Political and General News.

TERRIFIC CONFLAGRATION.

Two Thousand People Houseless—700,000 Dollars Property Destroyed—Chillicoths in Ashes!

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio, April 1, 1852.

At 12 o'clock this day a fire broke out, by the bursting of a stove in a cabinet shop, in the rear of the Clinton House, in this city, and the wind blowing a hurricane towards the E. N. E., the flames soon communicated with the stables of the Hotel, and then to the building itself. In ten minutes, the roof of that structure was on fire, and cinders were wafted to a great distance.

The buildings opposite the Clinton, on Walnut Street, soon caught, and thence the flames spread rapidly towards Paint Street, sweeping off every warehouse on the canal, north of Second St., and all the stabling, smoke-houses, &c., &c., in their rear. By 2 o'clock, every house in the square, bounded by Walnut and paint streets, and the Canal and Second street, every store and warehouse, every tenement, with *four* single and singular exceptions, were irretrievably lost.

Still the wind blew, and, as *the Canal was empty*, (the water being drawn for repairs,) the entire northern part of the *city*, north of *Second street*, and east of the Clinton House, was at the mercy of the elements.

Suffice it to say, fully one-fourth of the taxable property in Chillicothe, including all the buildings on the two most valuable squares, stores, hotels, dwellings, and warehouses, were destroyed!

The fire soon communicated across Paint street, beginning at the northern end, and spreading Eastward and Southward towards the Madeira House.—*That*, of course, was destroyed. East of Mulberry street, (*two squares from the place where the fire originated*,) about one-half of the buildings escaped, though some were burned at the distance of four or five furlongs from the Clinton House corner. The only houses left standing on the north side of Paint street are those of O. H. W. Luckett, H. Holcomb, new Catholic Church, and Dr. Willis'.

The whole population, women as well as men, are worn out with fatigue. By strenuous and heroic exertions, the fire was prevented from communicating to any building on the south side of Second street. While "Ross' Block" was burning, the heat on the opposite corners (Woodbridge's and Waddell's) was intense, and the cornices, shutters, &c., were only prevented from catching, by painful and constant exertions.

It is impossible to arrive at a correct estimate of losses. Old Chillicothe has received a blow from which she cannot recover in years.

Two Thousand of our population are houseless. From six to eight hundred thousand dollars worth of Property was consumed.

All our principal warehouses, with their stocks of groceries, pork, bacon, &c., &c., are burned.—Madeira's, in another part of town expected.

Marfield's and Adam's warehouses, north of the Clinton House, and every building in that direction, to the Gas Works and Deer Creek street, are gone.

Marfield and Luckett's loss is quite heavy—$75,000 some say.

All of the fine row of stores in Adam's Block with their contents were destroyed, viz; J. & A. Roads' and Marfield & Luckett's dry goods; Allen & Evans, *hardware*; Waddell, grocer, &c.

On the canal, Fullerton's, Holcomb's, Fraser's, Clarke & Sons, and all the smaller establishments every vestage of a building are gone.

The Messrs. Fraser had just carted 20,000 canvassed hams into their establishment, all of which, with much other valuable "proceeds of the hog," went by the board.

The fire crossed the canal, northwardly, and destroyed the foundry buildings of Shaw, West & Co. T. McDougall's dwelling, and fifty or more houses besides, whose occupants I have not positively ascertained. Those who are acquainted with our city will be surprised to hear that some of the buildings on the eastern side of Bridge street, caught and were consumed.

Singular as it may seem, early in the *fight* the firemen were hastily driven from the *best engine* in the place, which was consumed where it stood.—Much of the fire apparatus besides was consumed. With nothing to depend on for water supply but wells and cisterns, the best engines in the world could have done but little.

THE DEATH OF THE GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA.—*Halifax papers of the 26th ult., received by the brig Anna, arrived as this port, are chiefly filled with obituary notices of* Sir John Harvey, Governor of the Province, who died at Halifax at 11 A.M. on the 22d ult. He had been ailing for some time previous; but his sudden departure was not anticipated. The death of his wife, to whom he had been united for nearly half a century, was a severe shock to him. In regard to his military career, it is stated that he was gazetted as ensign in September 18, 1794, and was created Lieut. General, Nov. 9th, 1846. *He served in the severe winter campaign of* 1794–5 in Holland, under the Duke of York, and afterwards on the coast of France, at the Cape of Good Hope and in Egypt. During the late war he was Deputy Adjutant General in Canada, and was in several battles, including that at Lundy's Lane. At the battle of Fort Erie he was severely wounded.

