INAUGURATION OF GEN. PIERCE.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS AT THE NATIONAL METROPOLIS.

WASHINGTON, March 4.

The National Metropolis was never more densely thronged than to-day. The Inauguration of President Pierce has attracted hither an immense crowd of citizens and strangers from every section of the country, and the streets, in every direction, even at this early hour (8 o'clock,) are thronged by the expectant multitude—hundreds of whom, during the last night, have been unable to obtain lodgings of any kind, and are still hanging to their carpet-bags and port-manteaus, as they landed from the cars.—The crowd has also been much increased by large arrivals this morning by every means of conveyance, and with the preparations incident to the procession, and the more imposing ceremonies at the Capitol, the utmost activity and excitement everywhere prevails. Quite a number of military companies have arrived to take part in the procession. Pennsylvania avenue, especially in the vicinity of Willard's Hotel, is crowded to suffocation, and thousands are thronging towards the capitol and along the route of the procession.

THE PROCESSION.—10½ O'CLOCK.—The procession began to assemble in front of the City Hall at 10 o'clock, under the direction of J. D. Hoover, Chief Marshal, and his Aids, and the several bodies, societies, &c., were received and formed into column. The procession was fully formed by 12 o'clock, and presented a magnificent and imposing appearance. The procession then moved up Louisiana avenue to Market place, on Pennsylvania avenue, and thence to Willard's Hotel, where the President elect was received, together with President Fillmore, and taking their place in the procession, immediately in the rear of the military, with an appropriate escort of Marshals, the procession moved forward to the northern gate of the Capitol and to the Senate Chamber.

THE SENATE.—The doors of the Senate Chamber were opened at 1 o'clock, and was very shortly afterwards completely thronged by the persons entitled to admission, including various official dignitaries, Heads of the Departments, members of Congress, Army and Navy officers, &c. Immediately in front of the Secretary's table, there were seats provided for the President-elect and the ex-President.

The eastern gallery was appropriated to citizens, and was crowded to excess. The circular gallery was reserved for ladies, and was equally crowded. The Senate assembled at 12½ o'clock. The Diplomatic corps and Justices of the Supreme Court soon after entered, and were provided with seats.

THE EASTERN PORTICO—THE INAUGURATION—THE ADDRESS.—The Senate, Justices, Diplomatic Corps, &c., with the President elect, and the Ex-President, having reached the Eastern porch, the President elect was conducted to a seat provided for him on the front of the platform, the Ex-President and Committee of Arrangements occupying places in the rear, and the various official dignitaries, Foreign Ministers, Army and Navy officers, &c., also occupying appropriate positions.

The scene which was at this time presented was at once grand and inspiring. The President elect was greeted, on his appearance, with repeated cheers, and the immense crowd in attendance swayed to and fro in eagerness and anxiety.

Every thing being then in readiness, the oath of office was administered to the President by the Hon. Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States, and President Pierce then riseing to deliver his inaugural address, was greeted with deafening and long continued cheers from the multitude present, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs. He spoke as follows:—

The Inaugural Address of President Pierce.

MY COUNTRYMEN: It is a relief to feel that no heart but my own can know the personal regret and bitter sorrow over which I have been borne to a position, so suitable for others, rather than desirable for myself.

The circumstances, under which I have been called, for a limited period, to preside over the destinies of the Republic, fill me with a profound sense of responsibility, but nothing like shrinking apprehension. I repair to the post assigned me, not as to one sought, but in obedience to the unsolicited expression of your will, answerable only for a fearless, faithful, and diligent exercise of my best powers. I ought to be, and am, truly grateful for the rare manifestation of the nation's confidence; but this, so far from lightening my obligations, only adds to their weight. You have summoned me in my weakness: you must sustain me by your strength. When looking for the fulfillment of reasonable requirements, you will not be unmindful of the great changes which have occurred, even within the last quarter of a century, and the consequent augmentation and complexity of duties imposed, in the administration both of your home and foreign affairs.

Whether the elements of inherent force in the Republic have kept pace with its unparalleled progression in territory, population, and wealth, has been the subject of earnest thought and discussion on both sides of the ocean. Less than sixty-three years ago, the Father of his Country made "the then recent accession of the important State of N. Carolina to the Constitution of the United States," one of the subjects of his special congratulation.—At that moment, however, when the agitation consequent upon the revolutionary struggle had hardly subsided, when we were just emerging from the weakness and embarrassments of the Confederation, there was an evident consciousness of vigor, equal to the great mission which had been so wisely and bravely fulfilled by our fathers. It was not a presumptuous assurance, but a calm faith, springing from a clear view of the sources of power, in a government constituted like ours. It is no paradox to say that, although comparatively weak, the new-born nation was intrinsically strong. Inconsiderable in population and apparent resources, it was upheld by a broad and intelligent comprehension of rights, and an all-pervading purpose to maintain them, stronger than armaments. It came from the furnace of the revolution, tempered to the necessities of the times. The thoughts of the men of that day were as practical as their sentiments were patriotic. They wasted no portion of their energies upon idle and delusive speculations, but with a firm and fearless step advanced beyond the governmental landmarks, which had hitherto circumscribed the limits of human freedom, and planted their standard where it has stood, against dangers, which have threatened from abroad, and internal agitation, which has at times fearfully menaced at home.—They approved themeselves equal to the solution of the great problem, to understand which their minds had been illuminated by the dawning lights of the revolution. The object sought was not a thing dreamed of: it was a thing realized. They had exhibited not only a power to achieve, but what all history affirms to be so much more unusual, the capacity to maintain. The oppressed throughout the world, from that day to the present, have turned their eyes hitherward, not to find those lights extinguished, or to fear lest they should wane, but to be constantly cheered by their steady and increasing radiance.

