

From the Harrisburg Daily Telegraph, Feb. 22.  
Revenue Commissioners—Basis of Taxation.

The Board of Revenue Commissioners on Monday, Mr. Wright of Louisiana, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the valuation of real estate made taxable by law for the purposes of the ensuing three years, shall not be increased by more than the valuation fixed by the Revenue Board of 1854, notwithstanding the returns from the several counties of assessed property, may show an increase: That upon a sum not exceeding the basis of the valuation of 1854, as aforesaid, this Board shall adjust and equalize the same, upon the principles of justice and equity.

On yesterday Mr. Wright modified his proposition by submitting the following as an additional resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Board the total amount of taxes raised and paid into the Treasury for the fiscal year of 1856, should not, in any case, exceed that sum; and that if the Board entertain no doubt but that their power to equalize, they may reduce as well as raise the valuation.

Mr. Lindsay offered the following additional amendment to the joint proposition of Mr. Wright, viz:

That the basis upon which this resolution proposes to have the valuation made, shall be considered as being applicable only to the valuation of real estate, in the several counties of the Commonwealth.

These propositions were debated with considerable warmth, by Messrs. Wright, Mann, of Potter, Wilson of Wayne, and Darlington, of Chester; and were finally referred to a special committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Wright, Lindsay and Wilson.

The effect of the adoption of this basis of valuation, will be to throw the great burden of taxation upon a few counties, which will be manifestly unjust and oppressive.

The valuation and assessments of 1856 were made to meet the peculiar local necessities of the several counties at the time. For instance, in those counties that were heavily in debt, or which the local expenses were large, the assessments were necessarily heavy to meet their local necessities; and vice versa, in those counties whose expenses were light, the assessments were made light accordingly. The justice, therefore, of such a basis of assessment as the above, is plain and manifest.

The assessment ought to be upon a fair and equal valuation of property throughout the whole State, equal representation, and equal taxation, in the spirit of the Constitution, and the true principle upon which the government should be administered.

The adoption of such measures as the above would be a most glaring violation of this principle, and would be detrimental to a large mass of the tax payers of the Commonwealth. It is to be sincerely hoped that a more equal and equitable basis of assessment will be adopted.

N. B.—The above was intended for Wednesday's paper, but was crowded out for want of room. Thursday the select committee to whom the subject was referred reported that they had adopted the basis of the second resolution, as given above. The resolution as reported reads as follows:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Board the total amount of taxes received and paid into the treasury for the fiscal year of 1856 should not be increased, but that a sum not exceeding such amount shall be the basis of the aggregate valuation of all property made taxable by law for State purposes for the ensuing three years. That this Board entertain no doubt, but that under its power to equalize it may reduce as well as raise the valuation, returned by the several counties of the State.

After another discussion the resolution was adopted, by a vote of fourteen to nine.

We are happy to add that on Friday the vote on the resolution was reconsidered, on the motion of Mr. Henry and Mr. Walker. An effort to defeat its re-consideration was defeated, by a vote of eighteen to six. The further consideration of the resolution was postponed till Wednesday next. The members of the Board no doubt have seen on reflection, the injustice the resolution would work; and a reasonable hope may be indulged that a more equal and equitable basis of assessment will be adopted.

The Board have adjourned till next Tuesday; for the reason that the returns of the several counties are not all in, and they cannot proceed with the labors before them until they are

Sherrard had avowed the purpose of killing Gov. Geary, and meeting him in the street spit in his face. Gov. Geary did not resent the insult, but his friends got up an indignation meeting on Thursday, the 19th. Sheriff Jones, Sherrard and others attempted to adjourn the meeting, and in the affray Sherrard shot Mr. Sheppard, one of Gov. Geary's friends, four times, and wounded two others. Mr. Jones, Gov. Geary's Secretary, thereupon shot Sherrard through the head, killing him instantly. Great excitement prevailed at Leocompton, and a general fight was anticipated that night. Gov. Geary's residence was guarded by United States Troops.

SHOOTING AFFRAY & DEATH.

WASHINGTON, February 28.—David Hume, of Virginia, proceeded to the Pension Office this morning to demand the retraction of a charge by D. C. Lee, a clerk therein, that he (Hume) had picked his pocket at the President's reception last week. Mr. Lee declined to make any retraction, when Mr. Hume struck him with a stick. Mr. Lee immediately shot him dead with a pistol, and soon after delivered himself up to the officers. Great excitement exists, particularly in the west end of the government departments.

