THE COLUMBIA SPY.

"Here shall the Press, the People's rights maintain—Unaw'd by influence—unbrib'd by gain."

Columbia, Pa., Saturday, December 7, 1850.

☞Mr. C. M. Clewell is authorized to receive subscriptions for this paper.

☞The "Past and the Present" will appear in our next.

☞The President's Message and the report of the reception of the Susquehanna Engine, occupy so much room, that we have necessarily been obliged to infringe upon our editorial columns.

Congress and the President's Message.

The second session of the thirty-first Congress commenced at Washington on Monday last. After organizing, the President's Message—an abstract of which will be found in our paper—was received and read. Being the first message from Mr. Fillmore, it was looked for with great anxiety. It is a creditable paper, and meets with general approval. There is one feature in it that all must admire—its brevity;—a feature that will induce many to read it who would not do so if it occupied twelve or fourteen ordinary columns. Nothing of importance has been transacted in either branch of Congress. Rev. Mr. Butler was elected Chaplain of the Senate, and Rev. Mr. Gurley Chaplain of the House. Mr. Benton, on Wednesday last, gave notice of several bills—among which was one for the construction of a railroad from St. Louis to San Francisco.

By our next issue Congress will have got rightly under way, when we will be able to give condensed, though correct, reports of the proceedings.

Jenny Lind in Baltimore.

The distinguished "Queen of Song," as most of our readers already know, will give concerts in Baltimore next week. As this will probably be the last opportunity our citizens will have to hear the sweet warbler, the facilities afforded by the Baltimore & Susquehanna Railroad Company will no doubt be embraced by hundreds. The Company proposes to issue tickets, for the round trip, including a ticket of admission to either of the concerts, at the following rates:

From Harrisburg to Baltimore and back,			$7,50
"	Lancaster	do.	do. 6,50
"	Columbia	do.	do. 6,25
"	Wrightsville	do.	do. 6,00
"	York	do.	do. 5,50

Purchasers of tickets from Harrisburg and Lancaster can come by any of the trains of the Harrisburg and Lancaster Railroad to Columbia, and thence by any of the company's trains to Baltimore. The arrangements are perfect, so that purchasers need have no fear of being disappointed.

Destructive Tornado.

One of the most destructive tornadoes passed over the town of Cape Girardeau, below St. Louis, on Saturday last, that has ever been experienced in the Mississippi valley. It completely demolished seventy or eighty of the finest buildings in the place—among them the Catholic and Baptist churches—and the loss of life is so great that it is impossible to estimate it. Many were buried among the ruins, while others were so crippled that they never can recover. It is said that the town has been "literally torn to pieces" and presents a most pitiable aspect.

Dreadful.

A lunatic asylum situate about a mile from Augusta, Maine, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning last, and from six to twelve insane persons perished in the flames. The fire was occasioned by a defect in the chimney, and was not discovered until it was too late to save the building. There were about one hundred and fifty inmates confined at the time—many of whom barely escaped.

☞At the recent elections in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, the following number of votes were polled: New York, 328,118; Pennsylvania, (for Canal Commissioner,) 278,651; Ohio, 265,118. If the vote may be taken as a true index of the population, then New York comes first, Pennsylvania next, and Ohio head—in the rear.

☞The editor of the *Middletown Empirium* is informed that it is too late for us to visit Middletown for any of the *fun*. About the contagion of wealth: we have not yet experienced the disease—more than likely never shall, as we always happen to escape epidemics.

☞The York Gas Company has declared a dividend of three per cent. for the last six months. When will we be able to make a similar announcement for the Columbia Gas Company—that is to be?

☞A resolution was offered at a meeting of York Division S. of T., held last week, that one thousand dollars be subscribed by the Division towards the establishment of a Reading Room and Library in the borough of York. It has not yet been acted upon.

☞A "guinea gold watch" was stolen from the office of the *Star of the North*, at Bloomsburg, Pa., on the night of the 26th ult. Who ever heard of a *guinea* gold watch in a printing office? Might have supposed it would be stolen.

☞The *St. Louis Union* says, that since the return of Col. Benton from Washington, and the delivery of his speech, the belief is gaining ground that he will be re-elected to the United States Senate.

☞Baltimore city employs one hundred and seventy-four night watch, and sixty-six day police, making an aggregate of two hundred and forty persons—at a cost, as we notice by a recent report, of $92,862 50.

