Political and General News.

A Grand Scheme.

This is a day of progress—of new and magnificent plans. Among other recent projects, we find in the N. Y. *Journal of Commerce* the following scheme to divide a portion of the public domain, strengthen the Union of the States, provide for River and Harbor improvements, and construct a Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific:

Let an association be formed with a capital of one hundred and twenty-five million of dollars.

Let the States, Territories and the District of Columbia take one hundred and one million of this sum, viz: $2,000,000 to each of the Territories and $1,000,000 to the District of Columbia, and the remainder by the States, in proportion to their population, respectively, which would give the following results:

Maine	2,480,000	10 per ct. is	238,000
New Hampshire	1,550,000	"	155,000
Vermont	1,550,000	"	155,000
Massachusetts	4,030,000	"	303,000
Rhode Island	1,240,000	"	124,000
Connecticut	1,860,000	"	186,000
New York	10,850,000	"	1,085,000
New Jersey	2,170,000	"	217,000
Pennsylvania	8,370,000	"	837,000
Delaware	930,000	"	93,000
Maryland	2,840,000	"	284,000
Virginia	4,650,000	"	466,000
North Carolina	3,100,000	"	310,000
South Carolina	2,480,000	"	248,000
Georgia	3,100,000	"	310,000
Alabama	3,790,000	"	379,000
Mississippi	2,170,000	"	217,000
Louisiana	1,860,000	"	186,000
Texas	1,240,000	"	124,000
Florida	930,000	"	93,000
Kentucky	3,720,000	"	372,000
Tennessee	3,720,000	"	372,000
Missouri	2,970,000	"	297,000
Arkansas	1,240,000	"	124,000
Ohio	7,130,000	"	713,000
Indiana	4,030,000	"	403,000
Michigan	1,860,000	"	186,000
Iowa	1,240,000	"	124,000
Wisconsin	1,550,000	"	155,000
California	1,240,000	"	124,000
Minnesota	2,000,000	"	200,000
Oregon	2,000,000	"	200,000
New Mexico	2,000,000	"	200,000
Utah	2,000,000	"	200,000
Dis. Columbia	1,000,000	"	100,000
To be paid by States in round numbers			$10,000,000
To be paid by individuals			2,400,000
			$12,400,000

Let the other $24,000,000 be taken by individuals with a like payment of ten per cent in cash as required.

Let the States and Territories appoint one director each, and the individual shareholders elect ten directors, the whole of which shall form a board of management.

Let works of sufficient magnitude be at once erected, in the State of Missouri or Tennessee, to manufacture the necessary quantity of rails and other iron for the road and fixtures.

The road should have two eastern branches—one to terminate in the State of Alabama and the other in Pennsylvania.

The payment of ten per cent by the States could be rendered easy by an issue of bonds bearing five per cent interest and redeemable in twenty years; and this they could do with perfect safety, the amount for each being so very small, that no reasonable doubt could exist of the almost absolute certainty of their liquidation from the proceeds of the road and from other sources, long before maturity.

Let Congress grant the association a tract of land, one hundred and ten miles wide, the North line of which shall cross the Mississippi river within twenty miles of the city of Alton, in the State of Illinois, running Westerly, and equal in length to the distance from Columbus, Ohio, to San Francisco, within which the main track of the road shall be located; but the Association to have the right to select a quantity contained in said grant from any of the States or Territories entered by the road or branches.

In order to guard so important a matter as the sale and settlement of the public lands to protect every interest, and prevent speculation and abuse—let the lands selected by the Association be held and sold by Government as at present, and the proceeds paid over to the Association; provided Government shall from time to time receive sufficient assurances of a satisfactory progress of the road.

The States, in all human probability, would realize from their property in the road when completed, and from the lands five millions annually. And thus a reliable fund would be completed, entirely at their disposal, for the extension and elevation of common schools, for the encouragement of improvement of rivers and harbors, and a diminution of taxes.

This plan, if carried out, is expected

To open a safe and rapid conveyance across the continent.

To set Telegraph wires at work from Ocean to Ocean.

To pacify the Indian tribes and put an end to Indian wars.

To distribute a portion of the public domain in a satisfactory way, to do the most good to all.

To create a permanent fund for internal improvements.

To connect Europe with India across this continent, and open a communication requring only forty days from Macao to London; and from San Francisco to New York in six days.

To open boundless tracts of wild land to cultivation.

To harmonize the various interests of the different States, and strengthen the Union by a more common welfare and increased fraternal affection.

