THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CARLISLE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1847.

☞ Vice President Dallas, and Hon. Daniel Sturgeon of the Senate, and Messrs. Ingersoll, Broadhead, and Wilmot of the H. of Reps. at Washington, will accept our thanks for their several favors.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"*The Soldier in Prison*," by "E," will be found on our first page.

"*Amelia*," a tale, by "W. A. P." is carelessly written and badly punctuated. To prepare the article for publication, would occupy more of our time than we are able to spare. We hope our young friend will not despair, however. He bids fair to make a sensible and strong writer.

"*Silver Spring, Jr.*" deals too much in personalities. The publication of his article would only create heart-burning. This we are determined to prevent, if possible.

CARLISLE DEPOSITE BANK.—The stock of this institution has all been taken. By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that a meeting of the stock-holders will take place at Beetem's hotel, in this borough, on Friday the 7th day of next month.

☞ If any of the relatives of JOHN L. KEAFSER, who left this neighborhood some 8 or 10 years ago, will call with the Postmaster, in this Borough, they will hear of something to their advantage.

OFFICERS OF GIRARD COLLEGE.—On Wednesday evening of last week, the Board of Directors of the Girard College, elected the Hon. JOEL JONES, President Judge of the District Court of Philadelphia, President of the institution, and Mrs. A. C. TILGHMAN, of Baltimore, Matron. Several teachers and other officers were also elected.

☞ Union county has appointed her delegates to the 4th of March Convention. They are instructed for Mr. Buchanan.

☞ "A MERRY CHRISTMAS" to all our readers, whether old or young, Democrat or Whig, male or female! "A merry Christmas," especially to the round-faced urchin, whose eyes, at the peep of day, are fixed upon the dark shadows of the chimney-place, intent upon discovering the foot-prints of Krisskinkle, or his handiwork in the well-filled stocking that he has left behind him. Christmas is a day that brings mirth in its train—let pa and ma stand aside for the time being, and give the "young 'uns" the freedom they desire—let the minature drum resound through every apartment of the house, and let the toddling hero cut and slash with his wooden sword! Give way to the romp—no matter for the noise—Christmas comes but once a year.

Krisskingle's representatives do not always know *where* to provide themselves with select nicetics.—We shall therefore mention a few places where confectionary, toys, and other articles are kept.

CONFECTIONARY, CAKES, TOYS, &c.—The finest assortment of nicetics in the way of fruits, cakes, confectionary, toys, &c. &c. may be found at "Krisskinkle's Head Quarters," kept by our friend Monyer, in North Hanover street.

FANCY BOOKS, SWEET-MEATS, &c.—Our friends Haverstick, at his store in North Hanover street, Dr. Myers, at his store in West High street, and J. & W. B. Fleming, corner of Pitt and High streets, are all well supplied with fancy articles, gift books, sweetmeats, &c. &c. Their several assortments are varied and large. Go and see them.

FANCY WARE, HOLIDAY PRESENTS, &c.—Mr. Eby has recently added many nice things to his large Grocery Store. In addition to his well-selected assortment of Groceries, he has now many articles suitable for holiday presents. Go and see his assortment—you will not regret it.

PIES, CAKES, &c.—Mince-pies (who don't like mince-pies?) and cakes of all descriptions can be had of Miss Moore. Also of Mrs. Keepers. They are both well prepared for the festive season.

JEWELLERY, &c.—Mr. T. Conlyn has just received a splendid assortment of pins, rings, pencils, broaches, and other fancy articles. See his advertisement, and then call and see him at his store.

DRY-GOODS, GROCERIES, &c.—New and splendid goods, embracing almost every thing, have recently been received by Ogilby, Irvin, A. & W. Bentz, Angney, and Snodgrass. Go and see their splendid assortment. Neither of them charge for showing their goods.

SEGARS, TOBACCO, &c., can be had at Criswell's.—His segars are very superior. Call at his store.

HATS, CAPS, &c.—If you wish a fashionable hat or cap, call on the "practical hatter," Trout. He can suit you to a fraction, both in price and quality.

CABINET-WARE.—Should you want pretty furniture, well made and durable, D. F. & A. C. Fetter, and Frederick Cornman, can supply you at short notice. See their advertisements in another column.

HARDWARE, &c.—Hardware of all kinds can be had at the stores of J. P. Lyne, Wright & Saxton, and Fortney & Fisher. Their assortment is varied and well selected.

VARIETY.—Our friend Gitt, has quite an assortment of books, pencils, cards, segars, tobacco, &c., which he sells very cheap. Give him a call, if you wish bargains.