☞The steamboat Antoinette Douglass burst her boilers on the Alabama river on the 29th ultimo. Thirty lives and about seven hundred bales of cotton were destroyed. The scene is described as having been most distressing.

☞The marshal found a colored woman in Middle Paxton township, Dauphin county, who is one hundred and eleven years old. We believe the "oldest inhabitant" discovered in the taking of the census is a colored person.

Town and County Matters.

Reception of the Susquehanna Engine.—This new engine arrived here on Saturday last, by the noon train of cars, in charge of Messrs Chas. Grove and G. W. Hinkle, a committee appointed by the company for the purpose of bringing it from Philadelphia. According to previous arrangement, immediately on its arrival a procession was formed—the Columbia on the right, the Vigilant on the left, and the Susquehanna in the centre—the whole under command of Col. Daniel Herr, Chief Marshal, and S. F. Lockard, E. K. Boice and James S. McMahon, Aids. After passing through part of the route, the procession halted at the corner of Front and Walnut streets, where Col. Herr introduced Dr. N. B. Wolfe, who, on behalf of the Columbia Fire Company, delivered the following reception address, which was received with much applause:

Sir and Gentlemen—I have the honor to represent the senior company in the fire department of this borough, which has been organized more than half a century; and have been directed to give you a cordial welcome into our ranks as firemen, and to extend to you, through your speaker, the right hand of fellowship as citizens.

I know I but reiterate the sentiments of our company, when I congratulate you, gentlemen, upon the success which has attended your enterprise in procuring your new apparatus. It is truly an object of admiration, reflecting great credit upon your taste; and worthy of the proud name it bears, hallowed as it is by a thousand associations. I congratulate ourselves and the citizens generally upon this accession to our home protective department; for we feel confident, from the energy of character evinced by you, in getting your machine, that we have secured a powerful co-operative ally in subduing destruction's wild career, when the day and the hour of calamity come exulting in their desolation. It is a source of heart-felt satisfaction to our citizens, to see so many of the young, active, and enterprising men of our borough associated for the common object—the common weal. The liberality of their donations, given to complete our organization, and to render our exertions efficient in the hour of need, assures us that our motives are properly appreciated, and our labors win the *smiles of their approbation*.

It is but a few years ago, (fires being less frequent then than now,) that we had but *one* engine *in our town, which was considered* quite sufficient for any emergency that might arise. That engine is now manned by those who looked *upon it then, more as an instrument of curiosity* and folly, than an article of service and utility; and its appearance upon our streets attracted a multitude of spectators around it, who

> Feared to touch or meddle with it,
> Lest Old Nickey Ben be in it,

and he was a knowing one indeed who could explain its *modus operandi*, or give the "whys" and the "wherefores" of its hidden chambers.

But there has been a revolution of sentiment in the minds of our people, and a marked change has come over the spirit of our dreams. *Excelsior* being the talisman of the age, to stand still would be to recede, when the tide of time is progressive. We are not behind the times in any particular. We have now in our borough *four* engines, which will compare favorably with any similar number in the interior of the commonwealth: our population has quintupled itself since then: our energies have been incited to action: our enterprise has extended the limits of a village to the area of a city boundary: the resources of a rich and fertile country around us have become partially developed: the earth has yielded up its hidden treasures; and its yellow dirt has made wealthy our citizens; and our business has increased in a corresponding ratio.

Compare, for a moment, Columbia as it is in 1850, with Columbia as it was in 1825. Then we had no outlet for our wealth, but that noble river there which sparkles in the sunlight, whose sloping banks were covered with a perrennial verdure, and studded with the fragrant walnut, the variegated sycamore, the bending willow, and the juicy maple. Upon its placid bosom was borne to our shores the wealth of the upland valles, whose channels it drained; whilst the unwieldy keel-boat received our marketable produce and descended to the bright waters of the sparkling Chesapeake. The frowning heights of the weather-beaten crags upon Chiques and Stricklers, *were rock-ribbed limits beyond which* our enterprise extended not. The cart, the pack-horse, and the "old Pitt team," (with its merry chime of bells,) were our only means of *transportation. The mail-boy blew his horn,* and the stageman cracked his whip to give advertisement of their arrival. The surface of our valley was yet unbroken by the contractor's spade; railroads were unknown to our citizens; canals were utopian; steam was a chimera; and to have intimated the probable existence at this day of an electric-telegraph, as it does exist; men here to-day, and within the sound of my voice, would have voted the luckless wight a straight jacket, and a gratuitous passport to a lunatic asylum.