In this, our country, has in my judgement thus far fulfilled its highests duty to suffering humanity. It has spoken, and will continue to speak, not only by its words but by its acts, the language of sympathy, encouragement and hope, to those, who earnestly listen to tones, which pronounce for the largest rational liberty. But, after all, the most animating encouragement and potent appeal for freedom will be its own history, its trials and its triumphs. Pre-eminently, the power of our advocacy reposes in our example; but no example, be it remembered, can be powerful for lasting good, whatever apparent advantages may be gained, which is not based upon eternal principles of right and justice. Our fathers decided for themselves, both upon the hour to declare and the hour to strike. They were their own judges of the circumstances, under which it became them to pledge to each other "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," for the acquisition of the priceless inheritance transmitted to us. The energy, with which that great conflict was opened, and, under the guidance of a manifest and beneficent Providence, the uncomplaining endurance, with which it was prosecuted to its consummation, were only surpassed by the wisdom and patriotic spirit of concession, which characterized all the counsels of the early fathers.

One of the most impressive evidences of that wisdom is to be found in the fact, that the actual working of our system has dispelled a degree of solicitude, which, at the outset, disturbed bold hearts and far-reaching intellects. The apprehension of dangers from extended territory, multiplied States, accumulated wealth, and augmented population, has proved to be unfounded. The stars upon your banner have become nearly threefold their original number, your densely populated possessions skirt the shores of the two great oceans, and yet this vast increase of people and territory has not only shown itself compatible with the harmonious action of the States and the Federal Government in their respective constitutional spheres, but has afforded an additional guarantee of the strength and integrity of both.

With an experience thus suggestive and cheering the policy of my administration will not be controled by any timid forebodings of evils from expansion. Indeed, it is not to be disguised that our attitude as a nation, and our position on the globe, render the acquisition of certain possessions, not within our jurisdiction, eminently important for our protection, if not, in the future, essential for the preservation of the rights of commerce and the peace of the world. Should they be obtained, it will be through no grasping spirit, but with a view to obvious national interest and security, and in a manner consistent with the strictest observance of national faith. We have nothing in our history or position to invite aggression, and we have everything to beckon us to the cultivation of relations of peace and amity with all nations. Purposes, therefore, at once just and pacific, will be significantly marked in the conduct of our foreign affairs. I intend that my administration shall leave no blot upon our fair record, and trust I may safely give the assurance that no action within the legitimate scope of my constitutional control will be tolerated, on the part of any portion of our citizens, which cannot challenge a ready justification before the tribunal of the civilized world. An administration would be unworthy of confidence at home or respect abroad, should it cease to be influenced by the conviction, that no apparent advantage can be purchased at a price so dear as that of national wrong or dishonor. It is not your privilege, as a nation, to speak of a distant past. The striking incidents of your history, replete with with instruction, and furnishing abundant grounds for hopeful confidence, are comprised in a period comparatively brief. But your past is limited, your future boundless. Its obligations throng the unexplored pathway of advancement, and will be limitless as duration. Hence a sound and comprehensive policy should embrace, not less the distant future than the urgent present.

The great objects of our pursuit, as a people, are best to be attained by peace, and are entirely consistent with the tranquility and interests of the rest of mankind. With the neighboring nations upon our continent, we should cultivate kindly and fraternal relations. We can desire nothing in regard to them so much, as to see them consolidate their strength, and pursue the paths of prosperity and happiness. If, in the course of their growth, we should open new channels of trade, and create additional facilities for friendly intercourse, the benefits realized will be equal and mutual. Of the complicated European systems of national polity we have *heretofore been independent. From their wars,* their tumults and anxieties, we have been, happily, almost entirely exempt. Whilst these are confined to the nations which gave them existence, and within their jurisdiction, they cannot affect us, as they appeal to our sympathies in the cause of human freedom and universal advancement.

But the vast interests of commerce are common to all mankind, and the advantages of trade and international intercourse must always present a noble field for the moral influence of a great people.

With these views firmly and honestly carried out, we have a right to expect, and shall under all circumstances require, prompt reciprocity. The rights which belong to us as a nation, are not alone to be regarded, but those which pertain to every citizen in his individual capacity, at home and abroad, must be sacredly maintained. So long as he can discern every star in its place upon that ensign, without wealth to purchase for him preferment, or title to secure for him place, it will be his privilege and must be his acknowledged right, to stand unabashed even in the presence of princes, with a proud consciousness that he is himself one of a nation of sovereigns, and that he cannot, in legitimate pursuit, wander so far from home, that the agent whom he shall leave behind in the place which I now *occupy*, will see that *no rude hand of power or* tyranical passion is laid upon him with impugnity. He must realize that upon every sea and on every soil, where our enterprise may rightfully seek the protection of our flag, American citizenship is an invaluable panoply for the security of American rights. And in this connection, it can hardly be necessary to re-affirm a principle which should now be regarded as fundamental. The rights, security, and repose of this confederacy reject the idea of interference or colonization, on this side of the ocean, by any foreign power beyond present jurisdiction, as utterly inadmissible.

