AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.

CARLISLE, PA., APRIL 26, 1855.

☞ Messrs. Wherry, Criswell, and Donaldson, of the State Legislature, have placed us under renewed obligations, for their attention in sending us legislative documents.

SALE OF MR. BONHAM'S LIBRARY.—On Saturday next, the extensive and valuable Library of the late J. ELLIS BONHAM, Esq., will be exposed to public sale, by his Administrator.—This Library contains a great number of very valuable law, political, historical, biographical and miscellaneous books, all of which will be sold without reserve.

SHADE TREES.—We notice that our Borough fathers are having shade trees planted around all the public squares. This is right. Trees in a town not only look beautiful, but are said to be conducive to health.

IN COURT on Thursday last, on motion of A. B. Sharp, Esq., WILLIAM W. SHULER, Esq., was admitted to practice law in the several courts of this county. Mr. S., we learn, passed a very satisfactory and creditable examination, previous to his admission.

CHARMING WEATHER.—We have had delightful weather, for the last week or more. The late copious rains, followed by warm suns, have brought forward the grain, grass, and vegetation generally, to an almost astonishing growth. The fruit trees are putting forth their blossoms, and the mountains are clothing themselves in green foliage, presenting an appearance almost enchanting. All nature appears to smile, and sweet perfumes fill the air. From present appearance, the fruit crop will be abundant, and the grain and grass harvest will be an average yield. How thankful should we all feel to an all-wise Providence for the blessings we enjoy?

☞ The beautiful Astronomical Phenomenon of the occultation, or eclipse, of Venus, by the Moon, was witnessed on Wednesday evening. These heavenly bodies were, immediately after dark, observed to be slowly approaching each other, and at 15 minutes after 8 o'clock, Venus was totally obscured by the Moon. Both planets had sunk below the horizon, before the star of love emerged from her eclipse.

LEATHER INSPECTOR APPOINTED AT LAST.—Gov. POLLOCK has appointed HENRY DAVIS of Philadelphia, Leather Inspector, in place of Thomas Hayes. This office had been promised to a Mr. ROSENSTEEL of Perry county, but the Governor, it is said, is in the habit of forgetting his promises, and Perry county, notwithstanding the vote she gave POLLOCK, gets nothing. We believe this Congressional district has not received a single appointment—not even a clerkship—from the administration. Can't his Excellency at least give us a few "Aids to the Governor?" Do, good Mr. POLLOCK.

☞ The Legislature has not yet fixed a day for final adjournment. The Senate passed a resolution to adjourn on the 17th inst., which the House amended by substituting the 24th; but no further action was had upon it, and consequently it amounts to nothing. We now learn from Harrisburg that there is no likelihood of an adjournment until the middle of May. If this is the case, perhaps our K. N. Delegates will take another recess, at the State's expense—as they have done several times before—to afford them time to go home and put in the spring crops.

JOHNSTON vs. DARSIE.—The Chambersburg *Whig* has information that Gov. Johnston has signified his willingness to accept the K. N. nomination for State Senator in the Allegheny district at the next election, and that the nomination will be conceded to him. On the other side, it is understood that George Darsie, present member, will be supported by a fusion of the old line Whigs and Democrats. This will make an interesting and exciting contest.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

At a Court of Common Pleas, held in Carlisle, commencing on Monday, the 16th inst., before Hon. James H. Graham, Pres. Judge, and John Rupp and Samuel Woodburn, Esqrs., Associates, the following cases were disposed of:

Richard Craighead vs. Jos. Trego & Wife. This was a feigned issue to try the validity of the will of Thos. Crighead, dec'd. Defendants alleged, that deceased was incapable of making a will, on account of weakness of mind at the time of making it, and that it was not his will, but that the Pltff., Richard, his son, had made or caused to be made a will to suit himself, and not his father. A number of persons were called, who testified to his competency, and others to his incompetency to make a will. The Jury found a verdict for Pltff. Watts and Parker for Pltff.: Miller and Hepburn for Deft.

Chas. Barnitz vs. G. Z. Bretz. This was an action of Replevin, brought to recover a Drug Store, by Charles Barnitz vs. G. Z. Bretz. It appeared from the evidence, that Chas. Barnitz purchased a Drug Store, some time since, at public sale. Bretz alleged that Barnitz had not complied with the conditions of the sale. Barnitz alleged that Bretz had not given him an opportunity to comply with the conditions. Verdict for deft. Watts and Parker for Pltff.; Miller and Biddle for deft.

Jacob Sheaffer vs. Twp. of S. Mid. This action was brought by Jacob Sheaffer, to recover damages for the value of a mare, which had fallen and broken her shoulder, which he was driving over a public road in South Middleton Township. It appeared from the evidence, that the road at that place was in a very bad condition, and that the Supervisors had neglected to repair it. Verdict for Pltff. $100.66 damages. Penrose and Sharp for Pltff; Henderson and Ritner for Dft.