NEW INVENTION.—The latest effort of invention in the way of art, is one of singular beauty, called the Crystalotype, invented and patented by John A. Whipple of Boston. The Crystalotype is a method of taking likenesses upon glass and paper, so that when finished they present all the beauty of an actual painting with the unerring accuracy of the Daguerreotype likeness. The process is easy, and when one picture is made, hundreds of copies may be taken—thus in a measure rivalling the steel plate press. The most perfect and beautiful copies of single buildings, whole streets, broad fields and landscapes, are taken by this method, showing every line and feature, every hill and vale, stick and stone; with an accuracy far excelling any species of drawing, the whole picture presenting all the appearance of a rich mezzotint engraving. For the purpose of Art, where perfect accuracy of drawing is necessary or desirable, and for perpetuating portraits, family scenes, homesteads, &c., in the compact form of plate engravings, the Crystalotype will be of remarkable value.

SOLID GAS.—Murdock first used gas to light up his offices at Redrath in 1792. "It would," says Liebig, "be one of the greatest discoveries of the age, if any one could succeed in condensing coal gas into a white, dry, solid, odorless substance, portable, and capable of being placed on a candlestick or buried in a lamp." Already is the desire of Liebig being accomplished. A mineral oil flowed out of coal in Derbyshire, obviously produced by slow distillation from the coal. On examination it has been ascertained that paraffine, a solid waxy substance, hitherto never produced from coal, could be formed in commercial quantities by a slow and regular distillation. This is condensed coal gas—a solid form of olefiant gas desired by Liebig. In forming cakes, this product, dissolved in an oil of a similar composition, may be readily obtained instead of the water gases now thrown away. Should this discovery be as successful as it promises, a great change will be wrought in fuel as well as illuminating gas.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 16.

NEWS FROM THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.—The Providence Journal has received advices from Mr. Bartlett, Commissioner of the Mexican Boundary Survey, dated Chihuahua, Oct. 23d, where he arrived with his party the day before, in 15 days from El Paso with a small Mexican escort. On the 18th the train was attacked by a party of Indians, one man was killed, and eleven mules were lost. The Indians were armed with lances and arrows, and some of them with fire arms, and were mounted on fleet horses. They were repulsed, and one of them was left dead. Mr. Bartlett expected to leave the next day for Camargo—distant forty days journey—where he had appointed to meet Major Emory.

Thirty-Second Congress—Second Session.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 15.

SENATE.—The Chair presented a communication from the War Department in relation to the classification of clerks.

The bill to amend the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill of August last, in reference to the appropriation for continuing the survey of the Mexican boundary, was considered and passed.

Mr. Brodhead introduced a bill amendatory of the bounty land system; which was read twice and referred.

The subject of the contested seat was taken up, and Mr. Underwood finished his remarks in favor of the right of Mr. Dixon. After some remarks from Mr. Toucey, in reply, the further consideration of the subject was postponed until to-morrow; and the Senate went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The session of the House was devoted almost wholly to eulogizing the late Daniel Webster. Immediately after the House came together, the Secretary of the Senate appeared at the bar with a message, embracing the resolutions adopted by the Senate on the day before, relative to Mr. Webster's death; which being read, eulogies were delivered by Messrs. Davis of Massachusetts, Appleton of Maine, Seymour of New York, Chandler, Bayley, Stanly, and Taylor; after which, the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, December 17.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—On motion of Mr. Fullar, of Maine, the House proceeded to consider the bill of the Senate authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue registers to vessels in certain cases; which was read three times and passed, with some slight amendments.

Mr. Houston, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending the 30th of June, 1854, and a bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending the 30th of June, 1854; which were severally read twice and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Phelps asked leave to present the memorial of Abelard Guthrie, praying to be admitted to a seat upon the floor of the House of Representatives, as Delegate from the Territory of Nebraska, for the purpose of having it referred to the Committee of Elections.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, objected.

Mr. Phelps was of opinion that this was a question of privilege. If a gentleman was here claiming a seat as a delegate, he submitted to the Speaker that it was a question of privilege.

At the suggestion of Mr. Houston—

Mr. Phelps withdrew his question of privilege, and presented the memorial under rule.

Mr. Stanley asked leave to introduce, in pursuance of previous notice, a bill for the payment of the fourth instalment of the deposites of public money, directed to be made under the provisions of the act of the 23d of June, 1836, to the several States entitled to the same.

Objection was made.

Mr. Houston moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, with the view of taking up the resolutions proposing to refer the various subjects embraced in the President's message to appropriate committees.

Mr. Edgerton moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the private Calendar.

This being private bill day, the question was first taken on the motion of Mr. Edgerton, and it was agreed to; Ayes 72, noes 57.

The House thereupon went into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, in the chair,) and proceeded to consider the bills on the private calendar.

On motion of Mr. Polk, the Committee then rose and reported.

On motion of Mr. Houston, the House proceeded to consider Senate bill to amend the act approved the 31st of Agust, 1852, in reference to the appropriation for continuing the survey of the Mexican boundary, when it was read three times and passed.

The House then adjourned until Monday.

