Political and General News.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP EUROPA.

Important News from France—Usurpation of Louis Napoleon—Insurrection in Sicily.

RIOT AT BOMBAY.

HALIFAX, Dec. 20.

Royal Mail Steamer Europe, from Liverpool, December 6th for New York, arrived here this afternoon, after a succession of heavy gales, and with the loss of one man overboard. The Canada arrived at Liverpool on the 2d inst. She experienced very rough weather, and had an arduous passage.

The startling news from Paris, received at Liverpool on the 2d inst., checked the cotton market, and subsequently an increasing anxiety to realize, gave purchasers an advantage of ¼d per lb. The market for flour had been rather active, at an advance of 6d per bbl. for good export, for Indian corn purchasers have advanced 6d per quarter. Since the sailing of the Niagara, wheat advanced 1d per bushel.

The provision market has undergone no material change.

The affairs of France have at length reached a crisis, and the long dreaded *coup de etat* was made on Monday night, the 1st inst. The President seized the reins of government—dissolved the Assembly—declared Paris to be in a state of seige—arrested the leading opponents of his policy, and appealed to the people. Preparations for this movement were perfected with consumate skill and secrecy, and every thing was completed before the Assembly or the public had the least idea of the President's intentions, and an entire new ministry was formed during the night of Monday.

At daylight Tuesday morning, the President's proclamation was posted throughout the city, in which he ordered the dispersal of the Assembly and the restoration of universal suffrage, also proposing a new system of government and the instant election by the people and by the army, of a President, to hold office *ten years*, supported by a council of the state and by two Houses of Legislature, and that pending the election the Executive power shall remain in the hands of the President. The election is to take place during the present month, and the President promises to bow to the will of the people. He says that he has been forced into his present attitude, and it is certain that Thiers, Changarnier, and other of his opponents had decided the demand his arrest and impeachment on the 2d instant, and were almost in the very act of moving in the matter, when they themselves and their principal friends were arrested and conveyed to Vincennes.

Whenever members of the Assembly have attempted to meet officially they have been ordered to disperse and were arrested if they refused. Two hundred of the members had been arrested many were subsequently released, but all the leaders of the opposition were in prison. Three hundred of the members of the Assembly are said to have given in their adhesion to the President and telegraphic despatches from the departments state that the President's demonstration has been hailed with the utmost enthusiasm, subsequently these reports were contradicted and several barricades were erected in different quarters of Paris, but were spedily broken down.

SICILY.—A letter from Palermo of the 13th states that an attempt at insurrection in Sicily has been made by Baron Ooze and other noblemen, with a view to proclaim the independence of Sicily and to compel the King to abdicate the throne of Sicily in favor of his son Francis. A portion of the inhabitants of Palermo declared themselves in favor of this project, and the 13th regiment fraternized with them, but by the energy of the authorities the movement was soon checked and several arrests including some of the officers of the 13th regiment, were made.

SOUTHAMPTON, Friday 10 A. M.

Arrived Sultan steamer with dates from Smyrna to Nov. 16th, Malta 12th, and Gibralter 19th.—From Gibralter she brings news of a bombardment of Rabbat and Salee by the French fleet which lasted eight hours, causing great loss of life to the Moors. The French have also suffered slightly from the return fire from the castle of Rabbat. It is also reported that the fleet proceeded to Tangiers for the purpose of bombarding that place, and Her Majesty's ship Janus had been despatched to protect British interest at Tangiers. Seven men were killed on board the French Admiral ship.

There has been a serious mussulman riot at Bombay. It was occasioned by the *Parsee* editor having illustrated Guiz Eraptic, an etching of which is given. The riot lasted about half an hour when it was dispersed by the Police. Several persons were seriously injured and shops were plundered and women violated. No means had been taken to ascertain the amount of property plundered. The amount is stated by the police authorities through their organ the Bomby *Times*, to be under one thousand pounds and by other local papers to have exceeded £15,000.

PARIS, Friday morning—A decree appears, ordering the vote on the 20th inst. to be secret instead of public. There were rumors of the fighting being continued; but nothing confirmatory has appeared in any London papers—the latest published accounts state that the insurgents were put down after a severe struggle.

Provincial reports are satisfactory. It is said that Refugees left London for Paris on Thursday evening. It is also stated that the French Government have stopped the transmission of telegraphic despatches. Movements of troops were silent and firm during the day. Barricades have been thrown up in earnest.

At half-past 1 o'clock, an immense crowd of about 5,000 troops, moving along the Boullevards, were fired on from the neighboring passages and houses close by. The firing was returned, answering the insurgents. The combat lasted briskly for upwards of half an hour—cannon chests and musketry at the same time further down Boullevards, were firing up to 4 o'clock P. M. It had nearly ceased in the neighborhood of the Boullvards at Tieres, but continued in other quarters.

Complete particulars can not be obtained. Many passers by were injured, and a gentleman and his daughter are reported killed. At 6 o'clock the firing at the Boullevards Des Italinnes had almost ceased. A fight in the streets lasted from mid-day till 5 o'clock in the evening.