The following anecdote is related of him: At the battle of Stony Creek, the Americans were defeated; but Sir John narrowly escaped being shot. An American rifleman was just presenting deadly aim at his *commanding figure*, when a word struck aside the fire-lock with this expression—"Don't shoot that British officer; he is preventing the shedding of blood." Sir John was riding among the combatants, attempting to stop the carnage. The officer who struck aside the rifle was Gen. Scott, and the occurrence led to the great friendship which afterwards existed between the two veterans. His funeral was to take place on the afternoon of the 27th, and was to be attended by the military, the colonial officers, and other dignitaries.—*Boston Traveler.*

A FEMALE SHIP CAPTAIN.—Amongst the fleet lately wind bound in Lamlash, not the least, but *perhaps the greatest wonder*, was the good old brig Cleotus, Saltcoats, which for more than twenty years has been commanded by an heroic and exceedingly clever young lady, Miss Betsy Miller, daughter of the late Mr. W. Miller, ship owner and wood merchant of that town. He was concerned with several vessels, both in the American and coasting trade. Miss Betsy, before she went to sea, acted as "ship's husband" to her father, and seeing how the captains in many cases behaved, her romantic and adventurous spirit impelled her to go to sea herself. Her father *gratified her caprice*, and gave her the command of the Cleotus, which she holds to the present day, and she has weathered the storms of the deep when many of the commanders of the other sex have been driven to pieces on the rocks. The Cleotus is well known in the ports of Belfast, Dublin, Cork, &c.—*Glasgow Post.*

☞ The Fredericksburgh *News*, to illustrate the evil effects of the intermarriage of blood relations, mentions an instance, within its own observation, of a family of wealth and respectability, the collateral branches of which "intermarried, until there cannot be found in three of them a sound man or woman. One *has sore eyes, another scrofula*, a third is idiotic, a fourth blind, a fifth bandy legged, a sixth with a head about the size of a turnip, with not one out of the number exempt from physical or mental defects of some kind. Yet this family perseveres in these intermarriages." We have a striking illustration of the evil effects of intermarriage in our own city, in the family who claim to own all the property for twenty-four miles about Albany.—*Knickerbocker.*

NEW REMEDY FOR TOOCHACHE.—Mr. James Beaston of Airdrie, says: "Gum copal, when dissolved in chloroform, forms an excellent compound for stuffing the holes of decayed teeth. I have used it very frequently, and the benefit which my patients have derived from it has been truly astonishing. The application is simple and easy. I clean out the hole, and moisten a little cotton with the solution; I introduce this into the decayed part, and in every instance the relief has been almost instantaneous.—The chloroform removes the pain, and the gum copal resists the action of the saliva, and as the application is so agreeable, those who may labor under this dreadful malady would do well to make a trial of it.—*Medical Times in Journal Dentist' Science.*

AN ENTERPRISING COUNTY.—Rutland county, Va., has now completed, within its own limits, one hundred miles of railroad, all centering to its common central point in Rutland. These roads pass through twelve important towns of the country, and touch upon and pass through portions of two others.

Bloody Tragedy—Infidelity of a Wife.

The Iowa papers give the details of a bloody tragedy which occurred on the 3d ult., in the county of *Muscatine*, and near the town of that name:

Some years ago a man named McCoy was a day laborer for a respectable citizen of Muscatine county, named Ney. Between the serving man and the employer's daughter sprang up a passion, which resulted in an elopement and marriage. Subsequently, McCoy removed to another county and became its sheriff. In the spring of '46 he went to California, leaving his wife and four children with her father, Mr. Ney. He was successful in the land of gold, and remitted considerable money for the support of his wife through the hand of a *gentleman* holding a judicial station in an adjoining county.

Some months since McCoy returned with a handsome fortune, but to his surprise, when he met his wife, she received him with coldness and aversion. The cause was soon revealed, by her own lips.

In his absence, she had become the mistress of the individual through whom she received the correspondence and remittance of her husband, and an infant then at her breast was the pledge of her infidelity. McCoy immediately resolved to take his four children and return to California, in the month of April next, meanwhile suffering them to remain with their mother at her father's house.

On the morning of Wednesday the 3d. inst., he repaired to the house of Mr. Ney to take away his children; and their grandfather being away, succeeded without much difficulty. Mr. Ney, on his return, was furious on learning the event, and at once started off in a wagon in pursuit, accompanied by his son-in-law, named Patterson. Overtaking the wagon in which rode McCoy and his children, Ney at once leaped to the ground, and advancing demanded their immediate release. McCoy told him to stand back, declaring if he touched them he would be shot. Ney still insisted however, expressing a determination to have them or die; he was again warned to stand back several times, which he heeded not, but came up to the wagon and took hold of the oldest child by the arm, when McCoy shot him.

Ney then picked up a club and struck McCoy, who shot him twice in succession. McCoy was in the wagon at the time, standing over his children. Ney then picked up a club, and was shot a fou th time. Patterson then took hold of McCoy; and Ney again came at him, several times with a club.