The opportunities of observation, furnished by my brief experience as a soldier, confirmed in my own mind the opinion entertained and acted upon by others from the formation of the government, that the maintenance of large standing armies in our country would be not only dangerous, but unnecessary. They also illustrated the importance, I might well say the absolute necessity, of the military science and practical skill furnished, in such an eminent degree, by the institution, which has made your army what it is, under the discipline and instruction of officers not more distinguished for their solid attainments, gallantry, and devotion to the public service, than for unobtrusive bearing and high moral tone.

The army, as organized, must be the nucleus, around which, in every time of need, the strength of your military power, the sure bulwark of your defence,—a national militia;—may be readily formed into a well disciplined and efficient organization. And the skill and self-devotion of the navy assure you that you may take the performance of the past as a pledge for the future, and may confidently expect that the flag, which has waved its untarnished folds over every sea, will still float in undiminished honor. But these, like many other subjects, will be appropriately brought, at a future time, to the attention of the co-ordinate branches of the government to which I shall always look with the profound respect, and with trustful confidence that they will accord to me the aid and support, which I shall so much need, and which their experience and wisdom will readily suggest.

In the administration of domestic affairs, you expect a devoted integrity in the public service, and an observance of rigid economy in all departments, so marked as never justly to be questioned. If this reasonable expectation be not realized, I frankly confess that one of your leading hopes is doomed to disappointment, and that my efforts, in a very important, particular, must result in a humiliating failure. Offices can be properly regarded only in the light of aids for the accomplishment of these objects; and as occupancy can confer no prerogative, nor importunate desire for preferment any claim, the public interest imperatively demands that they be considered with sole reference to the duties to be performed. Good citizens may well claim the protection of good laws and the benign influence of good government; but a claim for office is what the people of a republic should never recognize. No reasonable man of any party will expect the administration to be so regardless of its responsibility, and of the obvious elements of success, as to retain persons, known to be under the influence of political hostility and partisan prejudice, in positions, which will require, not only severe labor, but cordial co-operation. Having no implied engagements to ratify, no rewards to bestow, no resentments to remember, and no personal wishes to consult, in selections for official station, I shall fulfil this difficult and delicate trust, admitting no motive as worthy either of my character or position, which does not contemplate an efficient discharge of duty and the best interests of my country. I acknowledge my obligations to the masses of my countrymen, and to them alone. Higher objects than personal aggrandizement gave the direction and energy to their exertions in the late canvass, and they shall not be disappointed. They require at my hands diligence, integrity and capacity, where there are duties to be performed. Without these qualities in their public servants, more stringent laws, for the prevention or punishment of fraud, negligence and peculation will be vain.—With them, they will be unnecessary.

But these are not the only points, to which you look for vigilant watchfulness. The dangers of a concentration of all power in the general government of a confederacy so vast as ours, are too obvious to be disregarded. You have a right, therefore, to expect your agents, in every department, to regard strictly the limits imposed upon them by the Constitution of the United States. The great scheme of our constitutional liberty rests upon a proper distribution of power between the State and

Federal authorities; and experience has shown, that the harmony and happiness of our people must depend upon a just discrimination between the separate rights and responsibilities of the States, and your common rights and obligations under the general government. And here, in my opinion, are the considerations, which should form the true basis of future concord in regard to the questions, which have most seriously disturbed public tranquility. If the Federal government will confine itself to the exercise of powers clearly granted by the Constitution, it can hardly happen that its action upon any question should endanger the institutions of the States, or interfere with their right to manage matters strictly domestic according to the will of their own people.

In expressing briefly my veiws upon an important subject, which has recently agitated the nation to almost a fearful degree, I am moved by no other impulse than a more earnest desire for the perpetuation of that Union, which has made us what we are, showering upon us blessings, and confering a power and influence, which our fathers could hardly have anticipated, even with their most sanguine hopes directed to a far-off future. The sentiments I now announce were not unknown before the expression of the voice which called me here. My own position upon this subject was clear and unequivocal, upon the record of my words and my acts, and it is only recurred to at this time because silence might, perhaps, be misconstrued. With the Union, my best and dearest earthly hopes are entwined. Without it, what are we, individually or collectively? What becomes of the noblest field ever opened for the advancement of our race, in religion, in government, in the arts, and in all that dignifies and adorns mankind? From that radient constellation, which both illumines our own way and points out to struggling nations their course, let but a single star be lost, and, if there be not utter darkness, the lustre is dimmed. Do my countrymen need any assurance that such catastrope has not to overtake them, while I possess the power to stay it? It is with me an earnest and vital belief, that as the Union has been the source, under Providence, of our prosperity to this time, so it is the surest pledge of a continuance of the blessings we have enjoyed, and which we are sacredly bound to transmit undiminished to our children. The field of calm and free discussion in our country is open, and will always be so, but it never has and never can be traversed for good in a spirit of sectionalism and uncharitableness. The founders of the Republic dealt with things as they were presented to them, in a spirit of self-sacrificing patriotism, and, as time has proved, with a comprehensive wisdom, which it will always be safe for us to consult. Every measure, tending to strengthen the fraternal feelings of all the members of our Union, has had my heartfelt approbation. To every theory of society or government, whether the offspring of feverish ambition or of morbid enthusiasm, calculated to dissolve the bonds of law and affection which unite us, I shall interpose a ready and stern resistance. I believe that involuntary servitude, as it exists in different States of this confederacy, is recognized by the Constitution. I believe that it stands like any other admitted right, and that the States where it exists are entitled to efficient remedies to enforce the constitutional provisions. I hold that the laws of 1850, called the "compromise measures," are strictly constitutional, and to be unhesitatingly carried into effect. I believe that the constituted authorities of this Republic are bound to regard the rights of the South in this respect, as they would view any other legal and constitutional right, and that the laws to enforce them should be respected and obeyed, not with a reluctance encouraged by abstract opinions as to their propriety in a different state of Society, but cheerfully, and according to the decisions of the tribunal to which their exposition belongs. Such have been, and are, my convictions, and upon them I shall act. I fervently hope that the question is at rest, and that no sectional, or ambitious, or fanatical excitement may again threaten the durability of our institutions, or obscure the light of our prosperity.

