THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CARLISLE, THURSDAY, JANY. 24, 1850.

AGENCY.

☞ V. B. PALMER, Esq., is our authorized agent for procuring advertisements; receiving subscriptions and making collections for the American Volunteer, at his office, N. W. corner of Third and Chesnut streets, Philadelphia.

MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC STANDING COMMITTEE.

The members of the Democratic Standing Committee of Cumberland county, will meet at the public house of Mrs. Wunderlich, in Carlisle, on MONDAY the 11th day of February, 1850, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of making arrangements for appointing delegates to the Democratic State Convention, to nominate a candidate for the office of Canal Commissioner. A full attendance of the Committee is earnestly desired.

THREE OF THE COMMITTEE.

The following gentlemen compose said committee:

Allen, Geo H Miller; Carlisle, E. W., R Snodgrass, W. W., J H Graham; Dickinson, S Woodburn; East Pennsborough, John Sheets; Frankford, W F Swiger; Hopewell, Col W Wherry; Hampden, R G Young; Mifflin, John B Perry; Monroe, C W Ahl; Mechanicsburg, W Eckels; N Middleton, Wm Jacobs; Newville, James Ahl; N Cumberland, J F Lee; Newton, James McCulloch; Silver Spring, J C Eckels; South Middleton, Alfred Moore; Southampton, W Duncan; Shippensburg Bo., W W Nevin; Shippensburg T., H Craig; W Pennsborough, Joseph McKee.

Democratic State Central Committee.

The members of the Democratic State Committee, are requested to meet at BUEHLER'S Hotel, in Harrisburg, on Tuesday the 29th January, 1850, at 3 o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of fixing the time and place for the meeting of the next Democratic State Convention.

J. GLANCY JONES, Chairman,
G. G. WESTCOTT, Secretary.

Cumberland Fire Company.

At a meeting of the Cumberland Fire Company, held on the 19th instant, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the year 1850, viz:

President, Robt M'Cartney; Secretary, P Quigley; Treasurer, H S Ritter; 1st Director, J Postlewait; 2d Do. S Keepers; Committee of Accounts, N Hantch, J Leiby, jr., G Wunderlich; Committee of Repairs, M Cornman, W Spahr, S Stouffer; Ladder Committee, J Postlewait, T P Dwen, John Kramer.

☞ We are indebted to Samuel Martin, Esq. (Trans. Clerk in the Senate,) for a copy of the members of the Senate, and their places of residence at Harrisburg. Can't some friend in the House favor us with the House list?

MR. THORN'S LECTURE.—The lecture of this gentleman, in Education Hall, on Thursday evening last, was replete with instruction and amusement, and was attended by a great number of our citizens. The ladies and gentlemen in attendance had as hearty a fit of laughter as they need wish to have for a year or two to come. The Rev. gentleman has a happy and peculiar nack of his own of mixing up a large amount of sparkling wit in his instructive discourses, and telling it in a way that is absolutely inimitable. Mr. Thorn's style of composition is very fine, and his delivery easy and graceful. In his lecture he depicted very graphically, the various uses, and many of the abuses, of "The Eye and the Ear, the Thumb and the Tongue." It must certainly be highly gratifying to this gentleman to find his lectures always so well attended and so cordially received.

STATE TREASURER.—On Monday last the two Houses of the Legislature assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of electing a State Treasurer. Gen. JOHN M. BICKLE, a firm and reliable Democrat from Schuylkill county, was elected. There was but one ballot. The vote stood, Bickle, 74; Gideon J. Ball, (Whig,) 50.

THE STATE PRINTING.—*The letting of the State* printing, for a term of three years, came off in the House of Representatives on Tuesday. There were twenty two bidders. The English printing was let to Theo. Fenn & Co., at *seven cents and six mills per thousand ems*, for composition, and seven cents and six mills per token, for press work; and the German printing was let to Philip Weber, at nineteen cents and eight mills per thousand ems, for composition, and nineteen cents and eight mills per token, for press work. The bills were taken at twenty two cents and eight mills per page of 1200 ems, including the press work on two hundred copies. The Democratic Union may well say that "this allotment *will certainly surprise the practical printers* of this State."

STATE LIBRARIAN.—The joint Committee on the Library (three members of the Senate and three of the House,) meet on the 16th inst. for the purpose of electing a State Librarian. After various ballotings, Mr. Thomas C. M'Dowell received a majority of votes, and was declared elected. Mr. M'D. is from Cambria county—is a man of ability, a good Democrat, and we doubt not will make an excellent Librarian. He was Consul to Brazil under Mr. Polk's administration.

