de Nicaragua.

MINNESOTA POLITICIANS.—When this territory was organized, Aaron Goodrich, of Tennessee, was appointed Chief Justice. Mr. Goodrich formerly resided in Buffalo, a clerk in a foundry, and was at one time an Alderman from the First Ward. He was a young gentleman of ordinary talents—impetuous and reckless in his temperament. He was, while Alderderman, indicted for an assault with attempt to kill—having entered the store of Mr. Raynor and attacked him with a deadly weapon. Subsequently he removed to the north part of Michigan where he figured as President or Cashier of a wild-cat bank. The next that was heard of him was his appointment to the important office of Chief Justice of Minnesota—an appointment which every one who knew him regarded as "not fit to be made." He was removed about two months since for conduct unbecoming his station—and Jerome Fuller, Esq., of this city, appointed to succeed him. We learn that Judge Goodrich, however, has concluded that the President had no power to remove him, and avows his determination to hold his courts as usual, disregarding entirely the order for his removal.—The Court is composed of three Judges, and it has not transpired whether the other two will recognize Goodrich or Fuller as the Chief Justice. On the whole, they are likely to have a lively time in Minnesota.—*Albany State Register.*

A TRAGEDY IN KENTUCKY.—The Louisville *Courier*, of Friday, gives the particulars of a seduction and revenge affair in that State, about three miles from Nicholasville, Jessamine county:

Mr. Ben. Ford, a carpenter, on his return from a short absence, was informed by his daughter that an improper intimacy had existed for some months between Mr. George Frazier, a constable, residing in the neighborhood, and Mrs. Ford. Immediately on hearing this, Ford, maddened to desperation, took down his rifle and went to Frazier's residence. He called him out, and when Frazier made his appearance, he leveled his rifle and shot. Frazier dropped down before the trigger was pulled, and escaped the ball, but his son, a lad of some twelve years, who was immediately behind him, received it in his shoulder, which was badly shattered and broken.—Ford immediately gave himself up, and on trial was held to bail in the sum of $300. Public opinion seems to favor him strongly, and the only regret was that the seducer was not the sufferer. The lady is of a very respectable and wealthy family with whom she is now staying.

GEOLOGY IN PENNSYLVANIA.—The State geological survey of Pennsylvania has been prosecuted in the Southern Anthracite Basin, since the month of July last, by Prof. Rogers and his corps; but the work is now suspended on account of the inclemency of the season. The researches thus far have been conducted with care and method, and have resulted in a large increase to the positive knowledge before possessed of the distribution and range of the veins of coal. Nearly all the smaller basins into which the general coal field is divided, have been traced and connected, and their centres, or the lines of separation of the Northern and Southern dips, are accurately determined by measurements. Two extensive sets of surveys have been carried through the valley, and preparations are in progress for a Topographical Map, which shall exhibit the leading features and values of the coal lands. Professor Rogers expresses an opinion, that large amounts of money have been wasted by the present mode of sinking slopes down the inclination of the coal veins on the sides of the basins. Perpendicular shafts in the basins are recommended as far preferable as well as less expensive.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.—Not many months since, at an Episcopal Sunday school, not a hundred miles from Boston, the rector of the church was examining the children after church on the lesson of the day, the crucifixion of the Saviour. After some remarks addressed to the school on this event of the Scripture, he asked: "My children can you tell me who those people were that crucified our blessed Redeemer?" A dead silence prevailed. The question, from its extreme simplicity, puzzled them.—"What!" said the minister, "do you not know who they were?" At last a faint little voice responded in the corner of the room with, "I know sir,"—"Well, who were they, my little child?" "The Loco Focos, sir!" The effect upon the parents of the children, many of whom were present, can better be imagined than described. And what a comment it is upon partizan inculcation!

