SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD.

To the members of the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN—It is with exceeding great reluctance that I feel myself called on to address you through the public press. My only apology is to be found in the fact that the publicity of your proceedings, on the evening of the 17th inst., call for an equally public explanation from me.

On the 19th of Oct., 1852, upon the strong and urgent request of friends, I was induced to accept the presidency of the S. & E. R. R. Co., and on the 7th of Nov. following, I applied to you for aid, by way of a city subscription to the stock of the company, to assist in the construction of the road.—You appointed a joint committee of 14, who finally recommended such subscription to be made. Before doing so, however, they put to me near fifty interrogatories, all of which were answered in writing, and printed by you. The opinion entertained by the committee may be seen from their own published report, wherein they say—

"Those interrogatories and answers are herewith submitted, and the committee would take this opportunity of expressing their sense of the frank and open manner in which all desired information has been furnished to them, and all books and papers of the company submitted to their inspection, and they feel satisfied that every candid person will now admit, that whatever action may be hereafter taken by councils, will be founded by councils upon a careful and deliberate examination."

Finally, on the 3d of Feb., 1853, you passed an ordinance, authorising a subscription of two sums of $1,000,000 each, upon similar subscriptions of like sums being previously obtained. Of the wisdom of the subscription, none I believe will now doubt, on the contrary, you appear to be careful to avoid giving room for supposition, that your subsequent proceedings were to be taken as an indication of a change of opinion upon the question of subscription itself, nor is it alleged that any matter has been discovered which, if known by you on the 3d of Feb., would in any way whatever, have changed your action of that day; and yet at your next session, Feb. 17th, I find that an ordinance was passed, "providing that the mayor be directed not to make the subscription to the capital stock of the S. & E. R. R., as authorized by the ordinance, of which this is is a supplement, until further instructions from councils."

In the published record of your proceedings no assignment of the reasons which prompted this much to be regretted and unlooked for action on your part is to be found, otherwise than what may be implied from the language of the preamble and resolution passed the same evening, and which are in the words following:

"Whereas, the action of councils this evening, suspending the operation of the ordinance passed at the last stated meeting, in reference to a subscription to the S. & E. R. R. Co., unless explained, may lead to misconstruction:

And whereas, the postponement of said subscription is not in consequence of any change in the opinion of councils in relation to the necessity and importance to the interests of Philadelphia, that the S. & E. R. R. should be commenced and prosecuted to completion at the earliest day possible:

And whereas assurances were given to members of councils, as an inducement to the subscription, that the board of directors, so far as relates to the members from the city, should be satisfactory to councils, which assurances have not been complied with: Therefore,

Resolved, That when the board of directors, as above stated, is made satisfactory to councils, and the conditions of the ordinance authorizing the subscription are complied with in good faith, the councils of Philadelphia will be prepared, and will cheerfully carry out what they believe to be the wishes of their constituency, by subscribing two millions of dollars to the capital stock of the Sunbury and Erie R. R. Co."

And I am obliged to look to the published speech of Mr. John H. Diehl, as appearing in the North American of the 19th inst., which, as I understand, had been committed to writing before delivery, for the motives which influenced you to pass the ordinance of the 17th inst., and for the evidence of the assurances referred to in the preamble and resolution.

Mr. Diehl says: "Soon after the last meeting of councils, Mr. Fallon proposed that an informal meeting should be held for the purpose of determining the ticket to be voted for at the annual election of the company on the 14th inst. To this meeting he submitted the names of a number of persons, four of whom, including himself, were approved, and others, for reasons, which were deemed conclusive with the members, it was deemed inexpedient to place upon the ticket. This decision was communicated to Mr. Fallon, and at the same time the names of more than twenty gentlemen of the highest respectability and intelligence were presented to him, with an assurance that any of them whom he might select, would be agreeable to councils."

Mr. Diehl then proceeds, addressing councils as follows:

"I am sure I utter the sentiments of every right-minded member of this body, when I say that we were both astonished and indignant when we found on the day of election—for the fact was never communicated by Mr. Fallon or any body for him—that of the persons to whom we had expressly excepted, two had been placed on the ticket, and that of the whole number we had proposed, not one had been chosen."

He then proceeds to term this "a violation of ordinary faith and good courtesy," a disregard of pledges solemnly given, and as affording a fair reason why councils should not submit to such "disgracious treatment."

There is no other cause assigned by Mr. Diehl, nor so far as I am informed, by any other person, for the action of councils. No violation of good faith, other than that mentioned, is, I believe, pretended, though there are other observations of Mr. Diehl which may require explanation.

The sin of my offending then appears to have been that, shortly after the meeting of councils of 3d inst., I "proposed to an informal meeting of councils, for the purpose of determining a ticket to be voted for at the next annual election of the company on the 14th inst." That I submitted to this meeting the names of a number of persons, four of whom, including myself, were approved of, and the rest were excepted to; that this was made known to me, and a list of names furnished by councils, from whom to select the remainder of the ticket; that I afterwards permitted two of the excepted names to remain on the ticket, and selected none of the names that were submitted to me by councils.