"ELLEN HERBERT, OR, FAMILY CHANGES," is the title of a neat little book of 206 pages, which has just been published by the Harpers. The work is intended for children, and is well calculated to please and instruct. It is embellished with six engravings, and is well printed. To be had at Kneedler's Book Store, Carlisle.

THE VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY met on Monday of last week, and the Governor communicated his message. The surplus in the treasury is $145,000, having only $65,000 to be provided for by taxation. Of the Mexican war operations he takes a patriotic view and sustains his country. The Washington Monument fund is now nearly forty thousand dollars, and he proposes that Mount Vernon be purchased with the money. He recommends the passage of a law providing that the free negroes shall be removed by counties, and sent at public expense to countries where slavery does not exist. The Governor takes decided opposition to the Wilmot Proviso. On the 30th of September last, the Virginia penitentiary contained 211 convicts, a diminution of fifteen within the year. Of this number 131 are whites, and 80 are negroes. The free negroes, although numbering by the census of 1842, only forty-nine thousand eight hundred and forty-two, perpetrate nearly two-fifths of the crime of the State.

U. S. SENATE.—On last Monday week, the old officers of this body were re-chosen for the two years ensuing, viz:—Asbury Dickins, Secretary; Robert Beall, Sergeant-at-arms; Isaac Holland, Door keeper; Henry Slicer, Chaplain.

☞ The New York Mirror publishes an account of the late duel, at Newark, under the head of "Religious Intelligence."

MISSED AGAIN.—A paragraph is going the rounds of the Whig press, headed "Jim Polk's War" which states that the wife of Captain Thornton is now in the Sussex county, Michigan, Poor House, partially deranged. The Detroit Press says there is no Poor House in Sussex county, and that Capt. Thornton was never married.

I'VE BEEN ROAMING, ETC.—George Kendall has returned to New Orleans, from the wars.

"HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE."

Under this caption the *Lancaster Intelligencer* volunteers a reply to our article of the 2d instant, in which we ventured to give a little friendly advice, as we thought, to our friends of the "Democratic Union" and the "Pennsylvanian." The Intelligencer characterizes our article as "attacking" the above mentioned papers, and is "surprised" that we should have given vent to such "malignity." Now the sagacious editor of the Intelligencer may call our article "an assault" upon the journals named, but certainly no *other* sensible man would. Our article was no "assault," nor can it be construed as such by any impartial reader. We respect Col. Forney of the Pennsylvanian too highly, and have been on terms of intimacy with him too long, to permit us to commit an "assault" upon him. Nor did we impugn his motives, as the Intelligencer intimates. We do not now, nor did we ever find fault with Col. F. because of his friendship for Mr. Buchanan, but we thought, and think still, considering his position at the head of a leading Democratic journal, that he manifested his preference too much *through the columns of his paper*, to do strict justice to Mr. Dallas his own townsman and neighbor, who has also numerous and powerful friends for the first office in the gift of the people—which friends have equal claims upon the Pennsylvanian as members of the same great party which sustains it, as have the friends of Mr. Buchanan, or Mr. Buchanan himself. Col. Forney as Col. Forney, and as editor of a paper, which aspires to be the "organ" of the Democratic party in this State, are two very different persons. And it does not mend the matter, if as is intimated by the Intelligencer, that the Pennsylvanian did injustice to Mr. Buchanan "before Col. Forney became its editor." Two wrongs never make a right, and a sense of that injustice should have made the present conductors of the Pennsylvanian the more cautious not to commit the same error.

We know very well that Col. F. has for years been the warm, zealous, and able friend of James Buchanan, and that the bestowal of official patronage upon him could not influence him to improper action on the question of the Presidentship or any other question—but others may not have known the same thing, and the position he occupies, and the course he appeared for a time to be pursuing, did certainly render him liable to *misrepresentation*. We rejoiced when Col. F. was appointed to office in the Custom House, and only desire that he may make his conduct as a public journalist square with the wishes and expectations of the public, and his duty to the Democracy of Pennsylvania.

The Intelligencer charges us with hostility to the tariff of 1846. This is not true. Before that measure became a law, we were doubtful about the effects of it in Pennsylvania. But after its passage we contended for giving the new law a fair trial, before condemning it—and we challenge the Intelligencer to find in the columns of the Volunteer any thing like opposition to the tariff of 1846, after it became a law. On the contrary, we have ever since that period, sustained it, for we have been convinced that it was working out the happiest results, not only in Pennsylvania, but in the whole Union. We never doubted the *justice* of that measure, but we doubted the *expediency* of it—considering the peculiar position in which the Democracy of this State were placed in reference to the tariff of 1842. The Democratic members of Congress from Pennsylvania, and among them Mr. Buchanan, had voted for that law, and sustained it after its passage, under repeated instructions from the Democratic Legislatures of this State. The position therefore of the Democracy of Pennsylvania was peculiar on this subject, and in some measure antagonistical to that assumed by the Democracy of most of the other States. For these reasons alone, we doubted at the time the *policy* of a repeal of the tariff of 1842. But that danger is now passed, and we think it has been a wholesome lesson to the Democracy of Pennsylvania, never to suffer themselves again to be led into a departure from *principle*, however urgent may be the reasons assigned for so doing, or however high may be the names that woo them from the right path.