The troops returned to their barracks. The barricades at Fauburg St. Denis, St. Martin and the Boullevards, near the Bastile, had been destroyed, when the troops retired.

The *Herald* and *Chronicle* Correspondents state that Gen. Castillan, at Lyons, and Gen. Engier, had declared against the Government—but this is denied.

Strasburg and Rheims are also stated to have risen. Some doubts are entertained of Gen. Mignon. The Daily *News* states that Gen. Newmoyer is marching from the north with four regiments. The *Times* says that from this province we learn that an attempt at *emeute* of Drayer was energetically suppressed. Accounts from the departments in general were satisfactory.

INCREASE IN THE USE OF COAL.—The Pottsville Miners' Journal furnishes some interesting statistics of the anthracite coal trade for the year now drawing to its close. During the whole year it has been sent to market and consumed as fast as it could be produced from the mines, the increased demand amounting to about a million and a quarter of tons over that of 1850. *The aggregate sent to market* at the end of the year, will amount to about four millions five hundred thousand tons. The increased sales of this, over and above the total amount sold last year, will amount to more than the aggregate sales in any one year from the commencement of the trade in 1820, down to the year 1844, and 200,000 tons over and above the total amount sent to market in the first thirteen years of the trade.—It is stated that present appearances indicate an increase for 1852, of at least one million of tons over and above the consumption of the year 1851.

GOT HIS PAY IN THE SAME COIN.—A lad named Lyman, of Chester, aged 13 years, last week in company with his playmates, entered a mill where "cob-meal" is ground, and amused himself by pushing in the ears of corn. Not content with this, he watched the opportunity when the miller's back was turned, (to improve the flavor of the meal, we suppose,) thrust a grimalkin, appertaining to the mill, into the hopper. Poor Puss "gave one long, lingering look behind," and went through, accompanied by the lad's thumb and a finger or two.—*Westfield Standard.*

☞ The great divorce case between the tragedian FORREST and wife, is now being tried in New York.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

Items by the Daniel Webster.

Several stabbing cases have occurred within the past week, in our city; in all but one of them, Spaniards or Mexicans have been concerned. The Vigilance Committee arrested one of the parties, but the courts are manifesting—except in a few instances—such a disposition to put down crime, that he was delivered almost immediately up to the legally constituted authorities. The public attention has been engaged for the past three or four days with the case of Gallagher, charged with the murder of Pollock some months since, *which has been on trial* before the District Court. Last evening the jury, after having been out twenty-one hours, returned with a verdict of man-slaughter. The punishment has not, as yet, been fixed.

A company styling themselves the Mountain Lake Water Company, whose purpose is to supply San Francisco with fresh water, have opened their books for the sale of shares. Upwards of two thousand shares have already been taken; the total number is ten thousand, and the capital $500,000

The papers are still filled with accounts from different sections of the State, of outrages and murders. The *Alta California* published, on the 15th, intelligence from *Marysville of seventeen murders*, which had been committed in that vicinity within the past four or five days, and of the uprising of the Vigilance Committee. The other up-river and mountain papers contain accounts also of various murders, which we have copied in full from day to day. Nor are southern coast counties entirely quiet in this respect. Among other outrages, a report will be found in our columns of a bloody affray in the city of Los Angelos, which resulted in the death of some ten or twelve Indians.

FROM THE MINES.—Our accounts from the northern mining regions, from those at least which border on the coast, and are not embraced in the great Sacramento valley, are never so full or so accurate as from the other sections of the mining districts.—The number of persons engaged in extracting the precious metals is but small, as compared with that in either the Sacramento or San Joaquin districts, while the placers have not, as a general thing, paid near as well, and the Indians are far more troublesome, being far more athletic, more determined and more warlike. The latest accounts from this *section of the country, however, received* within the past week, have been much more favorable than for many months past, and miners are represented as making from $6 to $8 per day, on an average, while some few are clearing from $16 to $50.

If these accounts are reliable—and we see no reason to doubt their correctness—the miners in that section are doing as well as the average throughout the State. It must be remembered, too, that in the Trinity and Klamath mines, the old system of washing by the rocker and pan is still adhered to; and there can be no doubt that when the more modern improvements are introduced, the upper coast district will prove a source of great wealth to the State. *Before mining can be properly carried on there, however*, it will be absolutely necessary to make some permanent arrangements by which Indian hostilities will be avoided.

In the Shasta and Upper Butte districts, the miners are doing well. We know, in fact, of no section of the State in which labor seems to be more generally or steadily rewarded. The field, however, has so far been merely skimmed over, and there is plenty of room for thousands of other workmen, and that for years and years to come. New discoveries of gold, in locations before deemed barren, are being recorded every day, and there is every reason to believe that when the pressure from the lower counties *drives a greater body of the miners into these* districts, they will be found fully as rich as those in the vicinity of the Yuba and Feather rivers.

