Sunbury and Erie Railroad.

At the meeting of the Sunbury and Erie railroad committee, held in Philadelphia on the 27th inst., at the Board of Trade room, $100,000 were subscribed towards the project. The committee adjourned to meet again on Friday next. The following letter from J. Edgar Thompson, Esq., in reference to this road, will be read with interest.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 29.

DEAR SIR;—I have before me your favor of the 17th inst. You do not over-estimate the interest I feel as a citizen of Philadelphia in the construction of the Sunbury and Erie railroad.

That enterprise has not been regarded by me as a rival to the Pennsylvania railroad. I have considered the construction of both as essential to the proper development of the resources of the State and the prosperity of our city. When completed, each work will send out its branches to the more inaccessible counties, and gathering the trade of nearly the entire Commonwealth, pour in into one common centre, destroying that diversity of feeling among her citizens at present fostered by their divided markets.

The amount yet to be raised to complete the Pennsylvania railroad is so comparatively small, that we may, without endangering *the progress of that great work*, spare some of our means to insure the early commencement of yours, which is not considered a rival, but a kindred enterprise, each calculated largely to increase the wealth and population of both our city and State—thus one exerting a favorable influence upon the business of the other. I hazard nothing in saying, that the *increased value of property in Philadelphia* and the counties continuous to the line of these roads, directly resulting from their construction, will equal the whole cost of both; while the commercial, manufacturing and mining interests cannot fail to reap advantages to an equal extent.—The region to be traveled by this road, is at present without a direct outlet to market, and its inhabitants seek that of a rival city, through the circuitous channels afforded by a neighboring State.

This condition of things should not be suffered to continue.

The superiority of the harbor of Erie is shown by the extension of the New York and Erie railroad to it, the completion of which, instead of proving injurious to your enterprise, will, in connection with the *anticipated construction of this road*, concentrate there a large portion of the trade of the lakes, and increase population and productive capacity of the vast region tributary to it. The wise provision of the act of the last session of our Legislature, breaking the guage of the track at Erie, will also discharge at that point, from the Ohio road, a considerable amount of travel and freight during the close of navigation, which will *tend* to increase the importance of the place, and give to your route the advantages, as soon as completed, of a terminal point of large trade. The broad guage of the Erie road, so often referred to as a mark of its superiority, instead of affording any practical advantage, will be found by experience to add to the cost of transportation.

The superiority of the gradient upon your line, united with its shorter distance, and its comparatively low cost, must enable you, as soon as your road is completed, to engross nearly the whole of the trade and travel between Erie and the seaboard, which, with the undivided local business of the country traveled will be ample to secure any reasonable dividends upon your stock.

In no other section of the State will the effects of an improvement of the kind be *so manifest* in the advance of the value of lands, and the rapid increase in the resources of the country, as upon the line of this road, which, with the accumulation of the through business, must soon demand a double track.

Seeing no other road projected which promises *equal benefits* to the State and its metropolis, or *stronger inducements* for the safe and profitable investment of capital, I have little difficulty in bringing my mind to *meet your views, and accordingly* subscribe one hundred shares to the stock of your company, upon the conditions printed in your subscription book. Although the amount may not be equal to your expectations, it is as large as my means will justify. Trusting that your efforts will meet the success they merit, I look forward to the completion of the two great railroads of Pennsylvania as the instruments of regaining to Philadelphia *her former proud position* as the first city of the Union. Very truly yours,

J. EDGAR THOMPSON,
Civil Engineer.

To D. L. MILLER, Jr., Esq., President.

Congress and the Cuban Prisoners.

In the House of Representatives, on Wednesday the Bill paying $6000 to bring back the Cuban prisoners from Spain, brought out from Mr. Carter of Ohio, a proposition to disclaim any approval or sanction of the Cuban Expedition. Much feeling and *excitement sprung up therefrom*,—but as the debate was under the five minutes rule, it was soon brought to an *end*.

The principle set forth by Carter's amendment is one of *great* importance, first in going against the whole principle of intervention, and second, particularly against Cuba intervention.

The House adjourned to think upon it, ordering the ayes and noes.

On Thursday, the amendment of Mr. Cartter was adopted by a vote of 91 to 71. The amendment reads thus:

Provided that nothing in this act shall be construed into an approbation of any interference in the domestic affairs of Cuba, by any of the citizens of the United States.

The bill was then passed by an overwhelmingly affirmative vote—yeas 147, nays 22. Here is the vote against it, in detail:

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, free whig of Mass.; Allison, whig of Pa.; Averett, S. R. dem. of Va.; Campbell, free soil whig of Ohio; Conger, whig of Mich.; Egerton, dem. of Ohio; Fowler, whig of Mass.; Gaylord, dem. of Ohio; Giddings, free soil of Ohio; Orr, S. R. dem. of S. C.; Phelps, dem. of Mo.; Powell, S. R. dem. of Va.; Schoonmaker, whig of N. Y.; Scudder, whig of Mass.; Smith, dem. of Ala.; Stanton, whig of Ohio; Stevens, dem. of N. Y.; Woodward, S. R. dem. of S. C.; Hall, dem. of Mo.; J. W. Howe, *whig of Pa.*; Meacham, whig of Vt.; and Newton, free soil whig of Ohio.

This, so far as we can gather, is all that was done, of public interest, in either House last week.

