

Correspondents who do not confide in us their real names, cannot expect their productions to appear.

A communication signed "observer," and post-marked "Grandpian hills," is one of this character.

SHALL WE RETROGRADE? Among the proceedings in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg on the 31st inst., we find the following, as reported in the Keystone:—

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Friday, Feb. 13, 1853.—On motion of Mr. Reckhow, the bill repealing the law prohibiting the circulation of small notes, was read in Committee of the whole and reported to the House. A motion was made to proceed to the second reading, which was agreed to by the following vote:

YEAS.—Messrs. Acker, Appleton, Blain, Broomall, Chandler, Craig, Dungan, Fiffie, Flanagan, Freeland, Gibbs, Gifford, Gillis, Gossler, Hamilton, Hart, Harris, Henderson, Herbert, Hubbell, Hunsecker, James (Chester), James (Warren), Kelso, Kingsley, Kraft, Landis, Lilly, McCloskey, McGinnis, McKean, Macleay, Maderia, Meloy, Mellinger, Merriman, Maylert, Miller (Allegheny), Miller (Philadelphia Co.), Miller (North), Mowry, Penney, Powell, Reckhow, Seltzer, Sharon, Sheaffer, Smith, Wagner, Walton.—50.

NAYS.—Messrs. Anderson, Benedict, Boyer, Biglow, Blair, Brock, Dougler, Ely, Evans, Follmer, Fretz, Gabe, Goodwin, Guffey, Hill, Hook, Huplet, Jackson, Kilbourn, Laury, Laughlin, Leech, McCune, Meyers, Painter, Reilsnyder, Reilsnyder, Reiley, Rhoads, Ross, Rubican, Schindell, Shugert Shull, Souder, Springer, Steward, Thomas, Torbett, Wise, Yhost, Rhey, Speaker.—41.

DID NOT VOTE.—Messrs. Blach, Bonham, (sick), Kean, (sick), McConnell, Martin, Mott, O'Neil, Reel, Ringer. Mr. Sheaffer moved to amend the bill so as to authorize the banks of this State to issue small notes, which after some remarks from Messrs. Blair, James, Jackson, Harris and others, was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

Before any further action on the bill the House adjourned. It will be seen that just one-half the members of the House (50) voted in the affirmative on the above question—embracing all the Whigs and Natives, and some 9 or 10 Democrats, and that all those voting in the negative are Democrats.

It is not our purpose now to inquire into the motives that brought about this result. They are doubt various, and perhaps a sincere desire to see our State again flooded with small notes, was among the least of the influences in its favor. It would be a most fortunate circumstance for the whigs if they could, by any means, produce such disaffection in our ranks preparatory to next fall's campaign as the repeal of the law in question would create.

It would be a retrograde movement that would spread discouragement far and wide, and nothing could be more fatally disastrous to the Democratic party. The whigs know full well that the repeal of that law cannot be effected now, and they merely legislate to entrap the Democratic party by compelling the Governor either to sign an unwise and obnoxious measure—against which his judgment revolts and his party stands committed—or exercise the veto. But they mistake the feelings, as well as the intelligence of the people on this subject, and the very contingency on which they rely, would only tend to add still more to the strength of the Democracy from the ranks of the honest yeomanry of the State. Gov. BIGLER's whole heart is devoted to the advancement of the welfare of his native State, and no man will more faithfully discharge his duty whenever occasion shall require. He is no enemy of well-regulated Banks—but he is the people's friend; and knowing that much good has been done to the laboring classes in sections where the law prohibiting the circulation of foreign small bills has been faithfully observed, and knowing also that it only requires the co-operation of adjoining States (which is now confidently anticipated) to effectually banish them every where, he will not hesitate a moment to exercise the high prerogative guaranteed by the Constitution, and thus carry out the confident anticipations of the people.

There is no sound reason why small notes should not be banished from circulation every where. They are profitable only to bankers and speculators, and fatally injurious to the laboring classes of the community. Gold and silver is now sufficiently abundant to supply all the change required, and to bring it into circulation, it is only necessary to banish—effectually banish—the small note currency every where. Maryland is now acting, and a bill to that effect has passed the House of Representatives of that State. Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey are seriously talking of doing the same.— Shall we, then, retrograde? After taking the lead in the good work, shall we turn from our way of well-doing, and give the banks and speculators another harvest?— If we wish to drive what specie we now have, out of the country, or keep it in secret places, we need only do so.

Philadelphia and the Trade of the Lakes.