MRS. SWISSHELM ON VENTILATION.—The following graphic discourse on ventilation from our respected colemporary of the *Visitor*, should be stuck into every man's hat:

People are beginning to ventilate public halls so that one can sometimes hear a lecture without being obliged to inhale other people's cast off breath with its foul gasses; but churches generally hold close communion, and with a most brotherly pertinacity the same mouthful of air is breathed by the whole congregation. Sister Brown throws it off her lungs with a few seeds of consumption in it, and then Brother Jones takes it into his chest, and gives it back with a tobacco flavor, and so on round, each one supplying from his or her store house, some animal matter to make the precious little morsel of breath, shut up within four walls, good and thick for family consumption. If their minds do not become assimilated by a communion faith, their bodies might by the general union and communion, and mixing up the gasses and vapor of their mortal part. People who would not eat out of the same dish with another, or sip with the same spoon, think nothing of taking into their lungs, and incorporating with their blood, the particles of foul matter which have passed off from each others system.

We would much rather submit to an indiscriminate use of tooth brushes than of breath. It would not appear half so disgusting to put another person's tooth brush into one's mouth, as it would be to take his cast out breath into one's lungs; and in a crowded church, without great care of ventilating, that process is regularly going on, so we just as regularly go off.

Grand Chinese Festival.

The Chinese residents of San Francisco recently turned out by hundreds to pay a visit to the cemetery where their deceased brethren lie interred. The procession formed on Sacramento street, with a band of Chinese musicians in front, dressed in holiday attire, and in a wagon neatly and tastefully decorated. A long string of carriages, in which were a number of the upper-ten, with yellow-silk unmentionables, followed, and the rear was brought up by a very large cavalcade of horsemen. The street was literally jammed for a long distance, and the balconies of the Chinese House were densely crowded with spectators. At a given signal the procession moved up to Dupont and down to Washington, from thence up Kearney, in the direction of the cemetry. The music began as the column moved, and such a noise has not been heard in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. Coming down Washington street, they struck up the Kwang-sei march Yysingtu variation. Physical force was energetically and incessantly applied to the gong, symbols, drums, and stringed instruments, until the very heavens resounded with the frightful discord. Not a dog nor an unbroken horse could be found within six squares of the procession. The noise was indescribably awful. An avalanche in the Alps, double distilled patent thunder, or a dozen grizzlies in a canebrake, does not even give an approximating idea of the noise. It was confusion worse confounded in a superlative degree. Fortunately the procession moved on, and it was only after the lapse of an hour that the city resumed its usual quiet and peaceful aspect.—*Alta California, of Oct. 28th.*

EXCRUCIATING.—Sundry of the whig papers would fain alleviate their hopeless condition by excruciating witticisms upon the alleged office seeking tendencies of the victorious democracy. How well this becomes them may be aptly exemplified by a veritable anecdote of the hungry propensity of the whig "wolves," in the time of poor old Gen. Harrison—rest his soul!—who, one morning early, shortly after his inauguration, came out of his bedroom to get his breakfast, and to his dismay, he found the hall, staircase, &c., crammed with a swarm of office-seekers, from top to bottom, lying in wait for his appearance. After surveying the crowd a few moments, and finding them entirely immovable, in the depth of perturbation, he cried out to the gentry—"For God's sake, gentlemen, don't starve a poor fellow! Do let me get down, and get a morsel to eat—do, please!" This was only a faint sample of a President's sufferings in whig times! Can they ever be surpassed?—*Clev. Plaindealer.*

☞ A practical illustration of a man carrying the punishment of a sin along with him is related of a fellow in Cincinnati, who lately ran away with two married women.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1852.

☞ Let every Subscriber who owes us a Dollar or more "fork over" between this and the 1st. Then, what a happy New Year we and "all hands" about the *Observer* office, will have!

☞ Our story readers will miss the conclusion of the tale commenced last week, we suppose; hence an apology is necessary. The paper from which we copied it did not arrive in time for our first page, hence its omission. It shall be concluded next week.

ARTIST'S UNION, CINCINNATI.—But one week remains for those intending to subscribe to this institution. Last year there were two prizes among the subscribers here, and it is more than probable the chances this year will be quite as good. At any rate there is no risk in subscribing, as the engravings given to each are worth the full price. As we have once before announced, subscribers for 1852 will receive a copy of each of the engravings issued by the institution, viz: "In a Quandary," a western subject by Bingham, and "Education of Nature," a beautiful steel engraving; or if they see proper, can select the two engravings of last year, viz: Mount's celebrated Picture of "Catching Rabits," and a beautiful print of "Washington," after Stuart's celebrated Portrait, which is admitted to be the most correct and life-like representation of the Father of his Country now in existence. The drawing takes place on the 1st of January. For further particulars, enquire of BENJ. GRANT, Honorary Secretary.