We ever sustained Mr. Dallas, defended his purity of motive, and we are now doubly his defender, from witnessing the wisdom of his course, and the proud results which are the legitimate fruits of his manly independence, and pertinacious adherence to the strictest letter of the Democratic creed. He showed that he possessed the sagacity, as well as the nerve, of his great friend Andrew Jackson.

But we perceive from the article in the Intelligencer that that paper also is *now* under the same influence which pervades the Pennsylvanian and the Democratic Union. We understand in addition, from authority upon which we can implicitly rely, that Col. Forney has purchased the Intelligencer for the sum of $3,500, and although it is denied in its columns that he "has assumed the control of that paper," we have no doubt he made the *purchase* and if not for himself, for those who will "*assume the control*" of it—and we would not be at all surprised, nay, we think it highly probable, that Mr. Edwin W. Hutter, the private and confidential secretary of Mr. Buchanan himself, will hereafter edit, and ostensibly "*control*" that establishment. Neither would we be much astonished if Mr. Franklin G. May, the former, (we beg pardon) *the still* gentlemanly editor and proprietor of the Intelligencer, would soon be safely ensconced in a handsome clerkship either in some of the Departments in Washington City, or in the Philadelphia Custom House. Now this is all fair and proper, a thrifty business transaction, neither dishonorable to the parties concerned, nor immoral in the course of trade. Mr. May has the right to sell, and drive the best bargain he can, but if we mistake not, from the signs of the times, the rights of third persons *may* intervene under this new *regime* of the Intelligencer, from the demonstration which has already been made in its columns—we mean the rights of the *Democracy of Lancaster!* And we have no doubt the sequel will prove, and more firmly than ever establish, the moral—that papers may be bought, the people never.

The analogy drawn by the Intelligencer, between the supporters of Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Dallas, is not a good one. The cases are not parallel. It is true that Col. Page and others are supporters of Mr. Dallas and hold office under the National Administration, as well as Col. Forney and Mr. McKinley, but it is well known that Col. Page is indebted neither to Mr. Buchanan nor Mr. Dallas for *his* situation—neither does Col. Page, we presume, consider himself a *newspaper*, nor does he publish one, nor does he set himself up to be *the organ* of the great Democratic party of Pennsylvania. If he were the conductor of a *leading and central* Democratic journal, we have no doubt he would treat all sections, interests, opinions, and feelings of the *Democracy* fairly and impartially, and with all due respect and consideration.

But we are pleased to see a change, as we think, for the better, in both the Pennsylvanian and the Democratic Union—and if our friendly advice to these ably conducted journals has had any effect in producing it, we will have the consolation of knowing that our article, which was prompted by the kindest and most fraternal feelings (editorially speaking) has not been "love's labor lost." We know the difficulties ourself of editing a paper so as to please all shades and shapes of opinion—and we have no doubt that the fault of both the Pennsylvanian and the Democratic Union, although very palpable to their country and provincial friends of the editorial corps, who are the mere satellites of these central suns, in the effulgence of their light, was not discernable to themselves, and was no doubt *altogether* attributable to sheer inadvertance. The great sun of the Universe has spots on its disk, and so may have the Pennsylvanian and the Democratic Union, without derogating in the least from their dignity and usefulness. So mote it be!

We learn that the Pennsylvanian of Saturday week last, contains a reply to our article. We received the Pennsylvanian of that date, but strange to say our exchange does not contain the comments refered to. We are therefore groping in the dark as to the views of the Pennsylvanian on this subject. This may be of a piece with the *courtesy* shown by the Pennsylvanian, for some time past, in refusing to publish, or even notice, the proceedings of the meetings of the Democracy of this county. The opinions of the Democracy of "Old Mother Cumberland" would at no time disgrace even the courtly columns of the Pennsylvanian.

MOUNTING THE PLATFORM.