But the inventive genius of man has triumphed over nature, and the trophies of his victories are all around us. The earth, as if stricken with the wand of a magician, has broken up its fortresses before his energy. Our town is intersected with stupendous improvements upon all sides. The laborious steamer brings in its trains the luxuries of every clime. Our canals, spread over our fertile State like bands of silver, bear upon their bosoms the golden freightage of the vallies of the far-off west, and pour their wealth into the very lap of our centralia. Here, where the whippoorwill and owl kept up their dismal concerts *when the blushing day* had sunk to rest, a handy and an active population have reared their habitations, and salute our ears with the hum of industry. The hammer sounds of the ponderous forge, the whirring wheel of the iron work-shop, the blackening smoke of the turnace flue and the factory stack, all, all speak eloquent of change!

But I need not enlarge upon the contrast, as my time admonishes me to be brief. I will only say that here and *there remains an old feature* upon the face of modern Columbia the outlines of which, however, are so faint, as to be as difficult to trace, as the lineaments of boyhood in the rugged man. One feature still *stands prominently* forth, which has partaken less of the mutability of things than those around it; and at the sound of whose name, reminiscenses spring up in the mind, which carry us back through the vista of years to our boyhood days, when our step was light and free, when our heart was love and gladness, and our soul was pure and sinless. That feature will never change; for it is the same now as when it received its first bright impress from the hands of its Creator. In the gushing joyousness of my youth, and in the vigor of my manhood it is the same, unchangeable. It is that majestic river whose channel was traced by the finger of the great Architect of the world, whose beautiful name adorns your engine and distinguishes your organization. As its waters are the aggregate of a thousand mountain streamlets, so may the aggregate of friends to *your* "Susquehanna" be a thousand; and that they may blend together in unity of feeling, unity of sentiment, unity of purpose and unity of action, is the expressed wish and fervent hope of our citizens generally, and the "Old Columbia" particularly, whom I have had the honor to represent upon this occasion; and who will respond to the sentiment of *unity* with their characteristic enthusiasm. I have done.

Mr. Daniel R. Craven, on behalf of the Susquehanna company, replied as follows:

Sir and Gentlemen of the Columbia Fire Department—I cannot be expected to do justice to the flattering notice your representative has been pleased to take of us, and the liberal comments he has so eloquently made. I feel my inability to do so, and believe it not to be in the power of man. But allow me to say, that your liberality does yourselves injustice. It is not alone to the members of the Susquehanna Fire Company that the credit of our organization is due. True, a great deal of energy, ardor, zeal and activity has been displayed in organizing this addition to the fire department; yet to the generosity of our fellow-citizens do we owe much; for while your noble example (brothers of the Columbia and Vigilant) assisted to raise within our bosoms that zeal and ardor which laid the foundation of our organization, and your activity, your energy and your deportment which emitted its principles to the members of this company, and urged us onward in the undertaking; the noble and ever-to-be-remembered generosity of our citizens enabled us to complete and perfect that organization. And we feel that we would be doing a wrong to let pass as our deserts the praise you have so lavishly bestowed upon us.

To your wish that our fire department may ever maintain a unity of action and sentiment, believe us when I say that it is our most sincere, most fervent hope that such may be. And we believe that there is not a heart that beats in the breast of a member of the Susquehanna but responds to the sentiment. It would be strange indeed, if, composed as we are mostly of laboring men, neighbors and friends to each other, banded together in one common cause, laboring together with the same noble object, the protection and preservation of our neighbors' property—seeking but the public good and the welfare of our little city, risking and exposing ourselves at all times without hope or thought of reward, (other than the gratitude of the public and the esteem of our fellow-citizens;) strange indeed if we should not be united. We feel confident, from the kindness and good-will that have been shown us to-day, that our department will labor together in harmony. And let us endeavor, while we perform our duty, to perform it with a spirit and character that here at least—unlike the departments of other towns, where continued dissension and riots sink the appellation of fireman to a word of reproach—that here the name may be *what it ought to be, a word of praise*—a name which we may hear and use with pride and pleasure. When men seek to imitate the lion, the tiger, and the bull dog, and extend the fist in passion instead of extending the right hand of fellowship, they sink themselves to a level with *the animals they imitate, and cannot expect* aught else than the disapprobation and frowns of their fellow-citizens. We know that there are many things occurring, while in the performance of our duty, calculated to create *ill feeling*; many trifling matters that may lead to misunderstanding; and if they are not explained or overlooked, may and often do lead to bitterness and strife. But these can all be avoided, if the right spirit be exhibited; if the right feeling shall pervade our members. We feel confident, gentlemen, that the good will and kindness shown us to day, in welcoming us as brothers into the fire department, and from the generous sentiments uttered by your gentlemanly representative, that we can and will work together as "a Band of Brothers." And we beg leave to assure you that nothing shall be wanting on our part to conduce to so desirable a result. It only remains for us again to offer you our thanks for the honor you have done us by your handsome reception, and to assure you that this day will long be remembered by us as one of the bright days that are so thinly scattered along the path of life.

