manifest, therefore, that the law in many, indeed in most cases, could not have been executed for want of officers near at hand. It thus became absolutely necessary for Congress to provide United States officers to take the place of the State magistrates who had been superseded. Without this a constitutional right could have existed with no adequate means of enforcing it. The fugitive slave bill was passed chiefly to remedy this defect, and to substitute such officers instead of the State magistrates whose powers had been nullified under the decision of the Supreme Court.

It is worthy remark, that several of our Northern Legislatures, availing themselves of the decision of the Supreme Court, and under the deep excitement produced by the agitation of the Wilmot Proviso, passed laws imposing obstacles to the execution of the provisions of the Constitution for the restoration of fugitive slaves. I am sorry, very sorry, to state that Pennsylvania is among this number. By our Act of 3d March, 1847, even the use of our public jails is denied for the safe custody of the fugitive: and the jailer who shall offend against this provision, is deprived of his office, and is punishable with a heavy fine and a disqualification ever again to hold a similar office!

The two principal objections urged against the fugitive slave law are, that it will promote kidnapping; and that it does not provide a trial by jury for the fugitive in the State to which he has escaped.

The very same reasons may be urged, with equal force, against the act of 1793; and yet it existed for more than half a century without encountering any such objections.

In regard to kidnapping!—the fears of the agitators are altogether groundless. The law requires that the fugitive shall be taken before the judge or commissioner. The master must there prove, to the satisfaction of the magistrate, the identity of the fugitive, that he is the master's property, and has escaped from his service. Now, I ask, would a kidnapper ever undertake such a task? Would he suborn witnesses to commit perjury and expose himself to detection before the judge or commissioner, and in presence of the argus eyes of a non-slaveholding community, whose feelings are always in favor of the slave? No, never. The kidnapper seizes his victim in the silence of the night, or in a remote and obscure place, and hurries him away. He does not expose him to the public gaze. He will never bring the unfortunate object of his rapacity before a commissioner or a judge. Indeed, I have no recollection of having heard or read of a case, in which a free man was kidnapped under the forms of law, during the whole period of more than half a century, since the act of 1793 was passed.

But it is objected to the law, that the fugitive is not allowed a trial by jury in the State to which he has escaped. So it has always been under the present act of 1793, and so it is under the present law. A fugitive from labor is placed upon the very same footing, under the Constitution, with a fugitive from justice. Does a man charged with the commission of a crime in Maryland fly into Pennsylvania, he is delivered up upon proper evidence, to the authorities of the State from which he fled, there to stand his trial. He has no right to demand a trial by jury in Pennsylvania. Nay, more; under our extradition treaties with foreign powers, does a man charged with a crime committed in England or France, fly to the United States, he is delivered up to the authorities of the country from which he fled, without a trial by jury in this country. Precisely the same is the case in regard to a fugitive from labor. Upon satisfactory proof, he is delivered up without a trial by jury. In the Constitution he is placed upon the very same footing with fugitives from justice from other States; and by treaty, he is placed upon the very same footing with fugitives from justice from foreign countries. Surely the fugitive slave is not entitled to superior privileges over the free white man. When he returns to the State from which he has escaped, he is there entitled to a trial by jury, for the purpose of deciding whether he is a free man. I believe every slave State has made provision by law for such a trial without expense, upon the petition of the slave; and we have heard it announced upon the highest authority in the Senate of the United States, that such trials are always conducted in mercy, and with a rigid regard to the rights of the slave.

Why should an Act of Congress cast such a reflection upon the judicial tribunals of a sister State as to say they shall not be trusted with the trial of the question whether an individual is entitled to his freedom under the laws of the State from which he has fled?

But to allow the fugitive slave a trial by jury in the State where he is found, would, in many instances, completely nullify the provisions of the Constitution. There are many, I fear very many, in the Northern States who place their conscience above the Constitution of their country, and who would, as jurors, rescue a fugitive slave from servitude against testimony, thinking, at the same time, they were doing God's service. The excited condition of public feeling in many portions of the North, would disqualify honest and respectable men from acting as impartial jurors on such a question. Besides, the delay, the trouble, the expenses of a jury trial at such a distance from home, would, in most cases, prevent the master from pursuing his fugitive slave. He would know that should he fail to obtain a verdict, this would be his ruin. He would then be persecuted with actions of slander, of false imprisonment, and every kind of prosecution which ingenuity could devise.