Had I in fact proposed to you, as is stated, that you should hold an informal meeting for the purpose of determining the ticket to be voted for, though such an act would have been an assumption of power which I was no way justified in taking, yet it might well be considered as creating an obligation on my part to be governed by the wishes of councils, expressed at such meeting, and had you taken such exceptions to such parties, and furnished me with a list of names, *eligible to office*, from whom to fill up the board, I should have felt it my duty to carry out your wishes, so far as I was able; and I feel no way surprised that gentlemen of the councils, acting under the belief, as shown by Mr. Diehl's speech, that I had proposed such meeting of councils for the purpose stated, and had afterwards disregarded their action on the subject, should have shown their sense of what appeared to them a violation of good faith and courtesy.

But what are the facts?

Actuated to the fullest extent by the same spirit, which in December last was expressed by me in the language cited by Mr. Diehl, "I was fully alive to the importance of being supported by an effective board of directors, such as will command the confidence of the community, and be able to devote the requisite time and attention to the management of the concerns of the company," and considering now, equally as I then did, "the application made to councils as a proposition to form a quasi partnership," by reason whereof "the company was bound to give the fullest, frankest, and most free disclosure of every thing connected with its affairs and management, I also believed it proper, in view of the conditional acceptance that had been made by the city, of the "proposition to form a quasi partnership," that they should have a just voice and representation in the management of the company even before the accomplishment of the condition on which the city have agreed to become "quasi partners," when they will be entitled as of right, to be represented in the board of management of the road.

Under the influence of such feelings, I proposed that an informal meeting of councils should be held, but not, as it appears to be now supposed, "for the purpose of their determining the ticket to be voted for, at the annual election of the company, on the 14th inst."

To have done so, would have been, in my humble opinion, as unjust to the board of managers and present stockholders of the company, as the electing of a board with an entire disregard to the wishes of the city councils would have been unjust to them. My own self-respect and the respect I owed to the members of the board over which I presided, would have forbidden such a course.

The proposition for an informal meeting was in writing, and I flatter myself is not susceptible of misconstruction. It is as follows:

John Price Wetherill, Thomas Snowden, Esquires, Presidents of Select and Common Councils,

GENTLEMEN:—The liberal action of Councils last Thursday night induces me to take the liberty of mentioning to you that the election for managers of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company will take place on the 14th inst., and as the City Councils will not at that time be entitled to nominate directors, it has occurred to me that perhaps Councils would like to suggest the names of three gentlemen to serve as directors in the board. If so, and the councils will hold an informal meeting and advise me before our board meets, which it will on Friday morning next, for the purpose of completing a list of directors, it will give me great pleasure to have them nominated.

Truly Yours, &c.,

Feb. 7, '53. CHRISTOPHER FALLON.

The misapprehension with regard to the object of this proposal for an informal meeting of councils, can alone be accounted for by supposing that my letter was not read at the meeting, or attention paid to its contents; it may be that it was *taken for granted* by most, or all of your body, that the meeting was called "for the purpose of determining the ticket to be voted."

The reason of fixing three as the number councils were invited to name, is as obvious as the terms of the invitation are explicit.

Under the charter of the Railroad Company, councils would have been entitled to name three managers upon their *proposed* subscription of $2,000,000 being actually made. The subscription was not yet made, but all the well wishers of the great enterprise in which we are engaged, felt truly grateful toward the councils for their action in the matter, and in consequence the managers whom I consulted promptly agreed with me in the propriety of inviting the city councils to exercise as full a share in the management as if the whole subscription contemplated were actually made.

Above is the only letter or proposition of any kind that was made by me to you, and I feel myself fully justified in saying that members of councils could not have had before their minds this letter, and the true state of facts, when they took the unfortunate action on the 17th inst., under the supposition that I had invited you to determine upon the ticket, and had afterwards disregarded your wishes, communicated upon my own invitation.

The *informal* meeting of councils proposed, appears to have been held on the 9th of Feb., and on the evening of that day a committee of three of your body called upon me at my chamber, where I was then quite indisposed, to say that councils were then in session and did not think that they ought to make the nomination of three directors.—I told them that some of the board and myself had thought that in such event it might be agreeable to councils, and if so it was our intention to have two of their own body placed on the ticket, viz: one from each chamber. This they at once said would not be at all agreeable to councils, in consquence of which the intention was immediately abandoned.