But let not the foundation of our [illegible] rest upon man's wisdom. It will not be sufficient that sectional prejudices find no place in the public deliberations. It will not be sufficient that the rash counsels of human passion are rejected. It must be felt, that there is no national security but in the nation's humble, acknowledged dependence upon God and his overruling providence.

We have been carried in safety through a perilous crisis. Wise counsels, like those which gave us the Constitution, prevailed to uphold it. Let the period be remembered as an admonition, and not as an encouragement, in any section of the Union, to make experiments where experiments are fraught with such fearful hazard. Let it be impressed upon all hearts, that beautiful as our fabric is, no earthly power or wisdom could ever re-unite its broken fragments. Standing as I do almost within view of the green slopes of Monticello, and, as it were within reach of the tomb of Washington, with all the cherished memories of the past gathered around me, like so many eloquent voices of exhortation from Heaven, I can express no better hope for my country, than that the kind Providence, which smiled upon our Fathers, may enable their children to preserve the blessings they have inherited.

Democratic State Convention.

HARRISBURG, March 1.

The Democratic State Convention of Pennsylvania, to nominate candidates for the offices of Canal Commissioner, Auditor General and Surveyor General of the State, assembled to-day at 12 o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, pursuant to the call of the State Central committee.

The attendance of Delegates was very full, and the strong interest felt by the friends of the rival candidates, especially for the office of Canal Commissioner, caused much excitement to prevail.

The Convention was called to order at 12 o'clock amid much noise and tumult, by Mr. Wise, who moved that the Hon. Arnold Plumer, of Venango, take the Chair.

Mr. Wise put the question amid cries of "order" and great confusion.

Mr. Fraley, of Schuylkill, moved to amend the motion, and that the Hon. John Cessna, of Bedford, take the Chair.

Mr. Cessna, after a time, and when order had in some measure been restored, expressed his regret at the scene which had been enacted, and besought all to act with calmness and decorum. To settle the difficulty as to the choice of a chairman, he proposed the appointment of tellers to count the votes.

The motion was put and agreed to, and tellers then having been appointed, the vote for a temporary Chairman was again taken, and resulted in Mr. Plumer receiving 66 votes, and Mr. Cressna 61 votes.

Mr. Plumer thereupon took the chair, and in a brief speech thanked the delegates for the compliment conferred, at the same time alluding to the important duties the Convention had assembled to perform, and trusting that no excited feeling might be aroused to mar their harmonious action.

A committee of one from each Congressional district was then, on motion, appointed to report officers for the permanent organization of the Convention.

The Convention then adjourned until 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The Convention re-assembled at 3 o'clock, when the Hon. J. M. Porter, of Northampton county, chairman of the committee appointed to select officers for the permanent organization of the convention, reported that they had selected Wm. L. Hirst, of Philadelphia, as President. The committee also reported the names of some twenty gentlemen as Vice Presidents, and five Secretaries.

The officers reported by the committee were then unanimously approved, by the convention, and the President (Mr. Hirst) being conducted to the chair, addressed the Convention in a brief speech of thanks.

The Convention being then fully organized, it was moved to proceed to the nomination of candidates for the offices of Canal Commissioner, Auditor General and Surveyor General, taking first the office of Canal Commissioner.

The motion was agreed to, and the names of some ten or twelve gentlemen were then placed in general nomination for the office of Canal Commissioner.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a candidate for Canal Commissioner, and the votes being counted, the result of the first ballot was announced as follows:—

Thomas H. Forsyth, of Philadelphia,	21
Henry S. Mott, of Pike county,	23
John A. Morrison, of Chester county,	23
——Feather,——	11
Joel B. Danner, of York,	8

And the remaining votes scattered among some seven or eight candidates.

There being no choice, the Convention proceeded to a second ballot, as also the third, fourth and fifth invariably following—was unsuccessful. The votes on these several ballots stood as follows:

	2d	[illegible]	4th	5th
Forsyth,	36	[illegible]	50	55
Mott,	44	[illegible]	36	40
Morrison,	25	30	31	22
Danner,	11	10	—	—
Feather,	8	6	8	9

After 2d ballot, the name of Mr. Danner, was withdrawn from the list of candidates.