☞ To-day is "Merry Christmas," and if that jolly old Dutchman, Santa Claus, did'nt visit all our readers, young and old, last night it is no fault of ours, for we have certainly wished it for a week past.

☞ The Reading *Gazette* is now printed by steam. If we have luck, before another Christmas the *Observer* will be printed by steam also.

Gen. Pierce's Cabinet.

The Concord *Patriot*, of a recent date, has an article of some length, called out by the speculations in various quarters, friendly and unfriendly, touching the probable composition of Gen. Pierce's Cabinet, and the considerations which it has been conjectured will control him in its formation. We have not room for the entire article, but the following extracts contain sufficient to show the politician "up to the signs of the times," which way the wind blows. If we are not mistaken in the meaning of these paragraphs, Gen. PIERCE will select his Cabinet with a view to make popular and efficient *his own* administration, and not for the purpose of paving the way for either one of the aspirants before the Baltimore Convention for a race in 1856 *New* and soundmen, we predict will compose Gen. Pierce's cabinet:

"Gen. Pierce knows and duly appreciates the responsibilities of the high station to which he has been called by the unsolicited suffrages of the American people; and his whole history gives evidence that he will meet those responsibilities in a manner creditable to himself and acceptable to the country. He will be held, and justly so, responsible to the country for the acts of his administration; his Cabinet are responsible to him. He is the representative of the whole country, literally knowing 'no north, no south, no east, no west,' in the administration of the government; and his Cabinet must be imbued with the same national ideas and purposes, acting for the country, and not each for a section. His Cabinet must be a unit—fully harmonizing in all their views, cordially seconding the determinations of the President and vigorously laboring to carry out every measure of public policy to which the administration may be committed. Upon this depends the success of the administration; without this, all the labors of the President for the public welfare will be futile, and the most devoted and self-sacrificing efforts on his part, will end in humiliation to himself and disgrace to the country.

Now, how must such a Cabinet be selected? The President is responsible for their acts, and he should select them, not take them at the bidding of others. By this we do not mean that he should disregard or refuse to listen to such suggestions as may be made to him; and those who know Gen. Pierce know well that he will not act hastily or unadvisedly in so vastly an important matter. But we mean that, having diligently sought for and carefully considered all the information that it is in his power to obtain, he should then decide according to the dictates of his own judgment; and those who know him need no assurance that he will do so, conscientiously and fearlessly. Gen. Pierce knows well the prominent and leading men of the Union, their history, their characters, their qualifications and their positions at home and before the country; and with such aid as he will avail himself, we have no fears that he will not select for his Cabinet *proper men*—men of broad national views,—sound judgment, sterling ability, strict integrity and correct principles—men who will not use their places for their own emolument, or as stepping-stones to future promotion, but who will devote their energies to the success of the administration and the permanent welfare of the country, seeking the honor of being faithful servants as the reward of patriotic sevice.

His sole desire must be to promote the welfare, prosperity and honor of the country, and he will wish to call around him the best men—those who, under all the circumstances, are best calculated to aid him most effectually in administering the great trust confided to him by the American people. And it is of little moment to him or them whether these men have been Cabinet ministers, members of either house of Congress, foreign ministers, or simple private citizens; all that any one should demand is that men shall be up to the mark on all the great questions of the day,' and equal to the duties required of them."

A Cabinet in entire harmony with the President elect, and like him, fully "up to the mark on all the great questions of the day," cannot be otherwise than eminently acceptable to the American people, whose confidence in his soundness, patriotism, firmness, sagacious statesmanship and administrative capacity, has been so emphatically expressed in advance.

EMPEROR NAPOLEON III.—The news from France shows that Louis Napoleon has been declared Emperor by a most overwhelming majority. The vote in the army and navy, and in the eighty-three departments heard from, foot up 7,200,008 yeas to only 250,600 nays—being a clear majority of nearly 7,000,000. When all the departments are in, the majority will be still larger. He was doubtless crowned on the 21 inst—the anniversary of the crowning of his uncle, and also of his own *coup d'tat.*

HEALTH OF VICE PRESIDENT KING.—Accounts from Washington represent the condition of the Vice President elect to be extremely precarious, and some of those who profess to know his situation, predict that he will never live to be Vice President. He is now confined altogether to his room, and the Senate has modified its rules so as to allow of bills being sent thither for signature. The whole country will hear with solicitude of the illness of this eminent man, just chosen to the second office in the gift of the people. We trust that by good nursing and prudence he may be restored to health again.

☞ A Cleveland paper, in speaking of a vessel wrecked in a late gale on lake Erie, says "among the lost was the Captain's wife. When the *Washington* passed her she was bottom up, nothing being visible but her keel."—Charity forces us to conclude that it was the schooner that was bottom up.—*Rough Notes.*

Just see the difference in men! It's "charity" that "forces" the *Rough Notes* man to this conclusion; while, when we read it, our well known modesty came to our aid and we were "forced" to the same conclusion.