The committee impressed me with the idea that councils did not think it right to compromise themselves in any way with the matter at the present time: they left on me the impression that unless some legislation could be had authorizing the city to vote upon her whole stock, councils might still reconsider what had been done by them, and that therefore to interfere in the formation of a ticket at that time might be considered as compromitting them. They asked me, however, if I could furnish them with the names of gentlemen intended to be placed upon the ticket; my reply was that no selection had been made, because we had awaited the action of councils in reference to the nomination of three; but upon being further pressed, I furnished them with names of parties who had been spoken of, and from among whom it was probable the ticket would be selected, the list then furnished consisted (so far as the city of Philadelphia is concerned, and it is to that only that I am addressing myself,) of myself as president, and of Messrs. Chas. Lennig, H. Duhring, John Rice, Philip M. Price, J. D. Whetham, with several others, two of whom were at once objected to by the committee; and I confess I was mortified, for I did not suppose, after what had passed, that any of these names were submitted for the purpose of being passed upon in any way, and it certainly was the remotest thing from my mind that each name should be proposed at the meeting of the councils, as I have recently learned was the case, and accepted or rejected, after full ballot. Had I thought such was to be the course pursued, I should have felt it quite unpardonable in me to have submitted these gentlemen's names to such an ordeal without prior authority. As it was, I thought it better not to place on the ticket the names which the committee informed me would be objectionable.

In the evening of the following day I received from Mr. R. Rundle Smith, the secretary of the informal meeting referred to, the following letter:

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9, 1853.

C. Fallon, Esq., President of the Sunbury & Erie Railroad Company.

Dear Sir—At an informal meeting of the City councils, held this evening, Mr. J. P. Wetherill was called to the chair, and R. Rundle Smith appointed Secretary; it was

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the President of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Co. that this meeting highly approves of the proposed names on the ticket, as follows:

President—Christopher Fallon.

Directors—Messrs. Galbraith and Miles, Erie; Gillis, Elk; Irvine, Warren; Cowan, Williamsport; Chas. Lennig, Henry Duhring, John Rice, Philadelphia; and recommend any of the following named [here followed 15 names,] from whom the other directors be chosen. I am very respectfully,

R. RUNDLE SMITH, Sec., &c.

In which, it will be perceived, that without taking the slightest notice of my letter, which had suggested an informal meeting of councils for the purpose of nominating three directors, I am informed that councils approved of certain names nominated for the board, including myself, and recommended to select the remainder of the ticket from among the 15 names there mentioned.

It becomes me not to express the astonishment with which I received that letter. It is sufficient to say that of the whole 15 names thus presented to my notice, but a single one was eligible to the office at all, and he had been applied to more than once by me and had declined to act as director. As to the rest, it does not appear that you had thought it necessary to ascertain whether any of them would act, even if made eligible by becoming stockholders, and I had reason to know the contrary as respects several of the names mentioned. Some of the gentlemen were unknown to me, and how far they could give the requisite attention, even if elected, I knew not. The letter, it will be perceived, takes no exception whatever to the names of Messrs. Price or Whetham, being the two excepted persons of whom Mr. Diehl speaks.

At the time of the receipt of the letter, I was very ill, and have been confined to my bed almost ever since, and but two working days intervened before the election. Even had I been so inclined, I could not have ascertained how far the parties would have been willing to serve in the board, and concluded that the proper source to be pursued was to lay aside the two names that had been decidedly objected to, and to complete a ticket with parties who would be likely to give most efficient aid, and command the greatest confidence. It was accordingly determined that Mr. John Tucker's name should be placed on the ticket, and that Mr. Philip M. Price and J. D. Whetham, as to whom no exceptions were known to exist, and both of whom had shown great zeal in the interests of the company, during the days of her adversity, should remain on the ticket. The name of a gentleman taken from the recommended list, was likewise placed upon the ticket, he kindly consenting to become a subscriber to stock, for the purpose of rendering himself eligible. Subsequently, an effort discovered, at the last moment, on the day preceding the election, which, if successful, would have placed in the Presidency a gentleman from the country, and in the management, parties that had been expressly objected to by you, and would have promoted interests other than those of Philadelphia, obliged us to yield to the requirements of the city of Erie, to grant them three members, and in consequence, to diminish our city representation from seven to six, we were thus almost reluctantly compelled to drop the name of this gentleman. Such is a plain, though perhaps too tedious a statement of facts.

The ticket consisted, so far as the city representation is concerned, of three names, together with the President, which had been "highly approved" of by councils, together with Mr. John Tucker, Mr. Price and Mr. Whetham, the two latter of whom had been mentioned to the committee of councils who called upon me, but as to whom Mr. Smith's letter was silent. You will, I am sure, sanction the selection which secured to the company the important aid of Mr. Tucker. Whether any private reasons may exist to induce any member of councils for wishing his name off the board, I know not, but I certainly feel that the company could have gained no greater acquisition than the securing of his services. With respect to Messrs. Price and Whetham, their characters are in every respect, I believe, unblemished. The letter of Mr. Smith gave me no reason to suppose their names were unsatisfactory to you. They have been members of the former board, have given most efficient aid, and are firm, fast friends of the enterprise, fully deserving the confidence of every one who takes an interest in its prosperity. Their devotedness to the interests of the road could not have been put to a more severe and complete test than that to which, in this connection I feel it my duty to refer, as one of the facts having a bearing on the unfortunate action on your part on the 17th inst. Early on the morning of that day I received a communication, to the effect that the President of common councils, Mr. Snowden, would meet Messrs. Price and Whetham in my chamber at 11 o'clock.

