ritories, except California. The superintendent employed to make the enumeration in that State has not yet made his full report, from causes, as he alleges, beyond his control. This failure is much to be regretted, as it has prevented the Secretary of the Interior from making the decennial apportionment of representatives among the States, as required by the act approved May 23, 1850. It is hoped, however, that the returns will soon be received, and no time will then be lost in making the necessary apportionment, and transmitting the certificates required by law.

The Superintendent of the Seventh Census is diligently employed, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in classifying and arranging, in tabular form, all the statistical information derived from the returns of the marshals, and it is believed that when the work shall be completed, it will exhibit a more perfect view of the population, wealth, occupations, and social condition of a great country, than has ever been presented to the world. The value of such a work, as the basis of enlightened legislation, can hardly be over-estimated; and I earnestly hope that Congress will lose no time in making the appropriations necessary to complete the classifications, and to publish the results in a style worthy of the subject and of our national character.

The want of a uniform fee bill, prescribing the compensation to be allowed district attorneys, clerks, marshals, and commissioners in civil and criminal cases, is the cause of much vexation, injustice, and complaint. I would recommend a thorough revision of the laws upon the whole subject, and the adoption of a tariff of fees which, as far as practicable, should be uniform, and prescribe a specific compensation for every service which the officer may be required to perform. This subject will be fully presented in the report of the Secretary of the Interior.

In my last annual message I gave briefly my reasons for believing that you possessed the constitutional power to improve the harbors of our great lakes and seacoast, and the navigation of our principal rivers, and recommended that appropriations should be made for completing such works as had already been commenced, and for commencing such others as might seem to the wisdom of Congress to be of public and general importance. Without repeating the reasons then urged, I deem it my duty again to call your attention to this important subject. The works on many of the harbors were left in an unfinished state; and consequently exposed to the action of the elements, which is fast destroying them. Great numbers of lives and vast amounts of property are annually lost for want of safe and convenient harbors on the lakes. None but those who have been exposed to that dangerous navigation can fully appreciate the importance of this subject. The whole northwest appeals to you for relief, and I trust their appeal will receive due consideration at your hands.

The same is in a measure true in regard to some of the harbors and inlets on the seacoast.

The unobstructed navigation of our large rivers is of equal importance. Our settlements are now extending to the sources of the great rivers which empty into, and form a part of the Mississippi, and the value of the public lands in those regions would be greatly enhanced by freeing the navigation of those waters from obstructions. In view, therefore, of this great interest, I deem it my duty again to urge upon Congress to make such appropriations for these improvements as they may deem necessary.

The survey of the Delta of the Mississippi, with a view to the prevention of the overflows that have proved so disastrous to that region of country, have been nearly completed, and the reports thereof are now in course of preparation, and will shortly be laid before you.

The protection of our southwestern frontier, and of the adjacent Mexican States, against the Indian tribes within our border, has claimed my earnest and constant attention. Congress having failed, at the last session, to adopt my recommendation that an additional regiment of mounted men specially adapted to that service should be raised, all that remained to be done was to make the best use of the means at my disposal. Accordingly, all the troops adapted to that service that could properly be spared from other quarters have been concentrated on the frontier, and officers of high reputation selected to command them. A new arrangement of the military posts has also been made, whereby the troops are brought nearer to the Mexican frontier and to the tribes they are intended to overawe.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to realise all the benefits that are expected to result from these arrangements, but I have every reason to hope that they will, although their immediate effect cannot be so decisive as I could wish, in consequence of the nature of the country, which furnishes little for the support of an army and abounds in places of refuge and concealment, is remarkably well adapted to this predatory warfare; and we can scarcely hope that any military force, combined with the greatest vigilance, can entirely suppress it.

By the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect the territory of Mexico against the incursions of the savage tribes within our border 'with equal diligence and energy' as if the same were made within our territory or against our citizens. I have endeavored to comply, as far as possible, with this provision of the treaty. Orders have been given to the officers commanding on that frontier to consider the Mexican territory and its inhabitants as equally with our own entitled to their protection; and to make all their plans and arrangements with a view to the attainment of this object. Instructions have also been given to the Indian commissioners and agents among these tribes, in all treaties, to make the clauses designed for the protection of our own citizens apply also to those of Mexico. I have no reason to doubt that these instructions have been fully carried into effect. Nevertheless, it is probable that, in spite of all our efforts, some of the neighboring States of Mexico may have suffered, as our own have, from depredations by the Indians.