If any political conduct of the Federal party could astonish us, it would be the blind infatuation and zeal with which they are mounting the platform prepared for them by Mr. Clay in opposition to the war. The policy they have thus blindly adopted, at the bidding of a once great man, but now a disappointed, mortified, and superannuated leader, will as certainly defeat the great object they have in view—the elevation of Mr. Clay to the Presidency—as it is calculated to prolong the controversy with Mexico, and ultimately to induce, by necessity, the subjugation and eventual destruction of the Mexican people as a nation. At present we are satisfied that but a small portion of the American people entertain an opinion favorable to the annexation of Mexico to the United States, or even of holding it for any great length of time under a provisional military government. But, the course pursued by Mr. Clay and his partizans, is undoubtedly calculated to induce the men who control the destinies of Mexico to refuse to treat for peace until they see the result of the issue between their friends in the United States, led by Mr. Clay; and those who sustain the present administration. Now, if this issue *has to be* decided at the ballot box, those who cannot see that the feelings of the masses of the American people, of all parties, will naturally take part with their own country and government against the common enemy, have lived for little purpose in acquiring a knowledge of the character of their own countrymen. And, if the contest is permitted to progress upon this issue, a spirit will be engendered in the bosom of the people of the United States, which nothing but the conquest and entire subjugation of Mexico, and perhaps its annexation, will satisfy.—We say then, let those who deprecate the annexation of Mexico beware how they provoke it by their sympathies for Mexico and their ultra opposition to their own government.

WHAT DEMOCRATS THINK OF IT.

The Washington Union understands from some of the most distinguished Democrats of both houses of Congress from different quarters of the Union, that the President's message has been received with the greatest satisfaction, and says: "We heard several of them say it was the very thing which was wanted; that it struck in with the feelings of the people; and that the public sentiment would support him in the course he had proposed. Certainly a more manly and decided message has never emanated from the executive department. It was whispered before the meeting of Congress, that the President would only state the condition of public affairs, and throw the responsibility of measures upon Congress. Never was anything so different in its tone. Like all his other messages, it is marked with the highest moral courage, as well as great practical sagacity. The President has done his duty; and now it is the part of Congress to do theirs. They must act upon his propositions; and we cannot doubt for one moment, from all that we have heard on both sides of the house, that a decided majority will be found to furnish the necessary supplies for a most vigorous prosecution of the war."

THE WAY TO MAKE PEACE.

Kendall, in one of his late letters from the city of Mexico, lays down the following proposition, the truth of which has always forced itself upon our minds, as the only means of securing an honorable peace, in the attainment of which none takes a deeper interest than ourselves.

"Cut off all the taxes; destroy all the public resources of revenue; shut up every avenue through which a dollar finds its way into the Mexican treasury; make the war felt, and seriously felt, by the rich; tell them that our objects are peace or a conquest, and prove to them our ability to achieve the latter, and we shall soon have a peace, or I am much mistaken. The world cannot say but that we have exercised the full measure of forbearance in our past efforts to bring about an amicable adjustment, and cannot blame us if in future we prosecute the war with the utmost rigor permitted by the laws of nations."

CAPTAIN ANGNEY, who commanded an infantry company at Santa Fe last year, has been elected a member of the legislature of New Mexico.—*Exchange paper.*

Captain Angney, spoken of above, is a son of our respected townsman, Mr. R. Angney. He is a young man of much promise, and performed deeds of noble during while captain of an Infantry company in the expedition against New Mexico.

A distinguished Clergyman of this city informs us that since his residence here—not quite twenty years—he has married two thousand eight hundred and fifty couple.—*Lancaster Examiner.*

Our friend Getz, of the "Reading Gazette," (who by the by has been recently married,) copies the above article from the Lancaster Examiner, and then says—

A very big business that, in forging the fetters of Hymen. Reading must give up to Lancaster in this respect; but when it comes to babies, we'll wager our scissors (the most valuable treasure we possess) that she can beat her ten to one: and prove it by comparing the annual increase of population in the two cities.

☞ The Harrisburg "Union" sneers at those papers who prefer Mr. Dallas to Mr. Buchanan as a candidate for the Presidency or have not the same preference for Mr. B. that is so abundantly manifested in its columns. We can remember the time when the present publisher of the Union did not exhibit his friendship *very warmly* for Mr. B. through the columns of the paper he then conducted, the "*Keystone*." But *circumstances* alter cases, and our only surprise now is to see the *old* opponents of Mr. B. *foremost* in his support at present, and we are still more surprised to see Mr. B. leaning for support upon arms which were formerly outstretched to destroy him.

THE POOR BOY'S COLLEGE.—The Hon. Simon Cameron, himself a Printer, as also all his brothers, has adopted for his family onsign, and has it engraved upon his letter-stamps, a Printing press, over which stretches the word "persevere." He loves the art and cherishes it.

☞ Mr. Clay's speech at Lexington, has recently been printed in gold. Gold is one of the products of Mexico, and a Mexican speech may fitly be printed therewith.