The parties accordingly met, when Mr. Snowden communicated to them and me that the object of the meeting was to say that, if Messrs. Price and Whetham would place their letters of resignation in my hand, he believed that all difficulty on the part of councils would cease. These gentlemen, after some conversation, agreed to sacrifice their own personal feelings to the prosperity of the road, and accordingly placed their resignations in my hands, which fact I immediately communicated to Mr. Snowden, who, I understand, showed the letter to a large number of your body that evening, before your body had taken any action. It is thus difficult to account for the hasty action had by you under these circumstances, on the 17th instant. But it is certain that it has been a severe blow to the interests of the company over which I preside, and I must say also, to the prosperity of our own city, which none, I am sure, will more sincerely regret than those who thus acted under a misapprehension of facts.

It may be proper for me to refer to the fact that when you passed the ordinance on the 3d of February, a motion was made to make the city subscription conditional upon her being allowed to vote on her whole stock, one vote on each share, instead of appointing three directors as aforesaid. At my request, and upon the assurance that I would have a bill for that purpose introduced into the legislature, the amendment was withdrawn. The matter was sprung upon me suddenly, and subsequent reflection has confirmed the apprehensions that I at once entertained of such a bill.

The bill, however has been introduced into the legislature, and, judging from Mr. Diehl's remarks, perhaps the non passage of this bill may have influenced some others besides himself in his words "to withhold the city subscription until the city shall be able to exercise a *potential* influence in the selection of the officers and managers of the company." Such argument cannot be supposed to have met the approval of many of your members.

There are two other matters mentioned by Mr. Diehl which call for a short explanation from me.—Quoting a portion of a sentence to be found in my answer to one of the interrogatories above spoken of, he says that I gave the assurance "that the director nominated by the city should find the company untrammelled by contracts of any kind which might by possibility be prejudicial."

The sentence in the original reads *"prejudicial to the city,"* and most faithfully have I kept my word. No stronger evidence of it could be given than that very case to which he refers as an illustration of my having overlooked it. At a most critical period in the affairs of this company, the board secured, by the contract with the Messrs. Morehead, the possession of the link of road below Williamsport, and the consequent freedom of dictation by companies whose interests it would have been to discriminate in favor of trade and travel going to New-York, rather than to Philadelphia. To secure this, four of the board, including Messrs. Price and Whetham, became personally bound for the fulfilment of the contract on the part of the company. I took the presidency of this road from a feeling of pride, desirous to identify myself with the prosperity of the city, where I had earned all that I am worth, and the proudest feeling I now have, is that the determined course pursued by me at the expense of most weighty personal responsibilities has, in the matter referred to, secured forever to Philadelphia that freedom and equality which an irresolute course would at that time have forever deprived her of.

In conclusion, I have but to say, that having, from the motives above mentioned, accepted the Presidency of a company whose success involves the interest of the State of Pennsylvania, as well as of the city of Philadelphia, to a greater and more varied extent than any other enterprise undertaken or projected for many years, I have heretofore, to the utmost of my ability, guided the action of the company so as to promote and to the greatest extent protect every interest represented by the managers of the company, and first and most of the interest of Philadelphia, as the effectual means of securing which last mentioned object, the application for a subscription to two millions of the stock of the company was made to you, resulting in the public pledge of the faith of the city, so given by you on the 3d inst. *As heretofore, so hereafter*, so long as I shall continue in the office I now occupy, considering the making of the road in the most substantial, best, and cheapest manner, the first and great object, the accomplishment of which must necessarily protect the interests entrusted to managers of the company, this first object shall be carried out to the greatest extent to which circumstances will admit, so as to further the peculiar interest of Philadelphia; and in these sentiments I believe all the present managers unite.

With great respect, &c,

CHRISTOPHER FALLON.

NORWEGIANS IN PENNSYLVANIA.—Ole Bull's Norwegian settlement, in Pennsylvania, is going on well. Since the snow fell they have been as active as before, and they are now busily engaged in making roads, building houses, mills, and other works. Several new houses have been entirely completed already since winter set in, and the prospect now is that preparations will be made by spring for receiving a large addition to the settlement. At Castee Camp a new shool-house has been erected, and school opened in it. A steam saw mill and two water mills are already under way, and everything about the settlement indicates energy and prosperity.

OUR SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MAINE LAW.—Let the young ladies of every community "put down" their pretty little feet against the practice of tippling, and refuse unflinchingly to accept the attentions of any young fellow who "indulges," and, pur word for it, intemperance will vanish quicker than winking. While our "strong-minded women," are throwing away the time which should be devoted to teaching their babies the a. b. c., in petitioning an inefficient Legislature for a "redress of grievances," let the young ladies of the Empire State resolve to put down liquor drinking, and act up to their resolve and the work is done.—*Votes.*

CURE FOR HYSTERICS.—On Christmas eve, a young girl, in the district of Inverness, assembled her friends together to witness the celebration of her nuptials with the lad who had wooed and won her. At the appointed hour she received the intelligence that her lover had altered his mind. She was about to be attacked with hysterics, when another youth popped the question, was accepted, and the marriage rite performed.