COMPROMISING THE WHIG PARTY.—The Democratic party, in Congress, laid the resolutions, endorsing the Compromise, on the table. The whigs passed the resolutions approving of the "pacific measures." Let us see which made the most out of the movement. The Democrats went into the House on the most harmonious terms, and elected a Speaker on the first ballot, almost every man coming square up to the rack. The whig gun, on the contrary, exploded and kicked the gunners sky high—the highest vote for Speaker being 21, which was cast for Chandler, of Pennsylvania. Fillmore and his friends are harmonizing the whig party with a vengeance.—*Albany Knickerbocker.*

THE REVOLUTION IN MEXICO.—A correspondent of the New Orleans *Picayune*, says of the Revolution in Mexico:

"I think, from all I can learn from good authority, and from persons who know the country and the men well, that the revolution in Eastern Mexico was got up merely to have a chance to inundate the Mexican Provinces on the Rio Grande with goods from the American side of the river, free of duty.—Brownsville has been rapidly going down within the last six months, in consequence of the severe watch kept by the Mexican authorities over the smugglers, and, in consequence, patriotism rose, and pitched into the Mexican authorities. This I was told by a gentleman from Galveston, who had just returned from Brownsville, and who had lived there long enough nearly to become Mayor. He says the town was being deserted, on account of lack of trade.—Hence the revolution."

NEW MARK OF DISTINCTION.—A resolution has been offered in the Kentucky Legislature, which provides that the keeper of the Penitentiary shall *dye the nose* of each male convict *perfectly black*, with some chemical preparation which cannot be washed off or removed until time shall wear it away—the application to be renewed as often as may be necessary during the term of imprisonment. Pike of the *Kentucky Flag*, is in favor of the resolution, with an amendment requiring the Sheriff of each county to catch every delinquent newspaper subscriber in his bailiwick, and black his nose, and keep it blacked until he pays up!

A CRYSTAL PALACE IN NEW YORK.—A petition is about to be presented to the Common Council of New York for the use of Madison Square for the erection of a Crystal Palace to accommodate the second Great World's Fair in 1852. Mr. Paxton has made the design—500 by 200 feet, two stories; and the contractors agree to have the structure completed in three months. Mr. Riddle, United States Commissioner at the World's Fair, has the pledge of some seven hundred contributors of articles.

DESPERATE.—A young woman named Mrs. Westcott, at about 9 o'clock last evening, threw herself off the quay near Brown & Larkin's warehouse, with the evident intention of drowning herself. Mr. P. Johnson, connected with the warehouse, hearing the noise, rushed out and plunged into the river, and sustained her, until assistance arrived. She was about 25 years of age, and a resident of Geneva, Wisconsin. Some domestic trouble was evidently the cause of the act. She was cared for in the gentlest manner and is now recovering.—*Daily Wisconsin.*

☞ A MISSIONARY Preacher in California thus describes an incident in his experience:—

"At Columbia the most eligible room we could obtain for the evening was a restaurant. When we arrived at this place, the tables were occupied by monte-dealers. The keeper of the house, with great politeness to me, notified those present that the house was to be opened that evening for religious worship, and requested the gentlemen when they had finished their games, to give place to preaching. The proprietor kindly arranged the benches for us. With the bar behind me, my Bible on a monte table, and a mixed audience before me, I proclaimed the offers of the gospel.

COMMERCE OF THE WESTERN RIVERS.—We see by a memorial to Congress in favor of removing the obstructions in the western rivers, that the amount of commerce floated on the western rivers during the last year is estimated at $220,000,000; it is greater than the amount of the total exports of the nation.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1851.

Loss of the Steamer Mayflower.

The magnificent steamer Mayflower, commanded by Capt. Van Allen, went ashore about eighteen miles above this port on Tuesday night last. We have been unable to glean any of the particulars other than that there were no lives lost, though the passengers and crew suffered severely from the intense cold. It is supposed she will be a perfect wreck in a short time, as she lays entirely exposed to the fury of the waves. Her engine will be saved, probably, as the point she struck is a sand beach and the water shallow. The immediate cause of the disaster was the breaking of the tiller-chains, thus rendering her unmanageable. She is owned by the Central Railroad Company, and was one of the most magnificent boats on the western waters.

Canal Commissioner.