To the difficulties of defending our own territory, as above mentioned, are superadded, in defending that of Mexico, those that arise from its remoteness, from the fact that we have no right to station our troops within her limits, and that there is no efficient military force on the Mexican side to co-operate with our own. So long as this shall continue to be the case, the number and activity of our troops will rather increase than diminish the evil, as the Indians will naturally turn towards that country where they encounter the least resistance. Yet these troops are necessary to subdue them, and to compel them to make and observe treaties. Until this shall have been done, neither country will enjoy any security from their attacks.

The Indians in California, who had previously appeared of a peaceable character, and disposed to cultivate the friendship of the whites, have recently committed several acts of hostility. As a large portion of the reinforcements sent to the Mexican frontier were drawn from the Pacific, the military force now stationed there is considered entirely inadequate to its defence. It cannot be increased, however, without an increase of the army; and I again recommend that measure as indispensable to the protection of the frontier.

I invite your attention to the suggestions on this subject, and on others connected with this Department, in the report of the Secretary of War.

The appropriations for the support of the army during the current fiscal year ending 30th June next, were reduced far below the estimate submitted by the Department. The consequence of this reduction is a considerable deficiency, to which I invite your early attention.

The expenditures of that Department, for the year ending 30th June last, were $9,060,268 58. The estimates for the year commencing 1st July next and ending June 30, 1853, are $7,898,775 83; showing a reduction of $1,161,492 75.

The Board of Commissioners, to whom the management of the affairs of the Military Asylum created by the act of the 3d March last was entrusted, have selected a site for the establishment of an Asylum in the vicinity of this city, which has been approved by me, subject to the production of a satisfactory title.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy will exhibit the condition of the public service under the supervision of the Department. Our naval force afloat during the present year has been actively and usefully employed in giving protection to our widely-extended and increasing commerce and interests in the various quarters of the globe, and our flag has every where afforded the security and received the respect inspired by the justice and liberality of our intercourse, and the dignity and power of the nation.

The expedition commanded by Lieutenant De Haven, despatched in search of the British commander, Sir John Franklin, and his companions in the Arctic Seas, returned to New York in the month of October, after having undergone great peril and suffering from an unknown and dangerous navigation and the rigors of a northern climate without any satisfactory information of the objects of their search, but with new contributions to science and navigation from the unfrequented polar regions. The officers and men of the expedition, having been all volunteers for this service, and having so conducted it as to meet the entire approbation of the Government, it is suggested, as an act of grace and generosity that the same allowances of extra pay and emoluments be extended to them that were made to the officers and men of like rating in the late exploring expedition to the South Seas.

I earnestly recommend to your attention the necessity of reorganizing the Naval Establishment, apportioning and fixing the number of officers in each grade, providing some mode of promotion to the higher grades of the navy, having reference to merit and capacity, rather than seniority or date of entry into the service, and for retiring from the effective list upon reduced pay those who may be incompetent to the performance of active duty. As a measure of economy as well as of efficiency in this arm of the service, the provision last mentioned is eminently worthy of your consideration.

The determination of the question of relative rank between the sea officers and civil officers of the navy, and between officers of the army and navy, in the various grades of each, will also merit your attention. The failure to provide any substitute, when corporal punishment was abolished for offences in the navy, has occasioned the convening of numerous courts-martial upon the arrival of vessels in port, and is believed to have had an injurious effect upon the discipline and efficiency of the service. To moderate punishment from one grade to another is among the humane reforms of the age; but to abolish one of severity, which applied so generally to offences on ship-board, and provide nothing in its stead, is to suppose a progress of improvement in every individual among seamen which is not assumed by the Legislature in respect to any other class of men. It is hoped that Congress, in the ample opportunity afforded by the present session, will thoroughly investigate this important subject, and establish such modes of determining guilt, and such gradations of punishment as are consistent with humanity and the personal rights of individuals, and at the same time shall ensure the most energetic and efficient performance of duty and the suppression of crime in our ships of war.

The stone dock in the navy yard, at New York, which was ten years in process of construction, has been so far finished as to be surrendered up to the authorities of the yard. The dry dock at Philadelphia is reported as completed, and is expected soon to be tested and delivered over to the agents of the Government. That at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is also nearly ready for delivery; and a contract has been concluded, agreeably to the act of Congress at its last session, for a floating sectional dock on the Bay of San Francisco. I invite your attention to the recommendation of the Department touching the establishment of a navy yard in conjunction with this dock on the Pacific. Such a station is highly necessary to the convenience and effectiveness of our fleet in that ocean, which must be expected to increase with the growth of commerce, and the rapid extension of our whale fisheries over its waters.

