THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CARLISLE, APRIL 28, 1853.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,

THOMAS H. FORSYTH,

OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL,

EPHRAIM BANKS,

OF MIFFLIN COUNTY.

FOR SURVEYOR GENERAL,

J. PORTER BRAWLEY.

OF CRAWFORD COUNTY.

Courts at Carlisle, for 1853.

SESSIONS AND OYER AND TERMINER.	ORPHAN'S.
Monday, August 22.	Tuesday, August 30.
Monday, November 14.	Tuesday, November 1.
	Tuesday, December 27.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.—At the Carlisle Barracks on Tuesday, the flag was displayed at half-mast, and minute guns fired morning and evening, (in accordance with orders from the War Department,) as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Vice President, WM. R. KING. In the forenoon of the same day, by order of our County Commissioners, the Court House bell was tolled, and in the evening minute guns were fired by our citizen Volunteers.

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE.—On Monday, the 13th of April, on motion of A. B. Sharpe, Esq, JAMES A. GREASON, Esq., was admitted to practice Law in the several Courts of Cumberland County.

ANOTHER FIRE.—On Friday evening last, about 7 o'clock, a fire broke out in the large stable attached to Hannan's hotel, (the property of Col. McFeely,) and in a short time the entire building was reduced to ashes. The adjoining buildings were in imminent danger, and at one time it was feared the flames could not be confined to the burning stable. Judge Graham's stable, and a half dozen of dwellings were only saved by the constant efforts of our firemen and citizens. Fortunately, the roofs of the houses were damp, from the rain a couple of hours previous, and the evening calm, or there is no telling how far the fire would have extended.

Our two efficient fire companies, the "Cumberland" and "Union," were promptly on the spot soon after the fire broke out, and worked like heroes.—They deserve the thanks of our citizens for their good conduct on this occasion.

Col. McFeely was not insured, and his loss is some $400 or $500. Mr. Hannan also sustains a considerable loss, in the way of hay, straw, oats, &c. No telling how the fire originated.

JUDGE GIBSON.—Judge Gibson is not dead as has been stated by some of our cotemporaries, but in sufficient health to be able to read the many pretty things they say of him in their obituary notices. Nor is he at his residence in Carlisle, as stated by them. He is, we learn, at the *United States Hotel*, in Philadelphia, and has quite recovered from his recent illness.

FATAL CASUALTY.—An insane woman who had escaped from the poor house was fatally injured on the rail road, near that point, on Thursday last. Seeing her on the track the engineer checked the train and she stepped to one side. After the train started again, however, she got on the track a second time and was struck by the cow-catcher of the locomotive. The injuries she received have since caused her death. No blame can attach to the engineer or condector of the train, as they used all precaution to prevent the accident.—*Herald.*

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—We learn by the *Democrat* of this day week, that on the Sunday a week previous, as Col. John Clendenin of Hogacstown, was returning home from church, accompanied by two of his sisters and another young lady, when near Kingstown, his horse took fright at some object, wheeled suddenly around, running the carriage off the pike on the summer road which was considerably lower, causing it to upset, by which accident, we are sorry to learn, one of the sisters had her leg broken in two places, while the other two ladies had their faces cut and were otherwise considerably injured. At present we believe they are all doing well.

Elizabeth Hall sued Wm. C. Fletcher, at the recent term of the Rutherford (Tenn.) Court, for a breach of marriage promise, laying the damages at $5,000. The jury rendered a verdict of $1,500.

The Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court, at St. Louis, have returned true bills against John Shawney, Jos. V. Dodge and John Holland, who murdered a Delaware Indian and squaw, and plundered their property last year, on the plains. The indictments are three in number, two of which are for murder, and one for robbery.

We regret to learn that Mr. C. REED, the father-in-law of Governor BIGLER, died at his residence, at Clearfield, in this State, on Thursday last.

THE SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—Dr. Kane, who has expressed great confidence that Sir John Franklin and his companions are still alive, will sail on another expedition in search of them about the 15th of May, in the brig Advance, furnished him by Mr. Grinnell, of New York. The whole expenses will be borne by individual contributions, Congress having failed to make any appropriation. The vessel is provisioned for a three years voyage, and every convenience provided for the comfort of the men at sea and on land. We wish them success in their humane undertaking, and a safe return to their homes.

THE WHEAT CROP IN PENNSYLVANIA.—Up to within ten days past, the wheat fields did not look over encouraging; but the late warm rains have had a most invigorating influence upon them.—Their spotted appearance has given way to one expanse of "living green," so that, the Germantown Telegraph thinks, to keep within reasonable bounds, the crop for the present season, gives promise of a full yield. The information from other quarters of the State, as well as from other States, where this crop is the most exclusively the staple one, is of the same cheering nature.

