

Political and General News.

Thirty-Second Congress—Second Session. MONDAY, DEC. 6.

SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at a quarter past twelve, and forty-three members appeared in their seats. Mr. Bright presented the credentials of Hon. Charles W. Cabell, of Indiana, who was appointed by the Governor of that State to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Whitcomb; and Mr. C. was qualified and took his seat.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House met, and one hundred and eighty-two members answered to their names—a few more appearing in the course of the day's session. Seats were drawn for the annual meeting. In the course of the day's proceedings sundry bills were introduced, and Mr. Wrightman addressed the Senate at length in favor of printing five thousand copies of the President's message in the Spanish language.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7. SENATE.—The President of the Senate laid before that body a report from the Secretary of the Navy in relation to the classification of the clerks in that department. The Rev. C. M. Butler was chosen chaplain for the Senate to serve during the present session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Mr. Wrightman concluded the speech commenced on the day before in favor of printing five thousand copies of the President's message in the Spanish language. Mr. Brooks proposed the appointment of a select committee, with power to send for persons and papers, who should be charged with the duty of revising the present tariff of duties on imports, &c., which became the subject of an animated debate, in which Mr. Brooks, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cingman, Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Dean, participated.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8. SENATE.—A communication was received from the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the classification of clerks in that department. Mr. Rank submitted a resolution, which was adopted, calling upon the Secretary of State for copies of correspondence respecting the encroachment of Indians upon the territory of Mexico.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The arrangement of the various standing committees for the session was announced; and in the course of the reading of the previous day's proceedings, Mr. Houston introduced a bill appropriating \$20,000 to pay the messengers of the United States for bringing to Washington the official stores for President and Vice President; which was duly passed.

THURSDAY, DEC. 9. SENATE.—A number of petitions were presented and referred. Mr. Hamlin, of Maine, moved that the committee on engrossed bills be directed to act, temporarily, on the resolution, introduced by Mr. Hale, of N. H., receding the resolution of the Senate against funeral honors to members who had died during the recess of the Senate. Motion agreed to and the resolution taken up.

HOUSE.—Mr. Donnan, of Mass., announced the death of his late colleague, Hon. Benj. Thompson, from the dist. which died a few months since at his residence in Mass. After eulogizing in a happy manner, his many noble qualifications, he moved the adoption of the customary resolutions of condolence, which was agreed to.

FRIDAY, DEC. 10. HOUSE.—After disposing of some unimportant business, on motion of Mr. Houston, the House went into committee of the ways on the state of the Union. Mr. Stuart, of Michigan, in chair.

Mr. Gorman, (Dem.) of Ia., gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill authorizing the President to confer the brevet title of Lieut. Gen. Several Voices.—"Of object."

Mr. Gorman.—I don't care. I give the notice. The house then adjourned till Monday.

Arrival of the Illinois—\$3,500,000 in Gold Dust on board.

New York, Dec. 12. The Illinois, with the California mails and 540 passengers, arrived at 9 o'clock, A. M. She has on freight \$2,139,460 in gold, and \$400,000 in hands of passengers.

The anniversary of the Independence of the Illinois was celebrated on the 27th Nov. by a grand procession and oration. The National Legislature of Ecuador had authorized the President to declare war against Peru in case satisfaction and reparation was not made for its participation in the expedition of Gen. Pizarro.

The wind was blowing a gale at the time, and the flames spread with fearful rapidity. In three hours sixteen hundred houses were in ashes, and with them an immense amount of goods. The total number of buildings burnt was twenty-five hundred. Eight or ten lives were lost.

The contributions from the towns and cities in the vicinity of the sufferers were liberal: San Francisco alone contributed \$30,000. The contributions were forwarded before sunset, and were in a large building of Madame Laro's dry goods and fancy store.

MEASURES.—Mr. Butler and Andrew sustained a serious loss of jewelry by the bursting open of their safe, while being removed. A man named Lyon was killed by the falling in of the walls of Reynolds & Co's brick block.

THE OVERTON BLUCK checked the flames which crossed from the north to the south side of J street, and thence back, against the wind, to the American Theatre, further down the street, and of frame. A Riviera, who kept the hair-dressing saloon in Overton street, lost \$10,000. The loss of the Curtis Brothers, in the same building, about \$3,500.

SINGULAR.—The body of three men were found on the wharf yesterday morning, wrapped in blankets. On attempting to wake them—as it was supposed they were indulging in sleep—and removing the covering from their faces, it was found that they were already dead.

THE BURNED DISTRICT already shows signs of activity, and is already covered with tents, and ranges of laborers clearing away preparatory to the immediate erection of stores, &c. As an instance of the indefatigable spirit of the citizens under calamity, we will cite that of Wm. McNulty, who has erected an iron building on J-st., in the heart of the burnt district, which will be opened this morning.

STARS OR ROSS.—The Manchester (N. H. Mirror) says that the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company intend building an extensive bleaching, and probably a dye house in connection with it, in that city during the coming year. The bleaching will consist of about half a dozen buildings, and involves an outlay of about \$100,000, and will give employment to about 100 men.

Eric Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10, 1852.

PIANO FORTES. We would call attention to the advertisement of Messrs. Sage & Stone of Buffalo, which may be found in another column. The reputation of the Piano mentioned is world-wide, and the variety of effects produced by the delicate compass attachment is wonderful and at the same time beautiful.