☞ It is said that when RILEY, the deserter, was caught, a number of Whig papers, together with a copy of Corwin's speech was found in his pocket.

☞ The entire expenses of the garrison at Tampico are defrayed, it is said, from the Custom-house receipts. The receipts of revenue at Tampico since the 1st May last, are said to be upwards of $200,000.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Saturday next is CHRISTMAS-DAY—a day which has been, for many centuries, observed throughout all Christendom as a special period of rejoicing, when the people at large are privileged to indulge in every variety of gay pastimes and innocent pleasures. By a custom which originated time out of mind, it has been set apart as an occasion of merry meeting among kindred and friends for mutual congratulations, free interchange of good fellowship, and for cementing old and forming new attachments. To the young, especially, it is a day looked for with longing interest, when it is expected they will be allowed to enjoy themselves in unrestrained merriment. Who does not feel his spirits elated when surrounded by a sportive troop of little children shouting in the full glee of their innocent hearts—"a merry, merry Christmas?" Who could have the heart to frown discouragingly upon such lively exhibitions of childish hilarity? These exhilarating scenes should serve rather to arouse all the better feelings of our nature, and fill our hearts with joyous and grateful emotions. He who cannot cheerfully participate in the gay pastimes of this festive season, must be deficient in those endearing traits of character which render a man companionable, and tend to promote the happiness of the society by which he is surrounded.

Such a one should at least endeavor to confine his moroseness to the gloomy recesses of his own breast, and not mar the enjoyment of others by a display of humor uncongenial with the prevailing spirit at this season of rejoicing. It is certainly proper for us at some periods of life to divest ourselves awhile of the cares and anxieties which are allowed too frequently to prey upon our minds, and strive to unite with our whole hearts in promoting that cheerful tone of good feeling which should ever, on a day like this, animate and enliven the social circle. This is an occasion when all our kindly sympathies should expand and our bosoms warm with the impulses of heaven-born charity.

How pleasing is the spectacle of kindred and friends assembled together, at a Christmas festival, who but for such a customary observance of this day might, perhaps, remain many years separated and estranged from each other. These social gatherings are in general productive of the most agreeable and happy consequences: old ties are thereby renewed and strengthened; animosities are healed; endearing attachments are formed, and in fine many who are thus brought together, become more firmly united in the sweet bonds of affection and friendship.

While intent, however, upon our own social enjoyment, amid scenes of rejoicing, where the festive board groans beneath its rich burden of luxuries, we should not be unmindful of those among our fellow beings, less fortunate than ourselves, who are at the same moment sorrowing in want an misery. The children of misfortune may, perchance, be at your very door, supplicating your charity. Turn them not away without affording relief to their wants out of the abundance with which you are blessed:

"When your children gather round
Where the festive board is spread,
And mirth, and joy, and wit,
Their cheering influence shed,
And the throbbing heart beats high—
Think of the wretched then;
Give—in a brighter land
'Twill be given back again."

Slaying a Mexican.

Extract from HENRY CLAY'S speech, delivered at the dinner of the Sons of New England, at New Orleans, on the 22d of December, 1846, met to celebrate the lauding of the Forefathers of New England on Plymouth rock:—

"Although leading a life of retirement, I am not wholly unobservant of the proceedings relating to the condition, welfare, and prospects of our country.—And when I saw around me to-night, Gen. Brooke, and other old friends, *I felt half inclined to ask for some nook or corner in the army, in which I might serve, to evenge the wrongs done to my country. I thought that I might yet be able to capture or slay a Mexican.*"

COL. WYNKOOP.—Col. Wynkoop has been appointed military and civil governor of Jalapa. Colonel W. issued his first orders as governor on the 8th of November. He encourages the merchans of the town to re-open their stores and promises them protection. The sale of spirits at retail is prohibited. The property of the Mexican authorities is made responsible for the commission of crimes. The Mexican civil and judcial authorities are continued in the exercise of their functions, and all disputes among Mexicans are to be determined by them.

A NEW LIFE PRESERVER.—Mr. Edward Sargent of Bangor has invented a new method of stopping railroad cars, by which, says the Whig, at the slightest notice the breakman may apply the velocity of the train to aid in bringing all the wheels in the train to a dead stop.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN NEW MEXICO.—Even some of the opposition press appear to be pleased with the President's suggestion about extending our laws over New Mexico and California, and establishing a civil government in those places.

STRIKING THE FLAG.—The PHŒNIX, a Democratic paper published in Camden, New Jersey, in the last number says:—We to day haul down the flag of Gen. Taylor. We are now satisfied that a man from social life must be chosen by the Democratic party, and that Taylor will be left to finish the war, and will likely be appointed territorial governor of Mexico. The Phœnix speaks in high terms of the Hon. George M. Dallas.

