Political and General News.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Pennsylvanian.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 12.

The standing Committees in both Houses, were announced this morning, and I suppose you have them by telegraph before this time. The arrangement on these Committees, by the Speakers of each House respectively, has given very general satisfaction, so far as I have heard, though your correspondent would have made them *a little different* in the Senate, if he had been called upon to take such a responsibility. *More anon.*

Mr. Muhlenberg made a very able speech, to-day, in favor of the bill in relation to the Sunbury and Erie railroad, giving municipal and other corporations the right and power to subscribe for stock in said railroad company, and to borrow money for the same. He thought that no Senator could object to the bill—that the same powers and privileges had been given to the Pennsylvania Central Road that were asked for in this bill, and that he deemed it just and right for a company, which was struggling, as this company was, to effect an important improvement through a large portion of this Commonwealth, to have his aid in their efforts.

Mr. Buckalew said that he thought the bill an important one, and he hoped it would be referred to the Judiciary Committee, and receive from that Committee their careful and deliberate examination.—Mr. Sanderson then moved that the bill be so referred, but the motion failed, and Mr. Buckalew moved to strike out the words, "and other," so as to confine the powers contemplated by the bill, to *municipal* corporations. Mr. B. urged this amendment with force and eloquence, and it was carried by a vote of 16 yeas to 14 nays.

Mr. Packer then moved to amend so as to leave the powers and privileges given to municipal bodies subject to the will of the people, expressed by their votes at an election held especially and expressly for the purpose. Gen. Packer thought that this would be a just provision, and at the same time do away with the objections urged against granting such powers as were contained in the bill. He said that he was no enemy of the bill, but was anxious to have it pass in a proper form. He thought this amendment could not injure or weaken the bill, inasmuch as he felt sure, that in his district, the County Commissioners, or other municipal officers, would not be willing to subscribe stock, and incur indebtedness, without some expression of the people in favor of such action. Pending this motion the Senate adjourned.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 13.

A bill authorizing a loan of a sum sufficient to enable the Treasury to meet the February Interest, was passed in that body to a third reading, through considerable discussion and against a factious opposition from the whigs. They were almost unanimous in their fight against this bill; and tried every means to entangle and delay action upon it, but without any material effect.

The course of Mr. Geo. Hart, from your city, however, it is just to say, furnished an exception to the general course of that party. He said that he was satisfied that the honor, credit and good faith of the State were at stake, and he would vote for the bill. Mr. Hart is a sound faithful legislator, and has honesty of purpose enough and regard enough for the obligations of an official oath, to keep clear of mere party, or factious and captious opposition to such a measure as this loan bill, or any other measure called for by the real interest of the Commonwealth. But it is painful sometimes to see how very little force and effect an oath to discharge duty with *fidelity*, has upon some others, when party strife and party humbug absorbs all the energies, and swallows up the conscience in political strife.

The bill relative to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad came up in the Senate this morning, and a long discussion ensued upon it, between Messrs. Packer, Forsyth and Fratley, in favor of the amendment making the power to subscribe for stock and borrow money subject to the vote of the people in each municipal corporation proposing to do so, and Messrs. Muhlenberg, Fernon and Crabb against it.

Mr. Muhlenberg opened the discussion by saying that he was opposed to the amendment, because he felt assured that it would in effect kill the bill and embarrass the Company in such a manner as would render the immediate progress of this great improvement impossible. He therefore could not consent to have this amendment attached to the bill until he could at least hear some good and substantial reason for it. He thought that in his own county the people would not think it worth while to go to all the trouble of an election, for the purpose of subscribing for a few shares of stock in this Sunbury and Erie Railroad, while they might do so through their agents, or representatives—the County Commissioners; that this doctrine of leaving such matters to the vote of the people had been exploded, and he could not see anything wrong, or contrary to the principles of our government, in allowing the people to act in regard to them, through their Representatives. He was an anxious friend of the enterprise of this Road, and did not desire to see any obstructions thrown in the way of its success.

Gen. Packer replied that there was no Senator upon the floor, who would be less willing to offer any unfair or unreasonable opposition to the bill than himself; that he had long been the true and ardent friend of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad; had acted and spoken in favor of it in the other House, and in the Senate, and elsewhere on many occasions, and that he was now as anxiously in its favor as any other Senator could be; but he could never consent to have the commissioners of his county, or any other county, township or borough, in the Commonwealth, invested with the power to involve the people thereof in a heavy debt without their consent, even if it should peril the success of this, his favorite improvement in the Commonwealth.

He felt sure that several counties between Lycoming and Erie, including perhaps Erie itself, would by a vote of the people come to the aid of this company by subscribing for stock—that with Lycoming it was more doubtful, on account of the fact that she had already a canal running through her territory which afforded an excellent outlet to the markets of Philadelphia and Baltimore, and that in the business season boats left Williamsport nearly every day for those cities, and they could go to New York if they choose to do so. He said, however, that this subject was now agitated in his district, and the people talked of large subscriptions for stock in this company, and he wanted an expression of the people upon this subject, before they should be involved in extreme indebtedness.