Having lost his pistol, McCoy, after disengaging himself, drew a bowie knife, sprang towards Ney, and stabbed him in the breast. Ney still endeavoring to strike him with his club. He was stabbed three times, the third took effect in the shoulder.—When the knife was removed, Ney fell to the earth and died immediately.

Witness described the conflict as short, bloody, and decisive; each combatant seemed firmly resolved to conquer or die, and their movements were so rapid, and in such quick succession, as to preclude the possibility of successful interference by the spectators.

McCoy and Patterson both received injuries, the former slight, and the latter having his collar bone broken by receiving blows intended for the former. McCoy gave *himself up*, and is now awaiting his examination, which will take place as soon as Mr. Patterson is sufficiently recovered to appear on the witness stand.

Erie Railroad, Double Track.

The Erie Railroad Company have put under contract a second or double track of their road from Great Bend to Owego, and about twenty-five miles in Orange county. The contractors, it is said, take stock for this work at par, and it is understood are not to put it in the market for a year.

The Middletown Whig Press says, it is rumored that the Company have in contemplation, in constructing their second track, to leave the original route in several places, and make an entire new road. One of the new routes will be to leave the road at the Lackawaxen, following up that river to Honesdale, and hence to Lanesboro, where it will intersect the old route—cutting off Deposit, and shortening the distance some twenty-eight miles, besides materially lessening the grade. At the last session of the Pennsylvania Legislature, a Charter was obtained for this purpose—a fact with which the people of Sullivan have hitherto been unacquainted, and which shows that the hope that a track across our county will ultimately be constructed, has no foundation whatever.

A new route has also been explored between Elmira and Olean, via Lindleytown, following up the Cowanesque Creek, in Tioga county, Pa., to the head waters of Oswaya Creek, in Potter county, in that State and, down the same to Olean. The distance between Elmira and Olean by this route is thirty miles less than by the old one, besides being a much easier grade.

These changes of route will shorten the distance from New York to Dunkirk nearly sixty miles, and lessen the time in running the road about two hours. —*Monticello Watchman.*

AWFUL AFFRAY.—A negro slave, who had committed thefts, in the neighborhood, was pursued by his owner, Col. Broward, of Florida, his two sons, and two faithful negro slaves, on the 6th inst. Col. Broward and *his two sons were armed* with shotguns, and the two trusty negro slaves John and Brutus, concealed themselves where it was known the runaways had to pass. They soon appeared, and Col. B. called on them to surrender, or he would shoot them. They immediately turned and fled pursued by the whole party. Brutus first overtook Belfast. As soon as he laid his hand upon him, the villain quickly drew a long sharp-pointed butcher knife, with which he inflicted, what is considered a mortal wound on Brutus. The knife penetrated deep in the region of the liver, and nearly the whole of the bowels protruded from the wound. The negro John next came up with the desperado, and had scarcely seized him by the collar when he received his death wound: The weapon entered the chest between the collar bone and the first rib, and took a downward direction for five inches, towards the heart, dividing the main arteries, and producing almost instantaneous death. The two sons of Col. Broward were now in imminent danger, the murderer brandishing his bloody knife, while their guns for some cause would not go off. But fortunately at this moment Col. B. arrived, and ended the villain's career, by blowing his brains out.

MAIL ROBBERY AND ARREST.—On the 21st of February last, the Western mail, which was then conveyed on the Ohio Stage Coinpany's coaches, it being their last trip, was robbed at Dunkirk. The Erie through bag and the Pittsburgh bag were subsequently found, cut open and rifled of their contents, in one of the stables of the Ohio Stage Co. at Dunkirk. That has, however, been kept quiet for the purpose of detecting the offenders, until the present time. Suspicion has lately rested on two drivers in the employment of the Ohio Stage Company, one of whom, Henry Smith, (supposed to be the principal offender,) was the driver of the coach from which the mail was taken. He has moreover until recently been miserably poor, but of late has exhibited a considerable sum of money without satisfactorily accounting for its coming in his possession. At the time of his arrest, which was effected near Erie on Saturday last, he attempted to escape. Both were to be examined at Dunkirk yesterday, whither they had consented to come.—*Fredonia Censor.*

"TOUGH YARN."—The Boston *Transcript* publishes some extracts of letters from the master of a vessel bound from the Sandwich Island to Manilla, which are as tough and indigestible as the recent story of the "Sea Serpent."

The ship appeared covered with *balls of fire*; large seas breaking again t each other, and running very irregular. Our light spars by this time were blown away and hanging by the rigging—no man could venture aloft. At 10.15 P. M., the heavens seemed to open and emit a flame of bluish light, accompanied by a blast *that threw the ship on her beam ends*. The water rushed in with fearful rapidity. I saw *that the ship was foundering*, and immediately ordered the mizzenmast cut away; three of the lanyards were cut, and the mast went within four feet of the deck, carrying all attached to it.—It was an awful moment. The ship continued to sink, even after the mizzen mast was gone. I crawled along to cut the lanyards of the main topmast backstays, but was *washed over board, and again washed on board!*

The ship was finally righted, and got safely into port.