Wm. Bishop vs. Mary Moore, Garnishee of David Grier. This was an action brought to recover money of David Grier's in the hands of Mary Moore. Verdict for Pltff. Watts and Sharp for Pltff; Hepburn and Todd for Deft.

Chas. Ogilby vs. S. Hepburn. This was an action of deft. upon a "Book account" for goods sold to James Gaullagher, by Chas. Ogilby, upon the credit of Samuel Hepburn, Esq., Gaullagher alleging that he was an agent for Samuel Hepburn, Esq. Defendant denied "General Agency," and Pltff. failing in proving General Agency, took a non suit. Watts and Parker for Pltff.; Miller and Williamson for Deft.

Samuel Gibler vs. Saml. M'Cullough. This was an action brought to recover the price of a threshing machine, which Pltff. sold Defendant. Deft. alledged that the machine was worthless, and returned it to Pltff. and refused to pay for it on that account. Verdict for Pltff, $20 damages. Biddle and Penrose for Pltff.; Miller and Sharp for deft.

"AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMY."

The Pierce administration—although its political policy has been repudiated by nearly every State in the Union—seems determined to involve the country in a war with Spain—*Carlisle Herald.*

The old Federal cry over again! Within less than a month two American vessels have been fired into by the Spaniards, and an American citizen has been tried and executed without the usual form of law, and that too in the teeth of a strong protest by the American Consul. President PIERCE, faithful in the performance of his duties, has ordered two steam frigates to Havana, as a gentle hint to the Spanish authorities that the government of the United States is determined to protect our citizens and the flag of our country from additional insult and outrage. The repeated insolence of Spain makes it imperative that our government should have a few war steamers in readiness for any emergency. And it is because the President has pursued this wise and prudent course, and is determined to vindicate the rights of our country, at all hazards, that induces our neighbor to make the false assertion that the administration "seems determined to involve the country in a war with Spain." As we said in the commencement of this article, this is the old Federal cry over again. Let the United States get into any difficulty with a foreign power, and our word for it the organs of defunct Whiggery will attempt to hold up our government to ridicule. Such was the course of Federalism during the struggle of 1812—such their course during the prosecution of the war against Mexico. Then it was that Federal or Whig editors, aided and abetted, as they were, by the Corwins, *et id omne genus* of the land, prayed that our brave troops in Mexico might meet with "*inhospitable graves.*" It is not to be expected then, that Federal editors will pursue a different course to that heretofore pursued by them when our country was in a controversy with a foreign State. Most of these editors are now members of Know-Nothing lodges, and profess to be very *pure* "Americans," but let a war break out between this country and Spain, and they will soon show the white feather.—Their "Americanism" will not stand the test then, nor will their hypocritical professions prevent them from affording "aid and comfort" to the enemy, as has been their habit during all former wars.

☞ The Nunnery Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature have been placed in an uneuviable situation by the developement of the investigation concerning their disgraceful proceedings. It turns out that they gave an entertainment after their Roxbury visit, at which they had Champagne wine, the whole bill being paid by the State, thus making the latter a party to the breach of its own laws against the *sale of intoxicating liquors!* It was also shown that Mr. Joseph Hiss, the member of the committe, whose disgusting attempts at familiarity with two of the ladies of the Roxbury school, admit of no excuse or palliation. During one of its previous visits to Lowell on a like errand, he had a female companion stopping at the hotel with the committee, whose bill was included in the general bill of expenses paid by the State. Her name was registered as "Mrs. Patterson." A pretty set of fellows these are indeed, to act as censors of the alleged moral and religious delinquencies of Catholics. The Philadelphia *Ledger* truly remarks: "The whole conduct of the committee was such that, if they had behaved in the same scandalous manner in any gentleman's residence, would have induced the occupant to have expedited their departure with an application of the toe of his boot. As the building contained only ladies, the committee escaped the punishment their indecency deserved, but the press are very properly holding them to account, and the committee seem to sit very uneasily under the investigation."

The Legislative Committee appointed to inquire into the doings of the Roxbury Nunnery Inquisition, made a lengthy report to the House on Tuesday, in which they censure the Visiting Committee, but recommend no definite action in the matter. The Report was accepted.

The Committee on the specific charges against Joseph Hiss, member of the Visiting Committee, at Lowell, have not yet reported.

HIGH PRICES.—The New York Courier, after inquiries respecting the present supply and quantity to come forward of agricultural products, hazards the opinion that prices have reached their highest, and the next movement will be a retrograde one although present prices may be maintained two or three weeks.—The Courier bases its opinion on the fact that there are one million, five hundred thousand barrels of flour to come forward before harvest from the Western States and the Canadas, which are awaiting the opening of the canals in that State. Fifty thousand bushels of potatoes are on their way to New York market from Nova Scotia, under the Reciprocity law. The crop of potatoes in Nova Scotia last year was very large. Free trade has, within a few weeks, opened this market to consumers, and the chances are that a liberal supply will come forward, under the present high prices. We hope for the benefit of consumers, that these predictions may be realized. The high prices of food affect many kinds of business injuriously, as it takes nearly all the money the laboring population can earn to find themselves in food, which they cannot do without.