He thought, indeed, that the County Commissioners there, could not be prevailed upon to mulct the people in a debt of two or three hundred thousand dollars, without such an expression of the people's will. He knew also that the enterprise in question had merit enough of its own to draw out capital wherever it could be found, and that there was no necessity of attempting to raise it by any extraordinary means. He spoke of the German portion of his own constituents—said they were frugal, industrious and thriving people, but exceedingly cautious, and little disposed to embark in such affairs as would put upon them indebtedness and taxation. He concluded, that in other German districts they were of the same character, and could not consent to allow such officers, of any municipal body, as had been elected without any reference to this matter of investing capital, causing indebtedness and taxation, to do so without the consent of those upon whom the burden, or responsibility, must fall.

Mr. Forsyth followed to the same effect, after having made a motion to insert the words "incorporated Districts" into Gen. Packer's amendment, so as to allow his constituents the right to express their will before they should be involved in liabilities, by their representatives, who had been elected without any reference to such measures. He thought that the force of General Packer's argument relative to his constituents, applied very well to his own. Moreover, he had long had very serious doubts about the policy or the right of a municipal body raising money by taxation, or otherwise, for other purposes than those which related to their own internal affairs. He thought that such corporations were never created for any extensive business or speculating purposes, which would extend out of the limits of their own territory and jurisdiction, and if such measures were to be taken, he wanted the people themselves to have a voice in it. He thought, also, that he would hardly be willing to sup. the bill, even if the amendment should prevail.

Mr. Fernon and Mr. Crabb opposed the amendments altogether, and advocated the bill in its original form, with great ability and eloquence.

The Senate adjourned without coming to any vote upon the amendments.

FRANKLIN.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE CALAMITY.
Six persons killed—Several others Fatally injured.

It is again our melancholy duty to record another appalling calamity involving the lives of six persons, who were most instantly killed, and many others who are injured in such a dreadful manner that they cannot possibly survive, which occurred last evening at 9½ o'clock, at the Emigrant Boarding House, No. 140 Centre-st., under the care of one James O'Callahan.

The facts of the case, as nearly as could be ascertained by our reporter at a late hour last night, are as follows:

It appears that at 9½ o'clock last evening an alarm of fire was sounded in the Fifth District, which was heard in the fifth and upper story of the premises above named, which, at the time, contained nearly five hundred persons, most of whom had retired for the night. No sooner had the woman above referred to raised the cry of fire, which she said was in the building, than the whole multitude were horror struck, roused from their beds, and rushed for the narrow stairs to escape into the street.

The scene at this time, as described by some of those who witnessed it, was truly awful. At the head of each pair of stairs the frantic emigrants appeared, and in their haste to escape, were precipitated to the bottom, and in such numbers piled on top of each other, that six persons, three of whom are named, John Glennan, John W. Dalton, a boy about 10 years of age, and Mary Murphy, were suffocated. The names of the other three persons who lost their lives in the same manner, could not be ascertained, as they, at 12 o'clock last night, had not been recognized.

Sergeant Dowling, of the sixth Ward Police, was the first man at the scene of death and suffering, which is only a short distance from the Station-House. He immediately informed Capt. Brennan, who dispatched his whole reserve force to the place and had the dead and dying removed to the Station-House, which was turned into a Hospital, and beds having been spread on the floor for the accommodation of the injured parties, who were soon attended by several medical gentlemen, who on hearing of the calamity, kindly volunteered their services, and rendered all the assistance in their power.

The following named persons who are badly injured, were conveyed to the New-York Hospital by the Sixth Ward Police: John Hawk, leg and arm broken; Eliza Savage, shoulder dislocated; Lucy Cushing and Bridget Houghton, severely injured internally; William Whelan, shoulder di-located; John Egan, Catherine Sweeny, and a woman whose name is unknown, whose arm was broken. Several of those in the Hospital, it is thought, cannot recover from their wounds. The scene presented at the Hospital, and also at the Station-House, was agonizing in the extreme, there being at both places, fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters, bewailing, in the most uncontrolable agony, the loss and injury of relatives.

The house in which this awful event occurred is nearly new, and had only been used for an emigrant lodging-house about ten days. Its construction, as far as the stairs are concerned, which are more than usually steep and very narrow, seems to have been badly planned. The Sixth Ward Police generally, are deserving of much credit for the promptness and energy with which they acted on the occasion.—The dead bodies still remain at the Police Station, where an inquest will be held on them to-day.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

NORTHERN MEXICO.—The news, which comes straggling and wrangling and confusedly in from what is by courtesy termed the "seat of war" in Mexico, sadly needs a clue to give it any sort of significance. And the clue is very easily had. Mexico derives what revenue she enjoys mainly from an elevated tariff. On the northern provinces the burden falls heavily. To evade it the traders at the provincial fairs ran up last summer the piratical flag, and smuggled their goods into the towns in spite of custom-house and police surveillance. Stricter regulations on the part of Government interfered with this illicit business, and the friends of free trade, employing the usual Mexican logic, *ad hominem*, entered upon a military foray to enforce their views. To head the movement, Don Jose Maria Jesu Carvajal, a young gentleman indebted to American colleges and society for his education and enterprising spirit, was selected; and without any manner of selection, a motley set of Falstaffian warriors from Texas were mustered into the service. And thus the commercial policy has been argued.