A LUCKY EDITOR.—A. J. GROSBRENNER, Esq., one of the editors of that staunch Democratic paper, the *York Gazette*, has been elected Sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives, at Washington. This is a snug birth, the pay being, we believe, the same as that of a member of Congress, together with the "pickings." Grosbrenner is, beyond doubt, one of the few lucky editors.

PHILADELPHIA CITY.—The Democrats of the city met on Monday evening last, and elected the following Delegates to the Convention to nominate a Democratic candidate for Canal Commissioner, to wit:—Michael M'Nenny, Daniel Haviland, Peter Cullen, Charles J. Burns, John Scott, Dr. T. J. P. Stokes, and Dr. W. P. Lambert. The Convention passed a resolution, instructing the Delegates to vote for Col. Franklin Vansant, of Bucks county, for Canal Commissioner.

YORK COUNTY.—The Democrats of this county met on the 7th inst., and chose James M. Anderson, Senatorial, and Robert. Gemmill, John Hursh, and James E. Buchanan, Delegates to the Democratic State Convention, and at the same time instructing George Hammond, Esq., of the State Committee, to vote for Harrisburg as the proper place to hold the next Convention.

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS IN THE MEXICAN WAR.—A petition is in circulation, to be presented to the Legislature claiming justice at its hands for the volunteers of this State who served in the Mexican war. Under the laws of this State, they claim a certain amount of money as due them, and ask that a committee of the Legislature be appointed to examine the claim. If there is any amount due them, the State will no doubt be prompt to liquidate the sum, in consideration of the gallant manner that they sustained the honor of their native State.

MAYOR OF PITTSBURG.—The newly elected mayor of Pittsburg, *Joseph Barker*, was inaugurated on the 7th inst., the sheriff having allowed him to leave the jail for that purpose. Judge Patton, who a few months ago sentenced him to prison, administered the oath of office; after which Mr. Barker handed in a list of appointments, and was conducted back to jail, to await the arrival of the pardon which had been granted him by the Governor.

GEN. TAYLOR'S APPOINTMENTS.

In his inaugural address, backed by the solemn oath of office, Gen. Taylor pledged himself that he would remove no man from office who possessed *fidelity and capacity. He also, in the presence of* thousands of his countrymen, pledged himself that he would appoint no man to office who did not possess these qualities. Well, he entered upon the duties of the Presidency, and, no sooner had he done *so, than thousands of Democrats, who had always* been regarded as honest men and capable officers, were removed. When the Democratic press of the country ventured to remind Gen. Taylor of his promises, his official organ at Washington, the *Republic*, sneeringly replied that the President was but living up to his pledges, and that he had made no removals except for cause—thus implicating every man who had been removed, as dishonest and incapable.

The Democrats, and particularly those who have been removed from office, have a right to know the nature of the charges that have been preferred against them. Their characters are at stake in this matter, and they demand that the cause for their removal be given. *With this object in view, Senator Bradbury* offered a resolution, calling upon the President, in *respectful language, for a list of the persons removed* from office, and also for the cause of such removals. How was this resolution met by the Federalists?—Did they, like honorable men, favor its passage? No. On the contrary they denounced the author of the resolution, and attempted, by ridicule, to intimidate him from a performance of his duty. Mr. Bradbury, however, was not to be choked off so easy—he defended his resolution, and demanded, in the name of the Democratic party, that the President be compelled to give his reasons for the removal of thousands of men from office, or retract the implied charge that he had made against their honesty and capacity.—We hope this resolution may pass. In justice to the many worthy men who have been removed from office, it should pass. Gen. Taylor has said that no *man should be removed without cause, and if he was* sincere when he made this declaration, he should answer Mr. Bradbury's resolution without hesitation. He should either do this, or he should retract the implied charge made against the men he removed.

But, on the other hand Gen. Taylor also promised that he would appoint no man to office who was not capable and honest. How has he adhered to this pledge? We do not pretend to judge of all his appointments, but we can speak of those of our own State, from our own knowledge, and we are free to declare that many of the men who have been favored with important offices, are of doubtful characters and totally disqualified. Such appointments should be rejected. If Gen. Taylor has no regard for the honor of our country, the people have, and the Senate should be prompt in redressing the wrong.

We would not advocate a factious opposition to the President, but where appointments are made that are derogatory to the character of our people, or *where men without capacity* have been placed in responsible positions, justice requires that such appointments should be promptly rejected by the Senate. *On the other hand, where men of character,* capacity, and integrity have been appointed, they should as promptly be confirmed. We cannot agree with some of our cotemporaries of the press, who recommend that *all* Gen. Taylor's appointments be rejected. It is true, the President has violated the solemn promise he made, that he would remove no man because of his political predilections, but he is responsible to the people for this sin, and if opportunity ever presents, they will settle with him in such a manner as will teach him that "honesty is the best policy." The duty of the U. S. Senate, therefore, is a plain one—that is to reject all bad appointments, and confirm all good ones. This duty should, and we doubt not will, be fearlessly discharged.