The naval Academy at Annapolis, under a revised and improved system of regulations, now affords opportunities of education and instruction to the pupils quite equal, it is believed, for professional improvement, to those enjoyed by the cadets in the Military Academy. A large class of acting midshipmen was received at the commencement of the last academic term, and a practice ship has been attached to the institution, to afford the amplest means for regular instruction in seamanship, as well as for cruises during the vacations of three or four months in each year.

The advantages of science in nautical affairs have rarely been more strikingly illustrated than in the fact stated in the report of the Navy Department, that, by means of the wind and current charts, projected and prepared by Lieutenant Maury, the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ports of our country has been shortened by about forty days.

The estimates for the support of the Navy and Marine Corps the ensuing fiscal year will be found to be $5,856,472 19, the estimates for the current year being $5,900,621.

The estimates for special objects under the control of this Department amount to $2,681,220 89, against $2,210,980 for the present year, the increase being occasioned by the additional mail service on the Pacific coast and the construction of the dock in California, authorized by the last session of Congress, and some slight additions under the head of improvements and repairs in navy yards, buildings and machinery.

I deem it of much importance to a just economy, and a correct understanding of naval expenditures, that there should be an entire separation of the appropriations for the support of the naval service proper from those for permanent improvements at navy yards and stations, and from ocean steam mail service, and other special objects assigned to the supervision of this Department.

The report of the Postmaster General, herewith communicated, presents an interesting view of the progress operations, and condition of his Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of mail routes within the United States was 196,290 miles; the annual transportations thereon 53,272,252 miles; and the annual cost of such transportation $3,421,751.

The length of the foreign mail routes is estimated at 18,349 miles, and the annual transportation thereon at 615,206 miles. The annual cost of this service is $1,472,187, of which $148,937 is paid by the Post Office Department, and $1,023,250 is paid through the Navy Department.

The annual transportation within the U. States (excluding the service in California and Oregon, which is now for the first time, reported and embraced in the tabular statements of the Department) exceeds that of the preceeding year 6,162,855 miles, at an increated cost of $517,110.

The whole number of post offices in the United States, on the 30th day of June last, was 19,796. There were 1,698 post offices established, and 256 discontinued, during the year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year, including the appropriations for the franked matter of Congress, of the Departments, and officers of Government, and excluding the foreign postages, collected for and payable to, the British post office, amounted to $6,727,866 78.

The expenditure for the same period (excluding $20,599 49, paid under an award of the Auditor, in pursuance of a resolution of the last Congress, for mail service on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1832 and 1833, and the amount paid to the British post office for foreign postages collected for and payable to that office) amounted to $6,024,566 79; leaving a balance of revenue over the proper expenditures of the year of $703,299 99.

The receipts for postages during the year (excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British post office) amounted to $6,345,747 21, being an increase of $997,610 79 or 18,65.100 per cent. over the like receipts for the preceeding year.

The reduction of postage, under the act of March last, did not take effect until the commencement of the present fiscal year. The accounts for the first quarter, under the operation of the reduced rates, will not be settled before January next; and no reliable estimates of the receipts for the present year can yet be made. It is believed, however, that they will fall far short of those of the last year. The surplus of the revenues on hand is, however, so large that no further appropriation from the treasury, in aid of the revenues of the Department, is required for the current fiscal year; but an additional appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1853, will probably be found necessary when the receipts of the first two quarters of the fiscal year are fully ascertained.

In his last annual report the Postmaster General recommended a reduction of postage to rates which he deemed as low as could be prudently adopted, unless Congress was prepared to appropriate from the treasury, for the support of the Department, a sum more than equivalent to the mail services performed by it for the Government. The recommendations of the Postmaster General, in respect to letter postage, except on letters from and to California and Oregon, were substantially adopted by the last Congress. He now recommends adherence to the present letter rates, and advices against a further reduction until justified by the revenues of the Department.

He also recommends that the rates of postage on printed matter be so revised as to render them more simple, and more uniform in their operation upon all classes of printed matter. I submit the recommendations of the report to your favorable consideration.

The public statutes of the United States have now been accumulating for more than sixty years, and, interspersed with private acts, are scattered through numerous volumes, and, from the cost of the whole, have become almost inaccessible to the great mass of the community. They also exhibit much of the incongruity and imperfection of hasty legislation. As it seems to be generally conceded that there is no "common law" of the United States to supply the defects of their legislation, it is most important that that legislation should be as perfect as possible defining every power intended to be conferred, every crime intended to be made punishable, and prescribing the punishment to be inflicted. In addition to some particular cases spoken of more at length, the whole criminal code is now lamentably defective. Some offences are imperfectly described, and others are entirely omitted; so that flagrant crimes may be committed with impunity. The scale of punishment is not in all cases graduated according to the degree and nature of the offence, and is often rendered more unequal by the different modes of imprisonment, or penitentiary confinement, in the different States.