Recently, it seems, the free trade politicians have had rather the advantage in the debate; and General Urage, one of the four commissioned champions of protection, has been brought to tender a compromise. Carvajal represents the South Carolinian spirit of nullification, and protection has to yield, in order to save a solution of the Union.—*N. Y. Times.*

SHAMEFUL IMPOSITION.—The St. Louis Republican of the 7th inst., contains the following:

An affair has been related to us which demands a strict investigation, and, if true, should bring the proper visitation on the culpable parties. A person who keeps, or clerks, in a store in Broadway, became acquainted with the daughter of a flower vender in Glasgow Row—a very pretty girl, aged about sixteen—and, after visiting her several times, made her certain overtures of marriage. Having obtained her consent, he told her to meet him at a particular hour, on Saturday last, at his store, on Broadway, where he promised the attendance of some fit person who would perform the marriage ceremony. The girl came, according to appointment, and after a short while, another clerk in the store married them, or, at all events, performed the minister's part, in a mockery of the marriage ceremony. The principal—who, we learn, is on the point of starting for New York city—then proposed that she should accompany him to the boat.

The girl refused, however, stating that she must first tell her mother of what had taken place, and, despite many entreaties to remain, returned home. The marriage certificate, as drawn out by the clerk and signed by all the parties, has been secured, and is now in the hands of the proper persons. The mother, we learn, has ascertained, to her satisfaction, that a seduction was designed in the plans laid about her daughter. We cannot be quite sure, however, that the marriage, even performed as it was, by an unauthorized agent, is not valid; at all events, whether it be valid or not, whether it was intended or not, justice demands that the matter be thoroughly sifted, and the parties be made to appear in their proper light, whether of good or evil.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.—A Washington correspondent of *The Journal of Commerce* states that Senator James, of Rhode Island, has framed a project for a modification of the Tariff of 1846, and having consulted several members in regard to it, will soon present his scheme to the Senate, with the approbation of some of the leading Democratic members of both Houses. His plan is said to look to a reduction of the rate of duties on some articles of manufacture which enter into general consumption, and an increase on finer fabrics. It proposes to add ten per cent. to the present duties on iron, and the same upon fine cottons, and fabrics of cotton and wool, leaving the present system otherwise as it is.

WHO ARE THE PARTIES?—The National Intelligencer, at Washington, says there is good reason to believe that persons in New York, and in Washington city have been endeavoring to thwart important measure of the Government bearing upon its relations with Mexico, and especially the Tehuantepec treaty, by corresponding with persons of supposed influence or in high office in that country. It quotes the act of Jan. 30, 1799, to show that such persons are guilty of high misdemeanor, subjecting them to a fine of $5000, and imprisonment for three years. Let President Fillmore start the Marshall and District Attorney after these worthies, and they will very soon desist.

SCRUPULOUS.—Judge Tarbley, who was appointed by the Governor of Mississippi, Chief Justice of that State, until an election could be had by the people, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Sharkey, has now resigned also, assigning as a reason that he accepted the appointment with a view of holding court this month, but as it is now determined that no court will be held, he thinks it would be morally wrong to continue drawing the salary without rendering any service.

☞ A woman was lately buried in a grave yard, near London, who had been dead upwards of five years, a near relation having left her an annuity of 30*l.* to be paid on the first day of each and every year, so long as she should remain on earth. In consequence of this legacy, her surviving husband hired a little room over a stable in the neighborhood of his dwelling, where she was kept in a lead coffin until after his death.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 23, 1852.

County Convention.

The Democratic electors of the county of Erie are requested to meet at their several places of holding elections, on Saturday the 31st day of January, inst., at four o'clock, P. M. in the several townships, and at half-past six o'clock, P. M. in the several Boroughs and the Wards of the city of Erie, to appoint two Delegates from each Election District to represent said District in a County Convention to assemble in the city of Erie on Monday the 2d day of February next to appoint two Delegates to represent this county in the Harrisburg Convention on the 4th day of March next to nominate an Electoral Ticket, to appoint Delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner, and to appoint three conferees to meet like conferees appointed by Crawford county to select a Senatorial delegate to represant this District in the said Harrisburg Convention

SMITH JACKSON,
C. M. TIBBALS,
WM A. GALBRAITH,
R. S. BRAWLEY,
F. W. MILLER,
I R. TAYLOR.
} Democratic County Committee.