Throughout the Nevada, Colusi, Yuba, and El Dorado districts, a large portion of the miners are engaged in erecting their winter tenements, or in throwing up dirt in the gluches and ravines, which will be washed out when the rain comes on. The accounts from all parts of these districts are, notwithstanding the numbers thus engaged, the result of whose labor is, of course, not yet apparent, highly encouraging. Laborers command from six to eight dollars per day, and are not over plenty at that, while many of those holding claims are realizing as much as an ounce per day, steadily, and many, much more. It is in this section of the country that mining is carried on in the most scientific manner; and the ingenuity which characterizes the American, is apparent in the various contrivances for saving labor, and enabling the miner to wash out greater and greater quantities of earth. This is undoubtedly the most productive section of the state.

Calaveras county still maintains the reputation which it acquired early in the history of gold bearing in California, as a very productive region. The neighborhood of Mokelumne Hill, the great centre for coyote diggins in this part of the state, seems to be as rich as ever; and it is said that not less than *three thousand miners are congregated within a circle* of a few miles, around its base. From the Stocton slope, it is calculated that over $3,000,000 have been taken since the ground was first opened, and it shows no symptoms of giving out. The coyote diggings are here carried on very extensively, and as usually, pay remarkably well.

The diggins in Tuolumne and Mariposa counties have not proved so encouraging as at our last.

FROM THE INTERIOR.—We learn from the Marysville Herald of yesterday, that the bodies of three murdered men were found a few days since, near the public road on Honcut Creek. The murders are supposed to have been committed by four Mexicans, who were previously suspected of similar outrages at Bidwell's Bar. The murdered men had been dragged from the road by *riatlas*. An armed party from Bidwell's Bar had gone in pursuit, and the Sheriff of Yuba county and a posse from Marysville went to Senorian camp where the murderers were supposed to have taken refuge. On approaching the camp the party were fired upon, the Sheriff, Mr. Buchanan receiving a shot in the back near the spine, which it is feared will prove mortal. Great excitement prevailed in Marysville, and parties were leaving for the scene of the difficulty. A postcript in the Herald says that six other bodies had been found near the place where the first three were discovered.

We have no doubt but that the affair is greatly exaggerated, if, indeed, it is not wholly a fabrication. That four Mexicans would or could have killed nine Americans, at one time is very improbable—and that they should have killed them all, at different times, and yet at the same place, is more improbable still. The names of the three men first discovered, are given as Mather, Jenkinson, and Gardner.

A NUT FOR THE GEOLOGISTS.—Hiram De Witt, of this town, who has recently returned from California, brought with him a piece of the auriferous quartz rock, of about the size of a man's fist. On Thanksgiving day, it was brought out for exhibition to a friend, when it accidentially dropped upon the floor, and split open. Near the centre of the mass, was discovered, firmly imbedded in the quartz and slightly corroded, a *cut iron nail*, of the size of a six-penny nail. It was entirely straight, and had a perfect head. By whom was this nail made? At what period was it planted in the yet uncrystalized quartz? How came it in California! If the head of the nail *could* talk, we should know *something* more of American history than we are ever likely to know.—*Springfield Republican.*

A MEXICAN DUEL.—The manner of redress by the "*code of honor*" among Mexicans, is bloody in the extreme. The San Francisco Herald relates a recent case in that city. Two Mexicans quarreled and it was agreed to settle by mortal combat. The parties started out unaccompanied by friends or witnesses, and fought by moonlight. The next day one was found dead, horribly cut and gashed by a knife, in some twenty places, and his "honorable murderer" walked the streets of San Francisco unmolested.

MARVELOUS!—The N. Y. Daily Times tells of a fanatical Abolitionist in that city, famous for his love and sympathy for the "poor negro," whose wife last week presented him with a fine, bouncing baby, the color of which is something like a storm-cloud in the tropics. The doubting parent was puzzled how such a thing could have happened, but he thinks it was the result of sympathy!

SUICIDE—We learn that Mr. Z. Dickinson, blacksmith, a resident of Warren, Pa., about 5 o'clock this (Saturday, Dec. 21,) afternoon, cut his throat from ear to ear and died instantly. He was alone *in the kitchen*, and with an old *case knife*, standing up and looking in the looking-glass he did the horrid deed. He has for years acted strangely, and it is probable that insanity may have been the cause.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1851.

Important News this Week.

We have important news this week from all parts of the world, not excepting the "rest of mankind." From France, England, California, and Washington, the accounts are all exciting; and what is more, all this is given to our readers in advance of the lumbering Philadelphia weeklies, which so many of our country friends think are cheaper and better than the *Observer*. By the by, the man that thinks his County paper is too dear at $1 50 per year, was in town day before Christmas. He saw one of our slips, containing the news of the burning of the Capitol at Washington, and he said he knew something was going to happen dreadful before he came to town, for his dog "Bose" howled most dolefully the night before; besides his old woman dropped the salt-seller on the floor and spilt the salt. He went home fully convinced that, that although the Magnetic Telegraph is "some" to get news quick, his dog "Bose" is semer—hence he can't afford to pay $1 50 for a paper "that's got so many pesky advertisments in it," especially when nigger-head tobacco is 12½ cts. a pound, and corn whiskey 25.