☞ Mr. Kinney, one of the editors of the Newark *Daily Advertiser*, writing from Genoa, says that Uncle Tom's Cabin is producing a mischievous influence against the United States all over Europe. Everybody reads it, cries over, and praises it, while under the excitement of the hour, our country is denounced without reserve or discrimination, and with a bitterness of feelling to which the writer herself is a stranger.

GOLD AT THE MINT.—We learn from the Philadelphia *Bulletin* that from the 1st to the 15th of December, the receipts of gold at the U. S. Mint in that city were $2,870,000—a large amount for the period, though not up to the unprecedented deposits of November. Of this sum, $2,210,000 were deposited on Tuesday, which shows a remarkable correspondence with the amount reported to have been brought by the Illinois, which arrived at New York on Sunday.

"Merry Christmas."

Miss Cooper, in her "Rural Hours," thus apostrophises Merry Christmas. "This is, in good sooth, Merry Christmas! The day is bright with blessings; all its hours are beaming with good and kindly feelings, with true and holy joys. Probably a fuller, purer incense of prayer and praise ascends from earth to Heaven, upon this great festival, than at other period of the year.—Thousands and ten thousands of knees are bowed in adoration, from the remotest coasts of heathen Asia, to the farthest isles of the sea; thousands and ten thousands of voices are raised among the rejoicing nations, repeating the sublime hymn first heard upon the hallowed hills of Bethlehem, and borne onward from that hour through the lapse of ages, unbroken, unceasing, by every successive generation of the redeemed:

"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace, good-will to men!"

It is Merry Christmas, indeed! Every beautiful festival we hold in religious reverence, is connected with this greater festival; they all, laden with blessings and graces, follow in the train of this holy day. Ay, it is the rising of the Sun of Righteousness on Christmas morn, which has even softened the Jewish Sabbath, and given us, with every successive week, the milder, purer light of the Lord's day. What better joy have we, indeed, from the last hour of every passing year of life, which does not flow from the event we this day bear in fervent thankful remembrance? Every mercy of the past dates from the advent we joyfully celebrate to-day. Every hope for the future looks to the same great mystery—Every prayer offered to Heaven, becomes an acceptable prayer only through faith in the same most holy Name: Every exalted anticipation of final release from sin and sorrow, of attainment to the unspeakable joys of purity and wisdom, obedience and peace, is utterly groundless, save as it is connected with the Nativity hymned this day by the Christian Church Catholic.

It is, in truth, Merry Christmas! Peace on earth, good-will to man, sang the heavenly host; and, as if even the solemn recollection of the holy words were accompanied by a blessing, we find that the sweet charities, the better feelings of the heart, become more active on this holy day. There is nothing more striking in the daily course of the world, than the recklessness with which men trifle with the precious boon of peace, the very sunshine of life; perhaps there is no one folly which so generally, so frequently, and so lamentably reminds us that we are indeed "very far gone from original righteousness." But, on this holy day, when we especially celebrate the Nativity of the Prince of Peace, the solemn part of that high event, the perfect meekness, the pure humility, the unfailing fountains of patience and charity revealed to us in His sacred character, are not so easily forgotten as at other times; our cold hearts are touched, our impatient spirits are calmed, our evil passions are lulled to pious quiet by the noble devotions of the day.—Probably, of all those who on this festival gather in the places of Christian worship, there are none, unless it be the wholly blind and unbelieving, who leave the house of God without some touch of pure and healthful influences; carrying with them, for a while at least, something more than usual of the light of Truth. Upon this holy day, there is indeed an increase of "peace on earth;" those who love already, love more truly, with more of that "purer and fervent affection" enjoined by the Apostle; friends draw nearer; and even those who in the struggle of life have held themselves as enemies, look with a milder eye upon each other—they feel, perhaps some drop of better feeling, falling like oil on the stormy waves of evil passion. In short, on this day of blessing, the Christian meets no fellow-creature with absolute indifference, he parts from none with heartless carelessness.

Merry Christmas! Throughout Christendom, wherever the festival is observed—and there are now few communities where it is entirely forgotten—alms and deeds of charity to the poor and afflicted make a regular part of its services, proclaiming "good-will to man."—The poor must ever, on this day, put in a silent but eloquent appeal for succor, in their Master's name; and those who have the means of giving, open more freely a helpful hand to their afflicted brethren. The hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the cold are cheered and warmed with fuel, the desolate and houseless are provided for, the needy debtor is forgiven, an hour of ease and relief is managed for the weary and careworn, innocent gratifications are contrived by the liberal for those whose pleasures are few and rare. Doubtless there is no one community within the broad borders of Christendom, where the poor and needy receive, even on this day, a moiety of what should be given them, if we here more faithfully in mind the precepts of our Master; nevertheless, were the whole amount of the charities of this festival told and numbered, it would assuredly prove larger than that of any other day of the year, and the heart rejoices that it is so; we love to remember how many sad spirits have been cheered, how many cares lightened, how many fears allayed by the blessed hand of Christian Charity moving in the name of her Lord.