The defeat of the Wilmot Proviso, and the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, are all that the South obtained by the Compromise. They asked for the Missouri Compromise, which it is known that for one I was always willing to concede, believing this would be the most just, equitable and satisfactory arrangement of the Territorial Question between the North and the South. But that has passed away. California has been admitted as a State into the Union, with a positive prohibition of slavery in her constitution, and whether the Mexican law abolishing slavery be in force or not in the remainder of our territorial acquisitions, does any man believe that slavery will ever prevail among the Mormons in Utah, or among the inhabitants of the snow-clad hills and mountain valleys of New Mexico? Besides, the slave trade has been abolished in the District of Columbia. What then of the Compromise practically remains for the South but this Fugitive Slave Law, passed to carry out a clear constitutional provision? It is the only compensation which they have received for what they believe to be the great injustice they have sustained. Will they, then, patiently submit to have the law repealed, essentially modified, or nullified? Before its passage, the Constitution had become, in regard to fugitive slaves, almost a dead letter. It is a notorious fact, that all along the border, which separates the free from the slave States, every facility was afforded for the escape of slaves from their masters. If they could pass the line, their safety was almost certain. They were scarcely ever, in the language of the Constitution, "delivered up, on the claim of the party to whom such labor or service may be due."

In many instances, the master or his agent who pursued them, was insulted, assaulted, beaten and imprisoned; and few men could be found bold enough to incur the hazard of such a dangerous undertaking. In this manner the Southern people were annually deprived of their property, guaranteed to them by the Constitution, to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Constitution was nullified, and this law was passed for the protection of their Constitutional rights. Will they tamely surrender it? Let the voice which speaks in tones of thunder from the united South answer this question. They will at last, I trust and believe, submit to all the provisions of the compromise, provided the fugitive slave law be faithfully executed by the North; but they will go no farther. All the resolutions even of the Union meetings in the South speak this language. Future aggressions must cease, or the Union will be in imminent danger.

Let us then resolve to put down agitation at the North on the slave question, by the force of enlightened public opinion, and faithfully execute the provisions of the fugitive slave law. Should this be done, it will eventually extinguish those geographical parties—so dangerous to the Union, and so much dreaded by the Father of his Country—which have sprung into existence; it will ameliorate the condition of the slaves, by enabling their masters to remove the restrictions imposed upon them in self-defence, since the commencement of the present troubles, and will restore the natural progress of emancipation which has, in several States, been arrested by the violence of the abolitionists.

The Union cannot long endure if it be bound together only by paper bands. It can be firmly cemented alone by the affections of the people of the different States for each other. Would to Heaven that the spirit of mutual forbearance and brotherly love which presided at its birth, could once more be restored to bless the land! Upon opening a volume, a few days since, my eyes caught a resolution of a convention of the counties of Maryland, assembled at Annapolis, in June, 1774, in consequence of the passage by the British Parliament of the Boston Port Bill, which provided for opening a subscription "in the several counties of the Province, for an immediate collection for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Boston, now cruelly deprived of the means of procuring subsistance for themselves and families by the operation of said act for blocking up their harbor." Would that the spirit of fraternal affection which dictated this noble resolution, and which actuated all the conduct of our revolutionary fathers, might return to bless and reanimate the bosoms of their descendents! This would render our Union indissoluble. It would be the living soul infusing itself into the Constitution and inspiring it with irresistible energy.

I am not one of those who can never consent to calculate the value of the Union. Its benefits and its blessings are inestimable. God forbid that fanaticism should ever apply a torch to the grandest and most glorious temple which has ever been erected to political freedom on the face of the earth! Whilst the friends of human liberty throughout the world would forever deplore the irreparable loss of our example to the nations, this catastrophe would be the prolific source of evils to the States—North, South, East and West—from the enumeration of which my mind recoils with horror.

Would any or all the injuries which the South have suffered, from the agitation of the North, and from the Compromise, justify a resort to the last dread extremity of dissolving the Union? I believe not; and after the sober second thought, the patriotic people of the South, will, I have no doubt, by a large majority, arrive at the same conclusion. For such causes, they will never forfeit all the innumerable blessings of the Union, and subject the country and the lovers of freedom throughout the world, to the most astounding political calamity which has ever befallen the human race.

It is not every wrong—nay, it is not every grievous wrong which can justify, or even palliate, such a fearful alternative. In this age, and in this country, there is an incessant flux and reflux of public opinion. Subjects which but a few years ago excited the public mind to madness, have passed away, and are almost forgotten. To employ the eloquent language of Mr. Burke, they are "Volcanoes burnt out;—and on the lava and ashes and squalid scoriæ of old eruptions grow the peaceful olive, the cheering vine and the sustaining corn."

The agitation at the North on the subject of domestic slavery in the South, like every thing human, will have its day. We have already reached, and, I trust, passed the dangerous crisis. Should this prove to be the case, the tempest which has been raging, will purify the political atmosphere, and impart new and healthful life and vigor to the body politic.