SANTA ANNA TRIED FOR STEALING.—A letter from Mexico, dated the 20th of October, and published in the Tampico Sentinel, states that Santa Anna has taken up his residence at Tehuacan, whence he intends to defend himself against the changes brought against him.

It is not only alleged against him that he abandoned the city on the night of the 13th of September last, with his army, in a most cowardly manner, leaving the city without protection; but that previous to his leaving, he robbed the treasury department of all bonds and every other species of available means. And to cast off all suspicion from himself, he then ordered that the prison of the Accordada be opened, and its convicts let loose upon the community. The hall of the House of Representatives was entered by them, its chandeliers broken in a thousand pieces, the rich tapestry torn from the windows and strewd about the floor, and the residue of the splendid hall multilated, if not entirely destroyed.

☞ Dr. Lee, of Hartford, Conn., who has practised extensively at the South, states that he has treated five cases of rattlesnake bites, and all of them successfully. His remedy is alcoholic liquor—either rum, brandy, or gin—given in large doses. A half pint every fifteen minutes, making a quart in an hour, is not too much, to be given as soon as possible after the bite.

A FRIGHTENED MEXICAN.—The battle of Altixco was a brilliant affair. In a letter alluding to it, a Mexican speaks of it to his father thus—

"Surely your blessing has preserved me in this conjuncture, for the Americans, by their valor and discipline, are invincible, and without exaggeration the attack which they made appeared to me the day of judgement."

☞ The editor of the *Democratic Arch*, at Franklin, counsels his readers to file away Col. Wynkoop's letter denunciatory of his old Federal associates in their opposition to the country and the war. The editor says:—"This letter is truly a 'deadner' to all Anti Republican spirits in the Federal party, and should be kept as a book of judgement for time to come."

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there:
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter;
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wandering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be old Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer! now, Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blixen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!"
As the leaves that before the hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys—and St. Nicholas too;
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tranished with ashes and soot!
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedlar just opening his pack;
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump; a right jolly old elf;
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work;
He filled all the stockings—then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down off a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

PROF. C. C. MOORE.

A JUST VERDICT.—Isaac Bacon has obtained a verdict against the city of Boston for damages to the amount of $1,787 50; he having broken his ankle by stepping into a hole in the side walk left for the admission of light to a cellar.

☞ A Tory Convention lately assembled at Cincinnati, and taking the Hartford Convention of 1814 as their precedent, passed resolutions strongly condemning the war as "unjust, unnecessary and unconstitutional;" in opposition to its further prosecution; &c. &c., and perpetrating any quantity of "moral treason."

A NEW RULE.—The editor of the Chicago Democrat gives the following good advice:—"Wives, love your husbands and make them take a paper!"

A MELANCHOLY CASE.—We have just heard, says an exchange, of the sudden death of Dr. A. F. Wainright, a medical gentleman residing in New York. It appears that some days ago a rattle snake was given to the doctor, and last evening about 7 o'clock he was showing it to a friend: while in the act of returning the reptile to its den, it stuck its fangs into the Doctor's finger, which commenced swelling immediately. Medical aid was called and the finger amputated, but so rapid was the progress of the poison that before 12 o'clock death had done its work.

Doctor Wainright requested that the limb should be taken off, but it was too late to be of any avail.

"Taking the sense of the meeting," says the Boston *Post*, is construed to mean "taking the *cents*"—i. e. passing round the hat.

CHANCELLOR KENT, one of the ablest jurists in the United States, died at New York, on Saturday last, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

☞ A boot maker of London has invented a rotary heel to be applied to boots, so that when run down upon one side by uneven treading, it can be easily twisted round, thus producing another even surface, and easier locomotion in the wearer.

ALMOST A FATAL ACCIDENT.—As Rev. S. Cowles, of Ellicottville, N. Y., was writing in his study last week, a rifle ball grazed his head, which was fired from a rifle by a young man who was shooting some fowls.

☞ A N. Y. paper says the Federalists have been trying to get up a Clay Meeting in that city, but there is not "treason" enough in the Commercial Emporium to sustain the Federal leaders in such a demonstration.

"O DEAR!" said a wife to her husband, the other day, "how my tooth aches!" "Glad to hear it," was the response; "you'll *hold your jaw* for a while."

THE "SUNBEAM," published at Salem, N. J., has hoisted the Dallas flag. The Sunbeam is an able Democrat journal of much influence and talent.