Merry Christmas! What a throng of happy children there are in the world, to-day! It is delightful to recollect how many little hearts are beating with pleasure, how many childish lips are prattling cheerfully, lisping their Christmas hymns in many a different dialect, according to the speech the little creatures have inherited. Those ten thousand childish groups scattered over Christendom, are in themselves a right pleasant vision, and enough to make one merry in remembering them. Many are gathered in the crowded dwelling of towns, other under the rustic roof of the peasant; some in the cabins of the poor, others within royal walls; these are sitting about the hearth-stone on the shores of artic Iceland, others are singing in the shady verandahs of Hindostan; some within the bounds of our own land, are playing with ever-blooming flowers of a tropical climate, and others, like the little flocks of this neighborhood, are looking abroad over the pure white snows. Scarce a child of them all, in every land where Christmas Hymns are sung, whose heart is not merrier than upon most days of the year. It is indeed a very beautiful part of Christmas customs that children come in for a share of our joys to-day; the blessing and approbation of our gracious Lord were so very remarkably bestowed on them, that we do well especially to remember their claims in celebrating the Nativity; at other festivals they are forgotten, but their unfeigned, unalloyed gayety helps, indeed, to make Christmas merry; and their simple, true-hearted devotions, their guileless Hosannas, must assuredly form an acceptable offering to Him who Himself condescended to become a little child, and who has said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Other religions have scarcely heeded children; Christianity bestows on them an especial blessing; it is well, indeed, that they rejoice with us to-day.

Merry Christmas! The words fall idly, perhaps, from too many careless lips; they are uttered by those who give them no deeper meaning than a passing friendly salutation of the moment; and yet every tongue that repeats the phrase, bears unconscious witness to the power of the Gospel—those good-tidings of great joy to all mankind. From the lips of the most indifferent, these words seem to carry at least some acknowledgment of the many temporal benefits which Christianity has shed over the earth, those cheaper gifts of hers which are yet incalculable in their value. They tell of aid to the needy, of comfort to the prisoner, of shelter to the houseless, of care for the sick and helpless; they tell of protection to the feeble, to women, to children; they tell of every natural affection purified and strengthened; they tell of kinder parents, of children more dutiful, of husbands more generous and constant, of wives more faithful and true, of the high bond of brotherwood more closely knit; they tell of milder governments, of laws more just, of moral education; they tell of a worship holy and pure. "The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart," says the wise son of Sirach."

☞ A CRYING EVIL.—A baby in a Theatre may safely be put down as a "crying evil." We saw one last week in Buffalo, at the Eagle, and it was going it with a looseness. Whether it has stopped yet we are not informed, but we presume from the strength of its lungs, that it has'nt!

A few plain Facts.