THE HOME JOURNAL.—Among the few so-called literary papers with which our cities abound, the "Home Journal" is one we can safely recommend to our readers. It always has something new in it—some new idea, item or paragraph not to be found any where else.

WE SEE BY THE MINERS' ADVOCATE, Colonsa, Cal., that our friend and subscriber, J. Costaz, Esq., has been elected to the Legislature, from El Dorado county by a decisive majority. Mr. C. is a radical Democrat, a man of sterling talent, and will make his mark in the body to which he is elected.

DECIDED.—California has gone for Pierce and King by the decided majority of 5,000. Pretty well will recollect, the whole confidently claimed. Those boys that were made in various localities, that Scott would not get five states, may now be considered dead.

THE LIBERTY GENERAL.—We echo the protest of the Pennsylvania when it says there is good sense enough in the United States to reject the proposition of Senator Clemens to confer on Gen. Scott the empty title of Lieutenant General. Gen. Scott is already, by seniority, at the head of the officers of the army, and conferring on him this title will neither put money in his purse or make him greater than he is.

THE FIRST SNOW. The weather, in its multifarious phases, is a prolific source of conversation among all classes and at all seasons. Whether nature be decked in the holiday-green of Summer, or jaded in the sombre hues of bleak December; whether the genial sun of Spring heralds the budding flowers, or the feathery flakes of the first snow proclaim the setting in of Winter, the fashionable belle and the rustic maid, the bashful wooer and the gay gallant, turn instinctively to the weather to keep alive their sometimes flagging conversation.

THE COMMON COUNCIL books, records and valuables are all saved. The burnt district already shows signs of activity, and is already covered with tents, and ranges of laborers clearing away preparatory to the immediate erection of stores, &c. As an instance of the indefatigable spirit of the citizens under calamity, we will cite that of Wm. McNulty, who has erected an iron building on J-st., in the heart of the burnt district, which will be opened this morning.

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The Position of Erie on Rail Road Matters.

The enactment, by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, of the law regulating the width of rail roads passing through her territory, known as the "gauge law," has placed the county of Erie in a peculiar and important position in relation to that law. Fearful interests and combinations are at war with this position and this duty, and to drive her from them: misrepresentation and condemnation have been resorted to; public indignation has been incited against her by the false accusation of throwing obstacles in the way of trade and travel; and conditions have been formed to subvert her on an honorable vigilance over the interests and honor of the State to which she belongs.

After every other part of the world had been furnished with railroads, the citizens of Chautauque county urged by citizens of this section, procured and organized a company to build a road from Buffalo to the State Line, there to connect with the Erie and North East road. In the organization of this company Buffalo was given a voice, but in true Buffalo style, no sooner were the capitalists of that city admitted to a participation, than they monopolized the whole management, and took the company into their keeping.

When the agreement of the 27th of April, 1850, was known at Buffalo, and to those interested in the Railroad east of that city, there was much dissatisfaction, perhaps rightly; for the agreement to extend the six foot road to Erie, cut off Buffalo with her four feet eight and a-half inch track from reaching the west along the south shore of Lake Erie, and compelled the railroads terminating at Buffalo to seek the west through Canada, or some such of that track and travel.

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look out upon, to watch and welcome for Pennsylvania the commerce of these broad lakes, for Pennsylvania has reasonable expectations of a huge rail road child of her own, the Sabury & Erie, whose natural heritage is the trade and commerce for which the harbor of Erie affords such facilities.

HARRISBURG AND SABURY ROAD.—The contract for constructing the Harrisburg and Sabury Railroad has been awarded to Messrs. Lauman, Daugherty, Travers and Barson, in company. They were altogether the lowest bidders, taking it less than the estimate of the engineers, besides having taken \$250,000 of the stock of the company in payment for the work.

OFFICIAL VOTE OF MISSOURI.—The following is the vote of this State as officially declared: Pierce 41 842; Scott 33 860; Hale 7,327.

THE LIVING GIRL.—We are indebted to the publishers, Messrs. Phinney & Co., Buffalo, for a copy of this beautiful and interesting gift book for the Holidays.

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTORAL COLLEGE.—This body met on the 1st instant, in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol building at Harrisburgh, and organized by electing Wilson McDowell, President, and W. V. McKean, Secretary.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE. Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, the Bishop of Pittsburgh, will deliver a lecture in St. Patrick's Church to-morrow (Sunday) at 7 o'clock, P. M.

MARRIED. In Erie, Dec. 1st by Rev. J. W. Lowe, Mr. Jazza Panaza and Miss Dorothea Laszka.

DECEASED. At Savona, Steuben Co. N. Y., on the 9th inst., in the 73rd year of her age, Mrs. SARAH M. ELIZAS, late Mrs. Sarah Paulner, daughter of Dr. James Paulner, deceased.

NOTICE. THE COMMISSIONERS in and between James J. B. Gunnison & Co. and J. B. Gunnison, under the name of J. B. Gunnison & Co. is hereby dissolved by mutual consent.

SCHOOL BOOKS AND STATIONERY. A NEW supply of School Books now received at No. 152 Broadway, N. Y. by J. B. Gunnison & Co. every variety may be found in this country. Also, by J. B. Gunnison & Co. every variety may be found in this country.

TO BE HAD OF THE PUBLISHERS. The Living Girl, a beautiful and interesting gift book for the Holidays. The Living Girl, a beautiful and interesting gift book for the Holidays.

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