Many laws of a permanent character have been introduced into appropriation bills, and it is often difficult to determine whether the particular clause expires with the temporary act of which it is a part, or continues in force. It has also frequently happened that enactments and provisions of law have been introduced into bills, with the title or general subject of which they have little or no connection or relation. In this mode of legislation so many enactments have been heaped upon each other, and often with but little consideration, that, in many instances, it is difficult to search out and determine what is the law.

The Government of the United States is emphatically a government of written laws. The statutes should, therefore, as far as practicable, not only be made accessible to all, but be expressed in language so plain and simple as to be understood by all, and arranged in such method as to give perspicuity to every subject. Many of the States have revised their public acts with great and manifest benefit; and I recommend that provisions be made by law for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statutes of the United States, arranging them in order, supplying deficiencies, correcting incongruities, simplyfying their language, and reporting them to Congress for its action.

An act of Congress approved 30th September, 1850, contained a provision for the extension of the Capitol, according to such plan as might be approved by the President, and appropriated one hundred thousand dollars to be expended under his direction, by such architect as he should appoint to execute the same. On examining the various plans which had been submitted by different architects, in pursuance of an advertisement by a committee of the Senate, no one was found to be entirely satisfactory, and it was therefore deemed advisable to combine and adopt the advantages of several.

The great object to be accomplished was to make such an addition as would afford ample and convenient halls for the deliberation of the two Houses of Congress, with sufficient accommodations for spectators, and suitable apartments for the committees and officers of the two branches of the Legislature. It was also desireable not to mar the harmony and beauty of the present structure, which as a specimen of architecture, is so universally admired—Keeping these objects in view, I concluded to make the addition by wings, detached from the present building, yet connected with it by corridors. This mode of enlargement will leave the present Capitol uninjured, and afford great advantages for ventilation and the admission of light, and will enable the work to progress without interrupting the deliberations of Congress. To carry this plan into effect I have appointed to experienced and competent architect. The corner-stone was laid on the 4th day of July last, with suitable ceremonies, since which time the work has advanced with commendable rapidity, and the foundation of both wings are now nearly complete.

I again commend to your favorable regard the interests of the District of Columbia, and deem it only necessary to remind you that as the inhabitants have no voice in the choice of representatives in Congress, they are not the less entitled to a just and liberal consideration in your legislation. My opinions on this subject were more fully expressed in my last annual communication.

Other subjects were brought to the attention of Congress in my last annual message, to which I would respectfully refer. But there was one of more than ordinary interest to which I again invite your special attention. I allude to the recommendation for the appointment of a commission to settle private claims against the United States. Justice to individuals as well as to Government imperatively demands that some more convenient and expeditious mode than an appeal to Congress should be adopted.

It is deeply to be regretted that in several instances officers of the Government, in attempting to execute the law for the return of fugitives from labor, have been openly resisted, and their efforts frustrated and defeated by lawless and violent mobs; that in one instance such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in others serious injury ensued to those officers and to individuals who were using their endeavors to sustain the laws. Prosecutions have been instituted against the alleged offenders, so far as they could be identified, and are still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in these cases, to give all aid legally in my power to the enforcement of the laws, and I shall continue to do so wherever and whenever their executoin may be resisted.

The act of Congress for the return of fugitives from labor is one required and demanded by the express words of the Constitution.

The Constitution declares, "That no person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." This constitutional provision is equally obligatory upon the Legislative, the Executive, and Judicial Departments of the Government, and upon every citizen of the United States.

Congress, however, must, from necessity, first act upon the subject, by prescribing the proceedings necessary to ascertain that the person is a fugitive, and the means to be used for his restoration to the claimant. This was done by an act passed during the first term of President Washington, which was amended by that enacted by the last Congress, and it now remains for the Executive and Judicial Departments to take care that these laws be faithfully executed. This injunction of the Constitution is as peremptory and as binding as any other; it stands exactly on the same foundation as that clause which provides for the return of fugitives from justice, or that which declares that no bill of attainder or *ex post facto* law shall be passed, or that which provides for an equality of taxation, according to the census, or the clause declaring that all duties shall be uniform throughout the United States, or the important provision that the trial of all all crimes shall be by jury. These several articles and clauses of the Constitution, all resting on the same authority, must stand or fall together. Same objections have been urged against the details of the act for the return of fugitives from labor; but it is worthy of remark that the main opposition is aimed against the Constitution itself, and proceeds from persons and classes of persons, many of whom declare their wish to see that Constitution overturned. They avow their hostility to any law which shall give full and practical effect to this requirement of the Constitution.—Fortunately, the number of these persons is comparitively small, and is believed to be daily diminishing, but the issue which they present is one which involves the supremacy and even the existance of the Constitution.