RELIEF NOTES.—A section was passed in the appropriation bill providing for the speedy cancellation of the relief notes. The greater portion of those notes has become so filthy and tattered that their cancellation was urgently demanded by every consideration of decency and comfort. The large number of counterfeits in circulation was also a strong reason for the withdrawal of the whole issue from circulation.

The President has directed appropriate honors to be paid at the naval and military stations, in testimony of respect for the deceased Vice President.—Salutes are to be fired morning, noon and evening.

CARLISLE GAS AND WATER COMPANY.

Now that a law has been passed, authorizing an incorporated company to introduce Gas and Water into Carlisle, it behooves the enterprising portion of her citizens to resolve that the work *shall be done.* Whilst all the rest of the world are progressing in the promotion of industry and the peaceful acquisition of wealth and comfort, as a necessary result, why should we fold our arms and stupidly submit to the dwindling away of the value of our property, and to all the consequences of a dull, lazy, sluggish population? Let it be remembered, as a self evident truth, that the increase of population, wealth and success, depends upon the increase of industry applied to the arts; and that every human being within the sphere of an active industrious mechanical population, is benefited directly or indirectly by the common prosperity. It is a self evident truth, too, that water is the main-spring by which all kinds of industry are applied—every branch of the mechanic art is dependent upon it—without it, either in the shape of steam, or immediate power, machinery can not move. Our population has slept the sleep of sluggishness so long, that we can not appreciate the value of an active population, either to ourselves, or the force of its example to our children.

The Legislature has given us a charter, which is not embarrassed by any of the clogs of modern legislation, but a clear right to do the proposed work for our own benefit. One of its provisions anticipates that the Borough, in its corporate capacity, shall aid in the enterprise, by a subscription of stock which shall be represented by Directors of its own choice; and another, that six per cent. per annum shall be paid on all contributions to stock from the day they are paid until the work is completed. This interest thus paid will be charged to cost of construction and ultimately form a part of the whole capital. Thus subscribers to the stock will be equalized, when their payments are made at different times; and if the work, when completed, will pay, there will be no loss of interest during the time it is being constructed.

We have said nothing of the provision made in the law for the introduction of Gas, because we consider that as a necessary concomitant—one of the first fruits of our improving condition; and if undertaken with the introduction of water, or even after that object shall have been accomplished, will cost much less than if it were undertaken as an independent work. When water pipes shall have been once sunk to the necessary depth, gas pipes may occupy the same trench in a space above and nearer the surface.

The Commissioners authorized by the law to take subscriptions of stock for this enterprise, we presume will soon meet, and every man who has a spark of enterprize, which is capable of expansion beyond the threshold of himself, will lend his aid and pledge his support to this effort. He will be influenced to this, not only by the certain prospect of a remunerating gain, but by the consideration that he is putting his hand to a work which is to benefit his fellow man in all future time, and that the work itself will be a monument erected to *the spirit of its contributors*, as well as a fund invested for their benefit. On this subject we have in our mind's eye the history of a like enterprize in a neighboring town, situate much like our own, but without the aid of water power or steam, its population of four thousand five hundred had fallen into a listless lethargy like that which we *enjoy.* Some spirit, moving with the age, suggested the introduction of water from a distance of three miles; and, by perseverance, the people of the town were actually *cheated*, by the cheapness of wooden pipes, to undertake the work: and it was accomplished by an incorporated company—the town aiding in the enterprize. It failed immediately to supply the increased demand for water—the wooden work lasted just long enough to afford a taste of its profit to the stockholders, and usefulness to the community—the capital of the company was increased—the rotted pipes were taken up and replaced with iron ones of greater capacity—a steam engine was added for the purpose of supplying a greater amount of water at certain times—their reservoirs were increased in size and their buildings perfected—and such was the effect, that in the short space of five years the population has grown to about seven thousand; manufacturing has increased to an incredible extent, and not a share of that stock can be purchased now at its par value. That town has no advantage whatever which we have not, and we have some which it has not. Let it be remembered that now our iron, our leather, our whiskey, our wool, are carried away from one to six hundred miles, manufactured into products for use, brought back, and sold to us at a profit; that our butter, eggs, poultry, meat, flour and grain are carried to a great distance to feed those who are manufacturing for us. Who pays the price of this unnatural expense? Why should not we furnish our own market to our own manufacturers, and be sellers instead of buyers? Let us think of these things, and learn to improve our condition. Let us all determine to make such subscription to this stock as our individual means will permit: and as to those whose souls can not expand beyond the narrow limits of their own caution, they may be reached in some measure, through the medium of a Borough corporate subscription.