THREE MILL TAX.—The Senate, on Friday, says the Harrisburg *Patriot*, passed an act repealing the three mill tax, paid by the Pennsylvania Railroad on coal and lumber. This is an omious measure, the end of which is not yet. If the act becomes a law, (and we are inclined to think it will) it will deprive the Commonwealth of considerable revenue, besides rendering the State works less productive. What is lost to the people, however, is gained by a corporation, or rather, by some of the officers of the company, and a few of their adjuncts.—This is the entering wedge to the entire repeal of the tonnage tax, and the sacrifice of the Public Works. The next act, we presume, will be a repeal of the Constitution.

TENURE OF CHURCH PROPERTY.—The bill relative to the tenure of Church property in this State, has passed the Senate. The seventh section—against which the Roman Catholics have remonstrated—places all property hereafter bequeathed to any bishop, or other person for the use of any church, congregation or religious society, under the control and disposition of the lay members.

AN EX-GOVERNOR TURNED MAYOR.—The Hon. Alexander Ramsey, Ex-Governor of Minnesota has been elected Mayor of the city of St. Paul, in that territory.

NOW AND THEN.

In the summer and fall of 1852, says the *Richmond Enquirer*, the Whig presses and Whig orators were earnestly invoking the support of the American people for Winfield Scott for President of the United States. Some ten years since, during the existence of the original Native American party, Gen. Scott had written a letter, expressing his approbation of the then suggested change in the naturalization laws, extending the term of residence prior to naturalization from five to twenty-one years.—Those sentiments, however, he was compelled to recant—and in his recantation he went a bow-shot beyond the suggestions of any politician of whom we have any knowledge. In a letter written either shortly before, or immediately after, his nomination for the Presidency, he expressed an entire change of opinion upon the subject of the Naturalization laws, and advocated their amendment—not to extend the term of years, but to authorize the full investment, with all the rights of citizenship, of every alien who had served one, or, at farthest, two years in the American army or navy, during which term of service it was, of course, quite possible that he might not have been, for any length of time, in the inhabited portions of the United States. His proposition was to offer citizenship as a bounty to encourage the enlistment of unnaturalized foreigners in the army and navy of the United States. In view of this crude statesmanship, the support of the foreign voters of this country was colicited for him; and Gen. Scott himself so far forgot the dignity of his position as to undertake an electioneering tour through the West, eulogizing in public speeches "the rich Irish brogue" and the "sweet German accent," and vindicating the foreign from invidious comparison with the native element of his victorious Mexican army.

Now, the earnest and enthusiastic advocates of Gen. Scott are the high-priests of Know-Nothingism, and affect to regard, with a holy horror, the alarming increase and dangerous proclivities of the foreign population. *Now*, our adopted citizens, even after naturalization, are not esteemed worthy to defend the honor of the American flag, either upon sea or upon land, and no man who drew his first breath beneath a foreign sky is worthy to receive the privileges of American citizenship until he has remained among us the full period of 21 years.

Again, Gen. Pierce was the Democratic opponent of Gen. Scott, and hailed from the *State of New Hampshire.*

Our Whig friends soon discovered that the Constitution of New Hampshire contained a clause excluding Roman Catholics from office—and though it appeared that Gen. Pierce had exerted his influence to effect an amendment of the Constitution in this particular, still his residence in a State so much behind the enlightened spirit of the age, was urged with eloquence and earnestness as a sufficient reason to exclude him from high federal honors. The Catholic population of the United States were appealed to by every sentiment of self-respect, to put under the ban of their opposition the son of so intolerant a State. From Maine to Louisiana the Whig press stood forth as the *par excellence* advocates of entire and unrestrained religious freedom, and the jealous enemies of all religious intolerance. So strong was the outside public sentiment it created, that, if we recollect aright, the first Legislature which met in New Hampshire, after the canvass of 1852, took steps to erase from its Constitution the obnoxious restriction, and as soon as practicable the erasure was accomplished.

Some members of Gen. Scott's family had professed the Roman Catholic faith; and, at least, one of his daughters had taken the veil. These considerations were urged with great power, as justly commending the Whig party to the confidence and support of the Catholic population of America.

Now, the party which then stood forth so zealous in its defiance of religious toleration, is merged in a secret organization, whose members are bound by secret oaths to act upon the very principle they professed to regard so heterodox them,—and now the faith of some members of his family, the very consideration upon which they recommended Gen. Scott to the American people two years since, would be a just reason for excluding him from full communion in their secret conclaves. Such is history.