☞ The *Nashville Whig* says:—"*We go for keeping Upper California and New Mexico at all hazrds.* We do not believe that the people of the United States will ever consent, nor do we believe they *ought* to consent, to restore those provinces to Mexico."

☞ When a man honestly confesses that he was in error, he only acknowledges that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

☞ The Bedford Gazette has raised the name of George M. Dallas to its mast-head, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency.

☞ The Secretary of War recommends an early action from Congress in raising the reinforcements which he recommends. The following is the proposition of his admirable report:

"The forces now in service, augmented by recruits to the extent to which it is reasonable to expect, will not, in my opinion, be sufficient for our contemplated military operations. I therefore submit for your consideration and approval, the proposition to raise ten additional regiments of regular force for the war. It is important that authority should be given for this purpose at an early period in the approaching session of Congress. A delay, even of a few months, would be very injurious, as it would give time to the enemy to reorganize his shattered forces and recruit his exhausted strength. If such authority be at once given, the new regiments might be raised and sent to the seat of war in season to pass the unhealthy district along the coast of the Gulf before the return of the epidemic, and to participate in the next campaign. It is desirable that Congress should be impressed with the importance of providing at once for this increase of our troops."

☞ Federalism writhes under the patriotic letter of Col. Wynkoop, and in characteristic bitterness of feeling is endeavoring to cast odium upon him. The National Intelligencer declares, and the story is circulated by all its followers, that the Colonel's object is to obtain promotion. We have no doubt of it; it is and ought to be the aim of every man. It is very evident however, that Col. Wynkoop does not envy the promotion the federalists would extend to him, that of "bloody hands and a hospitable grave."

OUR ABILITY TO PAY.—At the end of the year 1812, after the war, our debt was $140,000,000. In 1817, an act was passed appropriating $10,000,000, annually, for the payment of that debt. Under that act, the debt, principal and interest, was paid off in eighteen years. Our population, during those eighteen years, was increasing from 8,000,000 to 14,500,000. For the eighteen years, from 1848, our number will range from 22,000,000 to 36,000,000. The average of the first period was 11,250,000; for the second period it will be 29,000,000. A debt of $360,000,000 may, therefore, be paid, with the same amount of tax for each individual, as was paid from 1817 to 1835. But our wealth has increased faster than our numbers, so that, in fact, our means of payment have quadrupled since 1817.

A State Temperance Convention meets at Harrisburg, on the 16th of January.

Correspondence of the Volunteer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18, 1847.

Friend Bratton.—Two weeks of the session are passed, and yet nothing has transpired to show with any degree of certainty the course the federal majority in the House intend pursuing in relation to the Mexican war. At the time of the meeting of that body the federal members thereof were divided into three separate and distinct classess, viz: 1st, Anti-War and Anti-Supply Whigs; 2nd, Anti-war and Supply Whigs; 3d, War Whigs, or those who thought the war just.

The first and most numerous class opposed all indemnity from Mexico, either in land or money—the second favored an indemnity that would secure to us "a post or two on the Pacific," while the third class ventured to go so far as to favor the acquisition of California. "Times change" however, "and men change with them." Since they have been in Washington under the goad of Clay, Corwin, Clayton & Co., and the drill of the National Intelligencer and other tory prints, it is feared they have been kicked into obedience so far as to have determined to vote against all supplies, provided the President cannot be restrained in relation to the acquisition of territory. In this determination they will be seconded by John C. Calhoun in the Senate, and Isaac E. Holmes and one or two other Calhoun men in the House, as their recent course too clearly indicates. So far then from being certain that men and means will be granted, I confess that I look upon the matter as "*mighty unsartin*." But we to that man who so far forgets the duty he owes his country as to refuse to stand by her in a conflict with a foreign enemy! To refuse supplies at this time, and compel our gallant army to withdraw from Mexico—to abandon all we have gained at the expense of so much blood and treasure, would be giving a victory indeed to the enemy, and would disgrace us in the eyes of the whole world.—Are the American people prepared for this? Would they submit to the infamy that would attach to such a course as the Federalists of the House have marked out for themselves? I will not believe it. I cannot be made to believe that a majority of the American people—a people more patriotic than any other in existence—can be brought to sanction the wicked schemes of the federal leaders, whose only excuse for opposing the country in time of war lies in the fact that *that war was declared and is waged under a Democratic Administration!*