MESSAGE FROM GEN. TAYLOR IN REGARD TO SLAVERY!

In another column will be found an important document—a Message from the President in regard to slavery. This Message was sent into the House on Monday, and is in answer to a resolution asking for certain information in regard to California and New Mexico. The *Pennsylvanian*, in speaking of this document, very justly remarks—"It is a strange tissue of contradictions and evasions. While stating facts that dared not be withheld, it attempts most feebly to charge upon the last administration the follies of the present. There is no frankness in that part of the message, which replies to the Congressional inquiry about the mission of certain politicians, sent out, without authority, to demoralize California, by making it a Whig State. Guilt is stamped upon every line of this division of the message—the guilt that feels it is detected, and yet has not the courage to avow its shame. It is now confessed that T. BUTLER KING was the paid agent of TAYLORISM to mould California into a Federal State; and that "other officers" were united with him in an errand which the people of the Pacific region have indignantly rebuked. We suspect the letters referred to in the message, as explanatory of this illegal enterprise, will furnish some rare evidences of the honesty and fairness of the present administration.

But we rejoice that there is something in the Message we can approve. General TAYLOR, or rather his Cabinet, now boldly takes ground against Congressional action on the subject of slavery; and quite as boldly unfurls the flag of NON-INTERVENTION in regard to the new territories. Nearly his whole argument is the same that Mr. Clayton, Mr. Meredith, and Mr. Collamer, in their advocacy of the Wilmot Proviso, during the last Presidential campaign, vehemently assailed. His offer to sustain California in her application for admission, is manly; *and speaks the* sentiments of a vast majority of the country, North and South. We may expect an exciting debate, and some rare developments arising out of this strange production.

☞ The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *American*, states that "news" has reached the former city, that a personal encounter took place at Lima, on the 9th of December last, between our newly appointed Consul, Col. Potter, and Mr. Sullivan, the Charg d'Affairs near the Government of Chili, and the nephew of Lord Palmerston. The origin of the difficulty is stated to be, that Mr. Sullivan, in the absence of Col. Potter, forcibly ejected Mrs. Potter and child from her lodgings in the hotel, whereupon Col. Potter sought an interview with him, and not receiving a sufficient apology, gave him a severe horse whipping, which he richly deserved.

☞ Mrs. PIERSON, of the Lancaster *Literary Gazette*, promises a compliance with our request. In the last number of that paper, in reply to our article, she says—"wait until we take the boys in hand, and then you will find out what, in our opinion, constitutes a woman, a wife, &c." Very well—we shall wait as patiently as possibly.

☞ A *Whig* writes to the Trentonian from Washington—"One thing is certain, and we said so long since, that the present Administration commands neither the respect or confidence of the people, and unless Gen. Taylor shakes off the cumbrous, third rate politicians who have thus far swayed his councils, he will go out of power in the biggest kind of a hurry, amid the scorn and derision of the very men who once gave him their confidence and support."

A DESCRIPTION.—An Eastern editor says the day previous was "as sticky as a trousers full of molasses." *Sweet* idea.

WINTER—THE POOR.

At this inclement season of the year, there are, no doubt, hundreds of our fellow-creatures, whose means of providing for themselves and families are unequal to their wants; and it is to be hoped, that those who have it in their power, will not be backward in extending a helping hand to those who are thus unfortunately situated, by offering aid to their necessities. The rich, as well as those in moderate circumstances, are bound, by obligations at once sacred, to exercise charity of this kind; and, the individual who has it in his power, and would refuse thus to be the means of relieving a suffering human being, must have a heart of adamant, and it will not be denied, cannot be considered a good or useful member of society. It is a disgraceful fact, however, that there are such beings in this cold-hearted world of ours—yet it is to be hoped that they are "few and far between."—There are some, in comfortable, as well as affluent circumstances, of whom to ask the smallest pittance, for a charitable object, would be like exacting of them their very life blood. Yet; thank fortune, *all* are not so. There are those who can feel for the sorrows and distresses of their fellows, and who, the moment it is known that there are those around them who are in want of assistance, fly to their relief, and at least prove that they have souls which can swell with noble pride, when engaged in the holy cause of humanity. Let all remember, however, that "charity covereth a multitude of sins," and that every good act of which man is capable, carries with it its own reward.

GEN. CASS' GREAT SPEECH.