After 4th ballot an adjournment was moved and very strongly urged, but was disagreed to.

The result of the fifth ballot being announced, and there still being no choice, an adjournment was again moved.

Some debate arose upon the motion and it was finally agreed to adjourn until 7 o'clock.

The Convention then adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention again re-assembled at 7 o'clock, when the balloting for a candidate for Canal Commissioner was resumed, and the 6th ballot being taken resulted as follows:

Thomas H. Forsyth, of Philadelphia,	81
Henry S. Mott, of Pike county,	36
—— Nicholson, ——,	3

Mr. Forsyth was thereupon declared duly nominated as the candidate of the Democratic party for the office of Canal Commissioner.

The nomination of Mr. Forsyth was then unanimously ratified by the Convention.

The nomination of a candidate for Auditor General being next in order.

Mr. Long nominated the Hon. Ephraim Banks, the present incumbent, and moved that the nomination be made unanimously.

The motion was agreed to by acclamation, and Mr. Banks was announced as the nominee of the Convention for the office of Auditor General.

The Convention then proceeded to the nomination of a candidate for Surveyor General.

Several gentlemen were placed on nomination.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot, when two ballots were had as follows:

	1st.	2d.
J. P. Brawley,	56	67
Wm. S. Garvin,	17	23
—— Kleis,	16	12
G. F. Mason,	13	13

The Hon. J. Porter Brawley, the present incumbent of the office of Surveyor General, having, on the second ballot, received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated for that office, and the nomination was ratified by a unanimous vote.

The President then, in pursuance of a motion by the Hon. A. H. Reeder, of Northampton, appointed a committee of seventeen, of which Mr. Reeder is chairman, to report a series of resolutions expres-of the views and sentiments of the Convention.

The convention then adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

HARRISBURG, March 2.

The Democratic State Convention re assembled this morning at 10 o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Mr. James, of Warren, moved that the President of the Convention be authorized to appoint a State Central Committee.

Mr. Burnside, moved to amend by adding, "and that Wm. L. Hirst, of Philadelphia, be the Chairman of said committee."

The amendment was agreed to, and the motion as amended, was then adopted.

Mr. Hirst moved the appointment of a committee to consist of one from each county in the State, to be called the State General Committee, and to act in conjunction with the State Cental Committee.

The motion was debated at some length, and meeting considerable opposition, was finally withdrawn.

The thanks of the Convention were then on motion of Mr. Lowry, tendered to the President, Mr. Hirst, for the ability and impartiality with which the duties of the Chair had been discharged.

Mr. Fraily, of Schuylkill, submitted a resolution, directing that hereafter the Chairman of the State Central Committee shall be the temporary Chairman of the annual State Convention, and shall so act until the permanent organization of such Convention.

The Convention then fixed upon Harrisburg as the place for holding the next State Convention.

Mr. Reeder, from the Committee on Resolutions, made the following report.

Resolved, That the great and wonderful progress of our Republic in wealth, in power, in political and civil enlightment, in population, in territory, and all that can develope the energies and promote the happiness of man—exceeding as it does all parallel in the history of the world—establishing, by mountains of evidence, man's ability to govern himself—alarming the absolutists of the old world, and menacing to overthrow and destroy, by the mere moral power of this grand display, institutions which have withstood all the vicissitudes of centuries, and shadowing forth a national destiny, which the wildest imagination can scarcely conceive, is calculated, in its grand sublimity, to fill us with pride and confidence in the permanency of our institutions, and in the Democratic principles which have given them all their value and their power.

Resolved, That the late victories achieved by the Democratic party of the State and the Union, resulting as they did, not only in the defeat but also in the annihilation of political organizations opposed to us, have given the most cheering and encouraging conviction of the fundamental truth and purity of the principles which form at once the basis and the strength of our creed; and fill us with glad assurance that the nominations here made, will be received and treated with the same fidelity and support as those which were made the rallying point in the contest which produced so glorious a result.

Resolved, That the power and position of our Government in relation to the nations of Europe, and the exercise of a becoming vigilance and care over our safety, require at our hands a prohibition of all future European colonization upon the American continent.

Resolved, That we take pleasure in expressing the gratification we feel in the high abilities and qualifications of our President elect, and congratulate ourselves that his whole deportment and bearing, from the time of his nomination to this day, has so nobly fulfilled, and even exceeded our sanguine expectations, proving him to be a man peculiarly qualified for the high post to which an almost unanimous nation has called him, evoking the approbation of friend and foe, and holding out the brightest promise of an energetic, a patriotic and a brilliant administration.

Resolved, That we have undiminished confidence in the purity of character, sound democracy, and signal ability of Col. WM. R. KING, our Vice President elect, and deeply regret his state of bodily health.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the popular verdict which has been passed in the late elections upon fanatical attempts to transgress and violate the compacts of the federal constitution, by officious intermeddling with domestic State institutions, calculated to array one section of the Union against another, in a conflict of bitter feeling and dire hostility, and thus give cause for dissolution. And we regard the popular condemnation of this political creed at the polls, and the adjustment of it in Congress by the enactment of the Compromise measures, as cause of joyful congratulation, vindicating the true principles of our Federal Government and Constitution.