THIEVES, COUNTERFEITERS, &c.—The Rev. E. Smith, of Mansfield, Ohio, makes some startling developements of an organized Brotherhood of thieves, which exists in that State, and has its auxiliary societies in every State in the Union. He says that its members are numerous and respectable, many of them occupying important stations; and having a wide influence, some are members of churches and church officers, and attend to the forms of religion, such as asking a blessing at the table, and attending to family worship. These statements were made in confidence, under circumstances calculated to leave little or no doubt of their truth.

☞ Lola Montez has appeared in a new light, as a "Printeress." A short time since she astonished the hands in the *Cincinnati Nonpareil* office, by going there and taking the "stick" and "rule" and setting up a communication she had written in reply to some assertion made by the editor of the *Sun.* The *Sandusky Register* says she astonished the "devils." It is not the first time she has done that.

CHURCH AND STATE.—One of the on-dits from Washington, as stated by a private correspondent, is that the clergy of that city "made a run" on the President the other day, (for what purpose is not stated,) and he told them in reply to their request, that he wished to keep Church and State affairs as far apart as possible. Right.

THE REVENUE SERVICE.—It is reported that five captains, three first, two second, and eighteen third lieutenants, have been dismissed from the Revenue Service. This leaves only sixty five officers for twelve revenue cutters.

WELCOME, SPRING!

Beautiful, flowry, laughing Spring, has opened her lap full of bright treasures, and the world of nature is revelling in her bounties. The green velvet grass is springing up, fresh from the moist earth, and bright flowers are blooming in the wood-lands. How the heart leaps to be abroad on these bright holidays of nature, revelling in the sweets of earth and the clear sunshine of Heaven! It is the season of rejoicing, when all go forth in the presence of God, cheerful and happy. Even the poor mendicant, as he trudges slowly on his dusty path, turns aside to pluck the humble violet that blooms upon the roadside, and forgets, in the joys of Spring, the long and desolate lot. Lovely, indeed, are thy bright flowers, O Spring! To the aged, they are as the waters of youth, and their breath is like the breathings of the infant upon the seared and furrowed cheek. To the middle-aged, they are the sweet remembrances that tell of the happy past. To the youth, they are the emblems of hope and of love, that open to our minds bright visions of the future, and scatter their riches around the pathway of our dreams. What so enchanting as a morning ramble in the country, long before the sun has wakened from his revels among the bright creations on the other side of our planet? But you must be astir betimes, for, although he may much admire our opposite neighbors, he never lingers behind Time—who, by-the-way, drives a fleet pair of winged nags, and has no sympathy for the sleeper. If you are too slothful, or too busy, (which is rarely the case,) to enjoy this luxury, open your window, and inhale the fresh breath of the morning; and as it plays with your loose hair, and fans with its invisible wings your fevered forehead, you will feel its soothing influence within your breast—even though its tenement be flinty—and a feeling of benevolence and contentment will steal over your spirit, like oil poured upon troubled waters.

To no one does the soft charm of Spring come with a surer welcome, than to the wearied, jaded, half-paid political editor. Even the news of a successful charter election does not possess for his troubled spirit the joys that come with the mild Spring.—But he cannot often enjoy it in its purity, and is obliged to take it second-handed, within the "wilderness of brick and mortar." Yet he is thankful for small favors, and whether they come in the form of subscriptions in advance, or bright fragrant boquets from the lap of Dame Nature, he philosophically gives thanks, and waits patiently for more.

Right hearty, then, shall be thy greeting, fair Spring; and, whether you come in smiles or in tears, thou art still welcome—welcome to play with our hair, aye with our lips, if thou hast upon thine the kisses of flowers.

SANTA ANNA.

In assuming the Presidency of Mexico, General Santa Anna gives the people some wholesome advice, as to the necessity of union and harmony for the safety of the Republic; but disorder has prevailed so long in that country, and the people are so much accustomed to outbreaks and revolutions, that we apprehend the President will find it impossible to produce a cordial and lasting co operation in the support of his Government.