We find in the Mobile Register a letter from CHARLES A DOWNER, one of the Cuban prisoners sent to Spain, in which he relates some of the particulars of the expedition, and of its final result, and concludes his statement as follows:

Again I say thus ended this expedition, and so it ought to have ended. For an Expedition raised through deception, where young men of no experience in affairs of this sort are induced through false representations to join in a revolution, God's curse ought to be upon it, and the leaders should be made to suffer such torments as none but demons could invent. But no, the most innocent in this case have been made to suffer. For Colonel Haynes and Capt. Kelly, two men who worked harder to get up the *expedition than any others*, were by order of the Captain General, released at Havana. But God's will be done, if I am doomed to *remain a prisoner* here, I shall submit and bear my fate like a man.—But should it be my luck to return home, I assure you sincerely that this is the last time, as well as the first, that I will ever engage in an undertaking of this kind.

AMERICAN GENIUS.—Harrison Winans left Baltimore a few years ago a poor boy, but with an improved mind, acquired at a country school, with genius, ambition, and enterprise. He worked his way in Europe to the head of the machinists and engineers, and became a leading contractor on the great railroad between Moscow and Petersburgh—400 miles long. He has made over $1,000,000. On his return to Paris, he married a talented, amiable, and beautiful lady, and will soon build a cage for her, in the shape of a villa for all kinds of mechanics, and a park of three acres beautifully ornamented, where rich and poor may feast their eyes on indigenous plants and rare exotics. He goes once more to Russia to fill a contract with the Emperor on public works, by which he will bring $500,000 in gold for his *mental labors*.—*Wash. Telegraph.*

☞ A sudden and startling death occurred on the 29th ult., in Dr. Beecher's Church, at Brooklyn, N. Y. where Rev. *Mr. Eggleston* was lecturing on the Pilgrim Fathers, Rev. T. L. Skinner, an aged Presbyterian divine, took his seat with *his daughter* in a pew, and soon after leaned forward as she tho't to take of his overshoes. Remaining in this position, she became uneasy, and on his being raised up, he was found to be dead. Disease of the heart was the cause. He was 84 years old, and an excellent man. He resided, until last spring, at Frostburg, Maryland.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 7, 1852.

☞ On account of the publication of the Annual Statement of the Receipts and Expenditures of the County in the *Observer* this week, we have been compelled to curtail our usual amount of literary matter on the first page. The matter substituted, however, is of peculiar interest to every tax-payer, besides slightly so to ourselves.

☞ We invite attention to the letter, in another column, from J. Edgar Thompson, Civil Engineer, in relation to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad. *It is the letter* we alluded to in our last, and, as we then said, it is one calculated to have great weight in furthering the interests of that company. Mr. T.'s knowledge of railroads, being intimately connected with the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh road, and his experience as an Engineer, together with the fact that he has demonstrated the sincerity of his faith in the intrinsic value of this enterprise, by *the liberal subscription of $10,000, cannot fail to enlist* a large amount of capital in the work.

Mr. Hosmer's Lectures.

We were among the fortunate *few* who had the pleasure of hearing the first of W. H. C. HOSMER, Esq., of Avon, N. Y., before the Irving Institute, on Thursday evening. His subject, "A Tilt at Humbug," gave full scope and play to his well known literary talents, and right well were they employed. No Damascus blade ever cut with keener edge in the hands a skilful swordsman, than the pungent wit and sarcasm of the Lecturer when leveled at the Humbugs of the present day. The gentlemen with cap, and bells of all professions, whether of foreign or domestic growth, Saxon, Celt, Gaul, Magyar, or Jonathan, were made to play their appropriate part for the amusement and instruction of the audience. But we have not room to amplify—suffice it to say, Mr. H. lectures again this evening. when those who were so unfortunate as not to be present on last evening or Thursday evening, can have an opportunity of doing so.

His subject to night will be—"Scottish Song."—Monday.—"Ireland and Her Poets, Ancient and Modern." Tuesday.—"The Ideal." Wednesday.—"Indian Tradition and Character."

There is no End to Humbug.

The truth of this assertion we see exemplified every day. In morals, physic, trade, law, literature, politics, love and religion, humbuggery is more or less resorted to by unworthy men. We, as a people, love to be humbugged, and more than all we love to pay for it. We swallow innumerable doses of molasses and water, and call it an infallible remedy for some imaginary disease.—We make up wry faces at bread-pills, and deem we are swallowing some cure all, invented solely for our particular case by some philanthropic "M. D." We buy and dress our wives and daughters in cotton and worsted fabrics with a French name, and think them arrayed in stuffs from over the sea, when ten to one the goods first saw the light in some New England village. We put feathers in our hats, contribute "material aid" to Hungary, and think we are thereby helping to spread our own institutions over the old world, when in truth and in fact we know nothing about it. We run to hear Jenny Lind sing as long as the magic name of Barnum is connected with hers, but when he has "lined his pockets" with our bills and gold dollars, we drop her, to use a homely phrase "like a hot potatoe," though she sings just as divinely, and is as liberal with her purse as ever. Ah! but we like to be humbugged, and just now, in our opinion, we are being "done up peculiarly brown" by the "Eloquent," the "handsome" Magyar, Kossuth. Not satisfied with turning our politics topsyturvy, and setting our politicians crazy with a new "one idea," or with *turning our* pulpits into rostrums from which to preach a crusade against Russia, Austria, and the "rest of mankind"—not content with setting our sweethearts and wives to pulling caps for a smile from his mustached lip, or with introducing a kind of bandit-looking dress among our "fein gentlemen"—he must needs flood our country with a new emission of "red dog" paper-money, in denominations of from $1 to $100, that each fool may know just how much, in dollars and cents, he is humbugged. Come to think of it, we do not know but this is a good idea. The purchaser of Townsend's Sarsaparilla, or any other of the thousand and one nostrums invented to delude us out of our dimes, rejoices, after the use of his bottle, in a very fine steel engraving with the "autograph" of the humbugger on it. So it will be with the purchaser of Kossuth patriotism, only the Sarsaparilla label has decidedly the advantage in its democracy—each purchaser, whether he is a big fish or a little fish, whether he hails from a log cabin in the west, or from some marble palace "above Broadway," is treated exactly alike in regard to the "autograph." Not so, with Kossuth's "red-dog" labels—it is only the "larger ones," the "$100" gentlemen, that "have Kossuth's autograph signature;" the "smaller," the plebeian "$1" clod-hoppers, must be content "with a perfect fac-simile of the same." But seriously, if such a thing can be treated seriously, is'nt this the most bare-faced attempt to swindle the people, through their well-known feelings for the cause of civil and religious liberty, that has yet been devised. That we may not be accused of misrepresentation, we quote a paragraph from the New York *Times*, unfolding the scheme:

AID FOR HUNGARY.—We have already stated that the Central Hungarian Committee in this city has completed the preparation of engraved notes, for the purpose of affording those who desire to contribute *something* in aid of Hungarian independence satisfactory means of doing so. The notes are respectively for $100, $50, $20, $10, $5 and $1—the larger ones having Kossuth's autograph signature, and the smaller having a perfect *fac simile* of the same. They are engraved in the finest possible style, and have beautiful portraits of KOSSUTH upon them.

Of course every ass in the land that can raise a dollar, no matter whether his shoe-maker's or tailor's bill has been paid or not, will send for one of these "red-dog" pictures. This, together with the thousands that will be sent in by those who have been misled by the humbug press of the country, and the "20's" and "50's" that will be contributed by politicians who will deem the notoriety they will thereby acquire cheap at that price, will undoubtedly swell the sum total to an enormous amount; and all this from a people that are eternally prating about their taxes, and much of it from the very men that went into spasms over the expense of the Mexican war. But what is to be done with this money? Why, it is "material aid to Hungary"—to enable Hungary to obtain her independence! we think we hear some enthusiast with a "feather in his hat" reply. Simpleton, that ye are, no! Let us show you, and from Kossuth himself, too, that but very little of this "material aid" is appropriated to its legitimate use. While Kossuth was in Pittsburgh a delegation was sent from Cleveland to extend a formal invitation to him to visit that city. Mr. Gray, editor of the *Plain Dealer* (one of the committee) in a letter to his own paper gives full particulars of their first interview with Kossuth. It appears that the ex-Governor spoke very plainly to the editor of the *Plain Dealer*, who thus records his language in reference to the proposed reception:

"Gentlemen, you will know my wishes when I tell you that already one hundred and sixty thousand dollars have been raised in this country for the Hungarian fund, and but *thirty thousand* of it has been realized for my suffering cause. The rest has been drank and toasted out in costly banquets and foolish parades, for which I have no taste and in which I take no pleasure. I have contracted for 40,000 muskets at $2 each, $80,000: I have made one payment and have got others to make, or lose what has been paid. If the money raised had been properly expended, my mission would ere this have been ended, and the basis of my country's liberty secured."

So it appears that of all this patriotic outpouring of "material aid" to "suffering Hungary," but about one *dollar out of five* has been devoted to the "mission;" the balance, *one hundred and thirty thousand dollars*, has been expended in giving "material aid" to both the *hungry* and the *dry* among those who have taken the "eloquent Magyar" under their protection. In other words, the people have been swindled out of this vast sum to enable "small-*beer* politicians" to make *champaign* speeches, at "costly banquets and foolish parades." Verily, there is no end to Humbug.

Proceedings of Court.

Reported for the Erie Observer.

Jan. 30.—Present, Judges Galbraith, Pres., and Miles and Sterrett, Associates.

The case of John Duncan vs. Theodore Johnson was called and proceeded to trial. In the summer of 1849 Johnston bought the canal boat John A. Tracy, and ran her the rest of the season and laid her up at Beaver during the winter. Having had as much experience on the canal as he wanted during the summer, or finding more profitable business to engage his attention, he sold her to Duncan in February 1850, representing as was alleged by plaintiff that she was in first rate repair and sound, when he knew to the contrary. He was smart enough to get his pay at the time of the sale or soon after. Duncan went early in the spring to Beaver to take possession of his boat, and commence business, and was much disappointed at her appearance, and after giving the subject every consideration, he came to the conclusion that the "*world was hollow*," and his boat rotten, and that he would make Johnson dance to a tune he would play, and in his wrath commenced this action of deceit to recover back his money. Theodore replied that he did not make the false representations, that Duncan had obtained the information from others upon which he bought, and that being the case he could not recover in this suit. But the jury would not believe him. They somehow or other got an impression that there was "cheating" about, and determined to put their foot on it, and found a verdict for plaintiff for $524 47. Marshall & Vincent for plaintiff. Thompson & Grant for defendant.

Jan. 31.—Ruled and granted to show why a new trial should not be granted, so the matter is not yet ended.

Jan 30.—The case of C. F. Norton vs. J. V. Carter was next on the calendar. This was an action of ejectment. The land had been sold by parol agreement to Carter but no money paid or possession given when Norton obtained a judgment against the vendor of the land. After this Carter took possession of the land under his former agreement. Norton sold the land on an execution issued on his judgment and bid it off himself and brought this action to recover the land. The question was then whether the judgment entered after the parol sale was a lien on the land, and whether the sheriff's vender acquired title under the sale as against the vender by parol. The Court ruled in favor of the sheriff's title and verdict for plaintiff. Cutler for plaintiff, Marshall & Vincent for Defendant.