THE GREAT PYRAMID.—The Great Pyramid in Egypt is 800 feet in height, and its base occupies thirteen acres. Its weight is estimated at six millions of tons, and its erection would occupy 3,000 men twenty years. If it was broken up, the materials would rear a wall around the whole empire of France ten feet high and two and a half thick.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1853.

Democratic State Convention.

We learn that the Democratic State Convention, which met in Harrisburg on the first, put in nomination THOMAS S. FORSYTHE, State Senator for Philadelphia county, *for* Canal Commissioner; and *Messrs.* BEAWLEY and BAKER, for Surveyor and Auditor General. We shall have more to say in regard to these nominations hereafter.

Democratic Victory in Buffalo.

The Democracy of Buffalo have swept the Board, having emphatically annihilated their whig opponents. ELI COOK is elected Mayor by 741 majority, and C. A. WALDRON Justice by 932. This will do for Buffalo—especially as it must be taken as a kind salutation of welcome to Fillmore upon his return home!

Mr. Fallon's Letter.

The letter of Mr. Fallon, *President of the Erie and Sunbury road, will be found deeply interesting to the friends of that great improvement. No one can rise from its perusal without being fully convinced that there are other reasons than those assigned, for the course of the councils of Philadelphia—reasons which their character will not allow to see the light. Evidently the election of two Directors the councils had objected to is but a pretext—a fact greedily seized hold of by Mr. Diehl and and others to cover their real motives! What other conclusion can one come to when the fact stares him in the face that these two gentlemen, yielding their feelings and rights to the welfare of the road, placed their resignation in the hands of the President before the action of the Councils on the 17th, of which fact the Councils were duly informed. We sincerely trust and hope the two ostracised Directors will immediately withdraw their resignation, and the Board, acting independent of Philadelphia city and her childish councils, proceed to make such arrangements as we are sure can be made to put the work under contract immediately. Such a course would at once allay all excitement, and bring the opponents of the road, whether in the city councils or elsewhere, to their proper level.*

Let us not be Deceived.

We hear that some few Democrats have in contemplation to call a public meeting to decide upon the persons to be presented to the Administration at Washington for the various offices in this city. Had this idea originated with the Democracy, there might be some reason for its adoption; but let us not be deceived; it cannot be denied but that it originated with our opponents. It is bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh, concocted and hatched in that sink of political iniquity, the Gazette office. Let us not be deceived, then, brethren by any ruse of this kind. If Democrats who was placed, and have not manifested it until this late hour, wish to obtain strength in that way, and have no means of getting it in any other, their efforts are useless—it is too late—and they have only themselves to blame! Had they started earlier, they would have fared better, we doubt not. Besides, had such been the custom of the party heretofore, it would be so now, but it has not. It was attempted in 1844, and turned out a miserable failure, and if persisted in now, will meet with the same fate! Let us not be deceived, upon any such pretext.

DEEPLY GRATEFUL.—After reading the various articles in the last *Gazette*, editorial as well as communications, one cannot fail of arriving at the conclusion that the writers are deeply grateful to the Philadelphia councils for withdrawing the city's subscription of $2,000,000 to the Sunbury road. They roll it over their tongues as a sweet morsel seldom or never tasted. The miser never gloats over his treasure with half the gusto the harpies who surround the *Gazette* gloat over this, to them, God-send! Like Nero, who fiddled when Rome was burning, they are dancing with joy at the bare hope that the road will be embarrassed under its present management. True, the Editor gets up a show of satisfaction at the prospect of the county making up for the loss of the city's subscription, but that, like a harlot's virtue, or a hypocrite's religion, is got up for the occasion—a kind of anchor thrown to windward in case their worst hopes are not realized!

☞ We were shown the other day a most beautiful pair of silver cups, designed as presents from the Agricultural Society of Erie County to JAMES D. DUNLAP, Esq., and J. C. SPENCER, Esq., two of the officers of that Society. We need not give a description of them, as all who wish to see a most beautiful article in this line, can see the cups themselves by calling around to STOCKTON & FULLER'S, between Brown's Hotel and the Reed House.

☞ Some friends who were at the examination of the East Ward School, give us an interesting account, orally, of the highly creditable performance of the scholars, and the perfect order and system of the teachers.—From their account we should say our common schools are fast approaching what they ought to be—*perfection!*

"Let the Galled Jade Wince."