We see any quantity of "names good and true," mentioned in our Democratic exchanges, in connection with the nomination of Canal Commissioner to be made by the 4th of March Convention. Prominent among these aspirants may be reckoned Col. Gordon F. Mason, of Bradford; Col. Levi L. Tate, of Columbia; and John B. Bratten, Esq., of Cumberland. The two latter are Editors: and as that class of men are proverbial for working for nothing and finding themselves, we think it is the height of impudence in them to ask for so important an office as Canal Commissioner. Hence, we shant throw our influence for either; for should either succeed it would have a most demoralizing influence on the press of the State. Indeed, should such a precedent be established there is no knowing where it would end. Why, we do not know but we might ourself be seduced from the beaten walks of a pack horse for politicians, and attempt to get an office. No, no, it would never do—never! Editors were not made to hold office themselves—it is their friends and "patrons" they labor for. They make very good stepping stones for others, but as for themselves, they must be content to plod along in the same old beaten path. So Messrs. John B. Bratton and Levi L. Tate just please to stand aside for some body else! Not Gordon F. Mason, probably, for he is not of the right stripe to succeed, and is, withal, too capable a man—but for somebody that has been anointed by the "favorite," and shrived by his confessor.

Troublesome, Very.

Somehow, we don't exactly see how, though, the *Gazette* is very much troubled by "country friends" not understanding its positions on many subjects—such as the Gauge Law, Slavery, Free Banking, etc. etc.—hence about every other week, it is forced to devote a good portion of a column or so in "defining its position." This week it "flounders" through four several articles, in all over a column, to prove that it, and several of its friends, which it names, are for the six foot track, and "nothing else;" that "Publico" is not William Kelley, Esq., but an entirely different gentleman, who has not any interest in the Railroad now, is not likely to have, and above all, did not mean what he wrote, "at all, at all!" All this, we should judge, is very troublesome, and we do not wonder our neighbor, "good easy soul," that he is, should get out of patience sometimes. Now, to ease our neighbor a little, we are willing to say that our correspondent "Erie" was wrong in his surmise of the authorship of "Publico." We have good evidence of this in two communications from that redoubtable gentleman now in our drawer, which we shrewdly suspect have been rejected by the *Gazette*. We don't publish them because we have no idea of raising such a storm about our ears as has evidently raged round the *Gazette* office for the last week. The world, however, we apprehend, won't kse a great deal by their suppression; for, after carefully reading them through, we are as much in the dark as ever as to what he is driving at.

But enough of this. The *Gazette* says we have not denied the material statement of "facts" in its Editorial of last week, raking up Walker & Co's quarrel of last winter with the western road. What "facts" does the *Gazette* wish us to deny, or admit? Does it wish us to deny the fact that the Ohio road sells its stock in New York to raise money to prosecute its work? Why, where else would it sell its stock? Where raise money, if not in New York or Boston? And what harm is there in that? Did'nt the Eastern road sell its stock in New York for the same purpose? And if it is any harm in the one, certainly it is in the other. Why, we might as well complain of the managers of the Eastern road "mortgaging a portion of their real estate" in New York to raise money to finish their road, as the *Gazette* to herald it as a crime in the Western road to sell its stock for the same purpose. Of all silly and nonsensical complaints we ever saw in a public journal, this of the *Gazette* is the most silly and child-like.

There is but one other matter in this column and a-half of "floundering" that requires notice, and that is the assertion that Gen. Reed is in favor of adhering to the requirements of the Gauge Law. That is not true in fact or by inference. He has not only openly advocated its abandonment, but he has been giving aid and comfort to its opponents abroad all summer. The *Gazette* knows this—or it ought to—and yet it places him among the friends of the six feet track. Shame!

☞ The work on the Washington National Monument has been suspended for the season. It has now attained to the heighth of one hundred and four feet from the surface of the ground; and, if it advances with the same rapidity as it has so far done, it will, in a few years, reach its apex at an elevation of five hundred and seventeen feet, forming the loftiest structure in the world; one that will do great honor to the American people, by whose voluntary contributions it has been thus far constructed.