But if, in the midst of such a temporary excitement, the Union should be dissolved, the mischief will then be irreparable. "Nations unborn, and ages yet behind" will curse the rashness of the deed.—Should "the silver cord be loosed, and the golden bowl be broken at the fountain," human power will never be able to unite the scattered fragments. If the Almighty Ruler of the Universe has, in His Providence, destined the dissolution of the Union, as a punishment for the sins of the Nation, I hope, before that day, I may be gathered to my fathers, and never witness the sad catastrophe.

Yours, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

To Messrs. Josiah Randall, Isaac Hazelhurst, John S. Riddle, John W. Forney, C. J. Ingersoll, and Robert M. Lee.

CALIFORNIA—A GLOOMY ACCOUNT.

The passengers on the steamer *Alabama*, who arrived at New Orleans on the 28th, from California, have published a statement of the condition of things in that country, with a view, as they say, of correcting the false and exaggerated reports sent to this part of the country respecting the success of the miners. They say they had never witnessed such scenes of suffering as were presented by the mining districts. Twenty thousand miners have been engaged all the summer, in the Southern mines, in damming and turning the rivers Stanislas, Towalama, Mercedes, and other streams, the beds of which have all proved barren of the precious dust. They have exhausted all their means in this unprofitable labor, and are deeply in debt to the merchants. The raining season, which commences in November, will force them back, penniless and destitute to the towns, where they must be fed and supported during winter, or sent back to the States, either of which appears almost impossible. The great object of a California emigrant is no longer to make a fortune, but to save money enough to pay his passage back to the States. This is sometimes the labor of months. But here is their own statement:

The bankers, merchants, and traders, whose business transactions extend throughout the entire length and breadth of the gold region, assist, in no small degree, in misleading the public in regard to the flattering prospects of those engaged in mining.—They have induced thousands and tens of thousands to seek fortunes in California at great sacrifices, who never would have tried the great experiment if they had been informed of the real condition and prospects of those engaged in working the mines.

We believe that thousands have been induced to emigrate to California, during the past year, on account of the exaggerated report made by the Government agent, Mr. King, and by the statements made by the delegates in Congress, in relation to the gold-bearing quartz. They stated that quartz rock existed to an unlimited extent, and worth from one to three dollars per pound. These statements coming to the miners through the newspapers published abroad, struck them with profound astonishment. Now, there is not one miner in five hundred who has found in all his researches a pound of quartz rock worth fifty cents per pound, and the undersigned, who have been deeply interested in the matter, having carried machinery to the mines at great expense, to work the quartz, know that none can be found there worth the present price for labor to work it.

It has been estimated that about *one hundred* thousand Americans were in California at the commencement of the present year. The emigration this year is put down at sixty thousand across the plains, ten thousand over land, through Texas and Mexico, and fifty thousand across the Isthmus—making two hundred and twenty thousand. Supposing twenty thousand have returned home during the present year, (and this is said to be a liberal calculation,) two hundred thousand Americans remain in the country. If asked what is the condition and prospects of this large number of American citizens, we would say "most deplorable." The forty or fifty thousand who have been engaged in damming and turning rivers during the summer have been almost universally disappointed. Having lost the labor of three summers, and the means they had previously procured, thousands of them are reduced to want and involved in debt for subsistence, &c.

Those who were engaged in the dry diggings, depots, etc., have also been unsuccessful during the past season. It was the general opinion of the miners last mentioned, that not more than eighty or ninety in every hundred had realized money enough to enable them to return to their families; and that not more than one in twenty has realized a dollar clear of expenses during the season. All hopes of making fortunes in California are lost sight of in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, and the almost universal feeling is to get home. And it is truly heart-rending to witness the general despondency which exists among the miners, and to see stout-hearted and brave men shed tears at their hopeless condition. We have deemed it our duty—a duty we felt due to the American people—thus honestly to present for their consideration the foregoing facts, leaving all to act according to their own judgments in the matter.

Steamboat Disaster—Several Lives Lost.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 20.—The flue of the steamboat Fashion, No. 2, collapsed this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, on the Monongahela river, a short distance above town, causing the instant death of several of the crew and passengers, and seriously, if not mortally, scalding others. I have just returned from the scene of disaster, and learned the following particulars of the killed and scalded. Among the killed were Jos. Carroll and A. Little, passengers; Isaac Peebles, assistant engineer, son of the Captain, and James Londerback, fireman. The scalded are, W. Gaskill, first engineer; A. Peebles, assistant engineer, son of the Captain; Jesse Gilliland, passenger; John Pettigrew, deck hand; Findley Gould, deck hand, and one cabin passenger. The boat is almost a total wreck. The forward part of the cabin and steps were blown overboard, and the after part of the boat shared about the same fate. The persons killed were blown overboard; and their bodies have not yet been recovered. When I left, the scalded were about being conveyed to the city to receive medical treatment.