We have read, with much satisfaction, the great speech of Gen. CASS, delivered in the Senate, on the resolution of inquiry into the expediency of discontinuing our diplomatic intercourse with Austria.—Every American should read this speech—it is an able, fearless, statesman-like production, and we regret *that its length prevents us publishing it.* This speech will be read with absorbing interest throughout the country. Mr. Cass explains the causes which led to the Hungarian revolution, and gives the reasons which induced that heroic race of liberty loving men to take arms against Austria. He gives an able and lucid *resume of the whole civil, diplomatic* and military course of the rotten power of Austria, now sunk into a mere province and antechamber of Russia; and alludes very happily to the early sympathies of Henry Clay for the cause of the Achaians, and to Mr. Webster's recent glorious table talk in New Hampshire. Mr. Cass' remarks will be in the mouth of every patriot, and continue a living monument of the sympathy of a generous nation with the victims of an accursed and aimless despotism, even if the Senate should record its difference from Gen. Cass' views.

The despotism of Austria is far more revolting than that of Russia; it is a sort of second hand despotism not fitted to her back, and the more degrading to her indignant people. Austria is now a mere propogandist of the Russian cane and knout, and it is against this species of diabolical propogandism that Gen. Cass invokes the aid of the American Congress, as an act of self respect, due to ourselves, and the nations who have selected us for their model. There is a solidity of interest among the people of all countries against the associated despotism of princes, and Gen. Cass struck that chord most forcibly, both as an orator and a statesman.

A Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, thus refers to the concluding portion of this patriotic speech:

Towards the close, Gen. Cass felt it due to state that his remarks had reference merely to the mission and not to the minister lately appointed to Austria. He expressed his conviction that Gen. Webb possessed all the requisites of a minister for Austria, (which was at best but a *double entendre*,) but had acted very rashly and improperly, in running away from the Senate just two or three days before the commencement of the session.

Ex-Governor Seward thought it necessary to rise to say a few words in favor of his 'firm,' steadfast, 'devoted,' absent friend, Gen. Webb; and was at last replied to by Gen. Foote, in a manner which kept the Senate and the galleries in a roar of laughter.—'I never saw so much withering sarcasm, and excruciating humor poured on the head of mortal man, as Gen. Foote poured out on the head of the distinguished Senator from the empire State, the devoted friend of the absent Gen. James Watson Webb, editor of the New York Courier and Enquirer.

Gen. Foote told the whole story of the bargain between the editor and the Senator from New York in an exceedingly pleasant way; during which Ex-Governor Seward, to keep cool, pressed the ivory folder *which he held in his hand repeatedly to his parch*ing lips, whilst the Vice President, Mr. Fillmore, notwithstanding his laudable efforts to preserve the gravity of his station, was moving the tongue of his mouth very much as if he were embarrassed by a quid of tobacco. May he be felt as if he had a sugar plumb in his mouth. It was rich—very rich—a dose of Cayen pepper handed round in advance of the curried chicken. We shall have more of it this season.

The upshot of the whole is, that Gen. James Watson Webb has this day been rejected by the Senate *in public session*, by an overwhelming majority. I wish all confirmations and rejections were made in so public a manner.

The Dead and the Living Presidents.

All must have been struck with the omission in the President's Message of any, the slightest, mention of his lamented predecessor, who had but a few short months before stepped from the same august seat into the grave. The wretched entanglement and *blunders of expression which mark it in more than* one place, may possibly be excused on the ground of inadvertence, but no such pretext can atone for this neglect, not only of the feelings of the nation, but of common courtesy. So far as we can recollect, no Whig was found in '45 to object to Mr. Polk's tribute, in his message, to Andrew Jackson; and we think none will now undertake to defend the opposite course of Gen. Taylor.

The circumstance is eloquently touched on in the following paragraph, from the Petersburg Republican:

Since President Taylor was installed into office one of those melancholy events which bring a whole nation to tears, and flings around its remotest circumference the afflicting emblems of a sincere mourning, has occurred. The hand, whose generous, cordial grasp, most probably gave him the first salutation after his installation, has been chilled in death—the heart that beat responsive to the welfare and glory of his country, and that prayed so fervently for *its uninterrupted prosperity as ever heart did pray*, has ceased to answer to the joys or sorrows of man—the last and not the least illustrious of his many honored predecessors has died, but, in vain we look for any faint allusion to the sad disaster, in this his first message to the Congress of the nation since its occurrence. No mention of the event—no syllable to record the mighty upheaving of the national heart, the universal lamentation which fell from the Nation's lips when its ear first caught the news that JAMES K. POLK was dead!

COMPOSURE UNDER GUILT.—The friends of Dr. Webster urge that he could not have exhibited the composure he did after the crime of murder had *been committed, if he had been guilty of it, as it is* known that he sat down on the same night and deliberately played chess. This is not a certain test *of innocence*, as it is recorded of the Countess of Somerset that she danced a measure with a nobleman just after she committed murder, and that she was all gayety and frolic, although she had just done a deed which, when it was discovered, filled mankind with horror. She and her husband were put on their trial for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury. The Earl was convicted. The Countess plead guilty.