The *Gazette*, and its correspondents, pour out the vials of their wrath upon our devoted head this week.—The sum of our offending appears to be that we exposed the course and motives of J. B. Johnson, Esq., the Attorney for the County Commissioners and the Franklin Canal Railroad,—that we have supported those who built that road when we deemed them right, and opposed and exposed them and their *tool*, when we knew them wrong. In this, there is a very marked difference between us and the *Gazette*. They have opposed their neighbors, Messrs. Galbraiths & Co. when they were laboring for the best interest of the city and state, but now when the Messrs. Galbraiths are opposing Alfred Kelly's projects, the *Gazette* gallantly comes to his aid, and by defending Johnson, seeks to sustain him. But enough of this—we are not responsible to the *Gazette*, or any of its supporters, for our course towards the Franklin Railroad: neither is its right or wrong a question before the public. Johnson's acts, as the Attorney for Erie county, is now before the bar of public opinion, and not collateral issues, such as the *Gazette* seeks to drag in. If Mr. Johnson was right in purpose—true to Erie and her interests—why did he object to having colleagues—such as were proposed by some of the *Gazette's friends*? This is an important inquiry, and at least, when taken in connection with his subsequent acts, casts a shade of doubt over his intentions. If Johnson was true, why did he not immediately upon his arrival in Philadelphia go to the Treasurer of the Company and pay in the bonds of the County, and thus make her voice potential in the election? If he had not some ulterior object in view—if he had not some scheme that he dare not divulge to the other gentlemen from Erie County—why did he profess to them, up to within 10 minutes of the time for adjournment, that he would not offer the vote of Erie county? And then, after he had offered the vote of Erie county, and the Board had decided to take it, why did he not vote, instead of sneaking off like a condemned criminal. Again, if the Commissioners' and *Alfred Kelley's* Attorney is the saint the *Gazette* would fain make us believe, why is he now in Harrisburg boring for the passage of the bill allowing the Sunbury road to connect with the Western road "at or near Erie?" But we waste words—the proof of it all is in our last number; his own letter, the scorching, withering expose of Price, the corroborative evidence of James, and, the other matter relative to it. "Let the galled Jade wince;" for retribution is at hand!

☞ MR. PIERCE'S ACCEPTANCE.—The terms in which Gen. Pierce accepted the office of President of the United States, when officially informed of his election, were thus reported to the House by Mr. Jones:

"You will please communicate to the respective Houses of Congress my acceptance of the trust confided to me, and at the same time express to them my grateful acknowledgements, and assure them of the deep sense of obligation with which I regard this manifestation of confidence on the part of my countrymen, and it will be my earnest desire to prove that their confidence has not been misplaced."

"A Few Words."

There are men who say in "a few words" a great many foolish things, to say nothing of the untrue ones. Of this class is the Editor of the *Gazette*; vide his article headed as above. What our particular crime is now, that he devotes "a few words" of this character to us, is not so plain, unless the closing up of his tirade indicates it. From that it appears that he smells our charter election afar off, as the horse does the battle, and thinks something we have said and done sometime, or somewhere, or might have thought, or dreamed of, or squinted at, or looked at, had some bearing upon that *great* event. Wonderful discovery! Precocious youth!—immaculate and ever pure guardian of the rights, interests and sovereignty of the "old foggys" of Market House memory—thy "few words" are as lucid and as clear as mud! Mark well how he starts off—what wonder he expresses! "Can it be possible," he exclaims, "that the Editor of the *Observer*, up to the period of the issue of his last paper, was ignorant of the main features of the bill offered in the legislature for the legalization of the Franklin Canal railroad and its union with the Sunbury?" And then he tells us that he published the "main features" of it in the *Gazette* two whole weeks ago, and that the Philadelphia papers did the same, therefore the inference is that we must have seen it.—We were not aware before that we had objected, in our last issue, to the "main features" of that bill—what we objected to was one "feature"—that of allowing the roads to connect "at or near Erie." As to the simple proposition of legalizing the western road, upon its subscribing to the capital stock of the Sunbury road, we have always been, and still are, in favor. But we would make it binding upon both to terminate in the Harbor of Erie, and not at Girard, or Fairview, or even at M'Sparren's mill pond! We would leave all such stabs at our prosperity as that to the *Gazette's* friends who, on the one hand, "ridicule the allegation of hostility to the interests of Erie," and on the other locate their depot as far away from the water as possible. As to having seen the "main features" of the bill under discussion, we have not seen the bill at all, and only know that it contains the provision we object to, from hearsay, and our knowledge of its "main features" is derived in the same way, though not from the same source—the latter being communicated to us by the person who drew it up, and upon whose authority, as we have once or twice before said, we stated that it provided for both roads terminating in the Harbor!