Resolved, That this convention heartily, cheerfully, and unreservedly approve, endorse, and cherish the principles of government promulgated in the Baltimore resolutions of 1852, and will sustain them in their party action with all the more affection and respect that they have been the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, which have conducted us through the late political contest, and ensured us so brilliant a victory.

Resolved, That under the Democratic tariff of 1846, our entire country has prospered, the industrial interests of all classes, and more especially the iron interests of Pennsylvania, have been promoted in a degree which has equalled the expectations of its friends, and secured to the people a prosperity unequalled in the history of our State.

Resolved, That the administration of Governor BIGLER commands, and deserves the admiration and approval of the party and the people. His strict and conscientious devotion to the duties of his office, his financial ability, his vigilant care of popular rights and his bold discharge of duty in regard to improvident legislation, show him to be an able, clear headed and faithful puplic servant, and entitle him to our warm commendation.

Resolved, That the redemption and cancelation of the relief notes of the Commonwealth is a measure loudly called for by every consideration of State pride and public convenience.

Resolved, That the Democratic principle of an elective judiciary has been fully tested and vindicated by experience, and that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has merited and received the confidence and respect of the people, and that it is sound and wise economy to provide for just and liberal compensation to the judges, as shall retain and secure the highest talent of the State to fill that important trust.

Resolved, That upon the assembling of any Democratic State Convention, the Chairman of the State Committee, or in his absence any member of said committee, whom he shall designate for that purpose, shall call said convention to order, and shall preside for the purpose of enabling such convention to elect a chairman.

The resolutions having been read were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Burnside, of Centre, offered a resolution approving the course of the Hon. Richard Brodhead, U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania, and complimenting his ability in the discharge of his duties.

Mr. Lynch, of Allegheny, moved to amend the resolution so as to include also all the Democratic members of Congress from Pennsylvania.

The resolution and amendment gave rise to a lengthy and animated debate, in the course of which the whole political course of Mr. Brodhead was reviewed, and many of his acts strongly censured.

Mr. Reeder, in a speech of considerable length, denounced the course of Mr. Brodhead, and strongly condemned the act of bringing his name before the Convention for endorsement.

Mr. Drum then called the previous question, which was sustained.

The question was first taken on the amendment of Mr. Lynch, approving the course of the Democratic members of Congress from Pennsylvania. It was lost.

The question then recuring on the resolution of Mr. Burnside, expressive of the fullest confidence in the Hon. Richard Brodhead, it was adopted—yeas 71, the remainder declining to vote.

Mr. Cessna offered a resolution apportioning the representation in the Convention among the several counties according to the Democratic vote.

Mr. Hugus moved to postpone action upon the subject until the meeting of the next State Convention, and that the matter be reported upon to that Convention by the State Central Committee.

Mr. Monaghan moved to postpone the subject indefinitely.

The question was taken, but no quorum voted.

Mr. James, of Warren, then moved that the Convention adjourn *sine die*.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Convention thereupon adjourned *sine die*.

NEW YORK AND AUSTRALIA.—The New York *Express* says a company has been organized to open a route via Panama with Melbourne, which will thus be brought within thirty-five days from New York. The first ship of the line, "The Golden Age," will leave New York for Australia and return to Panama, between which port and Australia she will continue her regular trips. The capital of the company will be $300,000, with liberty to increase to $400,000.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 12, 1853.

☞ We surrender almost the entire inside of our paper this week to the Inaugural Address of President Pierce, and the proceedings of the Democratic State Convention. They are both matters of interest to a large share of our readers, and no other apology is necessary for so doing.

Receipts and Expenditures of the City.

In another column will be found the receipts and expenditures of the City during the administration of the present council. Its publication has been anxiously sought by those who were acquainted with the business of former councils, for the purpose of showing the extravagant expenditures of the past season, and the *enormous debt* that had been created by the present board, judging, we presume, from former results that the city was entirely ruined, that a debt had been created that would be entailed upon our children's children. But it will be seen by referring to the figures that no debt has been created, that the councils have managed to do more work than was ever done in the city in the same length of time by full one half, and have left us free of any debt contracted by them. Instead of fault-finding at their acts, we think the citizens have reason to thank them for their vigorous administration of the affairs of the city during the past year.

☞ The Buffalo *Courier* of the 9th contains nearly three columns of notices from whig, democratic and neutral papers laudatory of the inaugural address of President Pierce. All speak in terms of the highest praise of the document not only as straight forward and business like, but one possessing much merit as a literary production. Hardly a paper, so far as we have noticed, have aught to say against it although some are so blinded by party prejudice as to fear to say anything in its favor. We would add our testimony to the mass by saying that its superior has never been published. His course is plainly marked out, so plain that no one can mistake it, and we think it right on all the main questions of the day. It will be found in another column of to-day's paper, and will undoubtedly be read with interest by all who have not had an opportunity of doing so before.