The editor of the Brookville (Ia.) American reports nineteen cases of suicide in that State during the past year.

COMMON SCHOOL CONVENTION.

We learn from the Harrisburg papers, that the Common School Convention, which assembled in that place last week, was well attended, and composed of many of the ablest men in our State—men well versed in the subject of Common School education, whose suggestions and recommendations are entitled to the highest consideration at the hands of the members of the State Legislature. Various committees were appointed to report upon the different subjects to be brought to the consideration of the Convention, and after the reports were made, and a full discussion had upon the different topics, the Convention adopted reports and resolutions, embracing the following proposed changes in our school system:

1st. That a department of education be established, the head of which shall devote himself exclusively to this important subject, visiting the various School districts occasionally, by way of stimulating those in charge of them to greater exertions in the cause of education.

2d. That a State Common School Journal be established, as a means of communication between the department and the schools, school directors and teachers.

3d. That two Normal Schools be established for the preparation of teachers to impart knowledge to the youths of the Commonwealth, in the most improved manner.

4th. That it be recommended to the various school districts to form associations of directors and teachers for the purpose of meeting and consulting in regard to the best means of imparting instruction and advancing the cause of education.

5th. That it be recommended to the different districts to appoint county superintendents.

6th. That a uniformity of school books be recommended in the different counties.

These were the principal recommendations of the Convention, and we trust they will receive the favorable consideration of the Legislature at an early day.

It was acknowledged by every one in the Convention, that our school system was not inferior to that of any other State in the Union, and all that was wanting was to give it efficiency, and carry it out according to the design of its founders, with such improvements as were suggested by the experience of the age.

Able addresses were delivered by the Hon. Joel B. Sutherland, Hon. Wm. D. Kelly, Hon. J. M. Porter, President of the Convention, Edward A. Penniman, of Philadelphia, Prof. Devinney, of Carlisle, Mr. M'Cartney, of Easton, and other gentlemen.

ANOTHER VETO!—Gov. Johnston sent in a message a few days since, *veloing* a bill to improve a certain portion of the Susquehanna river. This is another commentary upon the fallacy of Federal arguments against the veto power.

A GOOD JOKE, says the *Pennsylvanian*, of the 16th inst., was perpetrated in the National House of Representatives on Saturday, while the balloting for Sergeant-at-arms was going on: One of the Southern Democrats (Mr. Colcock, of South Carolina,) who voted for Mr. Campbell, Whig, for Clerk, on the previous Friday, rose very solemnly and said he did so "to end a protracted contest and save time and money." When the vote was being taken for Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. M'LANAHAN, the accomplished Democratic Representative from Cumberland, Perry, and Franklin counties, in this State, did not vote; but just as it was whispered about that the Whig candidate, Mr. Giddings, had 104 votes and wanted but one more to elect him, and the Democratic candidate, Dr. Newton Lane, had but 88, Mr. M'Lanahan rose with a great deal of solemnity of manner, and silence profound reigned as he said: "For the purpose of ending this protracted contest and saving the public time and money, I vote for —— Newton Lane!" A roar of laughter greeted him from all parts of the House.

A telegraphic despatch to the Philadelphia papers, dated Boston, January 18, says that the Grand Jury have found a true bill against Dr. Webster, charging him with the murder of Dr. Parkman, and adds that "the examination before the Grand Jury was not wholly *ex parte*, several witnesses having been examined who swore that they saw Dr. Parkman *after his disappearance!*" There is evidently some mistake about this. It must have been the ghost of Dr. P. which these witnesses saw "*after his disappearance*," that is after his murder.

HUNGARIANS AT WASHINGTON.—On the 15th inst. Gov. Ujhazy, his sons, and other illustrious Hungarians, were introduced into the Halls of Congress, in both the Senate and House of Representatives.—They were cordially and enthusiastically received in The members were eager to take these unfortunate but noble patriots by the hand.

MR. GEORGE F. PARKMAN, son of the late Dr. George Parkman, returned from Europe in the steamship Canada at New York, and arrived in Boston on Thursday. He was on a tour of the Continent for the benefit of his health, but was sent for when it was first supposed that his father was no longer living.

ANOTHER VERSION.—The Taunton (Mass.) *True Democrat* thus solves the meaning of the celebrated phrase in the last message of the General—"We are at peace with *all the world*, and seek to maintain our relations of amity with *the rest of mankind*."

"Bliss," said the chief
In accents brief,
"Bring me a map of all creation,
Including Newfoundland
And all that part of Hindoostan
Belonging to our nation!"