The last time Santa Anna landed in Mexico, it was under the sanction of our Government—a passport through our fleet having been furnished him, in the expectation, or under the promise, that he would discontinue the war, and yield to us the possession of Texas to the Rio Grande, without further difficulty. But he immediately placed himself at the head of the Mxican army, and contested every inch of ground desperately, though unsuccessfully. He now returns with envenomed feelings against the United States, and may feel inclined to try the hazards of war once more against the "Northern Barbarians." We hope not; and shall be glad to find him disposed to remain quiet: for another war with Mexico would annihilate her nationality, and anhex her whole territory and mongrel population to the United States. For Mexico, the annexation would be the best event that could possibly occur; for her resources would be speedily developed by American enterprise: and new habits and ideas, and a more perfect comprehension of the blessings of liberty would be communicated to her people.

The Siamese Twins.

Chang and Eng have started on an exhibition through the United States, and were in N. York, on Saturday, on their way to Boston. They were exhibited very generally a dozen years ago, made a handsome fortune, and then settled as planters in North Carolina. They married sisters, and as the twins were bound together by indissoluble bonds, they became heads of a double household. In noticing the recent visit of Chang and Eng to the New York Herald establishment, that paper says:

They purchased a plantation of some five hundred acres in the native State of their better halves (North Carolina) where they have been since increasing and multiplying in family, men servants and maid servants, and all material wealth. They now possess an establishment of thirty slaves, and a family of eleven children, of whom six are referable to Chang and the other five to Eng.—They attended very industriously to the business of their plantation—kept the negroes to their work—were always ready and willing to turn their own hands to something useful, and would plow, and reap, and grind, and chop wood, and do all sorts of farm work. Then, when business was not urgent, they would devote their time to field sports, and were among the keenest hunters, fowlers and fishermen of their district. In fact, they lived as real country gentlemen, ready to drink a glass, or fight a round, as occasion required.

The Mesdames Chang and Eng seconded their lords right well in the management of the concern, and have remained behind to take charge of the household during the absence of their distinguished consorts. Madame Chang devotes her time to the general supervision of the slaves and the direction of the work to be performed on the plantation, while Madame Eng charges herself with the care of the young masters and misses, and keeps a school for their tuition and that of the negroes. We should not say all the children, for two of them accompany their sires in their tour, and will doubtless contribute much to the interest with which they will be regarded wherever they go.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.—The stamped envelopes contracted to be furnished the U. S. Government by Mr. G. F. Nesbitt, of New York, will be ready for delivery on the 1st of June next.

NEGRO STAMPEDE.—Twenty five negroes ran away from their masters in Boone county, Ky., on the night of the 2d inst. Among those who have lost their servants are two ministers of the gospel. The Aurora Banner says that some weeks before their departure, one of the slaves procured and read to his comrades "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and it is supposed that the beauties of Canadian freedom, as pictured by Mrs. Stowe, were the inducements to run away.

The determination of the inhabitants of Brooke and Ohio counties, in Virginia, to separate from that state and join Pennsylvania, if they can, is called "the revolt of the Panhandle," the territory being a narrow strip of land between the Pennsylvania line and the Ohio river, shaped like the handle of a pan.

☞ Mr. Brodhead, a brother of the Senator, and a resident of Pike county, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Inspector of Timber at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

DEATH OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.

In our last we published a brief telegraphic despatch, announcing the death of the Hon. WILLIAM R. KING, Vice President of the United States. This sad event happened on Tuesday of last week, at his plantation a few miles from Mobile, Alabama. Mr. King has long been in public life, having filled the position of U. S. Senator, from Alabama, for many years, with distinguished honor. He was a man of unquestioned talents, and was highly esteemed not only by his brother Senators, but by good men of all parties throughout the United States.

Mr. KING's health, for several months past, had been very delicate. At the advice of his physicians he visited the island of Cuba, with a hope that the change of climate might better his condition. But he continued to decline, until it became evident that his end was rapidly approaching. He returned home, not to fill the exaulted position to which he had been elevated by the American people—but to find a grave!

The Washington *Union* gives a biographical sketch of the deceased, which will be interesting to our readers:

Colonel King was born on the 9th of April, 1786, in Sampson county, North Carolina. After completing his education at the University of his native State, he became a student of law in the office of William Duffy, of Fayetteville. At the age of twenty, he was elected a representative of his native county in the Legislature of the State. At twenty-four, he was chosen a representative in Congress from the Wilmington district, and of the party which advocated and supported the war of 1812, he was a zealous and consistent member. In the spring of 1816, he resigned his seat in the House of Representatives, and accompanied William Pinckney, of Maryland, as secretary of legation, first to Naples and then to St. Petersburgh, to which courts Mr. Pinckney was sent as minister plenipotentiary. On his return to the United States, in the winter of 1818–'19, Mr. King fixed his residence in Dallas county, in the then Territory of Alabama. He was elected a member of the Convention to establish a State Government, and was appointed on the committee to frame a constitution. With the Hon. John W. Walker, he was elected one of the first two Senators who represented Alabama in the Congress of the United States. In 1826, in 1828, in 1834, and 1840, he was re-elected to the Senate. In 1844 he accepted the mission to France with the especial object of facilitating the annexation of Texas. He was remarkably successful in his mission, having by his skill and prudence entirely prevented the opposition of the French government to that measure. In 1848 he was made senator from Alabama, by appointment of the Governor, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. Arthur P. Bagby, sent minister to Russia. In 1849 he was elected by the Legislature for a full term of six years. In 1850, on the accession of Mr. Fillmore to the Presidency, he was unanimously chosen President of the Senate. By the Baltimore Convention of the 2d June, 1852, he was made the democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency, and was elected to that office by the people in the ensuing November. In the winter of 1851–'52, Col. King began to suffer from a pulmonary affection, which gradually grew so alarming in its symptoms that he was advised to seek alleviation in a tropical climate. Accordingly, in the month of February, he sought repose and relief in the island of Cuba; but discovering that his disease was fatal, he determined to die in his own land. His wasting strength barely survived the journey to his home in the country.—Scarcely had he crossed the threshhold of his house when he sank in the repose of death.

Colonel King was never married; but throughout life, as in the last struggle with death, he enjoyed the affectionate regard and kind ministrations of the most attached friends and relatives. He was of a nature to win the warmest regard of his personal friends, and to command the respect of all. Of sound judgement, magnanimous heart, intrepid courage, and the nicest sense of honor, he was the very model of a gentleman. Just in all his relations with the world, courteous and conciliatory in his manners, generous in his impulses, he lived a life of unusual length and responsibility, without incurring the blemish of a solitary reproach on his honor.—This country has produced no man whose character can better bear the severest scrutiny. As a statesman, his qualities were rather safe and solid than splendid and dazzling. Soundness of judgement, fertility of resource, a penetrating sagacity, an inflexible fidelity to principle, prudence and caution, gave him that weight in counsel and that control of others which the more brilliant, but less useful, intellect can never command. His public life was an uninterrupted series of successes. No man enjoyed in larger measure the confidence of those who were *capable of appreciating his worth*, as is attested by his repeated election to the presidency *pro tem.* of the Senate, and by the high esteem of every eminent statesman of every party in the country. When a man of such unsullied character, of such solid worth, and of such great influence with the country, falls in discharge of the high function of Vice President, the nation may well mourn its loss. Of genius, capacity, and experience in the public service, the country may feel no want; but where shall we find another in whom are united so much of integrity, honor, magnanimity, discretion, sagacity, courtesy, and sound ability as were blended in the character and illustrated in the career of WILLIAM RUFUS KING—the chivalrous gentleman and the spotless patriot.

Public Schools.

Names of scholars returned to Select School as the three best for quarter ending March, 1853:

No. 11. Joseph Z. Culver, John Keller, Wm. B. Butler.

No. 12. Fanny Gould, Ellen Goodyear, Rachel Worthington.

No. 13. Fanny L. Porter, Julia Sheaffer, Martha E. Fleming.

No. 14. Daniel M. Mateer, Henry D. Heiser, Van Buren Eby.

J. HAMILTON, *Sec'y.*

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a special meeting of the Union Fire Company, held April 20th 1853, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted, to wit:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God in the dispensation of his allwise Providence to take from our midst THEADORE J. STURM, an active member of our Company. And while we bow with submission to the God which has laid Him low, we can but regret his early death, therefore be it.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the relatives of the deceased in this their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That the Apparatus of the Company be shrouded in mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That we attend the funeral of the deceased in a body.

Resolved, That the above Preamble and Resolutions be published, and a copy of them sent to the relatives.

T. D. MAHON,
Sect. pro tem.

☞ There is now a regular auction of choice breeds of poultry, every Saturday, in Philadelphia. At the last sale Cochin Chinas sold at $13 per pair; Shanghais, $11.50 and Pheasant Bantams, $6.50.

☞ Russell Jarvis, Esq., a gentleman of extraordinary talents, who for some years edited the Philadelphia Ledger, died at New York on last Sunday morning.

☞ Thomas Swann, Esq, has resigned the Presidency of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

MORE FRAUDS!