Is it not a fact that the "Gauge Law" of this State was first conceived, and finally became a legal enactment at the suggestion and by the connivance and concurrence of the President and Directors of the North East and Erie Railroad? Is it not a fact that these same President and Directors have, within a month, consigned at abrogating that law, by entering into a contract with certain interests in Buffalo—headed by Dean Richmond—to lay down upon their road an additional rail, so as to give a continuous track from Buffalo to Cleveland—the carrying out of which was only prevented by the opinions of their consulting council that they had no authority, and would endanger their franchise, under the law? Is it not a fact that, in defiance of public opinion, and in striking opposition to all their previous professions, these same President and Directors have, within this same month, elected to a vacancy in their board this same Dean Richmond, Esq., spoken of above as being at the head of the Buffalo interests, seeking to ride rough shod over the laws and the interests of Pennsylvania? We repeat, are not all these propositions *facts*—stubborn, undeniable FACTS? We take it for granted that no one will deny them. What then ought to be the duty of every man in *Erie*, owning a share of the stock of the road? Is it to vote to retain this Board? We think not, unless, under certain circumstances. But, say they, those who own the stock in the road ought to control the road! Granted. Do they own a majority of the stock in the road? If we believe their own stories of a month since, *no!*—Then a majority of the Board went howling around the streets, and giving as a reason for their course that they were forced to sell their stock. Now, if they were forced to sell, we presume they did so. To whom did they sell?—to Buffalo and New York capitalists; men adverse to our interests—men that would strangle our Sunbury road in a moment, and as a first step towards that purpose would set at defiance the law and public opinion in regard to gauges. What claim then have they upon the citizens of Erie to be retained in the Board. According to their own showing they have no stock, because they were *forced to sell it*,—in fact, have not as much as many a good citizen who never thinks of going into the Board in their places. The claim then that *they* should be retained because they owned a majority of the stock *here* is unfounded, and certainly they have no claim on account of previous fidelity to our interests, for we have already shown that those interests would have been sacrificed a month since if it had not been for the *legal* opinion of their consulting Lawyers—Messrs. Thompson, Marshall and Walker. But suppose they have not sold their stock, that they retain a controlling moiety of it there?—In that case there is an easy way to procure their re-election; one which, if resorted to, will satisfy all interests, and decide all controversy as to gauge in future. Under the original charter and practices of the Erie and North East road, a stockholder had but *one* vote, no matter how many or how few shares of stock he held. Last winter the Company, through the present Board, asked the Legislature to grant the stockholders the privilege of voting as many times as they had shares of stock. In compliance with this request the Legislature amended their charter conferring upon every stockholder one vote for every share of stock held, but added a proviso that the "Gauge Law" should be considered a part and parcel of the charter, *and any evasion, or attempt at evasion, of any of its provisions should work a forfeiture of the same.* Now, then, let the election for Directors next month, be held under this amendment, and the present Board can be retained—in fact, if they have the necessary amount of stock, they can elect themselves. Why not do it, then? It is said actions speak louder than words; and in this case we think the saying is true! For if they refuse to hold the election under this amendment, will it not be prima facia evidence that they have determined, at some future time, to seek to evade the Gauge Law? It strikes us so! What objection can they have? They asked for the Gauge Law, and they got it. They profess *now* a wish to maintain it. They asked for the amendment to their charter referred to, and they got that, and with it a proviso fixing upon the road an enactment, they profess to uphold, beyond all question. What objection can they have then to vote in accordance with the amendment! None, if they are sincere to their professions, and if they are not sincere, certainly the people of Erie ought not to re-elect them. These are plain facts—put forth fully believing that the interests of Erie and the State demand that this gauge question should be settled in the manner we have indicated.

☞ Lying, says the Boston Post, is an exceedingly vulgar vice—yet often practised by genteel people. Lawyers lie professionally; doctors lie occasionally; editors lie unintentionally; divines lie accidentally; merchants lie habitually, and the telegraph lies perpetually—but then it don't know any better, which can hardly be said of mendacious characters in general. As Falstaff says, "Lord, how this world is given to lying."

☞ We think there is no more than justice and sound policy in the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior that suitable houses be erected for the Vice President and the members of the Cabinet, and they be provided with furniture, fuel and lights. In support of this recommendation the report refers to the greatly increased cost of house-rent and all the necessaries of life in Washington; the practical effect of which is to reduce the value of the salaries paid to little more than half their value at the time when they were fixed by law. If measures are not adopted to equalize the means and expenses, none but those possessed of private fortunes will be able to fill the most responsible public offices. It is estimated that lots can be bought and eight houses erected, furnished, and fitted up as proposed, for $300,000.

FINANCES OF PENNSYLVANIA.—We learn from the annual report of the Auditor General, that the receipts into the State Treasury during the year ending on the 30th ult. amounted to $7,716,552, which is increased by previous balances on hand to $8,580,123. Of this sum $821,000 is unavailable. The expenditures during the year amounted to $6,876,490, leaving on hand $1,382,611.

☞ Graham commences his volume of 1853 with a most splendid January number, of 110 pages of highly interesting reading, together with several superior engravings by Tucker and Devereux. The terms for the Magazine are $3 per annum; or 2 copies for $5. Clubs of 6 for $10; of 13 for $20. For sale at No. 9, Brown's Hotel.

☞ We notice that five of the Smith family, including "John," were discharged from jail at Pittsburgh on the 22d ult.

☞ The amiable Editor of the *Gazette* seizes upon a joking squib of ours, relative to the Post Office, to preach a sermon upon the claims and qulifications of the several aspirants for appointment to that office under Gen. Pierce, assuming in every case, but *one*, that they are all sustained by a powerful array of friends, whereas that *one* poor wight, by inference at least, is not blessed in any such way. To this we can have no sort of objection—on the contrary, we rather like it. It shows our Democratic friends—and we beg leave to assure our amiable friend, we have *some* of that kind—that however high we may be in their esteem, we are no great shakes among *some* of their opponents.

☞ The January number of Godey's Lady's Book has been received. It is truly a magnificent number, as indeed is almost every monthly issue. The present number contains seven full page engravings, which are got up in admirable style, and beauty of design, together with many smaller designs and illustrations scattered through its pages. The present number contains 57 original articles in prose and verse, from the pens of Hinckley, Headley, Conrad, Weld, and Gilmore, Mrs. Hentz, Mrs. S. J. Hale, Miss Stuart and others of our best authors. For sale at No. 9, Brown's Hotel.