In regard to what the *Gazette's* "few words" insinuate about our efforts to secure the building of the Western road by the Franklin Canal Company, we have but a "few words" in reply. We believed the Franklin Canal Company had the best right to build that road, because it was a prior one, and we supported that company in it. The Messrs. Galbraiths were our friends; their opponents were our enemies, some of whom had attempted to put us down in business; and we had the right to choose between our friends and our enemies, and we did so. We see nothing in that to regret. We see none of the evils the imagination of the *Gazette* harrows up—its Pandora's box has not been open to our view yet; and will not be unless the *Gazette* continues to pursue its present course as the apologist of Kelley's Attorney, Johnson. As for Kelley himself, he never spoke a word to us, knowing us as the editor of this paper—never! Unlike the *Gazette's* friend, Johnson, aforesaid, he has never given us a pass over his road, or even acknowledged the services the *Gazette* gives us credit for, by seeking our acquaintance. Verily, if we had been in such close league with Kelley, as our cotemporary evidently thinks we were, he would surely know us. But enough of this; we never expect to please the *Gazette*, and we don't often try; it would be like trying to please an ass by cropping its ears!

☞ CUBAN INSOLENCE.—Under this head the Buffalo *Republic* justly observes that appearances indicate that the Captain-General of Cuba is determined to raise a scab on the nose of Spanish authority in Cuba. The Spanish Government must remove that fellow before long, or he will manage to get the two nations—America and Spain—into a war. We had supposed that the causes of jealousy were all removed with the removal of those officers who were proscribed by that despotism in miniature; but it seems that they are emboldened by impunity, and are ready to seize the United States mails, under any pretence whatever, detain them at pleasure, break seals and locks, and ransack them to their satisfaction. The case which has lately occurred proves that there is no safety for our mails or our mail steamers, and will not be till they are made to feel the force of our resentment in the shape of iron diplomatists, knocking at the gate of the Moro Castle. They must be spoken in a language which needs no interpretation, before they will listen to reason, or learn to respect our rights. Just so we were treated by Mexico, for a series of years, till she began to believe that we might be insulted and spitten upon at her pleasure. She carried it to an extreme which was beyond endurance; and then she was duly humiliated. So it will have to be with Cuba, and, if need be, with Spain too, and that before long.

THE BEST PROPOSITION YET.—A new temperance reform party is starting in New York. It is proposed to allow the free and unlicensed sale of liquors, but it is required that every drinker should procure a license before he can legally purchase. The Baltimore *Sun* thinks that this plan will do provided the license be costly enough. It is suggested, however, that women should give the license to drink, and that it should be necessary for a man to show a "permit" from his wife and minor children, before he can take his glass. We think this last suggestion would prove more effectual, generally in suppressing the evils of intemperance, than any other means that could be adopted; and the ladies will doubtless coincide with us in this opinion.

☞ In speaking of the Erie and North East Railroad, it business for the last year and prospects hereafter, the Editor of the Rochester *Advertiser* remarks that the first time he ever passed over the line of this road—in the spring of '23, he thinks it was—thefewas an awful expenditure of whip timber, hard words, fence rails and of time. The stage driver had charge of the whip and words, while the passengers attended to the rail business. As the frost had just left the ground, it was hard work to find any bottom. No doubt the present "railway" is a great improvement on the one then in use—No doubt of it, Major; but why not come up and see; a hearty welcome we doubt not would be extended to you by your old friends whose recollections of you are still bright.

☞ LYON VS. MAGEE.—A week or two ago, a correspondent of the *Gazette* gave a short notice of a sermon of our friend Dr. Lyon, of this city, in which the Rev. Doctor reviewed the Lecture of Thomas Darcy Magee, delivered in this city a few weeks previous. It appears that some one, having an eye, perhaps to a little clerical fun, has sent Magee this notice, and he forthwith inserts it in his *Celt*, ascribing it to a correspondent of the *Observer*, and adds:

"*We give Dr. Lyon the benefit of this puff gratis.* If his friend will give us one of the Doctor's propositions *verbatim* from the aforesaid sermon we will see what it is made of; the Erie *Observer* will show fair play to both sides."

Our friend of the Celt is right—we "will show fair play to both sides;" hence we have given our readers a sight of the "glove" he has thrown down, presuming it would never see the light in the place it ought—the *Gazette*.

☞ It is said that Capt. Ericsson's only brother is the most distinguished engineer in Sweeden. He has lately completed a massive and magnificent sluice or lock of marble, which unites the fresh water harbor on one side of Stockholm with the salt water on the other, and is now engaged, at the request of the Emperor of Russia, in building a canal to connect the interior lakes of Finland with the Baltic.

IMPORTANT.—The Home *Journal* says the disputed question: May a gentleman wear a frock coat at an evening party? seems to have been decided in the affirmative: and accordingly young gentlemen take particular pleasure in wearing that long obnoxious garment, with the additional innovation of black neckerchiefs. White waistcoats are generally discarded, and white kids yield precedence to gloves of color. Ma conscience!

The Sunbury and Erie Railroad.