AN IMPOSTOR.—Some of our exchanges are down upon a fellow calling himself George De Lafayette Smith, who represents himself as a Son of Temperance, and swindles money out of that order. He is a young man of 23 or 24 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, rather slender, with Sandy Hair.—*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1852.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATION.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER.

WM. SEARIGHT of Fayette County.

Dr. Valentine.

This greatest delineator of the "Philosophy of Laughing" is now in our city, and will give two of his amusing Lectures on this and Monday evenings. The Doctor says, and he speaks with the authority of one who knows, that "there are three muscles to draw the mouth up, and only one to draw it down; which signifies that we are to laugh three times as much as we cry. Laughing promotes digestion, by jarring the internal organs.—Every organ in the human system requires exercise to maintain it in health. Hence Laughing was intended to regulate the internal organs. Many people resort to medicine to restore that which might be remedied by a hearty Laugh. Laughing equalizes the circulation and produces a general excitement of the system, highly conducive to health. As an instance of this, observe the rosy hue of a young lady's cheek after indulging in a hearty laugh. Some people laugh in their sleeves, and some behind the door; these are smothered Laughs, and are highly injurious to the system. There are many other Laughs, such as the Giggle, the Snicker, the Twist of the Mouth, &c., &c., all of which are spurious and injurious. The true and genuine Laugh, which counteracts the Blues, Horrors, and many other complaints, will be administered by the Doctor, as we said before, *this evening*; and for fear all may not be able to get a dose in *one evening, the medicine chest will be kept open on* Monday evening at the Reed House Hall.

Daily Paper in Erie.

MR FRANCIS M. FARRELL, a young gentleman at present in our employ, proposes to issue a daily paper in this city, to be called the "*Daily* SUN." The "SUN" is to be independent in politics, and issued at the low rate of six cents a week, payable every Saturday morning. We recommend the enterprise to the favorable consideration of the public.

☞ FIRE.—We learn that Hough's Woollen Factory, situated about a mile north of Moorhead's Tavern in Harborcreek, was consumed by fire on Thursday. Part of the machinery and stock was removed, but in a damaged condition. Insured for $1500 in the Cherry Valley Mutual.

☞ On account of a press of work, our paper is a little late to day. This will account, also, for the non-appearance of several advertising favors that should have been inserted this week. Our friends must bear with us this time, as the opening spring business has crowded our job office so full of work that we are forced out of pure necessity to neglect them.

☞ Warren's Hat Store will now be found next door to the Cheap Book Store, in Brown's New Hotel. Having got into such a good neighborhood, we have no doubt he will give entire satisfaction to all who may give him a call.

"Material Aid."

We learn from the Philadelphia papers that Lycoming county has subscribed $200,000, and Clinton county $100,000 to the Sunbury and Erie road. The good work is progressing finely.

☞ While in Buffalo the other day, we dropped into the office of the "Rough Notes," a new penny paper just started there, and were agreeably surprised to find RANS, late of the Dansville *Herald*, presiding over the local department of the "Notes."

☞ UNITED STATES SENATOR.—Mr. Edmund Burke, of New Hampshire, formerly one of the editors of the Washington *Union*, will it is said, be elected Senator from that State to succeed Mr. Hale. Mr. Burke would be an ornament to the U. S. Senate, an honor to the old Granite State. He is one of the best Democrats in America.

☞ We are indebted to Mr. Norton, of Wells & Co.'s Express, for late Cleveland papers.

☞ FASHIONS! FASHIONS!—Mrs. Curtis has returned from New York, and has opened a splendid assortment of *Spring Millinery* at her old stand, corner of State & Fifth streets. We have'nt given her advertisement an insertion—her stock is none the less beautiful and acceptable, though.

☞ The advertisement of our friend ROGERS, who flourishes in the Hat Line, just below our office on the Diamond, is left out this week. "All the world and the rest of mankind," *especially if they are hatless*, will recollect, however, that he is now receiving his Spring and Summer fashions.

☞ The Buffalo papers state that the receipts of the State Line Railroad, for the month of March, were $22-300 48. This is pretty well, but we are inclined to think the Erie and North East road has, in proportion to its length, done equally as well. Why don't the Directors let us know something about the matter.

"Honorable and Truthful."