WHAT IS A TON WEIGHT?—The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania recently decided, that according to the laws of this State, a ton weight consisted of 2000 lbs., and that a greater number of pounds could not be legally exacted in purchasing a ton of coal, notwithstanding the custom of giving 2,240 in one part of the State, and 2,268 in another. The United States District Court has decided in a suit in admiralty, that the legal weight of a ton of coal is 2,240 lbs., and that the coal dealers have no more right to give less, than grocers would have to give less than sixteen ounces to the pound. As the Constitution of the United States gives to Congress the power to "fix the standard of weights and measures," we suppose that the act of 1834, passed by the Assembly of Pennsylvania, must yield to the higher authority, and all the laws of this State prescribing the size of the yard measure, the cubic contents of a bushel and of a gallon, are null and void where they differ from the United States standard. If this be the case, the Sealer of Weights and Measures and other analogous offices in the Commonwealth, are entirely useless and illegal. The State laws will doubtless be made to conform to the United States laws in those points where they now differ. The importance of having but one standard will be perceived from the suits at law to which various standards give rise.

☞ The pews of the new Methodist Episcopal Church, (Rev. A. Cookman's) at Pittsburg, were sold on Monday week for $22,000; one assessed at $600, brought $770!

The *poor*, we suspect, will not "have the gospel preached to them" in that church, as has always heretofore been emphatically the case under the Methodist Ministry.

BAD PLACE FOR DOCTORS.—The Grand Jury of Orange county, Fla., in their general presentment, made at the late term of their court, mentioned the fact, that out of a population of four hundred in the county, there has not been a single death in twelve months.

GONE OUT.—The "Daily American Times," a K. N. paper started in New York a month ago, has given up the ghost.

☞ It is reported that Messrs Corcoran and Riggs, of Washington, have paid over to the government about $100,000, attacked in their hands as being part of the money fraudulently obtained under the Gardiner claim.

A Know-Nothing Committee.

The following sketch of a K. N. Committee is by one of their organs, the New York *Herald*:

BURGLARIOUS PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.—The whole evidence has been published and it now stands confessed to the world that a committee of the Legislature of Massachusetts have violated the highest laws of the land by forcing their way into a private seminary at Roxbury, and trampled under foot the rules of decency by insulting the harmless, defenceless females whom they found there. The Legislature had no right to appoint a committee to enter any private dwelling house, whether used as a school or for any other purpose. Such an act was beyond their powers; and if the owner of the seminary they entered had shot them dead on the threshold, the law would have held him harmless. There was no danger of anything of the kind, the house being occupied by ladies, and the committee proceeded on their task fearlessly.

Having entered the building, they proceeded to acts of blackguardism and indecency, which the worst mob could hardly have exceeded.—Some scattered and searched the private rooms of the institution, leaving but one linen closet, which happened to be locked, unsearched.—Others followed the Superior, questioning her in a rude, indelicate manner, and behaving as they might have done had the building been an asylum for penitents instead of a private school. One brute forced himself into a bedroom where a poor sick girl lay in bed, and approached her so closely that "she felt his breath on her face." Another actually placed his hands on the person of a female teacher.—Several of the party thrust themselves into the chapel, and by their rude, irreverent language, frightened away a lady who was in prayer at the time. And the men who did these things are members of the Massachusetts Legislature!

So far as these individuals themselves are concerned, the bare statement of their conduct is more crushing than any epithets, however severe, or however merited. But the American party has a duty to perform, which cannot be neglected. The Massachusetts Know-Nothings must purge themselves of the society of such men as these. The members of the order in other States can have no communion with individuals who break into houses, or insult defenceless females; and if the K. N's. in the Bay State do not cleanse their ranks by expelling such agents of defilement, the order will cut itself adrift from the councils of Massachusetts.

Coming Down on Them.

The Philadelphia North American, which a year ago assisted to place in power the know-nothing council of that city, now comes down on them in the following severe terms:

"The great body of our freeholders, on whom the burden of supporting the government chiefly falls, are justly alarmed at the improvidence which has characterized the appropriations and expenditures of the public money. The credit of the city had already suffered from this cause in the decline of its securities in the market.—The recent application to the State legislature for authority to negotiate a temporary loan of half a million of dollars has increased the public anxiety, and the effect was exhibited on Saturday by a still further fall in the value of the bonds of the corporation. Yet, in the face of such injudicious and extravagant legislation as has marked the course of councils during the past year, what do we find? So far as we can judge from the action yet taken in the matter, it appears that a majority of the present members will be returned, and that, in many cases, men scarcely more fit will succeed those who are to go out. If this thing be tolerated, what may we expect?