☞ The *Gazette* does not like the Inaugural. It wants some of Webster's, some of Fillmore's, or some of Tayler's characteristics of style. Particularly does its sapient editor regret the absence of that "simplicity" of style that in Taylors efforts was so plain to "all the world and the rest of mankind." It sees the President on intellectual "stilts," and grieves, no doubt, that it has never been suspected of that species of elevation. The crab may cry feathers at the eagle's lofty flight, but it will hardly prove that mud hooks can reach a higher course. The truth is, that its editor being troubled with choice wordiness and emptiness has not force enough to appreciate a compact and pregnant sentence. The "unnutricious ornaments" seen, will, like the vegetation seen through green glasses, disappear when properly sought for. The fling at "expansion" is simply unjust, because regardless of the prudent and honorable provisions of the message. A piece of paltry partisanship.

☞ Fearful of the consequences of its position taken last week with regard to the Charter election, which takes place on Friday next, the *Gazette* charges us with taking the advantage of its remarks while at the same time the editor does not, nor dare not deny that he made the issue himself which he this week so loudly deprecates In his paper of the 3d inst. The editor says:

"The Mayor and Councilmen, especially, should be men of admitted character and integrity, fitted for their positions by an acquaintanceship with the wants of the city, and an appreciation of its interests, being alike PROPERTY HOLDERS and worthy citizens, and in every sense entitled to public confidence. *These tests complied with—these proofs of personal merit and* QUALIFICATION *made a governing principle* in preliminary action—we can, as *Whigs*, go into the contest," &c.

"*These* TESTS *complied with*"—what tests? Why "being *alike* PROPERTY HOLDERS and worthy citizens," says the *Gazette*, These are the "tests" which the editor puts the seclection of proper candidates upon, and those are the "tests" of which we spoke last week It has gone forth, and the half column of words in the last issue of that paper does not help the matter in the least The Editor can call us as hard names as he pleases, but he cannot be let to utter those old Federal notion of his in this community without notice. Whenever he does so he *shall be exposed* and if the people sustain him and his party in them we have naught to say. We hope that the time has arrived when "the question" is "truly a dangerous one" to those who hold these views and ask to have them adopted at an election in our city. Next Friday will undoubtedly answer the question as to whether property is a "test" or qualification for office or not. We shall see.

Railroad Meeting at Wattsburg.

A large and highly respectable meeting of the citizens of Wattsburg and vicinity was held at that place on the 8th inst., to take into consideration the relations of the Wattsburg route to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, its merits, as a way of approaching the Lake from the south east, and the gross indifference with which the claims of said route have been treated by the corps of Engineers now engaged upon the western section of said road, as well as by the Directors residing in Erie county.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of C Halloway, Esq., as *President*, and Messrs. L. Chapman and Dwight Comstock as Secretaries On motion of Col. Warner, a committee consisting of Messrs. Warner, Halloway, McLean, Comstock, Smith, Creek and Chapin were appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, and after a short consultation the following preamble and resolutions were offered, eloquently discussed, and unanimously adopted.

Whereas, The citizens of north-western Pennsylvania and the public at large, are deeply interested in the early completion of the Sunbury and Erie railroad, by which if properly constructed, the shortest and easiest communication practicable between the Great Lakes, Philadelphia and the sea board will be opened to the public; and also in having every mile of said road located upon the *shortest route* and *most feasible grades*, all of which advantages the road is said to possess over other great rival routes may be secured to the fullest extent, thereby offering the greatest possible inducements to make said road THE great thoroughfare of commerce and travel,—And whereas the route from Erie to Hares Creek, through Wattsburg does not vary materially from an *air line* and has in no case a grade of over 52 feet to the mile, thus having the most favorable grades and being the shortest route which can possibly be found between said points, —and whereas the only natural and easy approach to the harbor at Erie is by the said Wattsburg route, and the mouth of Millcreek, and also, that the said harbor of Erie is the *best* on the Lakes, and has capacity sufficient for all the commerce of the Lakes, and hence is the only proper terminus of said road; and it is also for the interest of *all* concerned but especially of said railroad company and of Erie county to have said road approach said harbor upon a grade as light as possible; and also, it is believed that no other approach to said harbor can be found with a grade *less* than *eighty-five* feet to the mile except by the Wattsburg route, the grade of which will not exceed 50 feet per mile.

Whereas, A corps of Engineers have been engaged upon the western section of the road since the first of August last; and have spent months in trying to find a *route through Waterford and Union*; but have hardly given a *passing notice* to the Wattsburgh route, and have made no survey at all satisfactory to the public, nor exhibited any intention of fairly testing the merits of said route, but have signified by their *actions* that they do not wish nor mean to find a route by Wattsburg if it were possible to find one any where else,—Therefore

Resolved, That while we congratulate our fellow citizens of Pennsylvania, and especially of Erie County, upon the *prospects of the speedy completion* of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, so important to the best interests of our State and county, we deeply regret the necessity which compels us to call the attention of the public and of the board of Directors of said road to the great neglect with which a route so important has been treated.

Resolved, That we *have not felt* and do not now feel any desire to enter into a public controversy before the public with any rival route with respect to *relative* merits but we feel it due to ourselves and to the public at large to *insist* upon a *fair* and impartial examination of the merits of our route. This is what we wish—This we naturally supposed would be granted us, and for this we have waited with patience but waited in vain..