☞ PRETTY GOOD.—The Oswego *Palladium* says President Fillmore has selected extensively from among his political friends in Buffalo, and given them good places at Washington. A slight acquaintance with some of the President's proteges, from Buffalo, reminds us of a remark made by a Syracuse paper a few years ago, when a gentleman high in office, and having an appointment to a lucrative place in his power, chose his own son—it being very clear that the young man owed his appointment more to natural affection, than to any qualifications. The paper referred to remarked that "it was ever the first duty of a man, when he attained power, to provide for his relatives, especially if they didn't know much."

☞ SHARP DUNNING.—This is the way the Plattsburgh N. Y. Republican stirs up its delinquent subscribers. If such notices do not fetch them what will?

"There are some of our subscribers who owe us for several years subscription, who are able to pay, and who shall pay. We must raise some "funds" between this and the first of January; and by the assistance of W. R. Jones, Esq., and the Sheriff, we *will*.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AT HAVANA.—A letter from Havana in the New Orleans Picayune says, that the circulation of the Picayune and Delta, and the New York Herald, had been interdicted in the Island of Cuba.—Characteristic of despotism.

☞ Newspapers seem to be rather illy appreciated in Indiana. The Journal says that there are not more than three or four, probably, out of the newspapers that are published in that State, that are meeting their expences. And there is little danger of those that are paying their way realizing a fortune. The same may be said of more States than Indiana, we suspect.

☞ GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE.—The number for January—a double one—is the finest thing ever issued by "Graham." The engravings are numerous and splendid and the contributions by distinguished writers. An original story by the great English novelist, G. P. R. James, is commenced in this number. Several other new features are also added.

☞ Red noses, frozen ears, cold toes, and any quantity of snow, have been the leading staples in market this week.

Presidential Indications.

Every day strengthens us in the opinion that the true policy of the Democratic party, in the present canvass for a candidate for President, is to select a *new man!* One who, while he is a true Democrat and a sound statesman, is unexceptionable to all, can command the support of all, and who, above all, in securing his nomination will not have to do so by the force of party drill; or, after a nomination, will depend upon that means to secure a triumph. We don't want a candidate that it will take the entire Democratic press of the country to fan a flame of merely party enthusiasm for; we want one who will create a flame of "spontaneous combustion" among the people himself! That's the kind of a candidate;—one after the fashion of Jackson and Polk! Then we shall march to victory—but if, on the other hand, we nominate a candidate over the heads of thousands of his own party, expecting that party drill will bring such thousands into his support, why, if we obtain a victory at all, which it is extremely doubtful, it will be more on account of the division or apathy of the whigs than through our own exertions.

But we did not sit down with the intention of arguing the point in question, for it is self evident to every one but a wilfully blind stickler for "state-pride," but to note a few of the indications going to show the drift of the popular current. In Maine, Connecticut, and throughout New England generally, Gen. Sam Houston appears to be the favorite. He has, in the Hartford *Times*, and the Augusta *Age*, in those States, two able and enthusiastic champions, and we shall not be at all surprised to see all New England vote for him in the National Convention. In Ohio, the hero of San Jacinto is also making great head-way. We notice that the Noble County *Courier*, in that State, names him for President, and Col. William Medill, Lieut-Governor elect, for Vice-President. The Ohio *Patriot* (edited by Mr. Morgan, Auditor of State elect) runs up the Houston Flag—as does also the Wayne County *Eagle*, a new Democratic paper, together with several others, the names of which have escaped our memory. Several of the Ohio papers, on the other hand, have come out for Hon. William Allen, late Senator from that State; but it is evident, nevertheless, that the conqueror of Santa Ana is a favorite with the Ohio Democracy.

In some of the Western States, and in Kentucky and New York, Judge Douglas has many friends; and they are friends, too, who let no opportunity slip to further his interests. Were he five or ten years older we would predict confidently on his nomination; as it is, however, we think he will find opposition where he little expects it, and in the end will be defeated by a combination in favor of some older candidate. But this is merely speculation; and there is no telling who will be the lucky candidate among the *new men*, for that neither Buchanan nor Cass will be nominated, we think there is abundant evidence.

Congressional Jottings.