The *Gazette* gives currency to a paragraph from the Buffalo *Commercial* backing out of its charge against the Erie Post Office, and sneakingly claiming that, in its former article, it did not intend to be "understood that the affairs" of the office "had been badly conducted during late years:"—In other words the affairs of the office *some years since*—the exact time is not recorded—were badly managed. This the *Gazette* styles "honorable and truthful." We beg leave to differ with our cotemporary! So far from the paragraph of the *Commercial* being at all "honorable," or "truthful," it looks to us as a very dishonorable way of getting out of a very small scrape. The paragraph which the *Commercial* took for its text was a complaint of the delays we ourself had experienced in receiving important business letters from Buffalo *this spring*—hence, the *Commercial's* battery *must have been* directed against the *present* management of the Post office, and not at the management of it years ago! Besides, does not the *Gazette* see the improbability of the "back-out" of the *Commercial* bears upon its face? We complained that letters have been eight or nine days reaching us from Buffalo. The *Commercial* flies up and charges that the fault does not rest upon the Buffalo office, and intimates that the Erie Post Office is a perfect sink—that when any-thing goes into it it never comes out. Such a charge does not set well, and those connected with the office write to the proprietors and demand a retraction. It is given, but very ungeneerously, very untruthfully, and very dishonorably!

In the same category must be classed the *Commercial's* charge that the *Observer* is "Known to be constitutionally a grambler." How does the *Commercial* know it? It does not exchange with us—it knows nothing about us! It may say it knows the *Observer* by reputation. It knows nothing of the kind; and if it does, it is beneath the character of a grave paper like the *Commercial* to retail "hear say" evidence. But are we constitutionally a grambler? We ask the question because the *Gazette* has pleased to endorse the charge, by saying it is "honorable and truthful." Who have we grambled at? Is it the Buffalo post-office? Is it the Erie post-office? By no means. We are aware the *young gentlemen in the latter office do the best they can* under the circumstances. The accumulation of mail matter here since the opening of the railroad has rendered their labors peculiarly heavy; and we know something of what the labors of a post office clerk are. Were we inclined to grumble, we could have found plenty of opportunities before this; but we think the Editor of the *Gazette* himself would have grumbled if, in consequence of the non-receipt of a business letter, he had been compelled to undergo the time and expense of a trip to Buffalo. And yet, because we complained of just such a circumstance, the *Commercial* says we are "constitutionally a grambler," and the *Gazette* endorses the *Commercial's* slander as "honorable and truthful."

A Word or two about Cuba.

The *New York Times* has an excellent article on Spanish Colonial possessions past, present and future, and of Cuba in particular. It sees in the history of the past a sure guarantee that the rich island of Cuba must eventually be ours, and it acts the part of wisdom in preparing its readers for the event. It says, it is not given to States to have colonies and be wise. The story of colonial government is the story of colonial mismanagement. The destines of a people are not to be shaped from a distance. Ships are not correctly steered by cords in the hands of a helmsman, stationed on dry land and out of sight of the vessel. Not to instance Britain, Holland or France, look at Spain and her colonial possessions, upon which the sun that shone upon Phillip III., never set. They have dropped away from her, not in single provinces and solitary islands, but by continents and archipelagos. The Phillipines, and two of the Antilles, are almost the last relics of the noblest territorial wealth, that ever fell into the hands of a single people. There are no more Acapulco galleons for Blake, or Penn, or Anson to capture. The winds that in other times toiled from every quarter of the sky, to waft wealth to Spain, have no end to their rest. The days of discovery, of occupation, of golden argosies, and invincible armadas, incalculable revenues and resistless armies, has gone by. Cuba, the filial Cuba, is the stay and dependence of tottering old age; and how long shall it be before the decrepit and querulous and weeping parent, a spectral resemblance of Ferdinand the Catholic, may be seen crouching upon one corner of the European continent, and bewailing his "ducats and his daughter; his daughter and his ducats," stolen away by that perfidious Lorenzo, Uncle Sam!

Towards Cuba the same suicidal system is employed, that has lost all things else. The same process of extortion and exhaustion, used by the early settlers upon the aborigines, are now enforced against the Creole descendants of those early settlers. Natives of Spain alone rule in Cuba; natives of Cuba are overtaxed bondmen, who minister to the wealth and arrogance and safety of their imported lords. To defend the island, and its valuable tribute to the Spanish treasury, from American encroachments, the Creole is obliged to pay enormously. Taxation usually receives its equivalent in the shape of protection; the Cuban has to be taxed, and take care of himself in the bargain. The soldiery, to be sure, are selected for him and sent to him in such numbers as the timidity of Government suggests; but woe to the native if the military be not amply supplied. At the present moment there is more than ordinary stringency in these military demands. Fresh troops are poured into the island in a ceaseless tide. Gen. Concha, who had managed to gain the confidence of the Creole population, by his excellent tact and judgment, has been recalled. There is obviously a profound suspicion of this esoteric population at the basis of these changes. The old Spanish families are more insolent and exacting. Their organ, the *Diario del Marina*, discusses the posture of affairs in the most arrogant vein. The pretence that another Lopez invasion is apprehended, is simply puerile; and veils thinly the truth, that the subjugation of the Creoles, and the repression once for all of every revolutionary idea, are the genuine motives of the new policy. In fact, Cuba only shares in the great European reaction, with more hope of eventual extrication, however, than if in more neighborly proximity to its stepmother country.