Death of Hon. Joel R. Poinsett.

The death of this distinguished Statesman is announced in the papers. He died at Statesburg, S. C., on Friday, the 12th inst., of consumption of the lungs. He was in the 73d year of his age. Few of the public men of this country exhibited a life so checkered with shifting scenes, stirring adventures, and varied positions, as Mr. POINSETT. In early life, he passed some years in traversing many countries of Europe, and finally penetrated far into the interior of Asia, at a time when such an adventure was much more perilous and romantic than it is now. Subsequently he took a leading part in settling the diplomatic relations of the United States with the new republics of South America and with Mexico. On the election of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency, he was appointed Secretary of War, in which office he continued until the close of that Administration. Here he was principally distinguished for introducing the Flying Artillery into the army. Since that time he has lived in retirement, though occasionally taking part, through the press, in the discussion of leading public questions.

☞ Quite a respectable sum has already been subscribed in New York and elsewhere towards the Hungarian "loan," proposed by Kossuth, and as the fools are not all dead yet, we presume it will be enormously increased.—Now our private opinion is that those who have money *to give away*, or "loan" on such doubtful security, would exhibit their christianity to much better advantage, and their sense too, for that matter, by appropriating their surplus cash to a fund for the *hungry*. As John Randolph said to *the lady who solicited him to give to the* Greeks, the Hungarians are at our own doors; and they are not few nor hard to find. We have no doubt that Mr. Philosopher Greeley, who is estimatiously displayed as having contributed one thousand dollars to the "Hungarian loan," could find any quantity of *hungry* within a stone's throw of his own door, who would bless him all the days of his life, for a tenth, or even a hundreth of this $1,000. And the Cashier or President of some Bank in Cincinnati, who flourishes in a letter containing another $1,000 "loan," undoubtedly could discover plenty of objects of charity—aye, of absolute want—within speaking distance of his marble-faced Bank. But why complain—'tis but the way of the world. It is fashionable to give to Hungary, but not to *the hungry!*

Since the above was written, we find in the New York *Mirror* the following just commentary upon this subject:

"While we approvingly hear the chink of gold and silver flowing from thousands of hands into a fund, to beat back the Russian Bear from his feast of nations; the Northern Bear, 5000 miles away from us, on the slopes of the Ural and the shores of the Don, grim and gray, and contemptous of our power, in the plenitude of his fur and steel—let us look to a grimmer, and, for the hour, more terrible Northern Bear, howling in our very doors, and slaying the peace and joy of thousands of homes in our midst. Let us look at the Wintry-Bear! This huge monster, grim and shaggy, with frost and ice, and terrible in his roar of fierce biting winds. If bayonets and cannon cannot reach this Bear, money can. Money—but a pittance of the sum pouring into the Hungarian coffers, can smite back this terrible foe from the homes and haunts of thousands. The poor, the sick, the dying, who have, alas! no fitting homes, nor friends, nor food, nor raiment.

"Let us think of it, boasting christians, philanthropists and humanitarians; whether we have no duty, stern and imperious, in regard to our shivering, suffering and dying fellows within the shadow of our own homes. Is there no cry, "in God's name help us!" from the lanes and garrets, and lazzar places of this great city? Behold on every side the Empire of poverty and misfortune, made doubly awful by the presence of Winter. Is Russia half so terrible to her meanest serf, as this Wintry-Bear to ten thousand of our brethers and our sisters, who are freezing and starving in this free land? Give! give to smite the far-off Russian if you will—but remember, God and humanity call us, as christians and men, to give first to the suffering at our own doors. Winter is a despot to the poor: and holy writ tells us that they who provide not first for their own are worse than infidels!"

☞ DISASTERS IN THE "BEST HARBOR" ON THE LAKE.—The managers of the New York and Erie Railroad, and the baker's dozen of people who *live* at Dunkirk, have contended that the Harbor there is the "best" on the South shore of the Lake. Notwithstanding this boast, the severe weather of the past week, as we learn from the Fredonia *Censor*, has proved unfortunate to the shipping there. The brig *Walbridge*, loaded with railroad iron, on Wednesday, drifted from her anchorage and brought up on a reef near the breakwater. A flag of distress was kept flying from the vessel for thirty-six hours, but the three steamers in the harbor were neither of them in a situation to go to her relief. A portion of the crew, in attempting to come ashore in a boat were caught in the ice, and with difficulty rescued by the aid of a party from *Fredonia*, who succeeded in reaching them by laying planks upon the ice. All got off safely. The brig *was bound for Monroe*. The brig *Sizer*, partly loaded with railroad iron, also sunk along side of the wharf, where she was lying. The steamers Alabama, Michigan and Ohio, suffered considerably in their wheels, guards, &c. And all this in the "best harbor" on the Lake! *Vive la humbug!*

☞ OUR STATE FINANCES.—The Auditor General of this State has published a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the State for the year ending Nov. 30th, from which it appears that the State finances are in an improving condition. The revenues from all sources for the fiscal year reached $4,570,393, which is $132,962 more than was received last year. The expenditures for the same time were $4,780,667, which is $211,614 more than the expenditures in 1849-50. The balance in the Treasury is $547,979.