After Mr. Craven had finished—his speech having elicited many cheers—the procession passed through the route announced in the programme—the ceremonies having passed off with great credit to the different companies.

By the accession of the Susquehanna to our fire department, we have an auxiliary which we are assured will be of great utility. At a trial of the engine on Tuesday last, water was thrown a distance of about eighty feet, after having been forced through two hundred feet of hose—thus proving what can be done when circumstances render it necessary.

The engine is a beautiful piece of machinery—perfect in all its parts; and while it speaks loudly for the proficiency and skill of its maker—Hahaman, Boston—it reflects great credit upon the enterprise and liberality of our citizens who contributed towards its purchase.

Rev. R. Owen.—We have heretofore neglected to notice the dissolution of the pastoral relation which had existed for several years btween the Rev. R. Owen and the Presbyterian church in this place. He resigned his pastorship in September, since which time stated supplies have been furnished by the Presbytery. During Mr. Owen's connection with the church, he secured, and still enjoys, the esteem and confidence of the members, who, by a unanimous vote, desired him to continue their pastor. Diffident almost to a fault, his piety and learning will always command respect, and result in the advancement of the cause in which he is a devoted laborer. We only express the sentiments of the people of this place, when we say that his departure is much regretted. Wherever his lot may be cast, we hope that he may meet with that success, personally and professionally, which his qualifications so fully merit.

Collector's Office, Columbia, December 2, 1850.

Ed. Spy—The following will show the amount of receipts at this office for fiscal year ending November 30, 1850, viz:

Canal,	$130,565,03
Outlet Lock,	16,480,00
Railroad,	152,750,07
Section Boats,	7,907,21
Fines,	220,00
Total for 1850,	307,922,31
Total for 1849,	302,199,81
Increase over 1849,	$5,722.50
Number of Cars cleared,	35,831
" Section Boats,	272
" Canal Boats,	7,709
Tonage on Railroads,	97,308 Tons.
Passengers, miles travelled on Railroad,	3,619,608.

Stewart A Pearce, *Collector.*

Weigh Office, Columbia, December 4, 1850.

Mr. Brown—The following table exhibits the number of cars and amount of freight weighed at this office, for the fiscal year ending 30th November, 1849, and 30th November, 1850:

	1850.		1849.	
	No. Cars.	Wt.	No. Cars.	Wt.
Dec.,	1,515	9,371,100	1,211	4,487,300
Jan.,	1,139	7,012,100	618	3,690,900
Feb.,	993	5,480,000	735	4,596,500
March,	2,971	8,837,200	1,381	8,571,600
April,	3,860	21,915,400	4,243	27,193,200
May,	4,186	24,577,200	3,676	26,108,700
June,	3,276	19,870,300	3,371	19,167,800
July,	3,078	17,222,300	2,955	17,120,000
August,	4,001	21,128,800	2,271	12,381,200
Sept.,	2,069	11,971,500	2,361	13,466,800
Oct.,	3,462	20,772,200	2,658	13,621,300
Nov.,	4,179	26,282,800	2,880	15,021,200
Total,	31,732	194,796,900	28,590	165,732,500
	28,590	165,732,500		
			[over 1849.	
	6,142	29,064,100	lbs. excess of 1850	

Thomas Welsh, *Weigh Master.*

☞Prof. Wentworth, of Dickinson College, will preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church in this place, to-morrow morning and evening, when an effort will be made to liquidate the floating debt of the church. The members and citizens generally are respectfully invited to attend.