SPECIAL ELECTION.—Governor Johnston has issued his proclamation appointing Tuesday, Dec. 31st, for an election to be held in the 11th Congressional District of this State, vacant by the death of Hon. Chester Butler.

THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CARLISLE, THURSDAY, DEC. 26, 1850.

☞We trust our readers will not forget to attend the Exhibition, THIS EVENING, in Education Hall, prepared for them by the Tutor and Pupils of the Male High School. The young gentlemen, we learn, have been very busily engaged for a week past, in decorating and beautifying the Hall. Their exertions to add to the intellectual pleasures of the season, certainly entitle them to a full audience.

THE WEATHER.—We had a very pretty sample of a young snow storm on Sunday last. It commenced about 12 o'clock, M., and continued for an hour. In the evening it rained smartly, and by Monday morning the snow had entirely disappeared. Monday was a regular, old-fashioned winter day, it being intensely cold, and at night the wind blew a perfect hurricane. On Tuesday, the day was clear and bright, and the atmosphere cool and bracing. This is pretty much of a variety of weather for part of one week.

SUPERIOR SEGARS.—Reader, if you are at a loss to know where to obtain a tip top segar, just call at the Grocery Store of our friend ERY, and try some of his. We have puffed several of them, and feel warranted in pronouncing them very superior.

MR. BUCHANAN'S GREAT LETTER.—To the exclusion of much other matter, we this week publish Mr. BUCHANAN's patriotic and truly American letter to the great Union meeting which recently assembled in Philadelphia. That our readers will peruse this letter with feelings of lively interest, we have every reason to believe. It is certainly a noble production, and does honor to the head and heart of its illustrious author. In the language of that able Democratic paper, the Pittsburg *Post*, "Mr. Buchanan has taken a statesman-like view of the Slavery question, and has chosen the Constitution of his country for his guide. With factionists and fanatics, it matters not where they have been found, or under what name they may have sailed, Mr. BUCHANAN has never had any fellowship. Despising treason, he can have no love for traitors."

DEATH OF A RETURNED CALIFORNIAN.—We omitted to announce, last week, the sudden death, in Philadelphia, of Mr. JACOB HUMER, who recently arrived in New York from California in the Crescent City. Mr. HUMER was a native of this county, and left Carlisle in May last for El Dorado. He had reached Philadelphia on his way home to rejoin his family and friends, when he was overtaken by disease, and died on Saturday the 14th inst. His remains were conveyed to this county for interment. Mr. HUMER was in his 34th year, and was universally esteemed an honest man and good citizen. He has left a wife and family to mourn their sudden bereavement.

CONGRESS.—It is generally understood that there will be no agitation of the slavery question in Congress during the present session. Petitions may be presented for the repeal of the fugitive slave law, but we have reason to believe, that such petitions will be quietly disposed of, without any effort to procure legislation on the subject.—Members seem to be well aware that, in touching that law, they would tread upon dangerous ground. Whilst it is respected and enforced the Union may be preserved—but repeal it, and dissolution would be the immediate result.

A Soldier's Funeral.

On Friday morning last, at about 11 o'clock, the solemn and mournful sounds of martial music caught our ear, and on looking from our office window, we beheld one of those beautiful and imposing spectacles—a *Military Funeral*. The procession was composed of a detachment of United States Dragoons and Rifle men, who, with measured tread, and military precision, were following to the grave the remains of one of their late companions, a private soldier named GAGE, who had died the day previous at the Carlisle Barracks. They conveyed the corpse to our public burial ground, and there deposited it, with all the honors and solemnities usually attendant upon the burial of one who has faithfully served his country in "the tented field." An impressive discourse was delivered at the grave to the assembled soldiers and citizens, by the Rev. JOHN N. HOFFMAN, Pastor of the Lutheran church of this borough.

There was something striking and impressive in this funeral. The coffin enveloped in the folds of our national flag; the steed of the deceased, caparisoned in sable weeds, following the hearse; the military port and subdued air of the men, as they kept step to the mournful funeral dirge played by the full Brass Band stationed at the Barracks, evinced an appropriateness which we were pleased to see. Colonel COOKE and the other commissioned officers were in the procession, and showed their respect and esteem for the memory of a departed fellow-soldier, by following to his last home the remains of one of the humblest of their companions.

An Excellent Suggestion.

A friend of ours has suggested to us the propriety and importance of our citizens organizing a new *Fire Company*, or at least a new feature in the Fire Department of the borough. His proposition is, and we think it an excellent as well as an original one, that a company be formed, comprising prudent and trustworthy citizens, who should, during a time of fire, have under its exclusive control the removal and disposal of all furniture, &c., which it may be necessary to remove from a burning building. This company to have a separate and distinct organization, with power to enforce its rules and regulations. He says that this arrangement would effect a two-fold purpose. It would enable the firemen to retain their positions at their Engines, where their services are mainly required in endeavoring to stay the progress of the flames, instead of being obliged, as they now are, to assist in attending to every thing; and it would also ensure the furniture falling into the hands of careful and judicious men, who would be responsible for its preservation and safe return.