☞ "INDEMNITY FOR THE PAST, AND SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE."—It seems the President has asked of the British government an explanation of the late outrage upon the American flag, in the case of the Prometheus. The whole affair is sufficiently explained by the facts themselves, as stated in the letter of Captain Churchill, and those which are contained in the history of former *outrages*. It is about time we ask an apology for the past, and security for the future. It would seem from the President's message that no notice whatever has been taken of other outrages, which have been as unjust towards Nicaragua as they were insulting to us.

The system of *boring* Kossuth, and wearing the life out of him by "deputations," and "committees" from Bangtown, Owl Hollow, and other towns of equal importance, continues to be followed with persevering energy. —*Buffalo Courier.*

We see that our Buffalo friends have taken the necessary measures to "bore Kossuth" after the manner and form of "Bangtown, Owl Hollow, and other towns of equal importance."

☞ The Syracuse Star states that the Abolition Conventions which recently met in that city, resolved to raise $10,000 to *defray the expenses of trial of the persons* indicted at the late United States District Court in Buffalo, for the rescue of the Fugitive Jerry. $10,000 would purchase the freedom of twelve "Jerries."

"Kossuth and American Non Intervention."

When so much is said in the newspapers about Kossuth, his designs, and his wishes, one cannot, no matter how much he may disire, refrain from noticing the absurd doctrines the discussion of the subject has been the means of drawing out. Kossuth says he has come to this country upon a mission. What that mission is we find shadowed forth, pretty extensively, in his speeches; but for fear he would not be understood he has authorized the New York press to explain more definitely his designs in general, and what he expects from the United States in particular. In the first place, he asks for the "sinews of war"—*viz: money. He will be thankful for all sums*, either advanced as a contribution, or as a "loan," from one dollar up. Having replenished his exhausted coffers, he then *modestly*—the New York papers have it, "simply"—asks that England and America shall unite in affirming the policy that "every nation shall have the right to make and alter its political institutions to suit its own condition and convenience, and that the two nations (England and America) shall not only respect but cause to be respected their doctrine, so as to prevent Russia from again marching her armies into Hungary." No body can deny that this is an extremely "modest" request —*especially so far as England is concerned.* We think we see England acceeding to it, and then the Irish nation turning round and telling patriotic, honest John Bull that as "every nation has the *right* to make and alter its *political institutions to suit its own condition and convenience*," they will be "asther exercising it, sure." And as the United States has affirmed the same thing, of course, she must back up her affirmative diplomacy and furnish the "*sinews of war*" and the *men to compel her* partner in the compact, England, to adhere to it. Then, when we have got through with compelling England to 'respect this doctrine,' we can find a job, ready manufactured to our hand, in *compelling* Russia to "respect" it in regard to Poland. And this, Kossuth tells us in one of his speeches, is not in contravention of the long established principle of this government of non-intervention *in foreign wars*. And we find Editors, who fairly turned black in the face when counting up the cost of the Mexican war—a war we were forced into to redress our grievances and maintain our national honor—actually *cancelling* and *urging* the *adoption* of this system of foreign policy. These men would glory to-day in embroiling our government in a hopeless war with the despotism of Europe, though it is not many years since they *denounced the patriots of Texas* as a band of free-booters, unfit to be recognized as a nation. It is not long since too—not so long but what it can be very distinctly recollected by the "oldest inhabitant"—that they told us *in Congress* and out, through the columns of their presses, and from the stump, that a war their country was then engaged in was an "unholy, God-abhored war," and hoped the enemy would welcome those who fought it to hospitable graves! Now, however, these same gentlemen are anxious to force the government into the position of making every attempted revolution in Europe a common course—of making this nation a veritable Don Quixot, ready to fargh for every body that asks us. Would not this be the effect, if Congress and the Executive were to adopt Kossuth's interpretation of our policy of non-intervention? Certainly! If England and the United States were to unite in a declaration, at this time, against Russian intervention in the affairs of Austria, it would be regarded as a virtual invitation to the people of Hungary to re-open at once the revolutionary ball, with a promise to stand between them and the armies of Russia. Such a declaration would be viewed by Austria as a wanton intermeddling with her internal affairs, and therefore a violation of the very principle on which England and United States base their right to interpose at all. Such a declaration, moreover, would, in effect, make England and the United States take the *initiative* in the meditated Hungarian revolution; and having taken the initiative, as above stated—having virtually invited Hungary to revolt, and told her as plain as diplomacy can tell her, that if she will do so we will "see her out," we would be unworthy a place among the civilized nations of the earth if we would break the compact. It is clear then that neither the government nor the people of this country can safely or with propriety give Kossuth any such assurances of assistance as he demands, even if they had the disposition to do so. He is not the representative of any government, *de jure* or *de facto*, or of any government, *in esse*, even. The government of this country could not therefore with propriety, treat with a party, not authorized by any competent authority, upon the weighty matters in relation to which Kossuth discourses. Whatever might be the intention of the government in relation to its course in the event of a revival of the struggle for Hungarian independence, it could not, if it consulted its *own dignity*, give any *pledge, in advance*, as to what it will do; and above all, it could not, we apprehend, depart from its long established principles of non-intervention, even to please Kossuth, or secure the smiles of his body-guard, the Editorial fraternity of New York.