Jan. 31.—Etsel Sutton vs. Ira Sutton. This was an action of malicious persecution and slander. In 1846, the defendant became indebted to the plaintiff to a considerable sum for various matters, and in payment gave him three several notes. Two of the notes were recognized by defendant as genuine and paid. The third note which defendant says was originally $62 28 and plaintiff $162 28, was cut down by an arrangement $20. Pliff. negotiated a note against defendant for 142 28 and the purchaser gave defendant notice, and he said the note was a forgery, as it should have been only $42 28, and accused the plaintiff, his brother, with the forgery and arrested him for it in June 1850. After examination before Justice Smith he was dischaaged, and brought this suit to vindicate his character and compensate him in a measure for the injury he had sustained. At the time of the transaction he was a member in good standing in the Methodist church as well as defendant, but was poor and of small influence; the defendant was much better off in *this world's* goods and soon succeeded in getting him expelled from the church, and has kept him in trouble ever since. The testimony occupied all day and until 11 o'clock P. M., when the court adjourned over until Monday morning.

Monday morning, Feb. 2.—Court met. The jury in the case of Sutton vs. Sutton returned a verdict for pliff. for $40 00. *Thompson & Grant and Marshall for pliff.* Taylor and Babbitt for defendant.

Commonwealth vs Henry Palmer, indicted for assault and battery, prosecutor not appearing, his recognizance was forfeited and defendant discharged. Taylor for Commonwealth.

Commonwealth vs Henry Whipple, Joseph Whipple and John Munson, indictment under act of 1705 "against mixing and adulterating strong liquors." Deft. moved to quash the indictment, as no indictable offence was set out,—granted. Taylor for pros., Galbraith, Whallon and Cutler for defts.

Commonwealth vs James Decamp, indictment for assault and battery. Settled.

Commonwealth vs Royal D. Nason, indictment for assault and battery. Settled.

Commonwealth vs John Scott, indictment for passing counterfeit money. Verdict *not guilty*. Taylor for pros., Galbraith and Marshall for defence.

Commonwealth vs H. S. Drake, indictment for assault and battery. Plead guilty. Sentenced to pay a fine of $1 and costs.

Commonwealth vs Wm. Lee, indictment for larceny. Verdict guilty.

Commonwealth vs Albert Wilson, Daniel King and Nathan King. Assault and battery, bill ignored.

Commonwealth vs Smith Corbin, indictment for keeping a tippling house. Bill ignored and Edward Brace, the prosecutor pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs Joseph McBride, assault and battery. Plead guilty and fine $5 and costs.

Commonwealth vs Hamilton Waters, assault and battery. Plead guilty; fined $5 and costs.

Commonwealth vs Urban Knoll, assault and battery. Verdict guilty. Taylor for pros., Marshall for defence.

Commonwealth vs J. S. Cunningham, indictment for the larceny of a keg of butter from C. M. Tibbals. Plea, not guilty. Jury could not agree. Taylor for pros., Whallon, Galbraith, Cutler and Babbitt, for defence.

Commonwealth vs Michael Leve, indictment for assault and battery.

Commonwealth vs Joseph Richstadt, Henry Albrecht, Michael Hayner, George Stopple, indictment for libel. Not a true bill.

Commonwealth vs Samuel Stone, indictment for the murder of Rachel Counsellor. Verdict voluntary manslaughter. Taylor and Babbitt for pros., Galbraith and Marshall for defence.

Commonwealth vs James Kingston, assault and battery. Settled.

☞ GOV. BIGLER'S FIRST VETO.—Gov. Bigler sent to the Senate, on Thursday of last week, a message vetoing a bill supplementary to an act incorporating the Hanover Branch Railroad. The Governor's objections did not rest against the main features of the bill, but some of its sections appeared to have been drawn in such a loose and careless manner, that they conferred unlimited power upon the Directors in regard to issuing stock, banking purposes, &c. The veto was sustained, 27 to 3, and then the bill was amended so as to remove the objectionable features, and passed.

SENSIBLE ADVICE.—The New York *Herald* thus closes a long article on Kossuth:

"We would advise him and all his friends to turn their attention to sober realities—not sophistries, absurdities, and improbabilities, however fine in language, novel in thought, or eloquent in delivery. Let them all take a lesson from their *avant courier*, old Governor Ujhazy—let them go to the West, buy farms, turn farmers and practical philosophers, and Kossuth may be returned from some Western State as a Delegate and Congressman.—All else is humbug."

☞ ADJUTANT GENERAL.—A correspondent to the Pittsburg *Post*, under date of Harrisburg, Jan. 28, says he is informed, by undoubted authority, that "Col. James Keenan, of Westmoreland county, has been appointed Adjutant General by Gov. Bigler. This will be a very popular appointment. Col. Keenan is a young man of brilliant talents, and eminently qualified for the position to which he has been appointed. He was a Lieutenant in the Mexican war, and his brave and gallant conduct while an officer in actual service, is a sure guarantee that he will honor the office of Adjutant General of Pennsylvania." A slight acquaintance with Col. Keenan leads to endorse fully all that is here said commendatory of his appointment.

☞ The Meadville *Gazette and Journal* comes to us his week greatly enlarged, and in a new dress. It is now one of the largest country papers in the State,—not too large, we hope, to pay?

Democratic County Convention.