This excess of caution is destined to defeat itself. So long as their lines seemed to have fallen upon them in pleasant places; while government was to some extent paternal; and social burthens and blessings more equitably dispensed, the watcher for a Cuban insurrection had a desperate task. So long as the people were trusted they were trustworthy; but the expression of doubt was a declaration of hostilities. Every new imposition makes release more desirable; and while the Government of the United States exists, with the shadow of its liberties reaching over the bayous, and lofty mountains, and cane fields of the island, Spain will never be less suspicious, nor her rule abate one iota of its rigidity. The prospect for the Creole in all other directions than this, is utterly discouraging. Despair or pity at home will drive him to seek help from abroad; and the help can only come from us. And even in this direction the hope is far from being assured. The growing timidity of our foreign intercourse is not calculated to impress the foreigner with a saving sense of our capacities. If we can't protect one citizen on the island from Spanish tyranny, how shall we protect one million? Nevertheless, the Spanish Government is driving the question to a sudden solution, and we shall not have many years to wait. No one doubts, we presume, that Cuba shall eventually be ours. Spain does not doubt it; and only struggles in an awkward fashion to postpone the event. A few more insults; a few more confiscations of personal liberty and property; some yet more unequivocal expressions of contempt for our Government and its agents: and the ire of our people may be stirred to foregather the work of time, thereby leaving Spain ducatless and daughterless, as aforesaid.

☞ A silly story found place in some of the Philadelphia paper last week, to the effect that the Democratic members of Congress from this State wrote a letter to Richmond, telling the Virginia Convention that Mr. Buchanan was the only candidate for the Presidency who could carry Pennsylvania. There is not a word of truth in the story. The Democratic members did write, however, that Mr. B., in the event of his nomination at Baltimore, could carry the State; and this was done to contradict the numerous falsehoods and misrepresentations circulated in Virginia for the last few weeks against him—a scheme that most signally failed.—*Lancaster Intel.*

Though the story referred to above was, without doubt, a very silly one, yet it was believed every where for the simple reason that Mr. Buchanan's particular friends were known to do many very silly tricks, and it was not thought at all improbable that they would be guilty of one as "silly" as this, even. Now, we do not know but our "Democratic members did write that Mr. B., in the event of his nomination, could carry the State," but we venture the assertion that if they did so, they gave a pledge they knew nothing about. The fact is "our members of Congress," of whatever political stripe they may be, "know as little as the law will allow" of the feelings and sentiments of the people upon any question, especially the Presidential, and it is about time they should be told of it.

☞ Speaking of the weather, did you ever see such a week? Monday and Tuesday it snowed and blowed, and in Buffalo, where we were, the sleighs were out and the jingle of the bells indicated a January day instead of the fifth of April. But Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, were as lovely as the others were disagreeable.—The spring has opened bad, but it gives indications now of an improvement in tone and temper. We hope it will continue!

☞ We are pleased to see that the North East and Erie Road have secured the service of our young friend John F. Tracy, as Superintendent. He is admirably qualified for the post, and is every inch a man.

☞ The New York papers are still harping on "Hard Pan and Quick Sand." Out of the state it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to decipher what they are trying to get at, but cross the State line once, and every child can tell you what "Hard-pan and Quick-sand" means

The Sunbury and Erie Road in Lycoming.

The Lycoming *Gazette* notices a large meeting of the friends of this work, held in that village last week. It says "D. L Miller, Esq, President of the road, made a forcible speech, urging the propriety of an early subscription of $200,000, by the Commissioners of Lycoming county, and showing why he thought such an investment would be safe and profitable, and was enthusiastically received. The meeting was addressed by several of our citizens, and participated in by our largest property-holders, several of whom were among the officers of the meeting. A motion was carried unanimously, asking the county commissioners to subscribe. There can be no doubt that a majority of the people, of this part of the county, are in favor of an immediate subscription of stock, as soon as they shall see a reasonable prospect of the commencement and completion of an enterprise which must prove of the greatest benefit. We are inclined to believe in the safety of such an investment; having always been the firm friend and consistent advocate of this most important improvement ever projected in this State."

"Don't dodge till you're Hit."