Cases have heretofore arisen in which individuals have denied the binding authority of acts of Congress, and even States have proposed to nullify such acts, upon the ground that the constitution was the supreme law of the land, and that those acts of Congress were repugnant to that instrument; but nullification is now aimed, not so much against particular laws as being inconsistent with the constitution, as against the constitution itself; and it is not to be disguised that a spirit exists and has been actively at work to rend asunder this Union, which is our cherished inheritance from our revolutionary fathers.

In my last annual message, I stated that I considered the series of measures, which had been adopted at the previous session, in reference to the agitation growing out of the territorial and slavery questions, as a final settlement in principle and substance of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced; and I recommended adherence to the adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience should demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse. I was not induced to make this recommendation because I thought those measures perfect, for no human legislation can be perfect. While differences and jarring opinions can only be reconciled by yielding something on all sides, and this result had been reached after an angry conflict of many months, in which one part of the country was arrayed against another, and violent convulsion seemed to be imminent. Looking at the interests of the whole country, I felt it to be my duty to seize upon this compromise as the best that could be obtained amid conflicting interests, and to insist upon it as a final settlement, to be adhered to by all who value the peace and welfare of the country. A year has now elapsed since that recommendation was made. To that recommendation I still adhere, and I congratulate you and the country upon the general acquiescence in these measures of peace, which has been exhibited in all parts of the Republic. And not only is there this general acquiescence in these measures, but the spirit of conciliation which has been manifested in regard to them in all parts of the country, has removed doubts and uncertainties in the minds of thousands of good men concerning the durability of our popular institutions, and given renewed assurances that our Liberty and our Union may subsist together for the benefit of this and all succeeding generations.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, December 2, 1851.

THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CARLISLE, THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 1851.

Meeting of the Democratic Standing Committee.

The members of the Democratic Standing Committee of Cumberland county, will meet at the public house of Charles Maglaughlin, in the Borough of Carlisle, on MONDAY, the 22d day of DECEMBER, 1851, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of making arrangements for appointing delegates to the Democratic State Convention, to be held at Harrisburg, on the 4th of March next, to appoint delegates to attend the National Convention, and to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner. A full attendance of the committee is earnestly desired.

THREE OF THE COMMITTEE.

December 4, 1851.

The following named gentlemen compose the Standing Committee of Cumberland county:

Upper Allen, D. K. Norvel; Lower Allen, Jacob Long; Carlisle, E. W., C. Maglaughlin; W. W., S. Wetzel; Dickinson, John Huston; E. Pennsborough, Jacob Longnecker; Frankford, J. Wallace; Hampden, R. G. Young; Hopewell, A. S. M'Kinney; Mifflin, T. C. Scoutler; Monroe, John Messinger; Mechanicsburg, D. Swiler; Newton, John Woodburn; Newville, S. P. Zeigler; New Cumberland, Adam Feaman; North Middleton, Jno. Wonderlich; S. Middleton, R. C. Sterrett; Shippensburg Bo., Jacob Hook; Shippensburg T., Hugh Craig; Westpennsborough, Capt. Dunlap; Silver Spring, J. Anderson; Southampton, H. B. Hoch.

☞We are indebted to the politeness of the Hon. Messrs. McLanahan and McNair, of the House, at Washington, for copies of the President's Message.

☞The great length of the President's Message necessarily excludes from our columns a large portion of miscellaneous and news matter. Next week, we will give our usual variety.

☞We were visited by another small snow storm, which commenced yesterday morning, but the snow melted almost as fast as it fell. It has, however, dampened the ground and rendered the atmosphere chilly and disagreeable. Those who are so anxious to participate in the fun and frolic of a merry sleigh ride, will have patiently to wait for the "good time coming."

HO! FOR THE HOLIDAYS!—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are now rapidly approaching, and the "little folks" evince a feverish anxiety to know what quantity and quality of holiday gifts the "old folks" may condescend to furnish them with. For the information of those wishing to purchase tasteful and appropriate holiday presents, we refer them to the advertisement, in another column, of Mr. Samuel Hannan, of West High street, who announces that he has on hand a complete assortment of all that the eye can fancy or the heart desire. Call and examine for yourselves.

SUPPER TO JUDGE WATTS.—The members of the Carlisle Bar, having tendered Judge WATTS the compliment of a supper, upon his retirement from the Bench, the Judge accepted the invitation, and the supper came off at the hotel of Maj. Patton, on Friday evening last. The supper, we are told, was got up in elegant style, and the entertainment passed off to the full satisfaction of the Bar.