Resolved, That we feel no hesitation in saying that the Sunbury and Erie railroad will go by Wattsburg if the shortest route, and the one having the most preferable grades shall be finally adopted; and that we respectfully but earnestly call the attention of the Board of Directors of said road, and the public to the claims and superior merits of the Wattsburg route, and entreat said Board to grant us, at an early day a survey which shall be satisfactory both to said Board and to the public.

Resolved, That we will co-operate with the Board of Directors in procuring a thorough survey of the Wattsburg route, and that a committee of five be appointed to present the proceedings of this meeting and the claims of said route before the Board of Directors of said road, and also to call public meetings wherever they may think the interests of the said road demand it.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers and published in the Erie papers.

Signed by the Officers.

Plank Road Meeting.

Pursuant to a call of the Commissioners of the Wattsburg and Warren Plank Road, the citizens of Erie, Wattsburg and Columbus, assembled at the Wattsburg house, in the Borough of Wattsburg, on Tuesday, the 8th inst at 1 o'clock, P. M.

The meeting having convened, on motion of H. McLean, Esq., A. Ensworth, of Amity, was appointed President, and C. E. Baldwin, Secretary.

Hon L. Robinson being called upon, stated the object of the meeting, which was to take into consideration the building of a Plank Road from Wattsburg to Columbus, either by a direct route from that Borough to Columbus, or by building a Road to intercept with the Westfield and Clymer Plank Road at Clymer, Mr Robinson thought either or both routes desirable, and that it needed the united effort of those persons directly interested in the road to consummate the work, thereby benefiting a much larger part of the traveling community, than those immediately connected with the road. As regarded his preference for the routes he had but little, either of them were very desirable.

Mr. Robinson was followed by Mr. McLean, of Wattsburg, who advocated in a brief speech a direct route from Wattsburg to Columbus, however he had no objection to connecting with the road at Clymer as he thought the time was not far distant when there will be a Plank Road connecting the two places not only by Clymer but by a direct route.

Dr. Fitch then addressed the meeting, advocating somewhat warmly a direct route from Wattsburg to Columbus. The Doctor produced a draught of the proposed routes, shewing the difference in distance grade, &c. which he stated was considerably in favor of the direct route, he felt much interested, as did all with whom he had conversed in the road, and had no doubt of its early completion, provided those most interested would put their hands to the wheel.

Esq. Moore, of Wayne, made some apt and forcible remarks upon the necessity of the proposed road, he was more than willing to contribute to its interests.

On motion, it was resolved that the proceedings of the meeting be published in the several papers of Erie city.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on the 22d day of March, 1853, at 12 o'clock, M.

C. E. BALDWIN, *Sec'y*. A. ENSWORTH, *Pres't*
Wattsburg, March 8, 1853.

Inspection of Flour.

By Act of Assembly of 15th of April, 1835

1st. All flour of wheat, flour of rye, and meal made of Indian Corn, shall, if designed for exportation from either of the places mentioned in this section, be liable to be inspected at the respective places as follows, to wit:

1st At the city and county of Philadelphia, by the Inspector of Flour appointed for the said city and county

2d. At the city of Pittsburgh, and in the counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette, Green, Indiana, Jefferson, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Mercer, Crawford, Erie, Warren, Venango. By the Inspector appointed for the said city and counties.

1850, *Supplement to this Act*, No. 230.

All Flour which shall be brought from any State into the county of Erie for the purpose of being offered for sale within said county, shall be liable to the like Inspection and regulation as Flour manufactured within said county.

For any further knowledge of the Law on the Inspection of Flour see Dunlop's Laws of Pennsylvania, Page 678.—Sections 1, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 177, 194, 195, 106, 197.

The Law must and shall be observed, so Flour Dealers will respect the Law as their interest.

J. TOWNER, Inspector

Water Lots at Public Auction.

AGREEABLY to the provisions of an act of the Legislature passed the 23d day of Jan., 1838, I will offer at public sale at the Court House in Erie, on Saturday the 14th day of April next, commencing at 10 o'clock A. M., the remaining unsold water lots, in front of the second section of the town of Erie. The lots are thirty-three feet in width and extend to about 12 feet water. A plan and map of the lots will be exhibited at the sale, and may be seen at the office of the subscriber any time previous to the sale.

TERMS.—One-fifth down, the balance in four equal annual payments with annual interest, secured by bond and mortgage.

JAMES WILLIAMS,
Com'r of sale.
Erie March 12 1853—4144.

Orphan's Court Sale.

BY virtue of an order from the Orphan's Court of Erie County, to me direct, I shall expose to sale at public Vendue or outcry at the Court House in the City of Erie, on Saturday the 13th day of April A D. 1853, at 2 o'clock P. M., all the right, title and interest of Frederick Shoaff, late of the city of Erie, dec'd., of, in and to the following described piece or parcel of land laying in lot No. 1702 in the city of Erie aforesaid, bounded as follows, to wit: On the north by third street, on the east by in lot No. 2699, on the south by in lot No. 2701, and on the west by lot No. 1703, (there being an alley on the east side of said lot,) with the appurtinences.

TERMS OF SALE.—One-fourth upon confirmation of sale the balance in three equal annual payments with interest, to be secured by judgment bond and mortgage on the premises.

CASMIER SEIGEL.
Executor.
Erie, March 12, 1853—3:44.