Erie, January 3, 1852.

☞ We are indebted to Messrs. Walker, Kelso, Blane, and James, for Legislature favors.

☞ We notice that Mr. Kelso, of Erie, has introduced a bill, in the House, "to incorporate the Girard and Chapoga plank road company." Where the dickens is "Chapoga"?

☞ Winchell, the comical—Winchell the droll: the laughter provoking, side-splitting Winchell, is in town; and proposes to make our good people laugh themselves out of their boots on Monday evening, at the Reed House. To go and hear him, 'tis true, will cost a quarter, but then it will save five dollars worth of medicine.

☞ The "long agony is over," and our cotemporary of the *Chronicle*, is Prothonotary, in spite of fate and the "Twelve Apostles." Judge Knox has filed his decision, and in legal phrase, informs the "market house clique," that their straw was about an inch too short to reach the cider. Hurrah for Perley! "God and Liberty!" as Santa Anna would say!

☞ Our paper is dated one day in advance this week, in order to accommodate advertisers, whose favors otherwise would not be legal.

☞ The Moving Dioramа of the Deluge, &c., now exhibiting at the Reed House, is well worthy of patronage, and we cheerfully recommend it to the attention of all concerned.

☞ The letters of our correspondent, "Omego," reach us in regular scriptural manner—"the last first, and the first last." The first received, and published some weeks since, was the last one written—that of this week, was the second, and that published last week, was first. This is owing to the irregular and uncertain mail arrangement in Mexico, we suppose.

☞ The Meadville Gazette is in favor of the adoption of the *cash* system by the country press, and desires concert of action upon the subject. We hope others will come out in a similar spirit. The reform, if properly undertaken by country publishers, can easily be brought about.—*Erie Gazette.*

We go in for that arrangement most decidedly. Advance payments are better for both publishers and subscribers, and we do hope our cotemporaries, particularly in this vicinity, will at once unite in the *proposed reform.*—Count on us, Mr. Gazette. Who's the next customer?—*Warren Ledger.*

We are! and to show our sincerity, we intend to erase every man's name from our subscription list, at the end of the present volume, whose account is not square. We should like to have company in this game, but if we can't, we intend to "order it up and play it alone." We think we shall make four, too; at any rate we can't do worse than we have done, for it has taken the most scientific playing to enable us to make a "point" at the end of each year. By the by, would not a convention of Editors and publishers in this part of the State, for the purpose of concentrating opinion and action on this matter, be a good idea? What say you brethern of the quill of Erie, Crawford, Warren, Venango and Mercer!

☞ GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE.—We have received the February number of this popular monthly, and we can with truth say that it is in all respects as rich and interesting as any of its predecessors. It contains 112 pages of reading matter, to suit all tastes, "from gay to grave, from lively to severe." Indeed, every number of Graham for 1852 will contain 112 pages. The embellishments before us are "Sweet Sixteen," "Pere le Chase," "The Death of the Stag," "View of the Navy Yard, Philadelphia," &c., &c.

Park Benjamin's Lectures.

Absence from home deprived us of the pleasure of listening to the three first of the admirable Lectures of PARK BENJAMIN, Esq., of New York, before the Irving Institute. His last, on Wednesday evening, called the "Age of Gold," was a rich intellectual treat, and we pitied those so unfortunate or careless as not to be present. It was a poem of rare merit, sometimes pathetic, sometimes learned, sometimes simple, anon witty, and occasionally sarcastic. To "hit folly as it flies" and hold the "mirror up to nature," appeared to be the author's aim; and right skilfully did he accomplish his task. The changing, trading, speculating, book-making and book-peddling propensity of "Brother Jonathan;" the "go it while you're young" characteristic of "Young America," as exemplified in the California Exodus, and the constant striving for that "good time coming, boys," which so tickles the fancy of some of our modern Reformers, were hits that brought peals of laughter from his audience. Take it all in all it was admirably done, and we were really sorry there were not more to hear, instead of the "beggarly account of empty boxes" that greeted the Lecturer. It is a shame that so rich a treat should only have been enjoyed by about 150 in a population of six thousand. But so it was, and so it ever will be we fear. Talent may go a-begging, while brass and impudence may ride luxuriy.