NEW COUNTY.—Efforts are being made by citizens residing in Mercer and Crawford counties, for the erection of a new county, to be formed out of parts of each. Greenville is named as the county seat. The territory from which it is proposed to make the new county is fifteen miles wide by twenty six in length. Every winter a mania for the formation of new counties is exhibited, and much of the time of the Legislature at Harrisburg is taken up in discussing these idle projects. They generally originate with men who wish to subserve their own selfish interests or gratify their own petty ambition. The good or convenience of the public is not once thought of.

A young man, JOHN SHINN, an omnibus driver at Camden, N. J., was married a short time since to a young lady. A few days ago the bride came into possession of $80,000, during the brightest part of the honey-moon. It appears that this sum, which had been willed to the lady by her parents, was in litigation at the time of marriage, with a fair prospect of being secured by the opposing party.

TERRIBLE AFFRAY.—Three men were killed near Anderson, Miss., a few days since in a drunken fight. The parties were Joshua Dillingham, and John his son, Henderson and Martin Parchman. It seems that Henderson and John Dillingham were intoxicated, fell out and commenced fighting with knives, when Joshua Dillingham attempted to part them.—On seeing this, Martin P. shot him dead, blowing his brains out. Henderson P. and John D. was cut nine times, and though not dead, is not expected to live. Henderson P. was cut once in thigh, which proved mortal. The parties were addicted to drinking, and quarlesome when drunk. Martin Parchman has escaped.

4TH OF MARCH CONVENTION.—Northumberland county has appointed John B. Packer Senatorial and Philip Billmyer Representative delegate to the 4th of March Convention, with instructions to support Gen. CASS for President.

The Democratic Convention of Clearfield county met at Clearfield, on Tuesday last, and elected Col. George R. Barret, Representative, and Alonzo J. Wilcox, Esq., of Elk, Senatorial delegates, to the 4th of March Convention, and instructed them to support the nomination of Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN for the Presidency.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Message of the President of the United States reached us on Wednesday afternoon of last week, but at too late an hour for us to offer a single word of comment. It will be found entire in to-day's paper. It is a very long document, but remarkable for nothing except the abundance of fact it communicates, which makes it dull, although perhaps profitable reading. It is singularly barren of any exposition of *principles*, and in this respect has disappointed our Whig friends not a little. The only *points* about it, says the Reading *Gazette* of Saturday the 6th inst., in which the President "shows his hand," are the introductory paragraphs, relating to foreign affairs, and the concluding portion, upon the subject of the Compromise Measures. We commend these divisions of the Message to the especial attention of our readers, as the sentiments they embody are not those of the Whig party, but such as every true republican and friend of the Union will endorse.

For the convenience of those who are averse to reading long documents, we have prepared the following abstract of the Message, embracing the substance of its contents:

The President begins by congratulating the country upon peace abroad, and the subsiding of the slavery agitation, and general health and prosperity at home. Then he reviews the Cuba affair. Although those of the adventurers in that expedition who remain as prisoners in the hands of Spain have forfeited the protection of their country, the Government has spared no efforts, and will spare none, to procure their release. The expedition was the more criminal, because its motive, in many individuals, was cupidity. It is for Congress to consider whether further legislation is required to enable the administration more efficiently to repress such undertakings in future.

Our policy of neutrality and non-intervention is not borrowed from Europe, but is original. But, while it is our policy, we desire to see other nations observe it also; and *we cannot be indifferent to the case where a foreign power comes* in to stifle public sentiment, and repress freedom in any country.

The French and English fleets sent to protect Spanish authority in Cuba, were instructed to respect the flag of the United States. The mobbing of the Spanish Consul at New Orleans, the President regards with mortification and regret; he has directed inquiries respecting the pecuniary loss of the consul, with a view to propose to Congress to indemnify him. Our laws are deficient in providing for the protection or punishment of consuls, and a reform thereof is suggested.

The subject of reciprocal trade with British America, is noticed, without any decided expression as to the measure.

The Convention to settle the Portuguese claim has been ratified, and the first instalment under it paid; in the case of the Armstrong, pending with that government, the President of the French Republic has accepted the office of arbiter.

The Turkish Government has expressed its gratitude for the reception of Amin Bey in this country.

Governor Kossuth has expressed to the Department of State his grateful acknowledgements for the interposition of the United States, in behalf of himself and his associates. It is for Congress to consider in what manner these exiles, brought hither by its authority, shall be received and treated.

The existing policy of the Government toward the Sandwich Islands, will be continued; that policy is to preserve their independence and keep them from the control of any other great maratime State.