Indeed, we think such a company, properly organized, would be of immense advantage to the citizens of the borough. We noticed, at the recent fire, much valuable furniture defaced and injured through sheer and wanton carelessness. If we had an efficient *Property Company* in the borough, composed of vigilant and substantial citizens, such things would not be permitted to occur. Will the citizens of the borough take our friend's proposition into consideration?

A letter from Washington says—The different committees are actively engaged, and it is supposed will be ready to report by the first of January. The Committe on Ways and Means will, it is said, report, shortly, adverse to any alteration in the tariff. There is every reason to believe that the Bounty Land Law will be amended so as to approach as nearly as can be to the Mexican Bounty Land Law—thus bestowing whatever advantage the law confers, on the soldier or his heirs at once.

THE SHORTEST DAY.—Friday last was the shortest day of the year, it being nine hours and three minutes from rise to set of sun.

The Reform Convention of Maryland, has passed resolutions in favor of the Compromise measures of Congress.

THE QUESTION OF U. S. SENATOR.

We are pained to see one of our cotemporaries in the city of Philadelphia, expressing itself with more intemperance and ill-directed zeal on this subject than bodes good to the Democratic party. We should endeavor to avoid all false issues, and eschew all attempts to make partialities for, or hostility to, particular men supply the place of our devotion to the principles of the democratic creed. We should be anxious to select the man for Senator, who would be most likely to subserve the interests of the democratic party, represent the views of the mass of the people with ability and fidelity, and do honor to the State that choose him, without reference being had to his friendship for this or that candidate for the Presidency. That is a subject which will come up at the proper time, and should not be prematurely agitated, when by so doing, it may divide our party into factions, distract our councils, and make us adherents of men instead of measures. For our own part we are free to say that we have our preference for U. S. Senator, yet we are certainly ignorant as to the views of our favorite as to who should, or who should not, be the Democratic candidate for President. We have our preference for that office also, but we certainly would not let it interfere with our unbiased judgment as to the qualifications and peculiar fitness of a person to be selected for important duties in another sphere of official life. To adopt any other rule than this, would be to introduce a test which could lead to nothing but political intolerance of the worst description, and destroy all freedom of opinion. All men are not so constituted as to think alike on all subjects, and if we are to oppose every man who does not come up to our own excellence of views on every subject, political organization would be dead and buried. We might as well ask a man whether he was a Presbyterian or a Methodist, and make his religious views a political test, as to oppose an individual because he gives his preference to one or other of many distinguished men of the same party for an important office. To do so would be travelling out of the record and lead to confusion worse confounded. Let not brethren be warring about non-essentials, when there are so many vital principles to be sustained in the support of a Democratic republican government. If all the prominent candidates for the Presidency were to die to-day, (which God forbid!) we have no fears for the stability of the government and the onward march of Democracy to still fresher and prouder triumphs. We are too apt to place too great reliance on great men, who, when we come to scan them, are but mortals as ourselves, and but atoms among the millions like unto them, if not exactly like them, which surround them. The sun will shine, the rains will fall, the dews of heaven will be distilled, the seasons will have their accustomed rounds, the earth will revolve on its axis, if one and another of the brilliant lights of this mundane sphere, (speaking after the manner of mortals) goes out forever. The prominent candidate for the Presidency to-day, may be hooted at to-morrow. We are uncertain of our views for a day on such a subject, where all things change, and no man is infallible. How foolish then, to make this or that predilection for a prominent man for the Presidency a test of political faith, where the rival candidates profess the truths of the same immortal creed—where all are the disciples of Jefferson and Jackson.

That the cotemporary referred to makes this a political test is manifest from its own columns.—Yesterday it favored this man for U. S. Senator. To-day it is opposed to him, because, as it suspects, its then favorite is *supposed* to be friendly to an individual whom that paper cannot support as a candidate for the Presidency! When the somersset is so short, some better reason should be given for the eminent danger of breaking one's back.—Moreover where there is a change of views less hostility should be manifested towards a recent favorite.

The duty of the Democratic party, as we conceive, is manifest—and that is to do one thing at a time. In electing a Senator let us not suppose we are selecting a President. That great prerogative is exercised by the people in a particular way, and their suffrages will eventually decide all matters pertaining thereto in a manner satisfactory to themselves. We say this much from the best of motives, and with no disposition to interfere with the feelings or opinions of those who are responsible to the public, like ourselves, but this much we deemed it our duty to say in the premises.

Difficulty with Austria.