The Harrisburg correspondent of the *News*, city, in a letter dated the 25th inst., says:

It was rumored here yesterday that the C... ers of your county had determined on making a ... scription of two millions of dollars to the stock of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, and to-day I have it in ... or to inform your readers that the report proves ... tirely true, and that a delegation from the Board ... rectors is here for the purpose of asking a ... the County Board to confirm the action of the C... sioners. The terms of the subscription are, ... million of dollars shall be absolute, and the ... lien conditioned upon obtaining another million from ... sources. The application to the County Commi... ers has been made since the occurrence of the ... nate difference between the Company and your C... and I am told that it was met with great promp... decided do with entire unanimity. The appl... the County, and the consequent agreement of the ... missioners, is eminently proper, as it places the ... sibility of the measure more generally upon the ... of the City and entire County, who are to be ... efitted by the construction and operations of the ...

If we know anything of the sentiments of the ... we think we are safe in saying they will approve ... ion of the Commissioners and the County Board ... matter.

It is feared by a morning cotemporary, that the ... of the officers of the road, in attempting to obtain ... scriptions from the County Commissioners, will ... this great work to be delayed. Such fears are ... the County subscribes, that should not prevent the ... from doing the same whenever the Councils are ... sed to do so. Because our City authorities, after ... resolutions to take a large amount of stock, think ... for little or no cause, to rescind their actions in the ... ter, is that any reason why the work should not ... We think not, and trust that every proper effort ... made to obtain subscriptions, that the road may be ... pleted at an early day.—*Pennsylvanian.*

☞ The Trenton *Register* publishes an oath ... *fore a magistrate by George* Washington ... which he obligates himself to abstain from the ... intoxicating liquors whatever as a beverage, for ... of two years from a specified date. Mr. Kelly ... lishing this oath, adds: "If we all quit drinking ... years, we shall have the Maine law."

☞ The Sandusky *Register* says the two new ... ers for the Buffalo and Sandusky Railroad ... called the *St. Lawrence* and *Mississippi*.

☞ The British government appears to be ... the maxim—"in time of peace prepare for war" ... last intelligence states that they are fortifying ... and other places along the coast.

SALE OF PEWS.—The Trustees of the ... byterian Congregation in Erie, will offer on Monday ... 7th of March inst., at the Meeting House, 34 ... the Gallery for sale, and in case they are not sold ... be rented. Also, Six Pews below. Sale to commence ... at 2 o'clock P. M., of said day. By order of the ... of Trustees. J. C. MARSHALL, Sec'y.

March 5—1143

☞ DR H TUBBS will be in Erie on Monday ... the 4th and 5th of April at Brown's Hotel where he ... be consulted. For particulars see advertisement in a ... man. March 5 1853—

New Advertisements

Brown's New Hotel for Rent.

THE Proprietor of the above House situate on the ... state street and public square, proposes to lease it for a ... of years. The house was new built of brick express ... in 1852 and has all the modern improvements, with good ... stables, outhouses, &c., furniture entirely new, ... the manufactured expressly for the house.

The house has a location unsurpassed by any in the ... States. To any person, wishing to rent, an opportunity ... offered seldom heard of. The whole of the furniture will ... with the house on favorable terms. Apply to the subscriber ... the premises, post paid. H. L. BROWN.

Erie, March 5 1853—43. Proprietor.

HARPER AND PUTNAM—The March number of these ... azines can be found at No. 9 Brown's Hotel

Erie March 5-43 DURLIN & SLOAN

Announcement.

I OFFER myself an Independent Candidate for Justice of the Peace, for the West Ward of the City of Erie, subject to the decision of the Citizens at the Ballot Box.

Erie Feb. 28 1853—42. WM. THORNTON

VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE.

THE Subscriber offers his farm situate on the Lexington road three miles from Girard, Erie county, for sale. It contains 60 acres of Land, 40 of which are under a good state of cultivation; has erected thereon a good two story frame House, the necessary barns, sheds and outhouses; a good orchard of grafted fruit; is well watered, and the uncleared land stands on ... sawing timber, and there are two saw-mills within a quarter of a mile. Terms made easy, and title indisputable. Enquire of the subscriber living in the village of Girard.

March 5 1853—1043. ADAM LAUGHLIN

FARM TO RENT.

A TENANT with good references, is wanted to cultivate a farm of 55 or 60 acres improved land. Enquire of the subscriber, two miles west of Erie on the Lake Road.

March 5 1853—1143* J. W. DOUGLAS

EARLY SPRING TRADE.

CLARK & METCALF are receiving new goods, and take the old position of offering the best bargains in Erie, no one excepted. In demonstration of this fact they offer DeLaines ... and beautiful styles, at one shilling per yard. If the same articles can be bought in town at less than two shillings they ... make some present to the buyers. Customers please call and ... whether there is any humbug or gascoade about this, or anything else that may be offered you from our present stock.

Erie, March 5 1853—43 No. 1 Reed Block.

OUT LOTS FOR SALE.

WILL be sold at Public Sale, at the Court House in Erie, on Saturday the 19th of March, at 2 o'clock P. M., Four Acres off the north end of the "Erie Cemetery" grounds. Terms and conditions made known at the time of sale

WILLIAM HIMROD,
WILLIAM A. BROWN,
March 5 1