The examination of witnesses before the committee of the U. S. Senate, to inquire into abuses, bribery and fraud said to have been practiced to the injury of the government by the contractors for the California light-houses and the Capitol enlargement, has brought to light and exposed to the world a stupendous and premeditated system of peculation, fraud and villainy—and almost equals in atrocity the famous Galphin and Gardiner swindles. It will be seen by the testimony of Mr. M'Ginnis—a gentleman of veracity, well known to the citizens of Carlisle and vicinity—that Mr. Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury under the Fillmore administration, was privy too, and interested in these base swindling transactions. When high officers of Government are to be found engaged in concocting and maturing plans for robbing the Treasury of the public monies, it casts a stigma and disgrace upon our country, and should be punished with unrelenting rigor.—No wonder the people at the last election, in a voice approaching unanimity, hurled Federalism from power—a power they had used for the purpose of enriching themselves at the expense of the public Treasury. The Fillmore administration will be remembered only because of its imbecility, corruption, and profligacy. From the very hour of its dawn to the hour of its demise, the object uppermost in the minds of those who composed that administration was robbery and fraud—and in this object, unfortunately for the country, they succeeded but too well.

But, we have no time to dwell. Below we give the testimony of two witnesses before the Investigating Committee, of which Gen. Houston of Texas, is chairman. We would that we could publish the testimony of the other witnesses, but our space will not allow. Suffice it to say, they all agree in one thing, viz:—that the Government has been swindled out of many thousands of dollars, at the instance of those who were considered to be her guardians:

TESTIMONY OF JOHN M'GINNIS, ESQ.

[It will be recollected that this is the witness who refused to testify until his refusal was brought to the notice of the Senate, when he appeared and gave his testimony.]

Witness had been a clerk in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, in a subordinate position; subsequently chief clerk, from November 1, 1839, to March 31, 1851. He was then assigned to a *quasi* bureau or desk in the department, to which was confided the business pertaining to the light-houses and marine hospitals on the Pacific coast. Early in April, 1851, soon after this change, he waited on Mr. Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury, and after representing, for reasons stated by him, his desire to retire from the department if he could make $8,000 or $10,000, stated that if he could secure a contract for the construction of the light-houses in California and Oregon, he believed he could erect the same for the appropriations and realize a considerable profit, and agreed to unite a partner with him in the enterprise, of his own or Mr. Corwin's selection. No definite answer was then given by the Secretary.—After a second interview, the Secretary sent for witness, and recommended a Mr. Delano, of New York, for a partner. Delano called on witness and suggested a third partner, to wit: Mr. Robert G. Corwin, (a relative of the Secretary,) who should have an interest of $2,000 or $3,000, to which witness assented. There was still some hesitation on the part of the Secretary in giving the contract to wit ness; but finally it was agreed to, with the understanding that witness would resign his position in the department.

The contract was signed by witness on the 28th December, 1851, and, by agreement between him and Mr. Delano upon the claim and solicitations of the latter, hesitatingly assented to by witness, the interest of Robert G. Corwin was made equal to that of M'Ginnis and Mr. Delano. This was before the signing and execution of the contract.

No bond or security was required from witness at the time of the contract, nor was there any public advertisement for proposals. Pending negotiations for the contract, witness was called upon by the Secretary for a report as to the law respecting such contracts, and the practice of the department.—From this report it appears the law required such advertisement; but the practice had not always been consistent with it, the exceptions being in the case of contracts smaller than that for the California and Oregon light houses, and for those of an anamalous character. The work was to be of brick or stone, and to be completed within one year from November, 1852. The amount allowed under the contract was the sum appropriated for seven light houses in California, equal to $105,000; and $31,000 for the light house at Cape Disappointment, in Oregon, taken from the gross appropriation of about $53,000 for three light houses in Oregon, because it was supposed the appropriation would be inadequate for Oregon—$136,000 in all. The impressions of the witness, as indicated in his testimony, were that the Secretary knew of his intention to sell the contract. Soon after its execution, witness invited offers, and received proposals from various persons to do the work for sums ranging from $105,000 to $277,000. The witness thinks that these offers were known to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary, and that he had conversations with them on the subject, as the Secretary was becoming impatient under the belief that the work would not be executed under the contract. Two separate offers, each of $105,000, were accepted by witness, but both of the persons failed to comply. In consequence of dissatisfaction expressed about the giving of the contract to witness and the fears entertained by California people that the work would not be executed by the contractor, the Secretary became impatient, and in April, 1852, gave notice to the witness that he abrogated his contract, but allowed him the privilege to find somebody to take it off his hands—the witness representing that he had a prospect of so doing. In this he succeeded: Francis A. Gibbons and Francis S. Kelly, of Baltimore assumed the contract, agreeing to take it on the same terms, and to pay witness $15,000 for it. Mr. Delano was a party to that agreement. Mr. Robert G. Corwin's interest remained as before. The negotiations with Gibbons & Kelly were conducted by Delano, and he represented witness in the matter. A contract was made by Gibbons & Kelly with the Assistant Secretary substantially corresponding with that of witness.—Gibbons & Kelly are now going on with the contract; he thinks that they got it in May, 1852.