The letters of Washington correspondents, by last night's Southern mail, state that the Austrian Charge, Mr. McCurdy, successor to Col. Webb, is there, but has not obtained his orders yet. Mr. Hulsemann, the Charge from Austria, it is also said, acts as if there was mischief brewing. Independently of these intimations, we have similar hints from other quarters.

Rumor says there is a *flare up* between the American Secretary of State and Mr. Hulsemann; that the latter has been demeaning himself discourteously, in consequence of the kind treatment we have given the Hungarian refugees, officially and unofficially; that, therefore, Mr. McCurdy will not be instructed to go out of the country until Mr. Hulsemann renders something of an apology for hard and harsh words; and that these are the causes of the delay.

Mr. Cass indirectly alluded to this difficulty in some remarks made on Wednesday, in the Senate, and congratulated himself that the Government was doing what he wished to do by resolution—that is, ceasing to have diplomatic intercourse with Austria. In a day or two we shall probably have more information on the matter.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—We see it stated in the Harrisburg *Union*, that excursion tickets will be issued from all the intermediate stations between that place and Philadelphia, for half the usual rates of fair, from the 24th of December to the 2d of January.

"Father, did you ever have another wife besides mother?" "No, my boy; what possessed you to ask such a question?" "Because I saw in the old family Bible where you married Anny Dominy, in 1835, and that isn't mother, for her name was Sally Smith."

It is said that, in 1853, when the next Presidential term begins, Mr. Clay will be seventy-six, Daniel Webster seventy-one, Mr. Benton seventy-one, and General W. Scott sixty-nine. Mr. Jas. Buchannan, being a bachelor, it is not thought delicate to allude to his years.

CALIFORNIA GOLD.—The total amount of gold cleared at San Francisco from Nov. 12, 1849, to to September 30, 1850, was $17,822,877. Amount cleared in October 1850, $5,591,461.

The trial of Gen. Lopez and others engaged in the Cuban Expedition has commenced in the Circuit Court.

THE COMPROMISE.

We are happy to observe the temper of Congress on the great measures of Compromise passed at its recent session, and that no factious disposition has as yet been manifested to disturb the existing order of things. This much was to be reasonably expected, unless designing men were determined to set at naught the wholesome manifestations of public opinion in reference to the series of measures passed for the pacification of the country, and at defiance the sentiments of their own immediate constituents. It sometimes happens that on matters of trivial legislation—if such a term can be applied to legislation at all—that no particular surprise is expressed if the most factious opposition is made thereto, and for purposes of faction alone. But when questions arise which involve the stability of the Government itself, and jeopardise the glorious privileges and institutions of our common country, when the press has teemed with the danger, the wisest heads failed for the time, to discover the remedy, and the stoutest hearts almost fainted by the way side, then an expression of public opinion in the form of legal enactments carries with it a weight and power, that the most hardened and abandoned are afraid to oppose, and from the sanctity of which they shrink to come in conflict. We would not envy the man who could now get up on the floor of Congress and deliberately urge a repeal of the measures passed at the last session. Such a thing was threatened, but it requires more courage than that possessed by THADDEUS STEVENS to attempt it. The present is the calm after a great storm, and we are too much rejoiced over our safety from recent dangers, to invoke the spirit of discord afresh. No man, we venture to say, will dare do so during the present session of Congress. The right of public opinion would grind to atoms the man who makes the ill-omened effort.

We have had to admire the gentle wolings of the opposition now to the fugitive slave law when compared with the storm of execrations which first met its enactment. The wise cool heads foresaw the result, and prepared like men to uphold the constitution of their country. Clamor has almost ceased, if we except here and there the discordant voice of some avowed abolitionist, who scorns alike the government and the religion of his fathers. The days of the Abby Kellys and Mrs. Folsoms' are numbered.

REBELLION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Legislature of this State, says the Baltimore *Clipper*, seems to be resolved to disturb the harmony of the country. The Senate has passed a bill to call a State Convention in December next—both houses have made an appropriation of $300,000 for military purposes, and a proposition is under consideration to require the members of Congress to vacate their seats and return home. And yet with all this bravado and parade of rebellion they will pause before they commit the State in an act of treason. Let the members of Congress be recalled, and what then? Why, national legislation will proceed without them, and South Carolina will be bound to obey the laws which may be passed! What will be done with the appropriation of $300,000? Will forts be erected and militia mustered? These things may be done, and still the decisive blow be withheld. But, perhaps, it may be attempted to seize on some of the forts in the occupancy of the United States troops. We doubt whether the authorities of South Carolina will have the hardihood to make such an attempt; but if they should, they will find that they have aroused the lion, and may look out for consequences. In such an event they will discover that they have engaged in no child's play, for obedience to the laws of the Union will be enforced, be the consequences what they may. The nation is disgusted with South Carolina bluster, and desires to have it ended. The State appears to be governed by a set of hot-brained politicians, who seem resolved to rush upon their ruin. They are short-sighted if they calculate that their conduct will be approved by the other Southern States—or that their lead in rebellion will be followed by the South. What are the peculiar grievances of South Carolina that she should assume to sever the Union? There is no wrong which she has suffered, which is not common to the whole South. Nay, Maryland alone has ten times as much cause to complain as that State—and yet her people are quiet and determined to adhere to the Union. Her sons are as sensitive to wrong, as brave, and as quick to strike in a just cause as those of South Carolina; but they are not as restless and turbulent in disposition, nor so willing to "launch into a sea of trouble" and endure the ruin which must attend the experiment. With the exception of South Carolina, the whole of the Southern States appear to be disposed to acquiesce in the settlement made at the last session of Congress—nor will they consent to be drawn into rebellion against their government, to gratify the folly or ambition of the Hotspurs of that State. In a contest between South Carolina and the general government, the South will not move a finger in support of the former.