One great bore of contention in Congress has been disposed of—the joint resolutions welcoming Kossuth. We are glad of it, for never was there a subject so effectually worn thread bare, both by the press and by politicians, as this man Kossuth. He is undoubtedly a very great man—possibly a very great Republican—we do not insinuate that he is not—but the adulation he has met from the pens of that numerous flock of bipeds connected with the American press, called toadies, is perfectly sickening. Every one has had something to say, and every one thinks the reading public would be enlightened were it not for him. Indeed, from the manifestations in Congress and out, a stranger would be led to suppose that a Republican, a patriot, or a great man, is a *rare avis* in this country, where as they spring up, flourish for a season, and go out monthly. But enough of this—he has been feasted and talked to in New York to his heart's content, and the joint resolutions of welcome have passed both branches of Congress: in the Senate 33 to 6, and in the House by something like 200 majority. So that question is settled.

Gen. Cass, always the first in the field when his country's honor is at stake, indroduced a resolution of inquiry in the case of the *Prometheus*. He deemed it necessary that the Government should exercise a surveillance over its flag and maintain its honor. The resolution was adopted. The House bill, providing for a transfer of Land Warrants, was taken up and referred to a Committee on the Public Lands. Several memorials were presented, among them, petitions from American exhibitors at the World's Fair, asking that their expenses might be paid, and one from the Legislature of Missouri, asking lands for railroad purposes. The first of these memorials certainly ought to be listened to and the prayer granted. Why not? Certainly the Government ought to pay the expenses of every "free white man" that wants to make the "grand tour to Europe."

Among the bills introduced, we see one by Mr. Borland, granting a pension to the widow of the brave Gen. Worth. Here is a very worthy object for government sympathy, but we question whether it will elicit half as much as has been already expended on the "illustrious Hungarian."

Mr. Foote's resolutions, declaring the Compromise a final settlement of the slavery question, has been upon the carpet, and he and Mr. Senator Butler have been debating whether the resolutions declares a falsehood or not. We think Mr. Foote is riding this compromise hobby a little too fast. After riding into the Executive chair of his state upon the strength of it, it seems to us he ought to let the matter rest—especially when by not doing so, agitation is invited. But some people never know when to stop, and Mr. Foote is undoubtedly one of that kind.

☞ "HURRAH FOR THE LASH!"—The Buffalo "*Queen City*," under this head, comments very severely and justly upon the recommendation, contained in the Report of the Secretary of the Navy, to restore flogging in the Navy. It says it is truly humiliating that a man occupying a high position in the Government of the "Model Republic" should have a heart sufficiently cold and cruel and a head sufficiently weak and ill-balanced as to deliberately put forth such a proposition. The lash, faggot, the thumb-screw, and the whole infernal catalogue of instruments of torture have had their day. The cat-o-nine-tails will never again lacerate the back of a man and an American citizen on board of a National ship of this country. Such a national scandal as the log of the *Independence* on her last cruise to the Pacific will not again shock and disgust the feelings of our people. The number and merciless brutality of the flogging scenes of that cruise will afford, for all time, an example sufficiently powerful to deter our Legislators from again allowing the dandies and squirts who figure so largely on the Quarter Deck from enjoying the cheap luxury of ordering poor Jack to be "striped up and soundly flogged." Mr. Graham should confine recommendations of this delicate sort to the overseers of his own plantation, and the backs of his own negroes. We can't interfere with his domestic arrangements. But in the name of the commonest decency and humanity, we raise our humble protest against the restoration of the reign of the cat and the lash; against the rival of those painful spectacles where HUMAN flesh is cut and torn with stripes

"Which revival mercy, with a bleeding heart,
Weeps when she sees inflicted."

☞ COL. BENTON.—Since the return of Col. Benton to Missouri, the war between the Benton and Anti-Benton portions of the Democratic party in that State has broken out with renewed spirit and bitterness. The St. Louis Union, the organ of the Bentonites, has proclaimed that there can be no union between the two parties, and publishes with commendation the proceedings of a meeting at which Col. Benton was nominated for Congress, and a preference expressed for Gen. Wm. O. Butler for President, and Gen. Dodge, of Wisconsin, for Vice President.