The President's message meets with a hearty response from all sections of the Union. Like those of President Polk that preceded it, it is open, fearless and patriotic, and sets forth, in that plain and unostentatious style peculiar to the President, his views and opinions on questions of National policy. So also of the reports of the Heads of Departments—particularly that of the Secretary of the Treasury. This last report of Mr. Walker is perhaps the greatest and best document that ever proceeded from that gifted man. It should go into the hands of every freeman of the United States, and be preserved as a monument of the unparalleled success of the financial schemes of the ablest Secretary of the Treasury the government ever had. This report, however, came near costing Mr. Walker his life. He worked upon it day and night for weeks before it was sent in—in many instances setting up till 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning engaged in the arduous service of compiling facts from the huge masses of documents in the Treasury Department necessary to be examined.—About an hour after it was sent to Congress he was seen to reel in the passage of the Treasury Building, and was saved from falling by the timely aid of Dr. Collins, 1st Auditor of the Treasury. For a time the consternation about the Department was very great, it having been announced that the Secretary of the Treasury had been seized with apoplexy, but it was soon found that the threatenings of that fearful disease had been removed by the application of the proper restoratives. In a few hours he recovered sufficiently to ride home, where he has since been confined, although his health is rapidly improving.

The duties devolving upon the head of the Treasury Department are more arduous and responsible than those of any other in the cabinet, and are constantly on the increase. In fact it is imposing too much upon any one man to expect him to discharge them all properly. This, however, has been done by Mr. Walker in a masterly manner. Regardless of health, ease, or comfort, he has always been found at his post discharging his manifold duties. And who of all men now living has contributed as much to ameliorate the condition of the laboring population of the United States as Robert J. Walker? The debt the country owes him will never be repaid. He has sacrificed his health in its service, *and brought upon* himself all the evils of a premature old age. And yet federalism has selected him as the target of its vilest abuse, and imputes to him the most corrupt motives. But this should nerve him on, for certainly no stronger proof can exist of a man's being right than to see him abused by the leaders of the federal host. Their censures and maledictions were heaped upon Gen. Jackson while living, but history in his case will do him justice, and Mr. Walker's friends will have the satisfaction of seeing him written down as one of the greatest benefactors of any age, while those who reviled him for his patriotism are forgotten.

Mr. Calhoun's resolutions against the conquest of Mexico have excited no surprise here. Their author has long since ceased to be considered a Democrat, and any thing he may do cannot materially affect the legislation of either House. To his resolutions *per se*, however, there is little or no objection, being as they are almost without meaning, but when taken in conjunction with those introduced by his *lady* in the House on the same day, Isaac E. Holmes, against the acquisition of any more territory, they are significant of what may be expected from that quarter. Indeed the whigs here are already chuckling over the condition they have effected with Calhoun. Well, let him and his friends "*annex*" themselves to whiggery if they choose, the Democratic party will never object, but if the whigs do not find in them "*an acquisition dearly bought*" then I am no prophet. In fact it is high time for John C. Calhoun to turn traitor again. He has acted with the democratic party longer than it is usual for him to act with any party at a time, and certainly longer than the true interests of democracy required. He has been a millstone about our necks for several years and has nearly stranded the party several times; it is well therefore he has cut loose and gone over to curse the ranks of federal whiggery.

There appears to be a powerful effort on foot by some of the whigs in Congress—amongst whom is Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, to bring out General Taylor for the Presidency. Whether the old Hero can be made to walk the "whig platform" and pledge himself to carry out whig measures—proscription and all—remains to be seen, but I opine that he will be found too "ready" for the wire workers of that party. Nothing will satisfy the whig politicians short of a pledge in the next candidate to carry proscription to its extreme length. If Gen. Taylor will submit to this he can be nominated by a federal convention—if not, not.

Meanwhile the friends of the "great embodiment" of whiggery are not idle. Meetings favorable to him and echoing his resolutions and speech are being held in all directions, yet it will be found that they are attended only by politicians and not the reflecting and honest portions of the federal party. General Scott, Judge McLean, Mr. Webster, Mr. Corwin and a host of other expectants of the whig party, have each their forces marshalled for the contest, and in the *melee* it is an extremely difficult task to say which is likely to be the lucky man (or I should say *unlucky* man, for whoever it may be he is destined to be beaten.) Not a move is now made in either House of Congress but has its bearing upon this or that individual connected with the Presidency, so much so that I fear the *country* will be entirely overlooked. The candidates for that distinguished station are as numerous as the locusts of Egypt, and who will pretend to say that they will not be as destructive to us as were the locusts to that afflicted country?

The Message of President Polk vetoing the River and Harbor bill of last session was sent to the House on Wednesday last. It created quite a stir among the western members, and was pretty harshly attacked by Mr. Petit of Indiana, in a speech on the occasion. This was of course to be expected, but as the President takes the same ground that Gen. Jackson took on the Maysville Road bill, he need have no fears. This is not a time to launch our government into a sea of expenditures which will do more to absorb our resources than the prosecution of the war. At all events the whole matter