To secure a share of the vast trade of the great northern Lakes has long been the great aim of the business men of our commercial metropolis. It was one of the leading objects that first suggested our system of internal improvements; and indeed, the interests of the whole State would be materially enhanced if a reasonable share of that trade could, by any direct communication, be transported through our State to the Atlantic seaboard. That trade now exceeds the whole foreign commerce of the United States, and is increasing with unprecedented rapidity. New York first secured a portion of that trade by constructing a canal to Buffalo. This soon proved inadequate to the demand, and a railroad was erected parallel with the canal; and so rapid has been the increase of business, and so profitable to the transporting interests and her commercial capital, that a second line of railroad is now well nigh completed. All this has been done by New Yorkers, whilst Pennsylvanians have been comparatively idle, although possessing many advantages over their northern brethren, such as a shorter distance, a better Lake harbor, &c.

The Sunbury and Erie railroad was projected for the purpose of securing this trade. The Central railroad was, then commenced, and it was wisely suggested at the time that that enterprise should embrace a branch both to Erie and to Pittsburgh, and thus secure the trade of both the great commercial outlets of the west. It was a grand mistake that the suggestion was disregarded. Had it been followed, our State improvements would have been placed on a footing entirely safe, and Philadelphia might proudly bid defiance to all her rivals. But it is not too late to at least partially remedy the evil. The Sunbury and Erie railroad cannot be constructed without the aid of those interested in the prosperity of the Central road—for chiefly all the capitalists of the State are stockholders in that company—and as the Sunbury and Erie road, when completed, will not be likely to benefit the Central road, but rather operate as a rival improvement, the new road will have to be carried thro' without any material assistance from the builders of the old one.

To secure the Lake trade, then, and to repair in a measure, the mistake committed in not making the main branch of the Central road to Erie, and secure the trade of the Ohio river by a branch to Pittsburg, it is now only necessary to construct a branch to Erie from some favorable point on the central road—say Tyrone. That such a branch is practicable, is susceptible of the clearest demonstration. It would require but some fifty miles of unsurveyed route—embracing that part lying between Phillipsburg and Ridgway, and according to our best State maps, not exceeding 40 miles in a straight line. And that a favorable location, both as regards grades and curves, could be found for the whole district, those who have paid much attention to the subject, and who have had favorable opportunities of examining the topography of the country, express no doubt whatever.

The route for the Sunbury and Erie railroad was surveyed several years ago. Two different routes were run from the junction of the Bennett's and Driftwood branches of the Sinnemahoning. The northern route followed the Driftwood into M'Kean county, thence to Ridgway, in Elk county, thence again through M'Kean county to the Allegheny river a short distance above Warren. The other route followed Bennett's Branch to the summit, and descended by the waters of Mill creek to Brookville. Thence it went through what is now Forrest's county, and reached the Allegheny at Warren.

Now, a line to start at Tyrone could reach, with a favorable location, the surveyed route of the Bennett's branch at the summit, at a distance of not over 60 miles. From that point to Ridgway, if that route should be preferred to following the surveyed route by way of Brookville, would be about 15 miles. Making, say 75 miles from Tyrone to Ridgway. We have no means of ascertaining the exact distance to this point (Ridgway) by way of the surveyed Sunbury and Erie route, but to say nothing of the distance east of Sunbury—and we believe it is not yet determined whether it shall cross by Danville and Pottsville, and thence to Reading and Philadelphia, or whether it will follow the river to Harrisburg—it will be but little short of, and may exceed, 200 miles. Now, to ascertain the difference for and against the two routes it is only necessary to take 75 from 200 and we have 125 miles of new road in favor of the branch from Tyrone. Besides this—some 30 to 50 miles will be required to complete the connection east of Sunbury. Is this not worthy of consideration? But this is not the only consideration in favor of the Tyrone branch. By the Sunbury route there is no connection with the Central railroad. They are entirely distinct, and in some respects, rival improvements. But by the Tyrone

branch the Central road would secure the transportation of the Lake trade over about one half its length, and Philadelphia would receive the almost undivided benefit. Should the Sunbury route be extended to Harrisburg, will not Baltimore be much more likely to be benefited by the Lake trade than Philadelphia? To place Philadelphia in a position of enjoying during prosperity, it is only necessary to give her a fair share of the trade of the great Lakes. This can be done now at comparatively little expense.