"Will not the treasury be bankrupted by a wasteful, if not a corrupt, squandering of the people's money? Will not taxation become onerous and oppressive beyond endurance?—Will not all the interests of the citizens be injured to a fatal extent, and general discontent, disorder, and licentiousness prevail in our civil affairs? Is there no remedy for this fearful tendency of things? Will the people suffer it to go on without a struggle to arrest it? Will not the citizens who have individually a large stake in our municipal welfare—the men of property, the men of business, the men of intelligence, virtue, and public spirit—arouse themselves in this extraordinary emergency, and resolve, by a united and vigorous movement, independent of all party distinctions, to put down the baneful influences which are evidently ruling politically the local fortunes of the community, and purify and elevate and strengthen the city legislature putting aside the unworthy candidates who are aspiring to places in it for selfish ends, and electing representatives fit to be intrusted with the public interests? A reform movement is imperatively needed, and we hope to see it speedily begun, and carried out."

ANOTHER K. N. DESERTER.—The following card, says the Allentown *Democrat*, is from one of the first and most prominent members of the Know-Nothing Order in that town.—Some rich disclosures are in store, which will come to light in due time:

TO MY FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC.—Deeming it an act of justice to myself as well as other right-thinking men, who within the past year, were inveigled into the Secret Order of S. S. B., commonly called Know-Nothings, through the belief that a change in the management of old parties was necessary, I take this public mode of renouncing all connection or association with with this secret, oath-bound band, and desire all to understand that I wish no longer to be recognized as a member. If to eradicate the corruption of the old parties was an object of this association, most signally has it failed of that purpose, for with whatever of experience I have had as a politician, I am free to confess I never knew so much festering corruption in any political association as has characterized this midnighlight order. For the present, I shall take pleasure in revealing to any of my friends who may be axious to know them, the reasons which prompted the course I have adopted.

E. J. ABELE.

Saturday, April 14, 1855.

Our Relations with Spain.

The Baltimore Republican says:

"Every day seems but to complete our relations with the Spanish government. Her officials at Cuba are hurrying on the hour when an open rupture must take place, and the question be tried whether France and England are to uphold these insults upon our flag and these outrages upon our honor. The National Intelligencer, true to its foreign instincts, stands up unreservedly in defence of General Concha and his tyranny. It justifies the butchery of Pinto and Estrampes, as it did that of the gallant Crittenden and his friends, and would, doubtless, the seizure of our vessels and their condemnation for daring to sail in sight of this gem of the Spanish Crown. But while the Intelligencer thus upholds any and every foreign government in opposition to that to which it professes allegiance, the people of the country are sound and patriotic, and need but the word of encouragement or command to precipitate themselves upon these tyrants and murderers, and hold them to a strict account for every outrage and every drop of American blood spilt by them in their efforts to put down the spirit of liberty.

"Let these minions of a corrupt and imbecile despotism proceed one step further—let but a shot be fired into an American vessel, and the blood of one American tar be shed—and it will be the signal for an avalanche upon the shores of Cuba, before which the hired soldiery of old Spain, and the mongrel regiments of Captain-General Concha, will be scattered like chaff before the whirlwind.

"Never, while the Union of these United States continues, can we see another negro despotism erected within sight of our shores, or permit our flag to be daily insulted by the petty officials of any Crown."

One Week Later from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE NASHVILLE.

The peace Conference—Succession of Sanguinary Conflicts between the French and Russians—Reported Battle—3000 Killed and Wounded.

NEW YORK, April 22, 1855.

The Steamship Nashville arrived at noon today, bringing dates from Liverpool and London to the 7th inst.

On the second day from New York, on the outward passage of the Nashville, Mrs. Ross Riley, one of the passengers, suddenly disappeared, and it was supposed she had thrown herself overboard.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The Vienna Conference having adjourned till the 9th, to await the Russian ultimatum, and the arrival of the French and Turkish Ministers of Foreign Affairs at Vienna, there is no news from that point.

The consideration of the third point would be the first subject before the Conference; Public opinion seems to be about equally divided as to what will be the final result.

FROM THE CRIMEA.

There has been a succession of sanguinary conflicts between the French and Russians before Sebastopol, for the possession of the Rifle ambuscade pits, with varying success, but much loss.

The latest reported battle occurred on the night of the 23d, and in which 3000 men were killed and wounded.

Gen. Canrobert states in his despatches that in the affairs of March 22d and 23d, the Russians lost 2000, and the allies 500.

SEIGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

Continued fighting for Possession of the Rifle Pits—Great Sacrifice of Life.

Since the date of previous advices the has been a series of fierce sorties and assaults, between the Russians and French, for possession of the rifle ambuscades in front of the French position and under the Malakoff tower. These rifle pits, which have led to so considerable a sacrifice of life, are placed in front and to the right and left of the tower, and about 600 yards from the allied works. They are merely excavations in the ground, faced round with sand bags and banked with earth, loop holed for rifles. They are six in number, and each contain ten men—60 in all. Gen. Bosquet considers in a point of honor to take and hold, or destroy these ambuscades. He has several times, by night assaults, driven out the Russians, but as these pits are covered by the fire of the city batteries, the French have hitherto found it impossible either to destroy or hold them. The importance of this position to both besiegers and besieged is very great.