Caught in the Act.—A man from Perry county was arrested on Tuesday last, charged with stealing a cap from the store of Mr. Lewis Tredenick. He had a hearing before 'Squire Brooks, who bound him over for trial in the sum of $100. Through the perspicacity of Lewis' salesman—who was not *napping* at the time—the theft was discovered.

☞The *American Press & Republican* appeared last week in a new dress, looking very well. It is now published by J. Myers & Son.

By-the-way, we observe that a correspondent of the *Examiner & Herald* suggests the senior editor as a suitable person for transcribing clerk of the Senate.

☞Accidents are becoming as frequent on the Columbia and Philadelphia railroad as they were on the Reading road a few years ago. No less than two occurred last week, by one of which an engine and several new cars belonging to the Central Railroad company were reduced to a complete wreck.

☞Two young white men (of respectable parentage) and a colored boy were arrested near Strasburg last week, charged with horse stealing. One of the number has turned State's evidence.

☞Rev. H. Harbaugh will preach to-morrow morning and evening in the German Reformed Church in this place.

☞Rev. J. McCarter, of Lancaster, will deliver an address before Mount Nebo Temple of Honor on Thursday next, Thanksgiving Day.

☞The Senate will meet in the New School House this evening at 6½ o'clock.

Editorial Gleanings.

☞The New Hampshire *Statesman* says: "There is residing in Canterbury an aged couple, Mr. Elijah Matthews and wife, who have lived together 71 years last September, and in the same house 69 years. The age of Mr. Matthews is 91, and that of Mrs. Matthews 88. What is still more remarkable is that no death has ever occurred in the house since they lived in it."

Caution to Ducks.—A Texas paper states that a hotel keeper on Galveston Island lately made the following slaughter among the ducks:

With the 1st discharge,	1	barrel,	he killed	29.	
Do	2d	do	1	do	do 12.
Do	3d	do	2	do	do 15.
Do	4th	do	2	do	do 33.

Thus, with six loads, killing 89 ducks, which, as per sample furnished, are amongst the largest and fattest of the season.

A sensible Woman.—A gentleman in Boston bought two tickets for Jenny Lind's concert, for ten dollars, and presented them to his wife. She, like a sensible woman, disposed of them to a neighbor, and with the proceeds paid the bills of the butcher and the milkman, and had two dollars left to buy shoes for the children.

Very Good and Very True.—At the "Woman's Rights Convention," Mrs. Rose, of New York, alluded to our Pilgrim *Fathers*, and the pride and reverence with which they were often referred to. But said she "Who has heard of the Pilgrim *Mothers*?" Did they not endure as many perils, and encounter as many hardships, and do as much to form and fashion the institutions of New England, as the Pilgrim Fathers? Yet they are hardly remembered.

☞The Sandwich Islands were at the last accounts taking measures to have the Islands represented in the World's Industrial Convention at London. They recommend that exertions be made to procure specimens of sugar, coffee, and other valuable products of the Islands; also, specimens of the native weeds and grasses. Likewise, the products of native labor, as fine mats, kapas, &c.

A Veteran Compositor.—At a recent anniversary festival of Printers in Nashville, Tennessee, a member of the craft, Lawson Barry, was present, who has worked at case, day and night, ever since the year 1799, and who now daily performs as much labor in the printing office as any journeyman printer in that city.

A Long Imprisonment.—The Boston *Transcript* states that a man has, within a short time, been set at liberty from the State Prison at Charleston, after an incarceration of 15 years for arson in the vicinity of Lowell.

☞Mr. Barnum has written to Buffalo, that Jenny Lind will give one concert in Detroit, two in Cleveland, two in Buffalo, one in Rochester, one in Syracuse, one in Utica and two in Albany before she leaves the country.

☞A memorial has been addressed to the Legislature of South Carolina, asking for the establishment of powder mills, cannon foundries, gun, sword and pistol factories, as preparatory to its declaration of independence.

☞A man has been discovered in Kentucky who takes a great many newspapers and always pays for them in advance. The printers of several States are already arranging to contribute blocks of marble for his monument.

Prof. Webster's Family.—The report that this unfortunate family had gone to Fayal, is incorrect. One of the daughters only has left, the widow and remaining daughters continue to reside in Cambridge, Mass.

☞The compositors of the N. Y. *Tribune* put the President's Message in type in forty-five minutes after it was received at the office. Good working that.

☞In the seventeen principal battles of the Revolution the American loss was 7,181; that of the British 9,073.