THE JOURNAL.  
CONDORSPORT, PA.  
Thursday Morning Mar. 5. 1857.  
JNO. S. MANN, EDITOR.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.—The Republican State Convention, for the nomination of Candidates for governor and other State officers, will be held at Harrisburg on Wednesday, the 25th of March, 1857. Each District will elect Delegates in the usual manner, equal in number to its representation in the two houses of the State Legislature; and no person will be entitled, by substitution, to represent a district in which he does not reside.

CHARLES GIBBONS,  
Chairman of State Executive Committee.

Candidates for Governor.

For the last month or two we have refrained from discussing this subject preferring to be a spectator to the speculations of our friends of the different sections of the State, hoping thereby to be able to come to a definite conclusion as to the most popular candidate on our side. We are inclined to believe from the tenor of our exchanges that, while all claim local candidates the great majority favor the nomination of Judge Wilnot, who has signified his willingness to accept the nomination and thoroughly canvass the State during the summer, provided he is nominated with a proper degree of unanimity by the Convention of March 25th. Mr. Ball, of Erie, seems to be a very popular candidate among the Harrisburg letter-writers; but without any disparagement of the capacity of that gentleman, we may be allowed to assert that his claims upon the party are not so strong by any means as those of Judge Wilnot. The latter gentleman does not seek the nomination, but places himself in the hands of his friends, to be nominated or not, *ad libitum*. The Erie Gazette urges the nomination of Mr. Ball, though not with any display of false confidence in its accomplishment, but, as we are happy to see, with a proper regard to the best means for the success of the party. Should Mr. Ball be nominated, we will give him our hearty support, while at the same time we frankly acknowledge that he is not our choice. He is a man, however, who is well posted in the political history of the State, and has capacity equal to any man; but we are scarcely inclined to believe that he would unite and harmonize our forces so completely as would Judge Wilnot.

The Democratic Convention met on Monday last, and we have reason to believe that Gen. Packer is the nominee. This gentleman will unite the entire force of the ogus Democracy, and if we are to be successful we must place our strongest man in the field as banner bearer. Such, we believe, Judge Wilnot to be, and as such we urge his nomination. But let the nominee be whom he will, if he be a true enemy of Slavery propagandism, we regard it as the duty of every true friend of Freedom to give him his hearty support.

Mrs. Stephen's Illustrated New Monthly, for March, is already on our table, teeming with choice literature and valuable fashion information—price \$1.50 per annum.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.  
HARRISBURG, Feb. 26, 1857.

DEAR JOURNAL: This town is pretty well filled up just now, and the Hotel keepers are coining money rapidly. In addition to the members of the Legislature, usually in session at this season of the year, the members of the Board of Revenue Commissioners are here. There is also a military Convention now in session, which has brought a large number of delegates. But the Pro-Slavery Democratic Convention to assemble on Monday next has brought more people to Harrisburg than the Legislature or the Military Convention. Altogether, there is quite a crowd, and the politics of this state for the next three years are being formed in Harrisburg now. The Republicans are firm and determined. If they continue to maintain their present position they will secure a great triumph. But there is danger that timid counsels will prevail, in which case, Republicanism in Pennsylvania will be as a diluted if not a extinguished principle.

I am informed that Mr. Benson, our member has been appointed the delegate from Potter to the Republican State Convention. I think it would have been better to select a man fresh from the people, but as Mr. Benson is a true Republican, and anxious to represent his constituents faithfully, I trust a large number of them will write him as to their wishes in the nomination of a candidate for Governor, unless the meeting which is selected in a delegate, instructed him in that respect. There is a current here, put in motion by milk-and-water Republicans to give Hon. David Wilnot the go by. If the freemen of Potter county are indifferent on this point let them remain silent. But if they have preferences, let them be expressed to their delegate immediately.

In the various conferences which have been held by the opposition members of assembly to agree upon a plan of action, Mr. Benson has borne himself as a noble representative of freemen, and has nobly maintained the Republican cause; but on the question of a candidate for Governor, he is not up to the mark which our people have set, or I have mistaken their wishes and purposes. J. S. M.

PUBLISHING THE LAWS.