The disturbances in Mexico are regretted; the administration has acted in that regard as the obligations of treaties and neighborhood require. The Government will exert itself to bring about arrangements for the completion of the Tehuantepec railroad.

Until the troubles in Nicaragua are settled nothing can be done toward settling the questions pending with that country.

Peace has been concluded between the contending parties in St. Domingo.

The office of Commissioner to China is unfilled; the salary is but $6,000, and with no provisions for an outfit; and on that account it has been declined.

The funds available to the Treasury for the year ending June 30, 1851, were $58,917,524 36, and the expenditures $48,005,578 68. The imports were $215,725,995, including $4,967,901 in specie. The exports were $217,517,130, of which $178,546,555 were domestic products, $9,738,695 foreign products, and $29,231,880 specie. Since December 1, 1851, $7,501,456 56 have been paid on the public debt; that debt now amounts to $62,560,395 26, exclusive of that issued for Texas. The available funds for the present year will be $63,258,743 09, and the expenditures $42,592,299 19; of this $9,549,101 11 will be on account of the new territories; and it is estimated that on June 30, 1853, there will be a balance of $20,366,443 90 to pay off the debt then due and for other purposes.

Our Domestic Exports have increased $13,646,322 over the previous year; this is due, mainly to the high price of cotton during the first half of the year. The value of our exports of breadstuffs has fallen from $68,701,921, as it was in 1847, to $21,948,653; rice and tobacco have also fallen off $1,156,751. The great production of gold in California is exciting a spirit of speculation, which, if not checked, will produce excessive importations of dry goods.

The Texas stock has not been issued, though ready; the creditors of the State have not filed the necessary releases for the five millions accruing to them; nor has the State authorized any agent to receive the five millions accruing to it.

Frauds on the revenue by undervaluation still continue, and a striking illustration is referred to. The President recommends a modification of the present Tariff, by converting the ad valorem into a specific duty, wherever the article imported is of such a character as to permit it; and that such a discrimination should be made in favor of the industrial pursuits of our own country as to encourage home production without excluding foreign competition.

The sales of public lands have increased. Further legislation is necessary to extend our land system over California and Oregon.

It is recommended that the California mineral lands remain as now, a common field for industry and enterprise, rather than, by premature legislation, to fasten a bad system on the country.

The difficulties in organizing New Mexico and Utah are alluded to, and further communications promised when information has been received.

The formation of an Agricultural Bureau is again recommended.

A hundred thousand persons have availed themselves of the Bounty Land Law of September, 1850.

River and Harbor Improvement is anew earnestly recommended.

The Mexican Boundary Commission is doing well; its numbers have been reduced, as it was too unwieldy.

The Census returns have all been received except from California; it is hoped an appropriation will at once be made for their publication.

An increase of the Army is recommended, to keep in order the Indians on the Mexican frontier, in California and Oregon.

There is a deficiency in the army appropriations for last year. The Military Asylum is to be situated near Washington.

An extra allowance is recommended for the officers and men of the late Arctic Expedition; so is the reorganization of the naval establishment, and the provision of some punishment in place of the abolished cat; a Navy Yard is wanted at San Francisco. The estimated expenses of the Navy for the ensuing year are $5,856,472 19.

A summary of the state of the Post Office Department is presented; a continuance of the present rates of letter postage advised; as is a modification of those for newspapers and other printed matter which will render them more equal.

A revision and modification of the laws of the U. States is recommended.

The appointment of a commission to settle private claims against the government is anew advised.

Finally the President discusses the cases of resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law, and announces that he shall continue to enforce the same; he argues that the law is constitutionally binding, and that to assail it, is to assail the constitution itself and to menace the existence of the federation; the Compromise he again proclaims his adherence to; not as a measure free from human imperfections, but as the best possible preservative of the Union to be had under the circumstances.

THE MAGAZINES FOR JANUARY.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—The January number of the "Book" for 1852, has already been received. It is by far the best number Godey has ever issued, and if he continues to display the same taste (and he surely will—for let it be bore in mind, that Godey never retrogrades,) throughout the year, the volume which this number commences will far exceed any of the previous ones, both in point of the rarity of its contents and the magnificence of its engravings. The following are some of the embellishments of the present number: "*Providing for Winter*," a colored engraving; "*Emblematic Title-Page*," do; "*The Parables of our Lord*:—Christ delivering the parables—the wise and foolish virgins—the sowers—the widow's two mites—the Lord of the vineyard.—Five distinct engravings; "*The Happy Family*;" "*The Pet Bird*," also colored; "*Fashions for January*," &c.

Price for a single copy, one year $3; or Godey has made such arrangements with us, whereby we are enabled to furnish a copy of the "Lady's Book" and the "Volunteer" one year for $4, in advance.