The $15,000 was paid about two or three weeks ago, (from 14th August—that is from 25th to last of July, 1852.) It was paid to Delano, one of the interested parties, by an order from Gibbons & Kelly on the appropriation then in the Treasury, and witness received his share, ($5,000,) but does not know whether Robert G. Corwin, the other party interested, received his portion from Delano.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM KEBBY, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Witness knows of many abuses, and proceeds to state them. Contracts were entered into by the architect, setting forth the quantity, quality, and size of stone required. Hundreds of perches have been received and used in the building which are not conformable to the contract, nor suitable for the work; and large quantities of such unsuitable materials are now on the ground. It would require an expenditure of $1 per foot, in many instances, to render the shapeless and refuse masses which have been received fit for use. Great quantities of small, refuse stone have been used with cement, instead of the stone required by the contract, thus greatly increasing the expense.

In consequence of the use of bad stone, the architect was obliged to procure large quantities of granite at a probable cost of $15 per perch; and work that could have been put up at $4 50 per perch, (if the stone at the contract price, $2 25 per perch had been furnished,) has cost from $10 to $15 per perch. Witness has no hesitation in saying the work has cost more than double what it ought to have cost.—He remonstrated with the architect against the use of such stone, but he seemed to be under the control of Mr. Strong, the superintendent. None of the bricks seen by witness, and which have been laid and are now being delivered, correspond with the sample which was to govern the contract. The superintendent, in consequence of this inferiority of quality, has made the grain arches two bricks in depth instead of one; thus doubling the expense to the injury of the building; and, this, no doubt, to work in and cover up the inferior brick for the benefit of his friends the contractors. Witness brought this to the notice of the architect.

'What can I do?' he replied; 'Strong the superintendent, will receive them;' and when remonstrances as to abuses, or in regard to the waste of the materials, (one of which witness specified,) of non-compliance or evasion of contract, were made to the superintendent, loud and grave complaints were made by him that he was interfered with in his work.

A *private* contract has recently been made by the architect with Provest, Winter, & Co., for cutting and setting the marble work for the exterior, at prices said to be about $100,000 above what others would have done it for. Witness considers the private contract in violation of the law of 1809. The superintendent called on witness and denounced this contract in no measured terms; and declared that if such a contract had been made, $50,000 must have been paid for it.

Strong, the superintendent, called on witness and proposed to him to join him in a contract to do all the brick work on the exterior of the Capitol for $5 per thousand; saying to the witness, "we" could get the contract at that price, and that the architect said he (Strong) might as well have $6 per thousand, as the bricks cost much more than those on the Patent Office. Strong offered witness $10,000 for his (witness's) part, if witness would unite with him and the contract could be obtained, witness not to appear in the transaction; but witness declined having anything to do in the matter. The contract price for similar brick work on the New Orleans custom house is $3 75 per thousand; and here where labor is 30 per cent. cheaper $6 per thousand is offered, being about $55,000 more for the quantity of bricks required (20,000,000) than the rates paid at New Orleans.

Correspondence of the Volunteer.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1853.

MR. EDITOR:—The return of Gen. Santa Anna to Mexico, is more than likely to be the means of embroiling the U. States in another war with that misguided and unfortunately misgoverned country. Although our duty is peace towards our neighboring republic, the contemptible creature of a man the Mexicans have called to preside over the destinies of their country, for a season, has already in his first letter of acceptance, in his usual bombastic style, given the U. States government an open insult; yet, we desire that forbearance be manifested towards that people by our Congress, and we hope, as Santa Anna has been whipped and kicked all over Mexico, to say nothing of his *being freed* by the hero of San Jacinto that his late open insulting language will not be noticed by our government. That we will have trouble with him, there can be no question, and, from what we know of his character, no confidence can be placed in any promise of pacific intentions on his part to our government. He will require close watching.

Somewhat in connection with the Mexican question, is the difficult and unsettled question, touching the position our government holds towards the Central American States, growing out of the action of the late Whig administration, in forming with the British Government a kind of partnership with them of equal forbearance in occupying territory, but which, the British Government does not seem to pay much respect to in its provision of the Clayton Bulwer treaty.