☞ HON. WM. L MARCY.—The Kinderhook *Sentinel* of Thursday, a paper published at the home of Van Buren, comes out strongly in favor of Gov. Marcy as the Democratic candidate for the next Presidency.

☞ VERY PROBABLE.—Boyier, of the Carlisle *Democrat*, says how much he dreaded, in his schoolboy days, to be punished by sitting between two girls. Ah! the force of education. In after years he learned to submit to such things without shedding a tear.

☞ Godey's Lady's Book, for January, fully sustains its high reputation as a Magazine of superior merit. It needs no encomiums from us. Price, $3 per year.

Our Country's Progress.

The census of 1850 exhibits gratifying evidence of the progress, in wealth, population, and every thing else constituting a happy and prosperous nation, of this country for the last ten years: and if any thing was wanting to put to flight the "ruin" and "panic" croakers of the press and of Congress, the exhibits referred to furnish it. So far as population is concerned the Census tables exhibit a ratio of increase for the ten years prior to 1850, considerably greater than that of the preceding decennial period: and those estimates of population which had been founded upon a uniform ratio of increase, turn out to be wides of the truth. This results from the extraordinary influx of foreigners, which has taken place within the last five years. During that period, the number of immigrants has been equal to the fifteen preceding years: and the tide still swells higher with every recurring season. It is already ascertained that about 250,000 foreigners have landed at New York alone during the first eleven months of the present year, leaving little doubt that by the first of January the number will reach 300,000! For the other ports, it will be within bounds to estimate the arrivals at 100,000 more, making a total of 400,000 immigrants in one year! This is equivalent to adding such a State as Michigan, with four Representatives and two Senators, per annum, from this source alone, besides one of equal size from the natural increase of our people. It may be safely estimated that five millions of foreigners will have engrafted themselves upon our population in ten years from 1850; and there is abundant evidence that that number exceeds the total amount of immigration to these shores, from the first settlement at Jamestown up to this time! It is only within a few years that our population has been materially increased by immigration. Prior to 1825, the number of immigrants rarely, if ever, exceeded five thousand *per annum*, while within the last two years, fifteen thousand have arrived at New York in a week!

The world has been wondering for thirty years at the rapid settlement and growth of our frontier States; but the progress which has been witnessed in the past is as nothing compared to that which is destined to exhibit itself in coming years. When the State of Ohio commenced its career, the population of the Union was little more than four millions, and the emigration from Europe was perhaps five thousand per annum; yet, in the first five years of her existence, her population rose to forty-five thousand, and in the next ten, to two hundred and thirty thousand. It is to be remarked that at that period Ohio formed the whole frontier of the free States, which circumstance concentrated the whole tide of emigration upon that State. Whereas, at the present moment, that frontier extends from the parallel of 49 deg. to 40 deg. 30 min.; and west of the State of Missouri, it will come down to 36 deg. 30 min. But notwithstanding this wide field which opens before the tide of emigration, the immense volume which it has acquired will fill up Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, with a rapidity which *has never been witnessed in the history of the older States*. The progress of Wisconsin in the ten years prior to the taking of the late census is unparalleled. From thirty thousand in 1840, its population rose to three hundred and five thousand in 1850; and if, like Ohio in its early history, Wisconsin had been without rivals in the absorption of Northern and European emigration, there is little doubt that its population would now number a million! But Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa, all equally rich and accessible, have increased with nearly equal rapidity; and by spreading the population over a wider surface, broken into separate State organizations, have prevented the exhibition of the sublime spectacle of a great, compact and populous State, the creation of ten years!

Newspaper Postage.

There is evidently a combined effort making by the city publishers to induce Congress to amend the present liberal and just Law of newspaper postage. They are not satisfied with its discriminating feature by which newspapers are charged postage according to distance. They wish to go back, as near as may be, to the odious system of the old law, by which the blanket sheets of Philadelphia and New York were transported hundreds of miles at the same rates that the local newspapers were carried dozens. And strange as it may appear this move, which it does not take a very great amount of brains to see is a direct stab at the country press, finds countenance and, indirectly, support from the very quarter it is intended to injure. The organization we refer to is known as the "New York cheap postage Association," and in numbers of our country cotemporaries we find the proceedings of this self constituted body of regulators as regularly chronicled and fonned as though it had for its aims the accomplishment of the most laudable object in the world. When we see this, we do not wonder that the local press is inefficient and without influence, for how can a press be efficient and have influence that does not know enough to take care of itself? How can it be respected when it voluntarily assumes the office of turning the grind-stone that sharpens the knife destined to sever its own jugular vein.