☞A bill is before the Kentucky Legislature, and will probably pass, prohibiting emancipated slaves from remaining within the State under the penalty of imprisonment.

☞The St. Louis *Intelligencer* thinks that Col. Benton indicates, by his speech, his intention of becoming the *Northern* candidate for the next Presidency.

☞The New York *Tribune* thinks that Gen. Samuel Houston stands the best chance of being the Democratic candidate for President in 1852.

☞The Emperor of Russia is about to have a tunnel bored under the Neva, similar to that under the Thames.

☞The Indiana State Reform Convention have adopted by a large majority a section prohibiting any further extension of the State debt.

☞Prince Albert intends joining the order of Manchester Unity of Independent Odd Fellows.

President's Message.

We make, for the convenience of our readers, the following synopsis of the President's Message:

After asserting that nations in a state of nature are equal and independent, preserving certain relative rights and duties, among the first of which is the right of determining their form of government, and managing their internal affairs according to their own will, the foreign policy of the United States is declared to be, to maintain a strict neutrality in the wars of other States, to cultivate friendly relations, to reciprocate every generous act, and to perform punctually every treaty obligation.

With regard to the domestic policy of the government, the Constitution will be made the President's guide, except in cases of doubt, in which the decisions of the Supreme Court and the approved usage of the government will be invoked for its interpretation. All its provisions are said to be equally binding, and the first duty of the executive will be not to question its wisdom, add to or evade its requirements, or multiply its commands.

The legislative power is acknowledged to belong to Congress, and while no attempt will be made to control or influence its proceedings, the veto will be unhesitatingly used in all cases which require its exercise.

The power of Congress over subjects entrusted to it, is admitted to be supreme; beyond that, its authority ceases, and it is said every good citizen will resist any interference of Congress in those domestic affairs which the Constitution leaves exclusively with the States.

The duty of the Executive is declared to be to secure a faithful execution of the laws; and to the extent of the power vested in him for the purpose, the President avows his determination to protect and enforce them at all times and in all places, shrinking from no responsibility, and meeting events as they arise, with firmness and prudence.

The appointing power is regarded as a sacred trust, to be exercised with a single view to the happiness and prosperity of the people; and the effort of the administration will be to elevate the standard of official employment by selecting men for public office who are known for their integrity, talents and virtues.

No unfavorable change has taken place in our foreign relations since the opening of the last Congress, and peace subsists between us and all nations.

The convention with Great Britain, negotiated in April last, for facilitating and protecting the construction of a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, has been ratified by both parties, ratifications exchanged, and proclamation thereof duly made. It yet remains to designate and establish a free port at each end of the canal, and to agree on the distance from the shore, within which belligerant maritime operations shall not be carried on. On these questions, no difficulty is apprehended.

The progress made by the company of our citizens who have acquired the right to construct a *ship canal through the State of Nicaragua*, is referred to; it is hoped the treaty above alluded to offers guaranties enough to secure a speedy completion of the work; and the President promises to favor *such further negotiations as may be necessary* to harmonize conflicting claims to territory in that quarter. It is announced that an Envoy Extraordinary, with full power, has just been appointed by the Government of Nicaragua, to reside at Washington, whose arrival is daily expected; and it is hoped this will remove all impediments to a prompt transaction of business between Nicaragua and the United States.

In relation to the project of our citizens to connect the two oceans by a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, it is said that negotiations *are pending between the governments of Mexico* and the United States, to secure those who may embark their property in the enterprise. Objections entertained by Mexico to certain stipulations deemed requisite for the security of the parties engaged in the undertaking, will, it is thought, be removed by some modification of terms. Fresh instructions have, to that end, been given to the Ministers of the United States *in Mexico.*

Although negotiations with Portugal respecting the payment of claims against that government, have not yet resulted in a formal treaty, a proposition of Portugal for a final liquidation of the claims has just been accepted by our government. It is expected that a convention for carrying the agreement into effect will be immediately negotiated.

The Commissioner authorized by Congress to carry into effect the Convention with Brazil of the 27th of January, has entered upon his duties, but it may become necessary to extend the duration of the commission. The sum stipulated by the 4th article of the Convention to be paid to this government, has been received.

It is hoped the suspension of collecting discriminating duties upon the vessels of Chili and their cargoes, will impart fresh impulse to commerce between the two countries.