Because some rascal of a married man succeeded in obtaining the affections of Miss Fanny Wallack, the actress, and then left her, she has taken to hard drink, the N. Y. papers say. A shocking way, Fanny, to escape an injury.

The Wheeling *Argus* raises the name of Gen. Lewis Cass to its mast head as the Democratic candidate for President in 1852. This is taking time by the forelock.

A GENTLE HINT.—"If I am not home from the party to night at 10 o'clock," said a husband to his better and bigger half, "don't wait for me."

"That I won't," replied the lady significantly. "I won't wait but I'll come for you."

The gentleman returned at 10 o'clock precisely.

CATS AND BABIES.—The Lancaster Gazette of last week relates an incident, which is worthy the attention of parents, in the following paragraph:

"A gentleman of this city informs us that, on returning home a day or two since, he discovered a large house cat engaged in sucking the breath of his infant, about five months old. The mother had gone into the yard, leaving the child lying asleep in the cradle, and, but for the opportune arrival of the father, the cat would certainly have destroyed the child's life. When discovered, the mouth of the cat was in close contact with that of the infant, and the convulsive breathing of the child told plainly how nearly the cat had accomplished her purpose. This was the third time she attempted it. We have frequently heard it asserted that cats often caused the death of infants in the manner above described, but were led to believe it an "old woman's tale." Our informant, however, assures us that he had every opportunity of ascertaining fully that the convulsive breathing of the child was produced by the sucking of its breath by the cat. We leave it for those who understand such matters to decide.

A Prairie Incident.

At a place called Yellow Creek, about half way between Salt Lake and the junction of the Oregon and California roads, we were the unwilling witnesses to an Indian massacre. On the evening previous, we had crossed the creek and encamped about a mile and a half beyond. Near the creek some Snake Indians, thirteen in all, had erected their wigwams. Before dark I had endeavored, but in vain, to trade with the chief for a pony, but "no swap" was the word, though all the while some one of the party kept exhibiting the good qualities and speed of the different animals. The young squaws excelled their lords in horsemanship or horsewomanship.

One young creature assumed every attitude of the best circus rider. She would pick up her whip from the ground under full speed; check her poney in his mad career as if he had been shot; wheel him at full speed by an inclination of her body—throw the lasso successfully at whatever object she pleased. She rode like the men, fit

"An antelope,
In the suspended impulse of its lightness,
Were less etherially light."

She was an Indian beauty, too, and somewhat of a coquette in the bargain. She would arch her own and horse's neck at any praise bestowed on either her beauty or horsemanship, and laugh most heartily at our attempts to make ourselves understood. She was all life and buoyancy—but alas! she was a cold corpse ere the morning sun shone upon the valley in which she had been so active and happy.

Just as the day was breaking we heard the ominous war-whoop, and immediately followed the sharp crack of a rifle. We roused ourselves from our slumbers and hastened towards the scene of action. A horrid sight met our view. There lay the dead forms of those who had lived and breathed the evening before; nearly all had two or three bullets in their bodies. Our heroine of the day previous had not escaped. She lay outside the wigwam, a bleeding corpse. No respect had been paid to her jet black locks; the scalping knife had passed round them; and they now adorn doubtless grace the girdle of some graceless Utah. Twelve Snakes lay dead upon the ground, nine of whom had been scalped, two old Indians and a boy having escaped the knife; one squaw had escaped by flight. The perpetrators of this horrid scene were about fifty Utah Indians, whom we saw near the camp of an emigrating party, about a mile from the scene of action. With horror and disgust we turned from the sight, and pursued our way.—*Cor. St. Louis Intelligencer.*

Beware of Evil Speaking!