In pursuance of a call of the Democratic Central Committee of Erie county, delegates from the several townships, Boroughs, and Wards of the county assembled at the American Hotel in the city of Erie on Monday, February 2nd, at two o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of electing two delegates to the Democratic State Convention to be holden in Harrisburg on the 4th of March. The Convention was called to order by HENRY TELLER, Esq., of Girard, who nominated S. F. WARNER, Esq., of Springfield, permanent Chairman. The motion was put and carried. W. W. WYATT, of Harborcreek, and HARLEY SHERMAN, Esq., of Elk Creek, were then elected Vice Presidents, and *B. F. Sloan*, of Erie, and *C. C. Boyd*, of Washington, appointed Secretaries.

The roll of townships was then called, and the credentials of delegates received. It appeared that there were several townships unrepresented, besides several represented, the delegates from which had no credentials. Also, the East Ward of the city of Erie two sets of delegates appeared, and claimed seats.

On motion, the covention proceeded to fill up the unrepresented townships with gentlemen present from them severally, and to admit the delegates claiming seats without credentials. The representation then stood as follows:

Erie—East Ward.—Claimed by W. W. Loomis, G. A. Bennett, and Murray Whallon, and C. M. Tibbals.
Erie—West Ward.—Benjamin Grant, B. F. Sloan.
Millcreek.—Robert Cochran, A. F. Worden.
Harborcreek.—P. P. Bryant, W. W. Wyatt.
North East.—Thomas Folwell, Job Freeman.
" Borough.—H. H. Allison, Alex. Davidson.
Greenfield.—E. C. Roberts, Thomas Brown.
Venango.—Horace Wood.
Green.—Columbus Barney, A. P. Rouse.
Amity.—Allen Ensworth.
Wattsburg.—W. B. Williams, Daniel Bishop.
Wayne.—D. W. Howard, Amos Heath.
Waterford.—Curtis Osborn, Samuel Phœnix,
M'Kean.—J. G. Burlingham, J. F. L. McClure.
Edenboro.—Marcus Saley, M. Greenfield.
Washington.—Levi White.
Elk Creek.—Harley Sherman, Luke Warner.
Springfield.—S. F. Warner, Maj. A. Mallory.
Girard.—Henry Teller, John Robinson.
" Borough.—A. G. Ely, Arthur Greenwood.
Fairview.—George H. Turner.
Waterford—Borough.—C. C. Boyd, B. W. Vanscise.

Henry Teller, Esq., of Girard, stated that one of the delegates from Springfield could not attend, and moved that the other be allowed two votes.

B. F. Sloan, of Erie, moved to amend, allowing each township two votes whether represented by one or two delegates, whereupon Mr. Teller, with the consent of the seconder, withdrew his motion.

Mr. Sloan moved the original resolution as amended, and there being a second, it was put and carried.

On motion the contested seats from the East Ward of the city, were taken up, when Hon. James Thompson appeared on the part of Messrs. Loomis and Bennett, and Murray Whallon, Esq., on the part of himself and his collegue, C. M. Tibbals. After both parties had been heard, and the matter fully discussed, a motion was made declaring Messrs. Loomis and Bennett the duly elected delegates for the East Ward. Henry Teller, Esq. moved to amend by substituting the names of Murray Whallon and C. M. Tibbals. The yeas and nays were called, when it appeared that 17 voted for the admission of Loomis and Bennett, and 15 for Whallon and Tibbals—several declining to vote. W. W. Loomis then came forward and took his seat, and presented a paper from his colleague, Mr. Bennett, appointing W. G. Arbuckle his substitute—he being suddenly called from home, and unable to attend.

On motion, Mr. Arbuckle was admitted to a seat in the Convention.

On motion, the Convention then proceeded to the nomination and election of delegates to the 4th of March Convention at Harrisburg.

Benjamin Grant, Esq., nominated Smith Jackson, of Erie, and Anthony Saltsman, of Millcreek.

Henry Teller, Esq., nominated Wm. A. Galbraith, and Murray Whallon, Esqrs., of Erie, whereupon the nominations closed, and the Convention proceeded to ballot, with the following result:

Smith Jackson,	24 votes.
Anthony Saltsman,	22 "
Murray Whallon,	15 "
William A. Galbraith,	17 "

Smith Jackson and Anthony Saltsman having been declared duly elected delegates from Erie county, Benjamin Grant, Esq., moved they be instructed to support the election of delegates to the Baltimore Convention favorable to the nomination of Gen SAM HOUSTON, of Texas, for President.

Henry Teller, Esq., of Girard, moved to amend, by striking out the name of Gen. Sam Houston, and inserting JAMES BUCHANAN.

Mr. Grant moved to lay the amendment upon the table, which was put and carried. The original resolution was then adopted without a division.

The Convention then proceeded to the nomination and election of three conferees to meet a similar number from Crawford, to appoint a Senatorial Delegate. E. W. Gerrish, of Edenboro, Harley Sherman, of Elk Creek, and B. F. Sloan, of Erie, were nominated, and as no other nominations were offered, were elected *viva voce*.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Erie *Observer* and *Our World*, and the *Pennsylvanian* be requested to copy.

S. F. WARNER, Pres't.

WM. W. WYATT, HARLEY SHERMAN, Vice Pres'ts.

C. C. Boyd, *B. F. Sloan*, Secretaries.

For the Erie Observer.

To the Democracy of Erie County.