☞ FIRE IN JAMESTOWN.—We learn from the Jamestown *Journal* that a fire occurred in that village on Thursday morning of last week which consumed a wooden building owned by Messrs. A. F. & D Allen, on Main between First and Second streets. They were occupied on the first floor by Messrs. Eddy & Arnold as a Boot and Shoe store, W. G. Bliss, Boot and Shoe store, R. V. Cunningham and A. H. Loucks as Cabinet Ware Room, and on the second floor by A. Fletcher's *Citizen* Printing Establishment. None of the occupants on the first floor suffered much loss, their effects being wholly removed without much damage; neither was any of them insured. Nearly all the materials of the *Citizen* office were removed, but of course in a bad condition. Mr. Fletcher was insured in the Genesee Mutual for $500 and $300 in the Waterville Protection. The Messrs. Allen have suffered a loss of about $500. No insurance.

☞ The New York *Mirror* mentions that Madame Tochman—late Jagello, about whom a great deal of sympathy was expended, and small-beer laudation indulged in among the newspapers last summer—who came on from Washington with Mr. Tochman, on the arrival of Kossuth, did not remain long in the city, for the reason, *it is said, that M. Kossuth's party were not aware of her* being a great Hungarian heroine!—Great country!

☞ Shakespeare, though one of the most gorgeous of men, was a great higgler. He was often known to dispute *with a shopkeeper for half an hour on the matter of* a penny. He gives Hotspur credit for a portion of his own disposition, when he makes him say, "I would cavil on the ninth part of a hair."—*Exchange.*

There are a great many Shakespeares now; at least so far as being "great higglers" constitute them. And what is very singular the moment they step into a printing office they commence to act the character out, and "cavil on the ninth part of a hair."

☞ The same spirit which prompted the reception of Gen. Cass' letter to the Chicago Harbor and River convention with hisses because of its briefness, some few years ago, has recently exhibited itself in New York. At the dinner given by the "Press" to Kossuth the other day, the letter of the Hon. Daniel Webster, the author of the Hasselman letter, was received with *hisses* by those in attendance It is well the world is aware that the press of New York combines all the talent and *good breeding* of the country, else we should be inclined to the belief that this dinner was given by a set of blackguards.

☞ *There is a good deal of consolation, if one is capable* of being consoled, in the remark of an exchange, that people who are blessed with health, strength and potatoes, should never repine at fortune, even if their pocket-books are *cramped* now and then. *Instead of looking* up with envy, you should look down with gratitude.—For every dozen better off than you are, there are ten thousand that are worse.

☞ EMANCIPATION IN TENNESSEE.—A bill is before the Tennessee Legislature, which requires the owner of a slave, who desires to emancipate him, to first place at the disposal of the Circuit Court a fund sufficient to transport the slave to Africa, and support him six months after he reaches that country; and upon this being done by the owner, or by any negro now free, the Judge is to notify the Governor, who will immediately send him to some seaport to be transported.

☞ Our exchanges from every section speak of the weather, as the coldest experienced for many years.

Important to Soldiers of the Buckshot War.

We learn the application of Thad. Stevens for a Land Warrant has been rejected by the proper authority, on the following grounds:

1st. Soldiers of the Buckshot war are not entitled to pensions or warrants.

2d. Thaddeus having deserted at the most critical moment of the war, would not be entitled to a warrant if the proceeding objection were not valid.

It is supposed that no more applications will be made from the *heroes of that most memorable struggle*.

We clip the above from the *Pennsylvanian*, which it is to be feared is an official document. If our fears are well founded, we will deeply regret the unjust decision of the department, as we were about preparing the papers to procure a warrant and pension for Thos. H. Burrows, Joseph Ritner's Ex-Secretary, now the editor of the *Lancasterian*, the notorious anti-Buchanan guerrilla. Burrows played a conspicuous part in the Buckshot war—was one of the principal officers in the ranks of the usurper's army, and if any one engaged in that struggle deserves reward for bold and reckless daring, he is the man. We want to see the distinguished Ex-Secretary rewarded, and if the Buckshot heroes are ruled out, we hope the present administration will manifest their high appreciation of his services by awarding him a *leather medal*.—*Wash. Examiner.*