A number of Journals are again advocating the publication of the general laws of the State in the newspapers. Such a measure, we feel certain, would meet with a very general approval. If ignorance of the law is to be held as no excuse, when it has been inadvertently violated, law makers should provide a means of bringing their acts to the knowledge of those who are to abide by them in such a way as to leave no room for the plea of ignorance, and the only effectual means of doing that is to publish them in the newspapers. The present plan of publishing the acts of each session of the legislature in pamphlet form may do well enough for lawyers, but so far as the masses are concerned, they might about as well be left in the original manuscript at Harrisburg, for not more than one in a hundred ever sees them. We saw the necessity of such a measure practically illustrated, last week. A man had bought a horse at a vendue for fifty dollars, but afterward discovering defects in the animal, he refused to comply with the terms of sale, and it was put up again, and sold for ten dollars. Suit was brought against the first purchaser to recover the difference between his bid and the highest bid at the second sale, and judgment for the full amount given for the plaintiff, thus subjecting the defendant to a clear loss of forty dollars for the offence of not being familiar with the law. If general acts of the legislature were published in the newspapers, losses of that kind would rarely occur; or, at least, a man indicted under such circumstances would not be entitled to any sympathy.—Lycoming Gazette.

We propose that a State Convention of newspaper publishers be held at some convenient time and place during the coming Summer—say Portville, July 1st.—to take into consideration the following questions: I.—The adoption of measures to obtain the passage of a law providing for the publication of the General Laws of the State in the newspapers. II.—The adoption of a general system of advertising, as to rates &c. III.—The appointment of a committee whose duty it shall be to procure and report data and materials for a complete and comprehensive history of printing in this State up to the present time—in order that we may co-operate with our sister states in the formation of a complete history of the art, from its introduction on this continent.

IV.—To take action relative to the founding of a National Asylum for decayed printers. V.—And finally, to act in behalf of the general interests of the trade in the State.

This Convention should be represented by one person for each newspaper—each newspaper paying a vote either by proxy or direct representation. By this plan a clear expression of the entire press of the State can be had on all questions which may be brought before the Convention. What say our brethren of the press! Speak out your sentiments soon, either by the approval or rejection of the above proposition.

We find the following call for a Union State Convention in the Harrisburg Daily Telegraph, of the 22nd ult. It is signed by all the members of both houses who are opposed to the present Democratic organization.

Prospects of Emancipation in Missouri.

The St. Louis Democrat, of the 16th, speaking of the vote of the legislature of Missouri upon the subject of emancipation, holds the following encouraging language: "According to the census just taken, there are several counties which have very few slaves, and one or two which have none. If all the members who voted for the resolution were as fair as Mr. Geary, and as patriotic as we would have them, the result would be a free Missouri. As it is, the result will be a Missouri with a few slaves, and a time when not only Missouri, but the United States, are under the domination of propagandists and perpetrators of slavery, and yet it appears that one-fifth of our population is favorable to emancipation. When the merits of the question are understood (and they cannot fail to be understood in a short time) one-fifth of our population will not be opposed to it."

DEATH OF DR. KAUF.—The steamer Canawha has arrived at New Orleans from Havana, bringing intelligence of the death of Dr. Kauf, an event for which the last accounts of his condition have in a measure prepared us. He was departed in the prime of his manhood and fame, a victim to the many exposures and physical sufferings which his enthusiasm in pursuit of knowledge imperilled him to undergo, and which he incurred in many parts of the world on behalf of his immediate home. At Havana a great sympathy was manifested by the inhabitants at his decease, and many prominent officials attended his funeral. His body has arrived at New Orleans on its way to Philadelphia.—N. Y. Eve. Post.

The following petition has been handed to us, with the request that we should publish it as a form for those throughout the county who desire to petition to the effect therein stated. Those interested should circulate the petition at once in their respective localities—the following may be copied and attached to a sheet of paper to be saved writing it:

PETITION.

To the Hon. the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met: Your Petitioners, citizens of the county of Potter, would respectfully represent, that by law the Commissioners of said county are authorized to levy a tax for county purposes of one per cent on the assessed valuation of property in said county.

That the taxes thus assessed barely defray the current expenses of the county, without any excess to be applied to existing debts.

That the said county is now owing on bonds given for the erection of public buildings and for drafts outstanding some Fifteen Thousand Dollars, and that there is no way of discharging this indebtedness but by an increase of the returns of the county by way of taxation.

We therefore pray your honorability to pass a law authorizing the commissioners of the said county to levy a tax of two per cent upon the assessed valuation of the property of said county, the authority to do so to continue for three years; and we will ever pray &c.

We are indebted to Hon. Henry Smither of the State Senate, and Mr. Benson of the House for regular copies of the Daily Record, from which we glean but little of special interest to this section. Mr. Benson has read in place a bill to increase the fees of the District Attorneys of this county.