The undersigned, believing as they do, that at your county convention, as well as at the primary meetings, in some instances which appointed its members, the usages of our party were violated and the principles of right wholly disregarded, have deemed it proper to submit to you an unvarnished statement of facts, showing what has been done in your name, that you may either approve of or repudiate the same. Having become satisfied at an early day, that the democracy of this great commonwealth would press with a unanimity unparalleled in its history, the nomination of our distinguished fellow citizen, the Hon. James Buchanan, as a candidate for the Presidency, at the approaching Baltimore Convention, with the brightest prospects of his success before that convention, and his triumphant election by the great democratic party of the Union, at the approaching presidential election, deemed it their duty to the party, the voice of which they are ever ready to obey, and to that firm, consistent, and distinguished champion of its principles, that they should acquiesce in what was clearly the expressed will *of the majority of our glorious old party, vindicate the fair* fame of the chosen leader of the Democracy of this state, and by every honorable means secure the harmony of our party by giving effect to the will of the majority, sustaining the *high reputation* of our candidate and maintaining the comparative influence of this ancient and powerful democratic commonwealth among the several states comprising our glorious union. Entertaining these views they have, upon every suitable occasion, endeavored to enforce by fair arguments, and render effective and triumphant, *by well directed energy and the use of legitimate means*, the claims of our state, and the success of the candidate which she presents. Before the meeting of your convention, or the selection of the members which composed it, this state had spoken, and the voice of the majority of the party, as expressed in county conventions, the result of which was already known, throughout the state, *but a publication of which had been carefully avoided by the organ of the party in this county*. What had been conjecture, was then history. Ninety-eight delegates having been chosen, of which Mr. Buchanan had seventy-six, Gen. Cass thirteen, doubtful and claimed by both, nine, Gen'l. Houston none. The State convention being composed of one hundred and thirty-three members. Mr. Buchanan had already a clear majority of nine in a full convention, and of the remaining thirty-five delegates to be chosen, it was almost certain he would have thirty, leaving him the overwhelming majority of seventy-nine in a convention thus composed.

The situation of the party in the State being as stated above, the contest for delegates in this County took place on the 31st *ultimo*, with the following results in the several districts where meetings were held, to wit:

Districts.	For Buchanan.		Districts.	Op. to Buch.	
Erie, East Ward,	2	delegates	Erie, W Ward,	2	del'gts.
Millcreek,	2	"	Harborcreek,	1	"
North East bor.,	2	"	North East tp.	1	"
Greenfield,	2	"	Greene,	2	"
Wattsburg,	2	"	Waterford tp.	2	"
Waterford bor.,	2	"	Girard bor.,	2	"
McKean,	2	"	Elkcreek	2	"
Girard tp.,	2	"	Edinboro,	2	"
Del'gts chosen,	17			15	

The above were all the delegates selected by the people, in attendance and admitted to their seats except the two delegates from the East Ward in this city, and one delegate each from the townships of Millcreek, Elk Creek and McKean.

In the first district named, a contest arose, the nature of which we will now proceed to state. Our meeting was held in the Court House. The Court being in session it was held during a recess of the court and could continue from that cause only one hour, during which time not more than one-half of the Democrats of the ward were in attendance. At the opening of the meeting a motion was made and carried to select by ballot, in violation to the uniform usage of the party for at least twelve years. At fifteen minutes before the time fixed for closing the polls the opponents of Mr. Buchanan believing themselves in the majority, made a motion to close the same upon which a violent discussion arose which had the desired effect to stop the voting entirely until the time had arrived to close. When the President proceeded to count the ballots deposited, taking first mainly those which were in favor of Messrs. Tibbals and Whallon the Buchanan delegates. When they were tallied out, he proceeded with those for Messrs. Loomis and Bennett upon the outside of which were the words "Opposed to Buchanan." Having counted about one-third of these tickets, the President of the caucus opened one, upon the inside of which was printed "B. F. Sloan," "Benjamin Grant," (they being candidates in the West Ward,) upon examination of which he said, "here is a mistake," "here is a vote lost," upon the point being raised decided that the vote should not be counted. On continuing the count three other votes of the same character were found—when the count was finished with the following result:

For Charles M. Tibbals,	39	votes.
" Murray Whallon,	39	"
" G. A. Bennett,	37	"
" W. W. Loomis,	37	"

When the President declining to adhere to the principle announced as applicable to the first "West Ward ticket" found, and being about to take a viva voce expression of the meeting, the room then being filled with citizens of both Wards, a motion was made and carried to refer the question to the County Convention, which was accordingly done.

I fully concur in the statement of facts above, so far as relates to the proceedings of the caucus in the East Ward in this city. HALSEY PELTON, Sec'y of Caucus.

Our delegate from the township of Millcreek being absent had substituted the defeated Houston delegate from that township upon the pledge of fidelity to instructions.

The delegates from the East Ward in this city, being thus unjustly excluded from seats in said convention until the convention could act upon the question involved, gave the opponents of Mr. Buchanan the power to control the order of proceedings, the delegate from Millcreek referred to, voting with them on the question which we will now proceed to state.

The convention being organized, and the credentials of delegates selected presented, a motion was made by the friends of Mr. Buchanan to settle the contested question in this city. An amendment was offered, to first admit persons not appointed, residents of the several townships which had held no meetings, and in attendance by request or otherwise, which amendment was adopted. Under this process delegates were admitted from the following Townships, Amity, Wayne, Venango and Fairview. The delegates from Venango, and who would have voted for Buchanan delegates, being upon the Grand Jury, and court calling at this time, were compelled to leave the convention, when the vote being taken on the admission of the majority delegates from the East Ward, they were rejected by a vote of seventeen to fourteen, and the *minority* delegate admitted by the same vote.—When Anti-Buchanan delegates were selected and instructed for Gen'l Houston. Thus terminated the convention to which no parallel can be found in the political history of the country. We are, very respectfully,

Your fellow-democrats,
MURRAY WHALLON,
WM. A. GALBRAITH,

For the Observer.

New County Project—Cambridge Meeting.