No efforts will be spared to put an end to the war between the different parts of the Island of St. Domingo.

The total receipts into the Treasury for the last fiscal year, were $47,421,718 and 98 cents. The expenditures during the same period, were $43,002,168 90. The public debt has been reduced, since the last annual report from the Treasury Department, $195,276 79. Owing to the large grants of public lands, recently made by Congress for military bounties, little reliance can be placed on them as a source of revenue. $8,075,986 59 *of the public debt are to be provided* for within the next two fiscal years, and it is suggested that the payment should be made without resorting to new loans. To effect this, increased duties on imports are recommended, in laying which, the policy of so adjusting the tariff as to encourage the skill and industry of our country, is strongly and ably urged. A modification on the present tariff, by the imposition of specific duties, sufficient to raise an adequate revenue, with discriminations in favor of home production, is advised.

It is urged also, that the provision in the present law imposing a higher duty on the raw material that enters into our manufactures, than upon the manufactured article, should be remedied. Recognizing the extensive frauds upon the revenue, practiced under the system of *ad valorem* duties, specific duties are recommended as affording a perfect remedy for the evil; but in the event that Congress should not concur in this view, it is proposed, as a partial mitigation of *the difficulty, that the law be so changed* as to require a home-valuation or appraisal of imported articles, so regulated as to give uniformity at the several ports.

The establishment of a mint in California is favorably suggested to Congress; and in the meantime, it is thought advisable to permit gold bullion, which has been asaayed and stamped, to be received in payment of government dues.

The establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, for the promotion and encouragement of American agriculture, is recommended, and, also, the employment, in connection therewith, of a mineralogist and chemist, to collect specimens of the various native minerals, ascertain their respective elements and properties, and examine and report the qualities of different soils, and the manures best adapted to improve their productiveness.

It is thought the appropriation made for the purpose, will suffice for the expenses of taking the census; but provision for publishing necessary abstracts of the returns is suggested to Congress.

The recommendations of President Taylor relative to the construction of a line of communication between the Valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific, are reaffirmed and referred to the favorable notice of the two Houses.

A law to authorize the appointment of commissioners to examine, with a view to final adjustment, the land titles in California, is advised; and also the extension of our land laws, with due modifications, over that State and the territories of Utah and Mexico. It is recommended, moreover, that, instead of retaining the mineral lands in California under the permanent control of the Government, they be divided into small parcels and sold.

Alluding to the Indian depredations on our southwestern frontier, Congress is desired to provide, as early as practicable, for raising one or more regiments of mounted men, to protect the people in that section. The establishment of an asylum for disabled and destitute soldiers is formally referred to.

Provision for a retired list of the officers of the navy and army unfit for further services, &c., is earnestly urged, as also a revision of the naval code of crimes and punishments, and the establishment of such a system as shall be at once humane and effectual.

The recommendations of the Postmaster General respecting a reduction of inland letter postage, are approved; and, under a clear conviction of the constitutional authority of Congress to legislate on the subject, appropriation for completing such works of internal improvements as are begun, and commencing such as are deemed to be of public and general importance, are strongly recommended.

For the appointment of a commission to settle all private claims against the United States, including a Solicitor to represent the party defendant, Congress is asked to make provision by law. Congress is requested also, to provide for supplying the city of Washington with an abundance of pure water, as contributing to the health, comfort and safety of the city and the security of the public buildings and records. The answer of Texas relative to the propositions for settling the disputed boundary between the State and New Mexico, has not been received, but is daily expected.

The series of measures passed by the last Congress for healing the differences growing out of the slavery and territorial questions, are regarded by the President as a final settlement, in principle and substance, of the subjects which they embrace: and Congress is advised to adhere to them until experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

The message closes with an invocation to Congress to join with the President in thanks to Providence for the blessings bestowed upon our country, and a hope that Heaven will so guide the counsels of the nation as that they may result in satisfying the people, securing peace, and adding new strength to the Union.—*North American.*

Philadelphia Correspondence.

Philadelphia, December 4, 1850.