The wit of some editors is excruciating, as the above furnishes abundant evidence. There is something also, in the means they adopt to further the interest of their party, that, if it is not as laughable as their wit, it is still very effective in wreathing with smiles the countenances of the whigs; and the above is a notable case in point. Years gone by Thomas H. Burrows was an anti-mason, and with the advent of that party into power by the election of Jos. Ritner Governor, became Secretary of the Commonwealth. That he may have committed some political sins nobody doubts: but when in 1844 it was announced by the Lancaster *Intelligencer*, edited by John W. Forney, now Clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, that Jos. Ritner's distinguished Secretary, had come out from among the Whigs, and was using his powerful pen for "Polk, Dallas and Texas," one universal shout of *welcome* went up from the democratic press of the State. He was hailed as a valuable acquisition to our ranks then, and his example commended to others as one eminently worthy of following. Since then he has unobtrusively pursued the even tenor of his way; he has not mixed much in politics, at least to appearance has not, for we do not remember of having seen his name mentioned in connection therewith, except when accused, in paragraphs like the above, of editing the *Lancasterian*. Now, whatever may be the merits or faults of that paper, it is not now our purpose to discuss. We may, however, say that so far from its being liable to the charge of "guerrilla," a more consistent democratic sheet is not upon our exchange list. Neither is there any evidence that Thomas H. Burrows is its editor. The names of two gentlemen appear in its columns as Editors, one of whom, at least, is well known to the press of the State, and the *courtesy* which exists between the different members of our own fraternity ought to shield them from the imputation contained in the above, that they are the cats paw of some one else. But this is not the point we object to so much. We object to the *Examiner's* article, because it is in so many words tells all recruits from the whig ranks that we don't want them, unless they believe in the infallibility of a certain Presidential aspirant. It tells them that no matter how they vote they are at all times liable to be twitted of their former political acts; and it is a sure way of keeping our party "conveniently small," and in the end making it smaller, if persisted in. It is true Thomas H. Burrows once acted with the Federal party, but if all stories are true he is not the only "distinguished Ex-Secretary" in Lancaster county who is liable to the same charge. But enough of this—we think none the less of a politician for once belonging to an opposite party, but we do think a good deal less of those who show their wit by twitting them of it; and if there are any "leather medals" to be awarded they are the chaps that ought to have them.

☞ We feel a pride in recording the fact, that while the May Flower was drifting about the lake at the mercy of the waves, and finally went ashore, the ATLANTIC, belonging to the same line, but commanded by one of our Erie boys, Capt. D. H. MCBRIDE, and which was out in the same storm, was safely taken into port at Cleveland. There are few better officers, in an emergency like the storm last week, or more gentlemanly companions in the cabin, than Mac., and we are pleased to see our brethren of the press speak of him as he deserves.—The Cleveland *Plaindealer* of Wednesday, has the following account of the last trip of the Atlantic, the present season;

"This bully boat, Capt. McBride, left Buffalo on Monday, at 1 o'clock, P. M. for this port and Detroit. It snowed on leaving, and blew a gale after being a short time out. The cold was intense, and ice clung to the boat wherever the water touched it. The sea ran so high the boat did not stop here, but put for Detroit. She met ice near Point au Pelee and stemmed her way through some twenty miles, when it was found impossible to proceed farther. Everything was frozen but the water in the boilers. The cabin boys, cooks and all hands were called out, with cleavers, carving knives and handspikes to keep her clear from ice. The Captain and mate froze their ears, and the others suffered much. At last she put about for this port and arrived last night about 6 o'clock, a perfect mass of ice.

☞ The rush of travel East and West, through Erie, is truly astonishing, and gives as earnest of what will be done when the links connecting the Western with the Eastern railroads are filled up. We were in hopes to have heard the snort of the iron horse ere this, but the intense cold of the past week or ten days has delayed the completion of the road. We are in hopes, though we know nothing definite, that before another week the thing will be accomplished, and the cars and locomotive among us.

☞ A FOUNDLING.—On Christmas evening, while the family of Rev. Geo. A. Lyon, of this city, were gathered around the social hearth, some person, or persons, came to the door and rang the bell, and upon one of the family going to answer it, he found, deposited upon the step, a basket containing an infant. It is a boy, apparently about a month old. With it was a note requesting that it should be named "Lorin Rowley." It is needless to say the little stranger was taken in and properly cared for.

☞ A friend remarked to us the other day that there were two things he thought ought to be abolished, viz: bald-faced whiskey and the Ohio Stage company. We think so too. Here we have the best of sleighing, yet the mails from the East are from eight to twelve hours behind.

☞ This community are threatened with an avalanche of legal lore shortly. "Publico," the correspondent of the *Gazette* who proved to the entire satisfaction of *himself*, if nobody else, that there is no binding force in the Gauge Law, intimates in another of his *lucid articles*, through the *same channel*, that *he "will examine the laws* of the case," and give his opinion at length "when matters cool down." Shades of Blackstone and Story, what a mistake the people of this Judicial district made when they elected the present incumbent Judge, instead of "Publico." "There is many a rose born to blush unseen."