☞ A NEW ORGAN.—We see that the *Gazette*, which has a peculiar propensity to stick its fingers into every body's dish, has become the Buchanan organ in this county. Twice, within the last month or so it has indicated its leaning in that direction, and with its wonted owl-like gravity assumed the office of the prophet, and predicted the success of the "favorite son" in Erie county. Of course we have no objection to this, for we are confident it will have the same effect as its notable effort at dictation last Fall, in the case of the steamer *Michigan*. That vessel was ordered to sail the day before the election, *but she didn't.* Erie county is ordered, by the same commander, to go for Mr. Buchanan, *but it won't.* The foundation of the anxiety of the *Gazette* in this direction, however, affords a very pregnant lesson to the Democracy, and for that reason we can exclaim in the language of Shakespeare, "we thank thee, Jew, for that word." The *Gazette* tells us—and we wish our Democratic friends to mark the expression well—that its anxiety for the success of Mr. Buchanan in this county arises from its hopes that *such success will have a "tendency to benefit and strengthen the whig party."* It "*hopes*" moreover, "*for the sake of the whigs that he will be the choice of the National Convention.*" Here is the gist of the whole matter. The whigs are anxious we should nominate Mr. Buchanan, because they think their chances to hold on to the public teat is better with him for an opposing candidate than any other man. Now, shall he give them aid and comfort, by doing as they desire us, because we may have a little "state pride"? For one, we say no!

A PRETTY GOOD GUESS.—The Yankees are famed for guessing, and here is an instance. In a Congressional Report we read:—"The Honorable gentleman informed the House, that in his opinion, Genin had an eye to the sale of hats, when he gave that $1000 to the Kossuth fund." That hits the nail on the head—Genin always has an eye to a good advertisement.

☞ The New York *Herald* published a foolish statement that Henry Clay has declared himself favorable to Gen. Cass for President. It don't seem reasonable that a man in his condition would trouble himself much about political affairs.

WHO SHALL BE PRESIDENT!

One week from to-day the Democracy of Erie will be called upon to designate, by the appointment of delegates to our County Convention, the person they desire to cast their suffrages for at the Presidential election next Fall. Although but a fraction of the great Democratic party of the State, it is not only their duty, but it ought to be their pleasure, to meet the questions involved in an open and fair manner. Out of the several candidates presented to their consideration, one ought to be selected, and their delegates to the 4th of March Convention instructed for him, whose nomination will best serve to harmonize the party,—not alone in Pennsylvania, but throughout the North and the South, the East and the West. He ought to possess, also, such elements of popularity, such well know characteristics of a statesman, as will insure us a sure and certain victory. The Democratic party cannot afford to be defeated in 1852. There are too many vital questions at stake, too great a necessity that the car of political Progress shall not be retarded by another whig victory, to risk the leadership in hands at all unpopular and doubtful.

We have from time to time heretofore indicated our belief that of all the candidates named, Gen. SAM HOUSTON, of Texas, possesses in the most eminent degree the qualifications necessary to win an easy victory. As a statesman he stands in the first ranks. As a patriot, where shall he find his equal! As a successful General, where his superior! As a brave soldier in the ranks, the friendship and love of the immortal JACKSON, under whose victorious banner he repeatedly fought and bled, is evidence sufficient to stamp him as a coin of the true metal. Besides, Gen. Houston is no sectional candidate. His claims to the popular sympathy do not rest upon "state pride," or personal efforts in behalf of any particular set of men, or section of the country. The Union and the Constitution, the whole country from Canada to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are all alike the subjects of his care and his love. With such a candidate the word rant would be unknown in the vocabulary of the Democracy. And then, the eventful and checkered life of Gen Houston—a life which partakes more or romance than that of any living man—what a theme for enthusiasm? What a subject for the orator upon the stump!—With what glowing colors could he picture the early trials and history of our glorious candidate? With what enthusiasm could he depict the scenes of his riper years, when, at the head of a handful of raw undisciplined troops, he put to flight the mailed hosts of Mexico and took her President prisoner. And then, when a country had been won, how he safely piloted her through all her difficulties and finally moored her within the folds of our Constitution. All this, and much more, could the orator say to awaken the enthusiasm of the people in behalf of Gen. Houston. If Scott should be the opposing candidate—and it is probable he will be—when his friends point to Lundy's Lane and Bridgewater, we can retort with Talledega and Tallapoosa. When they tell us of the perils and glories of Cero Gordo and the Mexican Basin, we can point to the ensanguined field of San Jacinto, and ask where in military history its equal in results can be found. But Houston possesses other advantages over Scott, or any other candidate named by the whigs, that cannot fail to tell in a popular election. While Scott is a "mere military hero," without any claims as a statesman, Houston is a statesman as well as a soldier. While the voice of the one has only been heard at the head of charging squadrons, that of the other has proved itself as powerful in the Senate as upon the battle-field. Such are some of the elements that, in our opinion, render the selection of Gen. Houston as the candidate of the Democracy for President more than desirable, in fact absolutely necessary to make our victory certain.