Friend Spy—At this present writing, our usually staid city is full of excitement, of one kind or another. What with great singers, astonishing equestrians, wonderful stage performers, President's message, reports of the heads of departments, elopements, news from Europe, proceedings of Courts, &c., &c., we can turn upon no side that we do not hear a buz—a kind of bee hive commotion, which is anything but agreeable to quiet people like your humble servant. The Jenny Lind fever is almost over—thank "common sense" for that. She was announced to sing at the Museum on Tuesday morning—tickets $5,13—but on the appearance and prospect of a slim house, the nightingale was suddenly seized with a hoarseness that put an end to the Tuesday morning concert. It is now gravely announced by Barnum, that the grand charity concert, to be given in Philadelphia, is postponed until the return of M'lle Lind from her southern tour. Of course it is. When the Lind fever is over entirely, and tickets are down to a dollar, then—yes then—the charity concert will be given in Philadelphia.

There is very little of general interest hereabouts, in the way of local news. Peter Scott, charged with the murder of Cornelius Mooney, a watchman of Moyamensing, who was shot one night last winter, while on duty, has surrendered himself into the hands of justice, and is now in the county prison, awaiting his trial. The Governor offered a reward of $1000 for his apprehension, but none of our officers were smart enough to catch him.

I have not heard President Fillmore's Message much talked about among the people. The whigs will of course praise it—the democrats look out for what can be condemned. Partizanship destroys all the better feelings of our nature, and makes us blind to merit on the one hand, and to imperfections on the other. Every body is pleased with that part of Post Master Hall's report which recommends a reduction of postage on prepaid letters. Such a reduction is much needed, and I sincerely hope that Congress may give early attention to the matter.

Philadelphia is just now waking up to her commercial interests. While New York has for many years been going ahead with locomotive speed, in all matters relating to commerce, Philadelphia has been in a somnambulic state. But we are shortly to have a line of ocean steamers sailing between this port and Liverpool—thanks to several of our enterprising merchants. The building of the ships has already been contracted for, and by the coming spring one of them will be ready to leave for her port of destination.

Peter.

[For want of room, we were obliged to curtail our Philadelphia letter.—Ed.]

☞The Bush Negress which exhibited in this place several months ago is dead.

☞ANOTHER SCIENTIFIC WONDER! PEPSIN, an Artificial Digestive Fluid, or Gastric Juice: A great Dyspepsy Curer, prepared from Rennet, or the fourth Stomach of the Ox, after directions of Baron Liebig, the great Physiological Chemist, by J. S. Houghton, M. D., No 11 North Eighth street, Philadelphia, Pa. This is a truly wonderful remedy for Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Liver Complaint, Constipation and Debility, curing after Nature's own method, by Nature's own agent, the Gastric Juice. See advertisement in another column. [August 17, 1850-1y

Married.

On the 28th ult., by the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, D. D., Mr. Henry L. Ehrs, of Lancaster, to Miss Sallie Rainer, of Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia, on the 20th ult. by the Rev. Mr. Ure, Dr. John Waylan, to Miss Susan A. Christ, all of Lancaster.

On the 27th ult., by the Rev. N. A. Keyes, Girard Roth, of Marietta to Miss Almira Jones, of Safe Harbor.

Nov. 14, by the Rev. Mr. Hanks, Dr. James C. Ayer to Miss Josephine M. Southwick, daughter of the Hon. Roj al Southwick, all of Lowell, Mass.

On the 26th ult., by the Rev. J. J. Strine, Mr. William Yoxheimer, of Northumberland county, to Miss Mary Ann Hudson, of Safe Harbor, Lancaster county.

Died.

At Mount Joy, on the 28th ult., of Typhus Fever, Samuel J. Masterson, Esq., in the 35th year of his age.

In Springfield, Ill., on the 16th ult., Mrs. Mary Louisa, wife of Dr. D. L. P. Oatman, formerly of Lancaster.

On Saturday, the 30th ult., Sarah Ann, daughter of William and Elizabeth Baldwin, aged 5 years, 4 months, and 11 days.

> Death spreads his withering, wintry arms,
> And beauty smiles no more;
> Ah! where are now those rising charms,
> Which pleased our eyes before?
> That once loved form now cold and dead,
> Each mournful thought employs:
> We weep, our earthly comfort's fled,
> And withered all our joys. J.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

VIOLINS, Accordeons, Flutes, Banjos, Guitars, &c. for sale by SPANGLER.
Dec. 7, '50. At his Headquarters and News Depot.

A T a congregational meeting, held at the Presbyterian Church on last Tuesday evening, for the purpose of electing a Pastor, the vote stood as follows:

For the Rev. R. W. Dunlap,	15
For stated supplies,	66

Columbia, December 7, 1850-1t