THE DIFFERENCE.—The Cincinnati *Enquirer* say that down at Louisville, the penalty for stealing a guitar has been fixed at imprisonment in the Penitentiary for *four* years, while for killing a man by recklessly riding over him in the streets, the penalty is only *three* years imprisonment.

☞ Two hundred and thirty years ago twenty-nine dollars would have purchased the entire city and county of New York.

New Advertisements

Universalist Church.

SERVICES may be expected in this Church on Friday evening and continued during Saturday and Sunday. Rev. [illegible] of New York city, and other clergymen will be [illegible] ance, and the meeting made interesting and appropriate [illegible] occasion.

A general attendance of the public is invited and expected. Erie Dec. 25.

☞ ERIE CEMETERY.—Notice is hereby given [illegible] Corporators of the Erie Cemetery, that the Annual [illegible] ing for the election of Officers, will be held at the [illegible] of the Secretary on Monday the 10th of January [illegible] 6½ o'clock, P. M.

J. C. SPENCER, Sec.

Erie, Dec. 25, 1852

Graham and Godey!

GRAHAM'S and Godey's Magazines for January [illegible] at No. 9 Brown's Hotel. 33 DURLIN & [illegible]

More Gift Books!

ANOTHER supply of gift books, suitable for [illegible] will be received this day by express, at No. 9 Brown's [illegible] Erie, Dec. 25 1852—33 DURLIN & [illegible]

Putnam's Monthly!

PUTNAM'S MONTHLY—an entirely original Ameri[illegible] azine, for January, just received at No. 9, Brown's [illegible] Erie, Dec 25 1852—33 DURLIN & [illegible]

GREAT BARGAINS!

10 CITY LOTS for sale at bargains, call soon. Dec. 25 1852—33 CADWELL & BENS[illegible]

FINE CARRIAGE!

3 NEW and splendid one horse carriages for sale [illegible] Enquire of Dec. 25 1852-35. CADWELL & BENS[illegible]

Cheering to the Ladies, and Interesting to [illegible]

WILCOX & NORTON, No. 2, Wright's block, [illegible] Erie Pa., have just received a supply of very [illegible] cles in the line of

LADIES' AND MISSES' SHOES.

Among them are white satin slips, white kid [illegible] embroidered do., fancy silk gaiters and various other [illegible] similar character, as also the substantial articles [illegible] for every day use.

For Gents wear of Boots, Shoes, Gaiters &c., the [illegible] great it would be superfluous to specify. Suffice [illegible] stock is more extensive and complete than ever before [illegible] is best of all for their customers, prices well suited [illegible] sires. They will endeavor to manifest a more [illegible] tion of the public mind for abstaining from the use of [illegible] common place expressions resorted to by some, faster [illegible] ing their Goods cheaper than others, and permit [illegible] unmolested in their own dirty puddles; while W & N [illegible] vor by their practice to give unmistakable [illegible] facilities for procuring the best of work at the lowest [illegible] ces cannot be surpassed, and probably is far from be[illegible] by even the most pompous pretenders. In addition [illegible] advantages arising from an early selection. [illegible]

Beauty vs Beauty!!

THERE is much in Nature beautiful, but was [illegible] the rich and beautiful articles at Stockton & [illegible] hesitate to admit that Art can, if not excel, yet come [illegible] mate to the beauties of Nature

"A word to the wise is sufficient."

Doors open at 7 A. M. Admission free. Dec [illegible]

WE wish every body a very happy [illegible] Years, and if they will call on us at [illegible] all we can to make them so. Please don't [illegible]

Dec. 23,—31. STOCKTON & [illegible]

Great Sale of Dry Goods!

At the New York Store, No 6, Bonnell Block.

ELEGANT Cashmeres and Delaines, worth [illegible] for 1½ and 20 cts. as good delaines for 12½ [illegible] for 1½ at any other store, elegant Cashmere [illegible] $25 will be sold for $16, elegant Silks for [illegible] the best assortment of black Silks ever [illegible] embroidered Collars from 6¼ cts. to $1—50 [illegible] Ticks, Flannels, bleached cotton, &c., all of which [illegible] tered at New York cost. Purchasers of Dry Goods [illegible] per cent on their purchases by calling at the New York [illegible] No 6, Bonnell Block.

Erie, Dec. 25—35. MERRICK & [illegible]

TO RENT!

THE DOCKS, covering *Three Water Lots*, [illegible] with the large Ware House, 100 by 40 feet, now [illegible] pied by Walker & Tibbals. For terms, apply [illegible]

Erie, Dec. 24—1(33. GEO. W. STAR[illegible]

ATTENTION ALL!

THE subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and [illegible] tomers, (as well as lots