MR. EDITOR:—I would ask your indulgence, in order to communicate to the public, through your columns, a few ideas in relation to the above named project, and to state some of the doings at the Cambridge meeting.—In looking over your columns, I observed a notice of a meeting to be held at Cambridge, on the 19th of January, for the avowed object of making preliminary arrangements for the formation of a new County, out of parts of Erie and Crawford, with the County seat at Waterford. Being somewhat interested, I repaired to the place of appointment, although the day was terrific beyond description. A goodly number were soon assembled, citizens of Crawford County; then commenced the gossip with regard to the new County; one, and only one opinion was expressed, and that was decided opposition to the project. Late in the day a delegation arrived from Waterford, zealous of their rights, zealous of the rights of the dear people, clamoring loudly against the enormous taxes laid upon the people by the County of Erie, earnestly desiring for the sake of the people to rid themselves of so unfavorable a connection, being almost totally indifferent with regard to the County seat, so that they might be disconnected from the old County, and thus escape the payment of taxes for the support of the paupers of Erie. The meeting was organized by electing William Campbell, Esq., of Cambridge, President, and Peter Judson, Esq., of Waterford, and Celer Jackson, of Cambridge, Secretaries; a committee of five were appointed to draft resolutions, expressive of the sense of the meeting. Four of said committee agreed upon a set of resolutions, and reported them to the meeting, they were received with one deafning shout of yea; but not without every possible obstacle being thrown in the way by the people of Waterford; such as motions to adjourn, and an effort to prevent the people of Cambridge from voting, and every other device that their ingenuity was master of.

The reader will judge by this time what kind of resolutions they were. They were uncompromisingly in opposition to the project. A vote was passed authorizing the publication of the proceedings of the meeting in the several papers of Erie and Meadville. But where are they? Have they been published? I think not. The fact is, the gentleman from Waterford was the acting Secretary, and consequently the papers would fall into his hands, and being averse to his feelings, he probably pocketed them, like some timorous executive who dare not incur the responsibility of either signing or vetoing the bill. Had the proceedings of the meeting been favorable to the formation of a new County, ere this we should have seen them published, and its advocates exulting in their success. Will they publish them? I call upon those whose duty it is, to publish them to the world in accordance with the resolutions passed at the meeting.—But what is the real cause of the desire of the people of Waterford to have a new County? It must be some other than the one avowed,—that is, to diminish taxation. It is true, perhaps, that some of the townships have sent no persons to the County poor house; such is the case with Washington. But then we had poor to support before the establishment of the County poor house; but the dislike to the poor house, prevents people from making applications which they otherwise would were they supported by the townships. Therefore, I do not think that the taxes we have to pay for the support of the poor, is very little, if any greater than they would be if we had no poor house. The expenses incident to the organization, formation and conducting the affairs of a new County, must greatly enhance the taxes for years to come.—Then, in a pecuniary point of view, it behoves us to oppose the formation of a new County.

The several papers of Erie please copy the above.

WASHINGTON.

A LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21, 1851.

DEAR FRANK:—It is now better than two months since I wrote you, and yet I have been busy ever since getting to this point, where I arrived three days since. We were detained one month in Mazatlan waiting for transportation, during which time the coast fever got afoul of us, besides various other little misfortunes of no great interest to any one but your veracious correspondent, hence I would not allude to them only to show you, that for any thing commendatory of this route I have ever written, I have in my own person done full penance. On the 27th of Nov. we embarked on board the bark "New England," which, as her name imports, is a "Yankee ship," and she had a "Yankee crew." The skipper, a quaint old codger, was one of those persons who "had no malice in his heart, nor ruffles on his shirt." There were about 70 souls on board, principally Mexicans of the softer sex, which old "*wooden-nutmegs*" was taking to this place on speculation. This importing sweet-hearts is no joke here, but has been engaged in with regular mercantile avidity; the *ventures* yielding occasionally a fine profit.

We had scarcely passed the lower extremity of south California, (Cape St. Lucas,) when we encountered contrary winds, and were obliged to run out to the west as far as the 129th degree. The ship then run down on a north-east course, and we were congratulating ourselves on making a very smart passage to our port. Hope beat high in every heart—we should soon be rid of the cramped-up, dirty coop. But one day more and we would exchange the mouldy biscuit and the salt beef for the fresh cheer on shore. Ah; we fattened at least an inch in luxurious anticipation. But who, indeed, can tell what a day or an hour may bring forth. The wind shifted suddenly and blew a most terrific gale directly in our teeth, and lasted for ten days. During this time our provisions nearly gave out, as also did our wood and water.—We came near going ashore one foggy night—the passengers mutinied against our captain, and were on the point of superceding him in the command of the ship.

At length the wind *did change*, and then we cracked on every stitch of sail—cheerily we ploughed through the long rooling seas—merrily came the shout of "land ho!" and soon, passing through the lofty head lands that divide the harbor from the sea, we cast our anchor within the capacious harbor of San Francisco Bay.

"Then, oh, what rapture fills each breast
Of the hapless crew of the ship distressed
When landed safe what joy to tell,
Of all the dangers that befell."

And good reason too we had to feel grateful, for when the pilot come on board, the last bit of bread and meat was in the pot, and but forty gallons of-salish water left.

What shall I say more? The scenes about me, are of too extraordinary nature for even an allusion at this time. I'm intoxicated, with the novelty before me. Of all the *extravagant stories afloat*, in regard to this fabled land, I'm convinced that not a lie has been told, even to the fellow with the $25,000 dish of beans. California is a fast—a very fast country, far ahead of the mind,—the telegraph can just come up to California time, and no *more*.

Just now extravagant tales come to us in relation to the success in the southern mines, or dry diggings, brought about by the recent rains. More anon. "OMEGO."