There may be those who prefer Mr. Buchanan or Gen. Cass, or Judge Douglas. There no doubt are, but that either of them could, with the same ease, unite the conflicting interests of the party and secure for its banners a victory, as Gen. Houston, we have our serious doubts. In regard to the two former those doubts approach very near to certainties. We know Mr. Buchanan is urged by his friends upon the grounds of "State pride," and our feelings as Pennsylvanians are sought to be enlisted in his favor; but upon the other hand we think we see in the distance sure defeat should "state pride" achieve a triumph at Baltimore. In the language of the Indiana *Sentinel*, the Democracy, in the approaching campaign, want "no milk and water statesman—no man whose opinions can be quoted on both sides of great and leading questions—no changeling—no old federalist—in a word, no man that carries weight, or whose previous course has already roused a certain degree of opposition. We want a man with whom we can take the field, and who shall enlist the popular sympathies of the masses without the whip and spur of mere party drill." Does Mr. Buchanan come up to this standard? We think not. He "carries weight," for his "previous course has already aroused" an opposition that must certainly loose him the State, should he be nominated. And we cannot do without Pennsylvania in 1852. We tried to do without New York in 1848, but the result proved that it was a fatal trial. Mr. Buchanan cannot "enlist the popular sympathies of the masses without the whip and spur of mere party drill," and we doubt much if he can with it. Besides, like the charges against Mr. Van Buren in 1840, that he was in favor of a standing army and had hunted the "poor indians" in Florida with blood-hounds, that against Mr. Buchanan—(whether true or false, and it is certainly false)—that he is in favor of reducing the wages of the laborer to the European standard of ten cents a day, will be used against him with tremendous effect. The Democracy cannot afford to carry this "weight," notwithstanding it is a false one. Again, Mr. Buchanan is charged with interfering, and with a good deal of reason too, in the selection of candidates for Judges at Harrisburg, and of Canal Commissioner at Reading, last summer. No man who lays himself liable to such imputations can expect the enthusiastic support of his entire party. And this is why, in part, the spectacle is now presented of Mr. Buchanan's inability to rally around him the full strength of the Democracy of Pennsylvania. This is why "state pride," all powerful in other States and with other statesmen, is paralized in the case of Pennsylvania. She has no longer a "favorite son;"—she is no longer strong in her own household, and hence must be content to occupy the position of electing a President but not furnishing one. We proclaim these unwelcome truths more in sorrow than in anger, and were it not that we deem it all important that the Baltimore Convention should not be deceived as to the true state of affairs in the Keystone, we would be the last one to probe the wounds of our political friends. But firmly believing Mr. Buchanan's nomination at Baltimore would be but the prelude to a defeat, we cannot consent that he shall go there with the united voice of the State proclaiming otherwise.

Flogging in the Navy.

We did not think there was a person, occupying the exalted station of a Senator, so lost to all the finer feelings of humanity, as to become the advocate of the restoration of the *Lash* among our seamen; but it appears we were mistaken. We did not wonder so much at the Secretary of the Navy's becoming its advocate, for he is surrounded with the old fogies and relics of the quarter deck, and hence is somewhat under their influence, but the course of Mr. Senator Mallory, of Florida, is a burning disgrace to his State. In a speech in the United States Senate, the other day, on the memorial praying for the restoration of flogging in the Navy, he took strong ground in its favor. He seemed to glory in the lash, and to take an exquisite pleasure in hearing of poor Jack's bleeding shoulders. The privilege of flogging he seems to look upon as the officer's most glorious prerogative.—Among other wild assertions, he said that "no good sailor was ever flogged in the Navy." This, which he seems to make his strong point, is so utterly withes foundation, that no Senator can give it a moment's countenance. Any one who will enquire into the matter, may learn that many a first rate sailor in the Navy, has been made to bleed under the lash, owing to the misunderstanding or the ungovernable passion of an ill-tempered officer, who had no law to fear or to restrict his punishment. Senator Stockton can answer Mr. Mallery's assertions, and his evidence of the facts and opinion of the law are worth more, on this particular subject, than those of any other Senator. We are glad, however, to see that Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, replied very warmly and properly to the remarks of the Senator from Florida.

A LETTER FROM MEXICO.

DURANGO, Mexico, October 13, 1851.

DEAR FRANK:—Here I am again, in this pleasant city of huge churches and pretty girls. We arrived here two days since with a sound scalp, thanks to our good luck. I'm afraid we're bound for the gallows; we've run all sorts of risks, and have not seen one single Indian. Two days before we arrived at the hacienda of "Chorra," (ten leagues from here,) a party of five Americans were attacked by them and one of the party badly wounded.—The people were terribly frightened all along our route, and for whole days we would travel without meeting a soul upon the road. Their crops too have failed for the past two years, and really they are in a most pitiable condition. We found the article of shelled corn selling most of the way at *five dollars per bushel.*

In a delay of nine days at Parras we only succeeded in recruiting one man, and three of us, (to the astonishment of the natives,) have made our way to this place.

I hear nothing of revolutionary movements up this way, and begin to believe that it is confined to the region of the Rio Grande. Fifteen hundred troops are ordered to march from the interior to the North. "Go it," I say; it's like the fight between the old lady's husband and the bear, no difference which whips. I should think it much more sensible in them to whip the Indians out of the country, than to be cutting each others throats about who shall be the recipient of the Presidential salary.