Some of our ever wise rail-road agitators, not satisfied with the rebukes they have repeatedly received from the people for their opposition to the Western road, have been attempting to get up a fever in consequence of the introduction of a bill in the Senate to allow the Sunbury and Erie Road to extend to the Ohio line. Various are the improbable stories they have put afloat in regard to the provisions of the bill, as well as the ultimate intention of those having the matter in charge. Now the simple facts are these. Great complaints have been made by these same gentlemen of the western road, as now being prosecuted, being in the hands of capitalists of New York and Ohio. Great stress, we say, has been laid upon the fact that the "material aid" to the enterprise has been furnished by persons not citizens of Erie, thus taking from Pennsylvania, as they say, the control of the western trade. Now, Senator Fernon, of Philadelphia county, one of the most talented advocates of the Sunbury road, the Gauge Law, and Erie's interests, has not been an inattentive observer of these complaints—hence he has conceived the project of giving to Pennsylvania forever, and beyond all contingency, the entire control of the western road. For this purpose he has introduced a bill to extend the Sunbury and Erie road from Erie to the Ohio line, *subject to all the provisions of* the Guage Laws of the State, and of the Erie County Guage Law in particular. The effect of this bill, should it become a law, which we do not doubt, will be to give to the Sunbury road, and thus to the State, and to Philadelphia, the entire control of the trade and travel of the west. To do this the Sunbury road will be compelled to purchase the work of the Franklin Canal Company. Taking the whole matter into consideration we think this will be the best arrangement, both for the State at large, and the local interests of Philadelphia and Erie, that could be devised. What objections there are to it we certainly cannot see. It will give us a western road—it will give us a Philadelphia road, and that, too, sooner than we could hope to get it under any other circumstances. We say, then, to these agitators, don't dodge till you are hit, for the blunderbuss you are afraid of is not pointed this way, and besides, it is not loaded.

Since the above was written we have obtained the following copy of the bill introduced by Mr. Fernon, and it will be seen at once that it bears us out in all we have said in favor of the scheme:

A further supplement to an Act entitled an Act to incorporate the Sunbury and Erie, and Pittsburgh and Susquehanna Railroad Companies.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company be and they are hereby authorized to extend their Railroad, subject to all the provisions and restrictions contained in their charter and the several supplements thereto, by such route as the Directors of said Company shall deem most feasible, from the city of Erie to the west line of the State of Pennsylvania, and there to connect the same with the Railroad now in process of construction of the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Rail Road Company, at such place, in such manner and upon such terms as shall be agreed upon by the before named companies, and said Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company may contract with said Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company to construct said road between the city of Erie and the State line of Pennsylvania, or to furnish means for the construction thereof and pay for the same, either in shares of the capital stock of said Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, at not less than the par value thereof, or in money, at such time and on such terms as may be agreed on by said companies, and may also contract with said Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company, to equip and work said railroad upon such terms and conditions, and for such time as shall be mutually agreed on, and may make with said company all such arrangements, relative to the transportation of freight and passengers over their respective roads, times and mode of connection and running of trains, as may by said companies be deemed mutually advantageous, not contravening any law of this Commonwealth; and said Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company may purchase from any company or companies, individual or individuals, all such grounds, materials, rights of way, or roadbeds, whether finished or unfinished, as may be necessary or convenient to be occupied or used in the construction of said extention, to the said line of the State of Pennsylvania, or for station or depot purposes, on such terms as may be agreed on by and between the parties. Provided, that for every one mile of railroad constructed, as authorized by this act, from the city of Erie to the Ohio State line, said Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company shall, at the same time, construct at least three miles of railroad at some point on the route leading eastwardly from the city of Erie, towards the city of Philadelphia. And provided further, that nothing contained in any enactment of the Legislature, whatsoever, shall be construed to authorize the construction of any railroad from the city of Erie to the Ohio State line, to connect with any railroad in said State of Ohio, at the west line of Erie county, other than the railroad authorized by this act.

☞ The *Gazette* is pleased to see that the *Observer* has "cut loose from the car of party," and supports the proposition to lease the public works. When the *Gazette* "cuts loose from the car of party" we shall be pleased to record the fact; for it will be an item worthy of record. But that day will never come—it sticks to its party, right or wrong, with as much tenacity as a bur to a dirty sheep.

☞ PUTNAM'S LIBRARY.—Number six of Putnam's Semi-Monthly Library, just published, contains "Home Narratives:" being a series of beautiful stories from Dickens' Household Words. The "Library" is for sale at the book store of Durlin & Sloan, No. 9 Brown's New Hotel, State street.

☞ We see it stated that Lola Montez is preparing a series of lectures on the politics and public men of Europe, which will be in direct contrast, in its theories and discriptions, with the recent orations and speeches of Kossuth. Lola Montez claims to be a republican—but not a red republican. We have more faith in Lola than in Kossuth—a good deal.

☞ POST MASTER'S GENERAL HALL'S MAILS.—Post Master General Hall in a Buffalonian, and Mr. Post Master General Hall's mails are like the ice in Buffalo harbor—they come when they have a mind to, and go when they get ready. To say nothing about other matters we have to complain of, we this week received a Philadelphia Evening *Bulletin*, marked "Erie, via New York," dated Feb. 18.—nearly *two* months old! Quick work, is'nt it, in these railroad times? By the by, will Mr. Post Master General Hall's organs in Buffalo—he has two we believe—please give that worthy functionary our compliments, and tell him it is our deliberate opinion that, ere the ice leaves Buffalo harbor twice more, the people intend to give him notice to quit.