☞ The "*Eastonian*," a Whig paper published at Easton in this State, publishes a "summary" of the President's Message, in order to make room for "some of the proceedings of the reception of Gov. Kossuth." We call that complimentary to President Fillmore, very!

RAILROAD BONDS.—The bids for the 200,000 7 per cent Mortgage Bonds of the Cleveland, Painsville and Ashtabula Rail Road Company, were opened Wednesday afternoon in the city of New York. There were offers for nearly $300,000 of Bonds. The 200 Bonds advertised for sale were awarded at an average rate of 85¼ per cent.

☞ We have upon our table the January number of the "Genessee Farmer," the first of the new volume.—The Farmer has always been one of the best and cheapest Agricultural papers in the country, and withall the most successful. Each number contains 40 pages, and is afforded at 50 cts. a year single subscribers—5 copies for $2, or 8 for $3.

☞ We see that our Meadville friends are taking measures to secure the location of the Pittsburgh and Erie railroad through their flourishing village,—that is, we presume, when it is built.

LETTERS FROM MEXICO.

Correspondence of the Erie Observer,

MAZALTAN, Mexico, Oct. 27, 1851.

MR. EDITOR:—Having made good my arrival at this point, I hasten to inform you of the fact, as well as to give you such other items of information as I may conceive of interest to your readers. It is no small undertaking for three persons to travel through this Indian region, and I consider we have been quite fortunate in escaping unscathed the dangers that have environed us.—We had scarcely gotten beyond the range of the "Camanches" and "Navajos," before we met the cholera, which has recently been very severe along this road. I may mention, in connection with other difficulties, the extreme scantiness of eatibles. For two days we could obtain nothing but a meagre supply of roasting-ears, tortillas and boiled pumpkins. My remarks refer, of course, to the road between this place and Durango, which latter point we left on the 15th inst., and arrived here on the 23d inst; making the passage over the mountains in nine days. The road is much worse than I conceived it could be. Just think of traveling through the mazes of these lofty mountains, a distance of one hundred and seventy-five miles, over a simple cow-path. True, in some places it is sufficiently marked, being worn in the rocks to the depth of horse and rider. This path, in the most dangerous places, is scarcely wide enough for a single mule, and the least deviation from it, be it but a few inches, and down you are dashed upon the rocks, a thousand feet or more. Oh! it's positively frightful! For three days we could scarcely back our mules, the road being quite too steep and dangerous. The mules were often forced to leap up and down three or four feet at a jump, while we followed, after as fast as our tired limbs would permit. Our guide (for we were forced to have one,) was a big, stout, bronze-colored rascal, dressed a la *Adam*, who trotted along ahead of us on foot, making mere child's play of our labor.

The first four days from Durango, with the exception of some neck-breaking passages, is an extremely pleasant road, being through a forest of stately pines and broad spreading oaks, with no under-growth—plenty of water, game, and the finest grass, growing knee-deep. Then succeeds three days over the steep ranges of the Pacific slope. Wild, picturesque scenery, as stack upon stack, these steep heights arose before us. Cascades came leaping, as 'twere, from the skies, and crossing our path, were soon lost in the dark chasms far, far below. Occasionally we would get above the region of storm and cloud, and then by a hundred zig-zags, we were lowered into the second heaven. Famous old mountains these, as in their primeval grandeur they tower into the skies, just as

"When from chaotic night,
The Earth came rolling, void of form,
Jehovah said—"Let there be light,"
And light came streaming from the storm."

The two last days we were working our way out of the low ranges that extend quite to the brink of the sea—now traveling in the bead of some creek, anon in some valley, our path embowered in wild vines and festooned with gay flowers. The soil became extremely rich, the climate warm, sugar-cane and the tropical fruits were cultivated on the hills, the cactus arose in his thorny wrath, and everything betokened that we were in the low country of the south. Now and then we passed through some dilapidated village—the former site of Spanish commerce and fashion. At length the sullen roar of the mighty Pacific broke upon our wearied senses, like the music of an old-time song, and at last this fine city with its gay shops, its twelve or fifteen thousand souls, its huge ware-rooms, stored with merchandize, and its busy market, broke upon our vision, looking much like a Moorish city in the distance, with its white walls and square battlements, and the tall palm tree spreading its shadowy leaves in verdant freshness, high above the flat roofs.—There is, too, the neat little (but no very secure) harbor, with old Ocean lashing itself into foam against the beetling rocks, and a half dozen sail vessels riding at anchor.

It's a singular curiosity one feels in a strange city, and I was quite struck with a small sign at the "Hotel de Paris," indicating that "English was spoken there." So far as my own feelings were concerned, I'm much in the same predicament that "Pat" was when he found himself in the Capitol of the French, and surrounded by Parisians, he exclaimed, quite innocently, "what a heap of *furriners* there are there." I cannot appreciate the change. I *live* in the great "Union" and feel myself under the protecting folds of our pro