The company of Americans, which this State employed against the Indians, I'm told, did most excellent service, and were bringing matters to rights quite smartly, when the authorities took it into their heads that five dollars *per diem* for soldiering, was rather "tall," and so, one Saturday night, settled off with the lads. I suppose they must have enhanced the Yankee character, for I find our countrymen much better received here than when I visited the place in '49. Perhaps the California dust which the boys shell out to them, *en passant*, has some agency in this mighty work of reform.

A man who has rendered himself somewhat notorious throughout the United States for his forgeries and other little financial tricks, by the name of French, is confined in the prison at this place, together with some five or six others of our countrymen. They have been in prison some ten months without any trial. This, I presume, is on the principle of the Irish duelist who first shot his man and then rendered his apology. I think Jonathan must have been a stranger to anything like our "habeas corpus" act, else such star-chamber abuses could not prevail in the country if the law was not entirely a mockery. The charges against them are slight, nothing like what they have been reported in the papers, and I am well informed that even these will not be proved. They are a hard crowd, however, and will do much less harm in the calaboose than out of it. French is represented as a young man of 24 years, of fine personal appearance, with a power of intellect equalled by few of his age, and which, but for the unfortunate *kink* in his morals, would have graced the Senate of any State; in short, he is one of those chaps that "blathers them up, and slithers them down, divil a more in it." He is a native of Kentucky, where he has a most accomplished wife. He has been shot two or three times, and has lost one arm. He is as cunning as a fox, and as brave as a lion,—truly a most dangerous man to society. He was just upon the point of obtaining letters of introduction and starting to Mexico, with a grand scheme of colonizing the Rio Gila Valley, when he was overtaken here by the report of his forgeries on the House of Aspinwall. Surely his juvenile days were not spent in reading about the "rude boy that an old man found up in his apple tree stealing apples," and how the old codger first threw tufts of grass at him, and then blazed away with stones, else he would have learned that "*the way of the transgressor is hard.*"

We start to-morrow for Mazatlan, where, if the Lord preserves me, I'll write you again.

Be sure and forward the "*Observer*" to my direction in San Francisco or the "diggins." I can't do without it.

Yours, &c. "OMEGO."

For the Erie Observer.

The New County Project.

MR. EDITOR:—In your paper of Jan. 10th, I observe, over the signature of "Waterford," a lengthy communication in answer to my article relative to the new County projects. Will you allow me a small space to answer some of the reasons urged by "Waterford" why a new county should be formed out of parts of Erie and Crawford? As to the motives of those urging the project it is unnecessary to say farther than this; If it is the welfare of the dear people they are striving for, we think they could accomplish their object better by letting things remain as they are than by imposing upon them the burdens of increasad taxes to organize a new county and put up the necessary buildings; and when "Waterford" shows that thirty or fifty thousand dollars can be raised in the territory of the proposed new county without increasing the taxes or burdens upon the people, I shall be disposed to concede that I committed an "egregious blunder" when I asserted that "taxes will be greatly increased."—The first reason urged by "Waterford" is "the convenience of the citizens in this section of the county would be greatly accommodated." Reader, recollect that "this section" refers to Waterford and its immediate vicinity. Recollect that a Plank road is being built from Erie to Meadville by way of Edenboro, and that the citizens of the whole western part of the proposed new county, will be better accommodated to go either to Erie or Meadville than to Waterford.

The road at most seasons of the year is bad from Edenboro to Waterford and there is no inducement to go there except when compelled by urgent necessity. We do no business there, our market and trade is at Erie, and with the facility of the plank road the drive is but a short one, and we are always enabled to unite our own business with that of the public. This is so I am aware with other portions of the proposed new county. A plank road is being built to Wattsburg, this accommodates the whole eastern part of the county. There the lumber and shingle trade is very great, and Erie is their market, and when they go to Erie on matters of public business they take a load of lumber or shingles with them! What interest have they or us in common with Waterford? From both sections there are or will soon be good plank roads to Erie, whereas to Waterford we have for a large part of the year the pleasure of traveling through (not over) mud roads. The assertion in "Waterford's" second reason that the taxes will be greatly diminished is too frivolous to need an answer. It is true that the County Commissioners contemplate building a new Court House at Erie, and each section of the county will contribute pro-rata to their erection. It is well known that a large, and I may say the largest amount of the wealth in the county is on the lake shore and would consequently principally erect the new buildings. It may be true that the Judicial business of Erie county is increasing. The amount of business has to be done in the State, and the expenses except costs &c., paid by the parties litigant are paid by the Commonwealth, and it consequently makes no pecuniary difference whether the Courts are held in one place or another, except that if the places of holding are multiplied, the additional tax of erecting the new county buildings will be imposed on those of the new county, affording, as any one will see at a glance, a most conclusive argument against any dismemberment of the present county organizations. The reader will observe in "Waterford's" third reason that the burden of his prayer is to increase Waterford and draw the business there that now goes to Erie, and yet he disclaims any "sordid and selfish motives." Of this the reader is the judge. The very best reason why the proposed new county should not be formed is that a majority of the citizens are opposed to it, and I speak understandingly when I say that McKean, Franklin, Elkcreek, Edenboro, Washington, Amity, Wayne and Concord in Erie county, and all the towns proposed to be taken from Crawford, are violently opposed to the project of making a new county with the county seat at *Waterford* and are determined to oppose it.