FANATICISM IN THE NORTH.—The Anti-Slavery Society of Massachusetts has petitioned the Legislature of that State to take measures for receding peaceable, if we can, forcibly if we must," from the Union. This is but a repitition of some former abolition schemes, and is a pleasant offset to late developments of Southern ultraism. May it not be hoped, that these two extremes will neutralize each other, and leave the final adjustment of harrassing questions to common sense; and quiet unimpassioned discussion.

President Taylor has dismissed the Spanish Consul at New Orleans, Don Carlos D'Espana, for his connection with the Rey affair. The Spanish Minister thinks his Government will be surprised at this, after the acquittal of the Consul, but consents to the right of the President to discharge him. Mr. Clayton explains this expulsion to rest on the results of the trial of said Consul, which must impair his usefulness if continued in office.

FINE SPORT.—Millions of pigeons have been filling the woods for miles around Franklin, Tenn., for several weeks past. They have a roost several miles in extent in the edge of Hickman county, and with a torch and club the people sally forth at night and bring home their game by bags full.

The Boston Post says that the following was one of the toasts given at the late *German supper*:

Haynau—Abhorred by all the world, and held in utter contempt by *the rest of mankind.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:—I transmit to the House of Representatives, in answer to the resolution of that body, passed on the 21st of December last, the accompanying reports of Heads of Departments, which contain all the official information in the possession of the Executive asked for by the resolution.

On coming into office, I found the military commandant of the department of California exercising the functions of a civil Governor in that Territory; and left, as I was, to act under the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo, without the aid of any legislative provision establishing a government in that Territory, I thought it best not to disturb the arrangement made under my predecessor, until Congress should take some action on that subject. I therefore did not interfere with the powers of the military commandant, who continued to exercise the functions of civil Governor, as before; but I made no such appointment, conferred no such authority, and have allowed no increased compensation to the commandant for his services.

With a view to the faithful execution of the treaty, so far as lay in the power of the Executive, and to enable Congress to act at the present session with as full knowledge and as little difficulty as possible on all matters of interest in these territories, I sent the Hon. Thomas Butler King, as bearer of despatches to California, and certain officers to California and New Mexico, whose duties are particularly defined in the accompanying letters of instruction addressed to them severally by the proper departments.

I did not hesitate to express to the people of those territories, my desire that each territory should, if prepared to comply with the requisitions of the Constitution of the United States, form a plan of State Constitution, and submit the same to Congress, with a prayer for admission into the Union as a State; but I did not anticipate, suggest, nor authorize, the establishment of any such Government, without the assent of Congress, nor did I authorize any government agent or officer to interfere with nor exercise any influence or control over the election of delegates, or over any convention, in making or modifying their domestic institutions, or any of the provisions of their proposed Constitution; on the contrary, the instructions given by my orders were, that all measures of domestic policy must originate solely with themselves—that while the Executive was desirous to protect and defend them in the formation of any government, republican in its character, to be at the proper time submitted to Congress—yet it was to be distinctly understood that the plan of such a government must, at the same time, be the result of their own deliberate choice, and originate with themselves, without the interference of the Executive.

I am unable to give any information as to laws passed by any supposed government in California, or of any census taken in either of the territories mentioned in the resolution, as I have no information on these subjects, as already stated. I have not disturbed the arrangements which I found had existed under my predecessor. In endorsing an early application by the people of the territories for admission, as stated, I was actuated principally by an earnest desire to afford to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress the opportunity of avoiding angry dissensions among the people of the United States.

Under the Constitution, every State has the right of establishing, and, from time to time, altering its municipal laws and domestic institutions, independently of every other State, and of the general government, subject only to the propositions and guarantees expressly set forth in the Constitution of the United States. The subjects thus left exclusively to the respective States, were not designed or expected to become topics of national agitation. Still, as under the Constitution, Congress has power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territories of the United States:

Every new acquisition of territory has led to discussions on the question, whether the system of involuntary servitude, which prevails in many of the States should, or should not, be prohibited in that territory? The periods of excitement from this cause, which have heretofore occurred, have been safely passed; but during the interval of whatever length which may elapse before the admission of the territories ceded by Mexico, as States, it appears probable that similar excitement will prevail to an undue extent. Under these circumstances, I thought, and still think, that it was my duty to endeavor to put it in the power of Congress, by the admission of California and New Mexico as States, to remove all occasion for the unnecessary agitation of the public mind. It is understood that the people of the western part of California have formed a plan of a State Constitution, and will soon submit the same to the judgment of Congress, and apply for admission as a State. This course, on their part, though in accordance with my wish, was not adopted exclusively in consequence of any expression of my wishes, inasmuch as measures tending to this end had been promoted by the officers sent there by my predecessor, and were already in active progress of execution before any communication, from me, reached California. If the proposed constitution shall, when submitted to Congress, be found to be in compliance with the requisitions of the Constitution of the United States, I earnestly recommend that it may receive the sanction of Congress

The part of California not included in the proposed State of that name, is believed to be uninhabited, except in a settlement of our countrymen in the vicinity of Salt Lake.