The Malakoff-round tower is regarded as the key of the defences, and hence the energy of the Russians in strengthening it. Considerably in advance of the tower is the elevated mound, or hill, now called the "Mamelon," on which the besieged are erecting a battery of great strength. A little farther in advance is an eminence recently seized so skillfully by the Russians, and fortified with ear works: it is now crowned by a square redoubt, with 16 guns visible on its three outward sides, but they have not yet opened fire.

Outside of these defences are the rifle pits.—The Russian batteries at Inkerman, their forts on the other side of the Tchernaya and the works of Malakoff cover this redoubt, and converge on the approaches in front of it. This explanation will convey an idea of the strength of the position which the French nightly contest. Dates of the encounters as follows:

During the night of March 14th, their was a fierce affair. The Russians had advanced some riflemen in front of the French lines, who caused considerable annoyance. When night fell a demi brigade of French went down and drove them out. All the city batteries along the front immediately opened and continued a furious cannonade for half an hour, during which a stronger force of the enemy advanced on the French and compelled them to retire, with a loss of 64 men: the Russian loss being probably more severe. The Russians re occupied the pits.

On the night of the 15th, the French renewed the attack and succeeded, with comparatively little loss, in driving out the enemy's riflemen, and occupying the pits with their own. The French continued to hold those on the right, under a heavy fire, over the 16th and 17th March.

Night of the 17th, yet another encounter took place. At half-past six o'clock in the evening, the French, who had retired before the fire from the batteries, marched down to re occupy the ambuscades, but found the Russians had anticipated them. A fierce conflict immediately commenced, but it was evident the Russians were in strong force, and the French again and again borne back by the weight of fire.

For four hours and a half they persevered in their attempts, and all that time a continuous roll of musketry rang out, broken only by brief pauses in the advance. In these lulls the British could distinctly hear the voices of the French officers cheering on their men—'*En avant, mes enfans!*' '*En agant, Zouaves!*'—and the tramp of feet and the rush of men, follow!' then a roll of musketry was heard, diminishing in volume to rapid file fighting.—Then a Russian cheer—then more musketry—a few dropping shots, and the voices of the officers once more.

The Zouaves bore the brunt of the fight, and the action was somewhat peculiar, as artillery took no part in it. The British 2d, 3d, 4th and light divisions were told off for action, and the entire British camp remained under arms until the French desisted from their attack; but as the gallant French make it a point of honor to take those pits without aid, no assistance was offered. The French were 5000 strong, and they state their loss at 150 killed and wounded, besides a few prisoners.

On the 18th, a reinforcement of 15 000 men entered Sebastopol. None of the Russian batteries fired a shot to day. The Russians continue to throw up defences from the ravines of Inkerman to the sea-side south of the Belbek. To-day another body of Russians, apparently about 15,000 strong was observed to march towards Mackenzie's farm, and were reported to have crossed the Tchernayo and advanced upon Baidan.

At four P. M., of the 18th, Gen. Canrobert, with a small escort, passed down the Woronsow road, by the British right attack, and carefully examined 'the pits.' At nightfall, a strong force of French, with six field-pieces was moved down on the left of their extreme right, and another unsuccessful attempt was made to take the pits from the Russians.

After some hours heavy firing of artillery and small arms, both parties withdrew. Three unsuccessful attacks were made by the French ere morning. Their loss was about 180. The British batteries, on the 18th, continued to throw shot and shell into the mamelon or new redoubt.

The Russians succeeded in holding the pits, and are engaged in constructing a formidable work on the mamelon, although frequently interrupted by the French and English batteries.

The French persevere in working forward.—Reinforcements were reported to be on their way from Russia, and the 9th Russian division had reached the vicinity of Eupatoria. The Russian position on the Tchernnya remained unaltered, Prince Gortschakoff had arrrived at Baksehi Serai, and had taken command of the army. Prince Menschikoff it was reported, had died on his way to Moscow.

SERIOUS ENGAGEMENT BEFORE THE MALAKOFF TOWER.

A telegraph from Paris mentions that a despatch has been received from Gen. Canrobert, dated March 29th, giving an account of a sortie made by the Russians, on the night of the 23d March. He states that the Russians were driven back with a loss of no fewer than 2000 killed and wounded, the allied loss being 600.

THE LATEST.

Gen. Weddell's return as Prussian Envoy to Paris has been countermanded, and Col. Olberg, attache of Prussia, has also been recalled, indicating that the negotiations are closed.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

BREADSTUFFS.—The circular of Brown, Shipley & Co., quotes Breadstuffs as generally without changes: Western Canal Flour, old 42s; new 39s; Ohio 45s. White Wheat, 12s 6d; red do 11s 3d. White and Yellow Corn 43s; mixed 42s 6d.

PROVISIONS.—The Provision market is generally unchanged, prices are somewhat stiffer, but not quotably higher. Lard has advanced 1s.

HORRIBLE POISONING CASE.

LOVE AND CRIME.

Wife Poisoning her Husband—Guilt Confessed.