EDENBORO.

A QUEER FAILURE.—In this State, when people are so unfortunate as to fail, their creditors begin to count up their loss. Not so in Wisconsin, for we see that a fellow who lately removed to Wisconsin, writes to his brother that the section where he resides is in a highly prosperous condition. He says that but one failure has ever occurred in his county, and in that case the man paid one hundred and twenty-five cents on a dollar.

The Kossuth row in Harrisburg.

From all accounts, the "assembled wisdom of Pennsylvania" at Harrisburg, must have had a "nice time of it," last week, upon the occasion of the reception of Kossuth. The scene was briefly noticed in our last under our telegraphic head, but as the information was necessarily meagre, the annexed account of the affair will not come amiss. It appears that the train had been delayed for some hours, on account of snow upon the track and when Kossuth and those in attendance upon him arrived, an immense crowd had assembled. It, however, gave way peaceably, and permitted the party to pass to the hotel, where dinner was served. M Kossuth, with his suit, the committee, &c., then proceeded to the Capitol, which was completely surrounded and blockaded up, by a dense and struggling crowd of men and women. Forcing a way through the unmanageable mob, with much time and trouble, it was found that the galleries, lobbies and body of the house, including the floor of the Senate chamber and the seats and desks of the members themselves, were filled with a closely packed throng, *mostly ladies*, who refused to budge an inch, or even to make way for the procession to pass to the platform, which they at length reached, after immense difficulty. In vain the Sergeant-at-arms and the Speaker shouted and implored—in vain the Governor appealed to the good breeding and hospitality of the ladies to at least retire from the Senator's seats. Not a foot moved—every petticoat stood firm upon its reserved rights! At length, as a last resort, the military were sent for, and actually came! But what could a company of militia, with the "gallant Captain John R. Garland" at their head, do against a crowd of women, in some of which every dauntless bayonet-hero recognized a wife, of whom he stood in more dread, and whose angry glances made him quake in his military boots! The confusion grew worse and worse—the Governor made his speech of welcome, and M. Kossuth made his reply, in dumb show—not a syllable transpiring beyond the platform. The affair then terminated, the Governor, the Senators, the officials and the military sneaked ingloriously off—the ladies marched out triumphantly in solid phalanx, and the mob dispersed.

This is the first time in the history of American mobocracy that the women have taken an active and leading part in a public riot and violation of order and the laws. It is a lasting disgrace to the sex, and argues badly for the new ideas and principles respecting woman's sphere and duties, which the social demagogues of both sexes are so industriously disseminating.

☞ MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—We learn from the Meadville *Gazette* that Mr. Wm. Kinney, a citizen of Sparta township, Crawford county, lost his life on Friday the 9th inst. under the following circumstances. He left home about 10 o'clock in the afternoon to cut some wood, and not returning in the evening, search was made for him, when he was found dead, having been killed by the falling of a dead limb from a tree, which struck him on the head, fracturing his skull, and apparently deprived him of life instantly. He was a very respectable citizen, and has left a large family to mourn his loss.

☞ FIRE.—On Saturday morning, between twelve and one o'clock, the Cabinet Shop of Mr. Joseph Cooper, immediately in the rear of the Perry Block, was discovered to be on fire. The building was all a blaze in an instant, so that it, with Mr. Ellis' kitchen and one of his stables, were burned to the ground. It is a fortunate circumstance that the roofs of neighboring buildings were covered with snow, as, otherwise, notwithstanding the vigorous exertions of the firemen, the conflagration would have been largely destructive. We feel that we are mainly indebted to this circumstance for the preservation of our offices and a considerable portion of the material and we know the other occupants of "Perry Block" realize a kindred obligation.

The Firemen worked with marked zeal and efficiency. We remember no former occasion on which they seemed to accomplish so much. We return them our thanks personally and the thanks of the whole community.

Mr. Cooper's loss by the fire is about $300. He is fully insured. Mr. Ellis has sustained considerable loss, for which he has no insurance. Dr. Wallace's building, although exposed to imminent danger, was but slightly damaged. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.—*Gazette.*

New Advertisements.

ERIE CO. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE meeting on the 21st was postponed [illegible] 27th, to meet at the office of Dr. James H. Stewart, Erie, at 3 o'clock, P. M. It is desirable that as many of the members as possible should be present, as there are some other matters of the greatest importance to come before the Society and National Association; with other business of importance will be attended to at this meeting. By order of the Society. Jan. 21, 1852—3t. J. L. STEWART, Sec'y.

WINCHELL IS COMING!

MR. WINCHELL respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of this city that he will