A claim has been advanced by the State of Texas to a very large portion of the most populous district of the territory, commonly designated by the name of New Mexico. If the people of New Mexico had formed a plan of State government for that territory, as ceded by the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo; and had been admitted by Congress as a State, our constitution would have afforded the means of obtaining an adjustment of the question of boundary with Texas to a judicial decision. At present, however, no judicial tribunal has the power of deciding that question, and it remains for Congress to devise some mode for its adjustment.

Meanwhile, I submit to Congress the question, whether it would be expedient, before such adjustment, to establish a territorial government, which, by including the district so claimed, would practically decide the question adversely to the State of Texas—excluding it, would decide the question in her favor. In my opinion such a course would not be expedient; especially as the people of this territory still enjoy the benefit and protection of their municipal laws, originally derived from Mexico, and have a military force stationed there to protect them against the Indians. It is undoubtedly true, that the property, lives, liberty and religion of New Mexico, are better protected than they ever were before the treaty of session. Should Congress, when California shall present herself for incorporation into the Union, annex a condition to her admission as a State affecting her domestic institutions, contrary to the wishes of her people, and even compell her temporarily to comply with it, yet the State could change her constitution at any time after admission, when to her it should seem expedient. It is to be expected any attempt to deny to the people of the State the right of self government, in a matter which peculiarly affects themselves, will infallibly be regarded by them as an invasion of their rights; and upon the principle laid down in our own Declaration of Independence, they will certainly be sustained in their resistance against it by the great mass of the American people. To assert that they are a conquered people, and must submit to the will of their conquerors in this regard, will meet with no cordial response among American freemen.

Great numbers of them are our own countrymen, not inferior to the rest in intelligence and patriotism, and no language of menace to restrain them in the exercise of an undoubted right, substantially guaranteed to them by treaty of cession itself, shall ever be uttered by me, or encouraged and sustained by persons acting under my authority. It is to be expected, that in the residue of the territory ceded to us by Mexico, the people residing there will, at the time of their incorporation into the Union as a State, settle all questions of domestic policy to suit themselves. No material inconvenience will result from the want, for a short period, of a government established by Congress over that part of the Territory which lies eastward of the new State of California, and the reasons for my opinion, that New Mexico will at no very distant period ask for admission into the Union, are founded on official information, which I suppose is common to all who have cared to make inquiries on the subject.

Seeing, then, that the question which now excites such painful sensations in the country will, in the end, certainly be settled by the silent effect of causes independent of the action of Congress, I again submit to your wisdom the policy recommended in my annual message, of awaiting the salutary operation of those causes—believing that we shall thus avoid the creation of geographical parties, and secure the harmony of feeling so necessary to the beneficial action of our political system.

Connected, as the Union is, with the remembrance of past happiness, the sense of present blessings, and the hope of future peace and prosperity, every dictate of wisdom, every feeling of duty, and every emotion of patriotism, tend to inspire fidelity and devotion to it, and admonish us cautiously to avoid any unnecessary controversy which can either endanger it or impair its strength—the chief element of which is to be found in the regard and affection of the people for each other. (Signed)

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

Washington, Jan. 21st, 1850.

EXCITEMENT IN THE U. S. SENATE.

The Washington correspondent of the Public *Ledger*, in his letter of the 16th inst., thus refers to the excitement and bad feeling which prevails in the U. S. Senate. For the peace and honor of our country we hope this feeling may soon be allayed:

Mr. Benton and Mr. Foote introduced respectively their bills, one for the cession, by Texas, of certain lands, claimed by her under the constitutional boundary to the United States for fifteen millions of dollars, and the other for the establishment of territorial *governments in California and New Mexico*, Deseret, and *Jacinto*—a new territory—to be made out of New Mexico, and a portion of Texas, to be ceded by her to the United States for the sum of seven millions five hundred thousand dollar. Mr. Foot's bill, it is clear, contained a clause embodying substantially the provisions of Mr. Benton's bill, only that the offer made by Mr. Foote's bill for that portion of Texas territory which she is asked to cede to the United States is not quite so liberal and generous as that made by Mr. Benton. No sooner, therefore, had Mr. Benton taken his seat, than Mr. Foote rose and charged the plagiarism on Mr. Benton. He said, "he never stole himself and would not allow others to steal from him." The remainder of his speech, which you will have received by telegraph, was equally emphatic and terrific. He charged treachery to the south on the Senator from Missouri, and at last when Mr. Benton rose and left the Senate pointed at him with his finger. No Senator rose to call Mr. Foote to order. The scene was painful, but then there is an old score between Mr. Benton and Mr. Foote, which, sooner or later, may end in blood, and I *am pained to say, the exasperation of Senators* will not end here. Similar quarrels are hatched between other senators, which may end in confusion and terror. I verily believe that many Senators and members go armed, in the full expectation of witnessing a bloody government. The excitement is beyond anything that the peaceful people of Philadelphia can imagine. The South have been so much in a habit of vaporing about trifles, that the North is inclined to assimilate the present excitement to the past. This however, is a great mistake, and the country ought to be undeceived about it. One of the oldest Nothern Senators told me that he never witnessed anything of the kind in the history of the country before, and that the excitement preceeding the Missouri Compromise was a mere bubble compared to it.

Light from Water.

HENRY M. PAINE, of Worcester, has written a letter to the editor of the Boston *Chronotype*, in defence of his recent extraordinary discovery in regard to the decomposition of water, so as to produce light therefrom. We copy one or two paragraphs from Mr. Paine's communication:

"As regards the decomposition of water, the consumption of metal and acids, or high temperatures of heat; *are not absolutely necessary* to liberate the gasses; on the contrary, Professor Page decomposed water some ten years since, by simply turning a crank which communicated motion to helices revolving between the poles of magnets. In 1845 I succeeded in decomposing water *rapidly* by the agency of magnetic electricity, but was obliged to abandon my experiments because I failed to separate the gasses. In October, 1849, I again commenced experimenting, and succeeded. My dwelling was lighted for nine weeks with light produced by the combustion of the gasses made by galvanic electricity, and the motive power a common brass eight day clock.

Free invitations were given to the citizens of this place to witness the apparatus and the light, and hundreds availed themselves of the opportunity.

In the month of April, 1849, I built a light lower on "Goats Hill," in this city, and removed my apparatus to it, only enlarging the driving machinery and its weight, which was 96 lbs. The citizens were freely invited to this tower, and witnessed the decomposition of the water, the accumulation of the gasses, and their combustion; the only parts not shown to the visitors being the construction of the electrodes, and the helices. The light continued to burn in the *tower till the month of September*, when preparations were made to light the Montgomery House, in your city, as I had done a store in this city, when an explosion occurred by the carelessness of an assistant, since which time I have been employed so arranging the apparatus that an explosion cannot take place.—My instrument is now finished, and working, and will soon satisfy your citizens, as it has ours, that no *efforts of interested parties* can brow beat or ridicule the public into a belief that the present mode of lighting by Carburetted Hydrogen is the only safe and economical method.

The St. Louis papers of the 5th inst. state that during the previous week several cases of cholera had occurred in that city, some of which terminated fatally.

The Legislature of Indiana, in granting divorces, affix the *proviso, that the party applying shall not* contract marriage, during his or her life, with any other person than the one from whom he or she is divorced.

THE ASTOR PLACE OPERA RIOTS.—Capt. Rynders who was charged with being one of the leaders of the Astor Place opera Riots, has been tried and acquitted. There was a strong attempt made to convict him, either that reacted upon the public mind, and so upon the jury, or there was no testimony sufficient to fasten the offence upon him.

TIRED OF LIVING.—Mr. George Holder of York Borough, and Mr. Robert Cameron, of York county, committed suicide—the former with a knife, the latter with a gun.

ICE FOR CALIFORNIA.—Two hundred tons of ice were, some days ago, exported from Boston to California.

DUEL AT FORT MCHENRY.—On Saturday last, an affair of honor came off at Fort McHenry between two of the privates of Col. Ringgold's Flying Artillery. It appears that one of them, named Palmer, had been promoted to the clerkship of the company, and feeling his dignity, he ordered the other out of a room in which he was sitting, which drew forth a challenge, which was promptly accepted, and long sabres chosen as the weapons. One of them received a terrible wound on the side of his face, nearly slicing his cheek off, and the other was considerably cut.

CONFIRMED BY THE U. S. SENATE.—Alexander Ramsey, of Penn., to be Governor of the Territory of Minesota.

Edward Joy Morris, of Penn. to be Charge d'Affaire to Sicily.

THE READING COTTON FACTORY.—A quarrel has sprung up in regard to the location of the Reading Factory, which is likely to prove fatal to the enterprise. A meeting of stockholders was called, the proceedings of the directors in making the selection of a site denounced, and a resolution, repudiating their subscriptions, adopted.

Macaulay, the great English historian, does not expect to complete the third volume of his History of England for twelve months. He is, however, hard at work on its materials.