What if a person, who in the main has led a good life, should, yet contrary to the general tenor of it be guilty of some unaccountable weakness! What should we learn from this? Not certainly some pun materials for idle conversation, in which, whatever expense of words there may be, there is no expense at all of thought. No! it ought to teach us something far more useful and noble—a lesson of diffidence of ourselves, watchfulness and circumspection lest we, who think we stand, should also fall. The miscarriage of a good man, which give an ill-natured pleasure to little minds, suggests to every great mind the most melancholy ideas of the weakness of human nature in general, but no spiteful or venomous reflections against his weakness in particular. *Far from* exulting over his fallen worth, he views his downfall with a generous pity, and, warned by it, works on his own salvation with fear and trembling.

As when the young, the blooming, and the vigorous, who bid fair to length of days, yet pine away and are cut off by some hidden disease, should tend to make us temperate and cautious to preserve the health of the body; so when the good and virtuous, from whose former actions we might expect an uninterrupted course of piety, are overtaken, we scarcely know how, in any notorious or flagrant vice, this should put us upon our guard, and make us take all due precaution to preserve the health of the soul. This is the use we are to make of those pitiable instances. They are no subjects for wanton merriment, pleasantry, and witty spleen: No! they are subjects for a serious consideration on our own frailty. They teach us not to be too sanguine, or over-secure.

Tell me, O my conscience! have I done, or shall I ever do, any thing like this? Would to God we would talk and commune oftener with ourselves: we should then seldom talk, calmly about ourselves, and unchariably about others.

ELK COUNTY STATISTICS.—We gather from the *Elk County Advocate* the following summary of the census returns for that county. It is singular that the elk *bar* and deer were not enumerated. The Advocate also mentions having seen numerous hungry looking hunters from York State who had not tasted fresh meat since they were in last winter. Great county that.

Returns of the census for this county is as follows, for the year 1850:

Houses, including shanties and other domicils of a top-ground nature,	1000
School houses, destitute of stoves, and requiring the children's clothes to be stuck in the windows,	all
In favor of the Fugitive Slave Law,	1
Number liable under it,	00
In favor of the Woman's Rights Convention, both sexes,	9
Number of males in favor of it,	00
Believers in the Rochester Knockings,	00
Number of souls,	(not heard from.)
Persons of both sexes, (we guess) about	3500
Number who have not paid for the Advocate, about	135

The Marshall visited several houses where they had had no baby the past year.

The South Carolina Legislature.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 20.—A bill providing for the calling of a Convention, and also for the election of members to a Southern Congress, the latter to assemble in Montgomery, Ala., in January, 1852, has passed to a third reading in the House, by 101 yeas to 10 nays. The delegates to the Convention are to be chosen in February next, and to the Southern Congress in October. The Senate have agreed to the same bill, with but three dissenting votes. A grand salute was fired at the request of the Governor, both at Columbia and Charleston, immediately on receiving the news of the decisive action of both Houses.

SECOND DESPATCH.

The Senate have elected R. W. Barnwell, Jas. P. Richardson, W. Hampton, and Langdon Cheeves, as deputies to the Southern Congress at Montgomery.

MUSICAL ENTHUSIASM IN NEW YORK.—Parodi, the great vocalist, is creating almost as intense a musical *furore* in New York as did Jenny Lind. On Saturday night her concert was attended by over 4,000 persons, who crowded Tripler Hall to its utmost capacity. The doors were opened at 5½ o'clock, but long before that hour the vestibule was thronged by those anxious to gain an entrance, and during the progress of the concert the enthusiasm was of the most unbounded character.

PHILADELPHIA MARKET.

MONDAY, December 23.

The Flour market continues dull, and the only transactions reported are small lots for city consumption at $4,75 and $4,87 for choice lots, and extra at $5 a $5,50.

RYE FLOUR is steady at $3,50.

CORN MEAL is held firmly. Sales at $2,75 per bbl.

GRAIN.—There is a good demand for white Wheat for shipment. Sales of 3000 bushels prime Pennsylvania White at $1,11½ a $1,13 per bushel, in store, at the latter rate, including 1500 bushels ordinary and prime Red at $1 and $1,05.

A small sale of Pennsylvania Rye at 71 cents.

CORN is in steady demand, and 4000 bushels new Yellow sold at 58 cents, afloat; including some damp at a lower rate.

OATS are in demand. Sales of 2000 bushels prime Pennsylvania at 43 cents per bushel.

WHISKEY.—Small sales of barrels at 27 cents.—Hogsheads held at 26 cents, but sales have been made at 25½.

CATTLE MARKET.—Beef cattle range from $5,50 to $6,50 per 100 lbs. for ordinary and prime quality.—Cows and calves—sales of dry cows at $7 and $13, springers $12 to $25; and milch cows at $18 to $30 each. Hogs are in fair request at $5 a $5,50 per 100 lbs. Sheep and lambs range from $1,25 to $1,50 each, according to quality.