Mrs. Regan, at Piqua, Ohio, has been arrested upon the charge of murdering her husband, which crime, it is said, she has confessed. The Dayton Journal of the 12th gives the full particulars of the affair, as elicited in the preliminary investigation, some of which will be read with interest by our readers. The Journal thus described the parties:

"Mrs. Elizabeth Regan, who stands charged with the murder of her husband by the administration of poison, is the daughter of Martin Cunningham, an old and esteemed citizen of Colesville, Miami county. She is apparently about twenty-two years of age, medium height, has blue eyes and brown hair, and may be pronounced a good looking woman. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was always considered by those who knew her to be a good Christian, a kind and affectionate wife, and an exemplary member of society. But, in the face of all this, she committed one of the most cold-blooded murders ever recorded in the annals of crime. Her husband is said to have been an honest, temperate and industrious mechanic, always providing well for his family, and never so happy as when administering to the comforts of her he so dearly loved, but from whom he received the basest ingratitude in return.

"James D. Mowry, also a citizen of Colesville, was arrested soon after the commission of the murder, upon the charge above stated. He is a man of property, has a wife and three children, and has always borne a good name. He is about thirty-five years of age, five feet ten inches in height, and as ill-favored a man as one would see in a day's journey. Mowry has been a member of the Methodist Church, in good standing, for many years. Upon the conclusion of the testimony on Monday evening, Mowry seemed in good spirits, and most of those who heard it were convinced of his innocence, and deeply sympathized with him. But on Tuesday morning, after hearing the testimony of Mrs. Regan, the public mind underwent a great change; the sympathies of a great majority were enlisted in behalf of Mrs. Regan, and nearly every one seemed fully convinced of the guilt of Mowry."

Mrs. Regan made a full confession of her guilt, the chief cause of which was her passion for Mowry. The latter had, for a long time, been importuning her to murder her husband. Some four months ago she wrote him the following letter on the subject:

"PIQUA, December 7, 1854.

"*Dear Jimmy*:—Once again I am seated to write a few lines to you. I said I would not write any more, but you know I can't refrain from it, and as I have been living in a perfect hell—if you will allow me the expression, it is a hard one, but nevertheless true—and I have been tormented day and night since I came home. He saw me kiss you, and that was enough. Oh, how I have had to suffer for it! I did not think he saw me, he was watching me. I am so near beside myself I hardly know what I am doing. He says I shall not go home any more, and he says he will not get me any more clothes, and then I can't go as much as I have. Now, I can't stand this any longer, and I appeal to you for help. I have thought of one more plan; I am going to make one more proposition to you, and if you will do it I will grant you the request you have so long asked of me, as soon as you do what I want you to do, or before, if you will only do as I want you. Now, it is this: You make a proposition to him to go with you to look at some new country—to Oregon, or Wisconsin, or some other place—and name the period right off; and if he says he has not the means, you tell him you will furnish him the means if he will go for company; then I will persuade him to go, and then you can go on horseback or in the cars, and you can take your two horses and go the rest of the way—that is, till you get a good ways from here—and you can procure your poison and administer it in oysters, and he will never know the difference; you can eat your oysters on the road, or you can give them to some farm-house; they will never know the difference, and you can pretend to take it hard to think that you have to turn back. When you can accomplish what I have told you, then you can telegraph to me that he is dead; I will tell the Templars and have them make up $30, and send to you to bear his expenses. If you will come up as soon as you get this, I will tell you all about it, and then I will grant you the request. Come up right away, I can tell you better. Now, dear, do come; you know I love you; you are well aware of it. I will write no more till I see you. Come up right away. My ink is pale.

"Yours, in life and death."

"From yours, or one that loves you."

This plan not being adopted by Mowry, she administered the poison herself. In the course of her confession she says:

"I procured arsenic at the drug store in Tippecanoe on Friday; came home on Saturday, and administered it to my husband the next Thursday; it was at dark. I told Dr. Brownell he took it himself; I repented of the act, and wanted the doctor to save his life; I have known nothing at all since his death, until the day before yesterday; I told Dr. Brownell not to say anything of it to Regan; I gave him only part of what I had; he came home at half past ten in the evening, sick; I gave him no more till Monday morning, when I found he was out of danger; I thought the matter all over, and concluded I would give him another dose; I knew Mowry was urging me to do it; if it were not for this same James Mowry I should not now be in the fix I am; his words set heavily on my mind; I was wrought on to the highest pitch; that was the last I gave him.

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"R. C. Davis was in the room on Monday when I gave him the last dose of poison. I gave it in chicken broth. I sent for this last poison by Mrs. Kelly's son; had previously sent a little girl for it, with a note signed with a fictitious name, but she could not get it. Told Mrs. Kelley that I wanted it for rats. Gave my husband no powder in a glass, but with a spoon, when James Templer was in. It was a powder the doctor had left."