For years the local press, which may justly be called the bone and sinew of every public enterprise of the country and the spread of intelligence, from a district school to canals and railroads, has struggled against the odious features of the old newspaper postage system. Under the new, which is a very fair step towards equal and exact justice, it is fast assuming an influence and position commensurate with its importance. But this does not suit the interest of the gentlemen of the metropolis. The local press has been their "hewers of wood and drawers of water" too long to be given up now without a struggle. The city press has been the exponents of public opinion so long, that its conductors are loath now to step back to their true position. Hence these "cheap postage associations." They know that "cheap postage" is a popular hobby, and they think if under it they can secure a uniform rate of "one cent postage on newspapers for any distance," they will regain the foothold they have lost. Now under these circumstances what is the duty of the country press? Simply to be true to itself. To shut the door in the face of these "cheap postage" gentlemen, and when they send their circular, forth soliciting cooperation in their schemes, to send them back under envelope, *unpaid*, and thus force them to take a dose of their own medicine.

The Erie *Observer* is in favor of Col. Snowden for State Treasurer. If we lived in Pennsylvania, we would go in for Sloan, of the *Observer*. He's a righteous boy, and ought to have the office.—*Oswego Palladium.*

That's so; but then we are told the "righteous" were persecuted in all ages of the world; hence our chance for an office in Pennsylvania is about as flattering as the prospects of that feline quadruped in a certain nameless spot without claws. The fact is, nothing short of a "General," or "Colonel," or "Major," ever gets office here, and it is not very material whether the "General," or "Colonel," or "Major" aforesaid has brains or brass, so that he believes in and worships our political trinity—Buchanan, Forney and Brewster.

THE BENEFIT OF ADVERTISING.—The Boston *Times* of Thursday, says.

The gentleman who advertised for a wife in the *Times* about a fortnight since called on us yesterday and said that through that advertisement he had been able to select one of the best of women and he was the happiest of men. In addition, he handed us a ten dollar gold piece, and insisted upon our accepting it as a present from his better half.

Think of that, ye freezing, buttonless, shirtless, bachelors; and forthwith court or advertise!

☞ DEATH OF GEN. BELKNAP.—The Fort Smith Herald of the 21st ult., announces the death of Brevet Brig. Gen. William G. Belknap, of the Fifth Infantry. This event took place on the 10th ult., as the General was returning from the Brazos, between Preston, in Texas, and Fort Washita. Gen. Belknap's family was at Fort Gibson, to which post he was proceeding on sick leave. He was between fifty and sixty years of age, and has been a faithful and gallant officer.

☞ In the 32,000,000 of the United States population there are more persons who habitually read and write than can be found in 150,000,000 in Europe in one area marked off in any shape you please.

☞ The Medina N. Y. *Citizen* (Seward Whig) puts a "*mourning rule*" over some remarks which it makes in relation to President Fillmore's "*proxy*" Message.—Significant.

More Scared than Hurt.

The *Gazette*, among its other "floundernigs," intimates that an effort is making somewhere and by somebody, to turn out a portion of the present directors of the Erie and North East road. It also intimates that the gentlemen intended to be thus ousted are, Messrs. Kelley, Courtright, and Tracy. In this, we apprehend the *Gazette* is more scared than hurt. So far as we have been able to ascertain nothing of the kind is intended. That there is a determination to prevent the election of two New York directors in place of Messrs. King and Jackson, who it is believed, had been marked by those at the bottom of the New York movement, there can be no doubt. True, we have heard it suggested that, as Messrs Courtright and Tracy are intimately connected in business, and as the former has a heavy contract in Canada which requires his absence most of the time, it would be no more than fair to the interests of the company and the community that he should give place to some one equally reliable, and oftener at home. But that there is any serious movement on foot to change a portion of the board, except that for the election of New Yorkers, we do not believe, and the *Gazette's* intimations that there is, looks a good deal to us like an effort to lead the public off from the true danger upon a false scent.