"SARTAIN'S MAGAZINE" for January is certainly a model number. The engravings can scarcely be equalled. The reading matter is unexceptionable, and from the pens of the most celebrated writers, male and female. We are particularly struck with three of the tales, respectively entitled—"Love and Glory;" "Elizabeth Barton," and "The Reconcilement of the Real and the Ideal." SARTAIN is well deserving of the patronage of our fair country women.

Terms, payable in advance. One copy one year, $3 00. Two copies one year, $5 00.

"GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE."—The January number of this popular and superb Magazine is already on our table, and nobly sustains its ancient reputation. The present is a magnificent double number, filled with choice Engravings, Tales, and Poetry. It is now at the height of periodical popularity and excellence.—Terms, $3 00 per annum.

"PENNSYLVANIA FARM JOURNAL."—This Agricultural Journal continues to maintain its already high character. The December number, which is now before us, is one of the very best which has yet been issued. The able Address of the Hon. Andrew Stevenson, of Va., at the State Fair held at Harrisburg, is one of the many interesting articles which grace its pages. The low price of subscription, $1 00 per annum, should place it in the hands of every farmer in the State. Lancaster, Pa. S. S. Haldeman, Editor. A. M. Spangler, Publisher.

THE OUTRAGE UPON THE PROMETHEUS.—The Washington *Republic*, of Thursday last, says that as soon as the particulars of the outrage upon the Prometheus at Greytown were received at the Department, the President ordered a competent naval force to repair to San Juan, to protect American vessels from like outrages in the future; and also directed inquiries to be addressed to the British Government, to ascertain whether the conduct of the commander of the Express was sanctioned by it.

GOLD IN OREGON.—Oregon papers contain further accounts of the discovery of gold in large quantities in Queen Charlotte's Island. The gold is found on the surface of the ground near the beach, and is dug by the natives in great quantities, without anything like a pick or shovel, having nothing but such tools as they can make themselves; they manage to get from two to eight ounces per day to the hand.—They are very friendly to the whites, and are anxious to have them come and trade and dig with them. Queen Charlotte's Island is in the North Pacific Ocean, and can be reached in about seven days sail from Oregon City.

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.—Mr. Josiah Jones, died at his residence in Washington county, Fla., on the 21st ult. The deceased was born in North Carolina, in January, 1756, and was consequently in his 96th year. He served in the Revolutionary army in the capacity of drum major, and was under Washington in the campaign through New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He was among the prisoners taken at Charleston, but was eventually exchanged for, after a considerable detention on board the prison ship.

SUDDEN DEATHS.—The Rev. Valentine Balsbaugh, of South Hanover township, the oldest citizen of Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, died very suddenly on Wednesday of last week, and on Friday his wife was also a corpse. Rev. Mr. B. was a preacher of the German Baptist denomination for 46 years, and was 97 years of age. He had 11 children, 79 grand children, and 169 great grand children. His sister who survives, is in her 93d year.

HORRIBLE DEED OF A NURSE.—The Lancaster Pennsylvania *Whig*, states that an infant child of Mr. W. H. Miller, recently died in that place, in consequence of having been forced to swallow pins and needles by its nurse, a girl of fourteen years of age. The girl confessed the horrible crime, and stated her object to have been to render the child fretful, so that she would be relieved from the care of it.

EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—From statistics published in the American Almanac, we learn that there are in the United States two hundred and seventeen colleges and professional schools. Of this number, 120 are colleges proper, 43 theological, 17 law, and 37 medical schools. Out of the aggregate, Pennsylvania has 21, consisting of 8 colleges, 7 theological, 2 law and 4 medical schools. The number of volumes contained in the libraries of the colleges, exclusive of those of the professional schools, is, as far as estimated from imperfect returns, 871,800. Of the colleges enumerated, 13 are marked as being under the direction of the Baptists, 8 under control of the Episcopalians, 13 belong to the Methodists, and 11 to the Roman Catholic Church. As regards the remainder, the prevailing religious influence of those in the New England States is said to be Congregationalism, and that of most of the others Presbyterianism.

PACIFIC NAVAL NEWS.—The U. S. sloop of war St. Marys, Capt. Magruder, was at Tahiti on the 17th September, and would sail for home about the 23d, via Valparaiso. The U. S. storeship Southampton arrived at San Francisco on the 18th October, in thirty-nine days from Callao, from New York, via Rio Janerio, Montevideo, and Valparaiso. The U. S. frigate Raritan, bearing the broad pennant of Com. Charles S. McCauly, left Callao for Valparaiso on the 7th of last month, with the expectation of meeting the entire Pacific squadron.