HISS, THE LIBERTINE.—Mr. Joseph Hiss was born in Baltimore, and some newspaper writers are congratulating themselves with the idea that in stating this fact, they remove a disgrace from Massachusetts. But this is a grave error. There is nothing shameful to the city of Baltimore in the accident of his birth there. There are hundreds just like him in the purlieus of every great city. But Baltimore never took him up, and set him before the world as a fitting *Representative* of the modesty, the worth, the intellect, and the refinement, of the city. It was Boston which did all this, and upon his Boston constituents must rest the disgrace. Neither did an organization of eighty thousand voters of Maryland select him as the person with whose reputation they would identify the honor of their order, by choosing him as their fittest man for "State Marshal of the Supreme order of the Star Spangled Banner." It was in *Massachusetts* that this singular taste was exhibited, and Massachusetts must pay the penalty by enduring the reproach. It is not just or reasonable to attempt to divide it with a State, which, so far as we know, spewed him out years ago.—*Salem* (Mass.) *Gaz.*

EFFECT OF THE PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW. The proprietor of a first class grocery in Broadway, New York, states that the demand for wines and spirits for family use, since the prohibitory liquor law was passed, is unprecedented. Persons who formerly bought a gallon at a time, now purchase twenty or thirty gallons, with a view, probably, to storing an ample supply before the law goes into effect.

[*Correspondence of the Public Ledger.*]

Letter from Harrisburg—The Maine Line Bill—The Tonnage Tax, &c.

HARRISBURG, April 21, 1855.

The bill for the sale of the Maine Line of the Public Works passed the House of Representatives yesterday, without any material alteration, except that the minimum price was increased to eight and a half millions of dollars. The bill requires the association bidding for this work to be composed of at least thirteen individuals, who are required to deposit $100,000 with the Governor, in cash or State bonds, before he is authorized to entertain their proposal. The sliding scale of prices, before noticed, was retained as part of the bill, by the operation of which the highest bidders will be allowed the longest credit, so that if the work sells for ten and a half millions, the purchaser will have nothing but the interest on the purchase money, at five per cent., to pay until after the expiration of twenty years, when the principal is made payable in ten equal annual instalments. The security required by the State for the payment of the principal is to be the bonds of the purchasers, which shall be a lien upon the works, and State stocks to the amount of one-fourth of the purchase money, deposited in the State Treasury. So that the company purchasing these works at the minimum price fixed in the bill will have to be possessed of an available capital of $1,225,000, one million one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars of which will be required to be deposited as security in the shape of State stocks, and the remaining $100,000 placed in the Governor's hands. But the sliding scale of prices makes it more advantageous for a company to bid high, in order to obtain an extended credit, although it requires a larger cash capital in possession to make the necessary deposit of State stock. Now suppose a company should bid the highest sum named in the bill, ($10,500,000) they would require an immediate capital of $2,725,000, and for this amount could take possession of the works and use them for a period of twenty years, without giving the State any further security than their bonds as a lien upon the works. At the end of twenty years they might find that the line could not be made profitable, or, from some other consideration, might conclude that it would be more profitable to forfeit the bond and security and permit the State to repossess herself of what was left of the improvements. Might not this happen, and would not this bill so operate as to lease the Main Line for a period of twenty years for the sum of $2,725,000?

The bill to repeal the tonnage tax on coal and lumber, which has already passed the Senate, was discussed in the House yesterday, but no vote taken upon it. The question is complicated with the sale of the Public works, and the supposed effect it would have upon the price which the Pennsylvania Railroad Company would be disposed to give for them, in case this tax is not removed. As an independent question, disconnected from all other considerations, the taxation on these articles would in all probability be removed, as the State desires no revenue from this source, and the tax amounts to a prohibition. But the desire not to remove any inducements for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to purchase the Main Line, will have a powerful influence in causing the defeat of this bill.

A Good Law.

The following act introduced into the Legislature, will doubtless become a law. It ought to be made general. Hope at all events, that Cumberland county will be included:

An Act for the preservation of insectivorous birds, and for the protection of fruit and fruit trees in the county of Chester.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same: That no person shall wilfully kill or destroy any insectivorous bird in the county of Chester, except game, crows, blackbirds, or birds of prey, nor enter upon any enclosed lands for the purpose of hunting with dogs, guns or otherwise, without consent of the owner or occupier thereof, under a penalty of five dollars with costs of suit for each and every offence, to be sued for and recovered before any magistrate, one half for the use of the Commonwealth and one half for the use of the common schools of the district.

SECTION 2. That the wrongful taking and carrying away of fruit, vegetables, plants, fruit or ornamental trees, vines or shrubs in the county aforesaid, whether attached to the soil or not, shall be deemed and the same is hereby declared a misdemeanor and punishable as such in any amount, not exceeding double the value of the property so taken and no less than one dollar, the penalty to be recovered with costs of suit and be disposed of as provided for in the preceding section.

SECTION 3. That any person or persons who shall wilfu