☞ The office of the Hon. John Galbraith, on Sixth street, caught fire on Tuesday morning last, and but for the prompt efforts of our firemen and citizens, would have been consumed. As it was, the damage is not over $150 to $200.

☞ VIRGINIA ELECTION.—The old Dominion held her first election under the new Constitution on Monday last week, and, for the first time in her history, the people have voted directly for their State authorities, and the result is that the Democrats have carried the State by an overwhelming majority—say 10,000!

☞ Mr. Franklin Morris, for some time a compositor in this office, has become one of the publishers of the Cattaraugus *Sachem*, a paper published at Randolph, N. Y. We wish "Frank" abundant success, and from the lively look of the "*Sachem*" and our knowledge of his capacity, we have no doubt the wish will be realized.

☞ PISTOLS AND COFFEE!—Senator Gwin, of California, has written a most scourging letter to the ex-nullifier, Mr. Albert G. Brown, of Mississippi, charging him with "arrant and malignant cowardice," and commenting savagely on Mr. Brown's private and public character.

☞ Our local column has frozen up this week. The fact is one can't hunt up locals with thermercury down so far that it can't be reached with a twenty-foot pole. It would be like searching for Sir John Franklin—a great deal more honor than success.

We looked in at the Mexican Panorama, now exhibiting at the Reed House, on Thursday evening. If the room had not been quite so cold, we do not know but a man could get the full worth of a quarter by staying all the evening. Perhaps to-night, as it is its last in this city, it may be more comfortable—at least it will only cost a quar to ascertain, and if there is any of the spirit of '76 about you, when the music strikes up Yankee Doodle as Gen. Scott and his army are seen marching through the streets of Mexico, you will not regret the expenditure, even if your toes ache and teeth chatter.

☞ A NEW MAIL CONVEYANCE.—An experiment is said to have been made, on a small scale, in Boston, to test the practicability of conveying letters and newspapers to any distance, by means of atmospheric pressure. A mile of pipe was laid, though which the letters and papers were to pass, and the conclusion is arrived at that communication in this way, between Boston and New York, can be effected in about four minutes.

☞ A "Scott and Crittenden Club" has been organized by the whigs of West Moreland county, and they declare that "the people are determined to go for Scott, Convention or no Convention, Johnston or no Johnston, Vinton or no Vinton." As opinions do not cost anything we presume the "Club" does not ask any thing for this.

NOTICE.

AN adjourned meeting of those favorable to the erection of a new county, out of parts of Crawford and Erie counties, will be held at Cambridge, Crawford county, on Monday, Dec. 22th. It is expected that all who have an interest in this project, will be in attendance, there to give an expression of their opinion. At a meeting held at Waterford, on the 13th inst., it was *Resolved*, That we petition the Legislature of Pennsylvania, to pass a law erecting a new county out of the parts of Crawford and Erie counties, to be called Lebœuff, with Waterford as its county seat. That meeting was large and enthusiastic, and warrants the belief that success will crown the efforts of those now moving in this project. It is then earnestly requested that all favorable to this movement will be in attendance at the adjourned meeting to be held at Cambridge on Dec. 22nd. LEBŒUFF.

Waterford, Dec. 17, 1851.

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.—We call attention to the advertisement of this article now in our paper, and at this season of the year when colds and coughs are so prevalent, the information it contains will not be found unwelcome. The eminent names, lent to recommend it, are conclusive truth of its value. In addition to these we have been favored with the perusal of letters from many distinguished individuals as well as humble sufferers who acknowledge their indebtedness to this valuable medicine for the recovery of their health from painful and dangerous diseases. It is at once safe and pleasant to take, and is certainly very powerful to cure. Those afflicted with coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness, or indeed any of the various affections of the lungs, will do well to try the Cherry Pectoral, and will have no cause to regret the experiment.

MARRIED.

On the 9th inst., by the Rev. J. F. Reed, Mr. THOMAS MCNAIR