We rejoice to know that the Hon. JOHN BORLAND of Arkansa, has been selected by President Pierce as Minister Envoy to the States of Central America. We may congratulate the President in this judicious selection. Senator BORLAND is a man that shrinks from no duty, however arduous to perform; and, when he assumes his duty in his new vocation, there need be no fear but a favorable termination of all questions in which the States are concerned with this government, will be settled to the mutual interest of both parties, and without any aid of British interference. Senator Borland is hard to beat in a fair field, and should there be any necessity for a different course of action, we all know him to be of the pure stripe, that never takes an insult without returning the *quid pro quo*, and that too with compound interest. Upon the whole, his selection by the President is a guarantee that full justice will be done towards a settlement of the present difficulties with the Central States.

Last week there were a few removals made in the Pension and 6th Auditors offices, also in a few others. I have the pleasure to inform you, and it is a great pleasure, truly, that Dr. Frally of the Land Office has been created there the Chief Clerk, by Secretary M'Clelland, and that Secretary Guthrie has appointed Major O'Bannon Chief Clerk to the 4th Auditor. Both of these appointments reflect credit on the discrimination of the appointing power.

One of the Clerks removed said that "General Pierce should be taken out and whipped, for presuming to run for the Presidency against so distinguished a man as Gen. Scott." This was *before* the election. Now mark the sequel. On the 2d November last, late at night, when the returns were coming in, like the handle on Paddy's jug, "all on one side," this same immanecculate Clerk who was for dealing so rashly with General Pierce, was one of the first to condemn Gen. Scott, by proclaiming "that no wonder he was defeated, he was a mere military leader, and no statesman." Thus you see, Mr. Editor, how persons act from circumstances and results. I have heard that there will be some more changes this week, but where it will fall, it is impossible to say at present, although there is room for improvement in more places than one that I can point to at this time.

The revenue service has been very materially curtailed by the dismissal (by Secretary Guthrie,) of a goodly number of useless officers. This will be a great saving to the public revenue.

We have appalling news from the Pacific, in the destruction of the steamer Independence, by fire and shipwreck. It is said there are at least 150 lives lost by this sad disaster. The particulars have not yet come to hand, but enough is known to create the most melancholy forboding to surviving friends in the States.

The office of Solicitor of the Treasury is still an open question. Judge Le Grand has not yet accepted the position.

TIMOTHY.

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.

Burning of the Steamship Independence!—one hundred and forty lives lost!—A terrific scene!!

NEW ORLEANS, April 23—The steamship United States arrived here to day, with California dates to the 1st inst. She left Aspinwall on the 18th inst.—By this arrival we have a sad confirmation of the fears that existed for the safety of the steamship Independence. That ill-fated boat on the 16th of February was accidentally run ashore on the shoals off Margaretta Island, off the coast of Lower California. After striking the ship was backed off, but Captain Sampson, finding that there was eight feet of water in the hold, ordered the pilot to run her on the beach. This was accomplished and she lay grounded about three hundred yards from shore.—While in this situation the intense heat of the furnaces set fire to the surrounding wood work, and, spreading in every direction, rendered the entire destruction of the vessel inevitable. A terrific scene of consternation ensued among the five hundred passengers on board. A heavy surf was running at the time, and the boats were all swamped in making the first trip to shore, and many perished who had embarked in them, while others managed to reach the beach in safety. To add to the horrors of the scene on board the fire reached the powder magazine, the contents of which exploded with terrible force, shattering the stern of the vessel and scattering the fragments in every direction. Many of the passengers were blown into the sea by the explosion, and others, leaping in perished by the strong current sweeping them away from the shore. It was only the stoutest and most expert swimmers that were able to reach the shore in that manner. Those that landed were doomed to remain passive spectators of hundreds of men, women and children perishing by fire and flood, without being able to afford the slightest assistance.

The ship finally swung round broadside to the beach, and the coal taking fire, completed the entire destruction of the hull.

The passengers saved, found themselves on an uninhabited island without water, where they remained, enduring the most intense suffering for fifty-six hours. Finally, by the firing of a cannon, they were enabled to attract the attention of the whaling vessels lying in Magdalena Bay, a few miles distant, who came to their assistance with provisions and finally took off all the survivors.

The steamship California left San Francisco on the 1st of April, for Panama, with $2,932,000 in gold. Of this amount $800,000 is consigned to Page Bacon & Co., and $530,000 to Messrs. Adams & Co.