A Bill was reported from the committee on Banks in the House, on Thursday, prohibiting any corporation or individual to put in circulation bank notes of a higher States of less denomination than five dollars, under any pretext whatsoever, and corporations violating this provision are to be subject to a fine of fifty dollars; individuals, twenty-five dollars; to go to the informer.

A Bill was discussed in the House which proposes an important change in the criminal jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. It gives to Justices of the Peace, with a jury of six, the power to hear and finally determine cases of petit larceny, cases of assault and battery, cases arising out of a violation of the license law, &c., provided that the defendant shall agree to have them so determined. This measure or one substantially the same, has been introduced at every session of the Legislature for a number of years. Its friends on this occasion, seem to principally from the northern and western sections of the State.

Hon. George Greely, is travelling in the West on a lecturing tour. At last accounts he was surrounded by water, at a small town in Illinois, in consequence of all the Railroad bridges being swept away by the recent floods.

New Sugar.—Mr. Jacob Peet, of Hesper, a few days since handed us a quantity of a nice maple sugar—made by him this spring—as we have seen for many a day. Our employees—good judges, by the bye—give it a high recommendation, which our own experience in the matter leads us to fully subscribe to, and in conjunction with and for them, Mr. Peet has our warmest thanks for this generous remembrance.

THE LIFE OF WASHINGTON, ILLUSTRATED. We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Geo. P. Putnam & Co., New York, a 14 first volume, containing Volume I of this valuable work. As soon as our space will permit, we shall notice the work more lengthily; believing as we do, that it merits more than a passing notice. The work is published in numbers of 40 quarto pages, at 25 cents per number, and embellished with valuable engravings in steel.

The Congressional Investigation Committee have reported resolutions to the House when, if adopted, will expel W. A. Gilmer, Francis J. Edwards, and Orasmus B. Matteson, member of the House of Representatives from New York, and Wm. W. Welch, member from Connecticut. The report of the Committee was ordered to be printed, and quite an excitement pervades the House in regard to it. The four members whose positions are thus involved, deny the charges point blank.

The Washington correspondent of the Tribune says:—"At an interview with Mr. Mason here, Mr. Buchanan entrusted his letter of acceptance to me, that the people of the Territories had no right to interfere with slavery until about forming a State Constitution. This interpretation differs wholly from the one claimed at the North, and has occasioned much sensation in political circles—so much so that, with the consent of discreet Senators, Mr. Buchanan has been urged to exclude it from his Inaugural, where it was designed to be announced as his doctrine."

Levi Ayres Manwaring, and thirteen other "hoice Nouveletttes of the Heart," is the title of a well printed and magnificently bound volume, in which we are indebted for an advance copy to the Publisher, Mr. T. B. Peterson, 102 Chestnut at Philadelphia. It is one of Mr. Caroline Lee Hunt's valuable books, of which a critical contemporary says:—"Whether her works have found their way over this or any other continent, she is known with respectful admiration, and regarded by hundreds with filial or sisterly affection." From aasty perusal of the book we are led to commend it to every lover of healthy fiction, as a delightful treat. Price, postage pre-paid, in cloth \$1.25, or in 2 vols., paper, \$1.

The Nation, (by the way, a very neat and ably conducted literary weekly), has been removed from Philadelphia to New York. The reason given by its publishers is, that they were obliged to send to New York for their engraving, &c.; they have therefore concluded to go where they can publish the paper to the best advantage. This is rather a left-handed compliment to Philadelphia artists; but we suppose our friend Biglow became homesick, and is really wanted to get back to his old Gotham associations. By the way, Big., we have not received No. 12 of the Nation, and would like to know something relative to the "wandering up" of Emma's last ghost story. Let's have it.

The present Legislature seems to be in many respects, superior to preceding ones. A Harrisburg correspondent says:—"I believe that it would be difficult to get together by a popular election a more respectable and intelligent body of men, equal in number, than the present Senators and Representatives in Harrisburg. Some of them are farmers, some mechanics, lawyers, doctors—and they carry into the Legislature a knowledge of the interests and wants of the entire people. I believe that there are capacity and honesty in this legislature, and expect from it wholesome legislation."

PAINFUL SITUATION FOR A CHILD.—Mrs. Ross at Niagara, died suddenly in the night, nobody being in the house at the time but a little grand daughter aged three years. The child was unable to open the door, and remained until the next afternoon in solitary companionship with the corpse, which lay stretched upon the floor. She was then discovered by the neighbors, who were attracted to the house by her cries.