P. S.—Dec. 30th. I see by the morning papers, that our bark went ashore last night in a gale. O

News by Telegraph and Mail.

Four Days Later From Europe.

HALIFAX, Feb. 1

The steamer Humbolt put into Halifax in distress.—She left Cowes on the 14th. Soon after her departure, she experienced a tremendous sea which unshipped her rudder, and she was steered with the greatest difficulty. She will sail for New York to-day, if possible. She has on board four days *later from* Europe was generally quiet. Liverpool Cotton market buoyant. The supply of Flour and Corn continued limited, and holders were asking advanced rates. Several parcels of Indian Corn had changed hands, at an improvement of 6d per quarter.

ENGLAND.—The London Times announces that the next session of the Parliament will be opened on the 3d of Febuary, by the Queen in person, and that the present Cabinet, without any further modification, is resolved to face the difficulties of the session of 1852.

The Times, however, gives no hope that Lord John Russell's government will survive the session, but plainly hints that it will speedily fall before the accumulating difficulties and oppositions which it must experience.—All the overtures of the Russell Administration to the leaders of the Peel party for the formation of a coalition have been declined by the latter.

The Times recommends the modification of the Ministry, in a broad and liberal sense, as the only hope of the salvation of Lord John Russell; but there appears to be no chance of this advice being at present acted upon.

The London Daily times of the 12th instant, states, in reference to the Prometheus affair, that the British Government will express to the Cabinet of Washington, in frank and manly terms, their regret at what has occurred and testify in a marked manner their disapprobation of the aggressor's conduct. There is no doubt, therefore, that the matter will be amicably settled.

FRANCE.—The President of the French Republic has issued a decree dissolving the National Guards throughout France, but they are to be recognized when the government may deem it necessary for the maintainance of public order. In such a case the President will appoint the commander, colonels, and lieut. colonels.

It was daily expected that Louis Napoleon would declare himself Emperor, but it was felt that such a step would not add to the despotic power he at present exercises.

Large numbers of persons were being shipped off to the pestilent swamps of Cayenne.

Decrees have also been issued banishing Victor Hugo, Charras, and a great number of the Mountain party, from the territories of France.

The same decree ordered the removal of Generals Changarnier, Lamoriciere, Bedau, M. M. Thiere Girardin, and twelve others for a time from France and Algiers for reasons of public security. The Generals were released from the fortress of Ham and escorted to the frontiers. Arrests continue in all parts, and there was virtually "a reign of terror." The French funds have fallen considerably.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 31.

The mangled remains of young Leman, the Jew pedlar, were discovered last evening in the Delaware river, near Port Richmond. He had been missing since Jan. 8. The head had been cut off and concealed in some sacks, which were found by some children on the bank of the river. The sacks were frozen in the ice.

Andrew McBride, who recently murdered his brother in the same neighborhood, is supposed to have been also concerned in this horrid deed, in connection with his brother now dead, and another relative.

BOSTON, Jan. 31.

At the Democratic State Convention of Rhode Island, held yesterday, a resolution was adopted, declaring LEWIS CASS and WM O. BUTLER the choice of the Democrats of the State for President and Vice President, and the delegates instructed to *go for them*. Resolutions were offered, endorsing Dorrism and the Compromise measures, which were laid on the table.

NEW YORK, Jan 31.

Judge Roosevelt decided to day, that a *Railroad Co.*, had no right to subscribe to the stock of another Co., without the consent of all the stockholders.

The Cherokee has arrived with 30 passengers, the California mails and $1,000,000 in gold.

The New Jersey Legislature has passed a series of joint resolutions endorsing the Compromise measures, including the Fugitive Slave law, without a dissenting voice.

In the Forrest Divorce case, the argument on the motion to enter a bill of exceptions, resulted in the Court granting a judgement of Divorce and an allowance of $3000 per annum from the commencement of the suit—payment on the voluntary yearly allowance of $1500, to be credited from that time.

Mrs. Forrest is to resign her right to Dower and Mr Forrest is to give satisfactory security for the payment of the $3000 a year, if he can, instead of its being a lien on his real estate.

The detales of the Decree and of the Appeal, are to be settled next Saturday.

WASHINGTON, Feb 1

A rumer is current of another extensive fraud on the Government. The money abstracted, was under the immediate control of the State Department. Mr. Webster has made arrangements for the arrest of the guilty party, who escaped. The offender is said to be of little note.

NEW YORK Feb 2.

A man named Jonas Levey, has been arrested here by the U. S. Marshal, charged with maliciously carrying on a correspondence with the Mexican President, to the great damage of the U. S. Government. An indictment was found against him at Washington, and he has been taken back there. His offence had reference to meddling with the grant for the Tehuantipec Canal.

On Saturday evening, while a keg, containing $5000 Mexican dollars, was being hoisted on board the packet ship St. Nicholas, the keg burst and the contents fell into the dock, in 26 feet of water. Unsuccessful efforts have been made to recover the money.

The greater portion of the Hungarians here have found employment, and are now earning their living.

☞ USEFUL INVENTION.—In pulling large trains of cars, it has been found difficult many times to stir the trains after stopping, in consequence of the wheels slipping. Hence it has been necessary very frequently to throw sand on the track. This has been remedied by running a copper pipe immediately in front of the wheels through which the engineer can, at any moment he finds the wheels slipping, discharge a quantity of sand. This apparently trifling improvement will save an immensity of time and trouble.

EXTRA HAZARDOUS.—The new constitution of Ohio only authorises the issuing of licenses on two hazardous accounts—getting married and keeping gunpowder for sale