☞ THERE IS NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE.—We see this saying verified every day in the descriptions given in the papers of the "gay Lotharos" who run off with unsophisticated maidens, and tender-hearted married ladies. Here is one of a certain Samuel H. Fields, who recently eloped from Kentucky with a blooming young lass of 18, "slim and handsome" with "blue eyes and black hair." *Fields is a married man*, and has deserted a wife and four children, is about 5 feet 10 inches in height, with coarse, red features, light hair, hands scarred with the tetter, and the end of the thumb of the right hand cut off What a young lady with "blue eyes and black hair" could want with such a fright is past our comprehension.

A NORWEGIAN NEWSPAPER.—At Inmansville in Rock county, Wisconsin, is published a paper in the Norse tongue with the title of Americanaten, et Nafbangig Demakratisk paper. The object of this publication is to aid in Emigrating the emigrants from Norway.

☞ BLEAK HOUSE.—A foreign correspondent writes to the *National Intelligencer*, that the "Bleak House" has had the largest sale of any of Mr. Dickens' serials so far. The first impression of twenty-five thousand copies were swept up by the trade at once; twenty thousand were put to press immediately after, which have been nearly disposed of. The April number of Harper's Magazine, which contains the first part of this popular Nove of Dickens', can be found at Durlin & Sloan's Book Store, No. 9, Brown's New Hotel.

☞ BOLDLY SAID.—The Danville (Ky.) *Tribune*, a zealous Whig organ, seeing so much said of Gen. Scott's popularity, puts in a disclaimer, so far as Kentucky is concerned, and after this order:

"While Gen. Scott is a great military leader, his overgrown vanity, and poor civil qualifications do not entitle him to the suffrages of the American people, for the highest office in their gift. We are not for Scott, with or without a nomination. His nomination would be the death knell of the whig party."

POLITENESS.—The extreme height of politeness was recently exhibited by a sheriff in a neighboring State, who having to hang two men on one gallows, went through the ceremony of introducing them, in order, as he said, that they were under the necessity of traveling out of this world in each other's society, they might do it in a sociable, companiable manner.

New Advertisements.

EVENINGS OF FUN AND LAUGHTER.

At the REED HOUSE Hall, for two Nights only,

SATURDAY & MONDAY EVENINGS, APRIL 10th & 12th.

MIRTH MUST PROSPER.

THE Philosophy of Laughing Exemplified at the parlor entertainments of Dr. Valentine. On which occasion he will illustrate a great variety of

Freaks, Follies and Foibles.

With queer, quaint, quizzical, quiet and quarrelsome people, interspersed with quizical sketches, steamboat trips, stage travelers, old maids, learned ignorant women, young children, curious law cases, debating societies, old men and ancient women, Long Island folks, sentimental music and training tune music. All sorts of queer voices and curious faces, passing rapidly into all sorts of people, little boys at school, Hungarian singers, and a little of everything and everybody.

The different temperaments of mankind may be known by their different mode of laughing. The

HI, HI, HI, Notifies Melancholy People: the

HE, HE, HE, Phlegmatic People: the

HO, HO, HO, Those of a Sanguine Disposition; &c.

Tickets, 25 cents. To commence at 8 o'clock.

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WE are now opening the largest and best assortment of Books and Stationery ever brought to this market and as our motto will be "*Small Profits and Numerous Transactions*," we are prepared to sell at prices that defy competition. Our variety embraces all the standard works of

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and an endless variety too numerous to mention. Blank Books from the best eastern manufactories always on hand.

YOUR STATIONERY DEPARTMENT will embrace an endless variety of English, French and American Cap, Letter, Commercial and Embossed Note Papers. 4t

SHEET MUSIC.

A VERY select assortment of Sheet Music has just been received at No. 9, Brown's New Hotel.

April 10. DURLIN & SLOAN.

Flower Paper and Leaves.

ALL sizes of Leaves and the different shades of Flower Paper just opened at No 9, Brown's New Hotel.

April 10. DURLIN & SLOAN.

MILLINERY.

MRS. L. S. DUNN, would respectfully inform the Ladies of Erie and the vicinity, that she has recently opened a MILLINER'S SHOP, on the east side of State st., a few doors south of the Perry Block, where she will keep constantly on hand Silk and Straw Bonnets, of the latest style. Also, Dress Caps, Ribbonds, Artificial Flowers, Wreaths and Borders, Lace, Handkerchiefs, and most other articles in the Millinery line; and is confident she can give satisfaction to all who favor her with a call, as respects cheapness and quality.

Erie, April 7th, 1852. 4w

The Empires! The Empires!!

ARE receiving daily, from H. Caldwell, (who is now in the east or cities, and will remain there the most of the season) the largest and richest stock of SPRING and SUMMER GOODS ever offered in Er