About a year ago we alluded to this subject, and then presented some facts and figures in favor of the branch road from Tyrone to Erie, and earnestly called the attention of the public to it as a grand stroke of Pennsylvania, and more especially of Philadelphia policy; but it attracted no attention from any quarter. We are glad to learn now, however, that a few days ago, when the amendment to the charter of the Sunbury and Erie railroad was under discussion in the Legislature, the subject of a branch of the Central railroad to Erie was suggested, and that since that, wherever, and by whomsoever its propriety has been examined, it has met with decided favor. It cannot be otherwise—and if not speedily carried through, Pennsylvania will be truly blind to her own interests.

To contrast, then, the suggested route from Tyrone to Erie, with the Sunbury and Erie route, we find the former possessing the following advantages over the latter:— It would save the making of from 125 to 150 miles of new road, at an expense say of \$3,000,000. It will secure to the Central railroad the transportation of the Lake trade over nearly one-half the length of that road. It will shorten the distance from Philadelphia to Erie not less than 60 miles. It will secure to Philadelphia the almost exclusive control of this branch of the Lake trade. And it will pass through and develop the valuable resources of a portion of the State that never can be properly developed without some such improvement.

SCHOOL EXHIBITION. We understand that Dr. CATLIN and his lady, who have had charge of our Academy for the last year or so, design giving a public exhibition of their school on Friday evening next, in the Presbyterian church, and that parents, guardians, &c., are invited to attend. It is also open for the admission of the public, and if this exhibition proves to be as well got up and successful as the last one of this school, those who attend will find their time well spent.

The exercises commence at 6 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

We very much regret the vote of our Representative, Mr. GRILLS, in favor of repealing the law prohibiting the circulation of small notes in this State. We do not pretend to speak for the whole of his district, but so far as this county is concerned, we can assure him that if he thought he was representing their wishes he was sadly mistaken; and if he considers Elk and M'Kean, as border counties, wherein the grand juries have ascertained it to be their duty to make presentments of laws which they were sworn to observe, why they should be satisfied if they are permitted to live in a state of rebellion, without attempting to enforce their obnoxious measures onto others who are not willing to join them in their resistance to sound and salutary laws.

A GOOD STON.—It was but a few days since, that we heard one of our merchants, a gentleman of extensive experience in business; and who has always been a sincere advocate of a small note currency, say that he was now satisfied the community could get along better without small notes than with them—that there was abundance of gold and silver to supply the vacuum under five dollars, and that our Legislature would be acting unwisely either to repeal the present law prohibiting the circulation of small notes of other States, or to allow the banks of this State to issue them.

The Harrisburg Keystone deserves the hearty thanks of the Democracy of the State for the faithful manner in which it exposes the unfaithfulness of a portion of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives. That paper expresses the most unpleasant anticipations as to what a majority of that body are likely to do, and winds up by saying that it believes that "every whig measure introduced will," before the session ends, "command a majority of the votes." This is certainly unpleasant news, as much good was confidently anticipated from the large democratic majority in the present House. All expected that Gov. BIGLER would be well and warmly sustained by that branch of the Legislature. We can only hope that the Keystone is mistaken, although there is much cause for alarm.

Some of the big guns in the newspaper world, in the U. States and England, are talking right seriously of an invasion of Great Britain by France. John Bull seems to take especial pains in pointing out his own weakness, and showing how successfully an hundred thousand Frenchmen might be landed across the Channel in a single night, and marched to London before any organized resistance could be effected. Whenever such a remarkable catastrophe shall turn up we will apprise our readers of it in a little less than no time. In the mean time we would suggest to them the propriety of continuing to pursue their usual avocations.

BEAT THIS, IF YOU CAN.—Mr. Isaac Scofield, of our town, went into the woods the other day prospecting, as they would say in California. Towards evening, when he had turned homewards, he fell in with a whole family of bears—an old one and three cubs. A battle ensued, which resulted in Mr. S. bringing his whole four victims safely home. The first engagement was anything but a pleasant one.

Sartain's Magazine, for March, is as complete a thing of the kind as was ever given to the public—and it is all that its numerous friends, or even its enterprising proprietor, could desire it to be. Godey's Lady's Book, for March, has just made its appearance. It is a most capital number, triumphantly sustaining its high character as the leading periodical of the day.

Pennsylvania Wins the Banner. The official returns of the election in California show that our BIGLER has won the prize, and so the golden banner comes to Pennsylvania. The figures are as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Includes John Bigler (15,614), P. B. Reading (15,244), and totals for whole vote, Bigler's majority, and William Bigler's vote.

Other comparisons may be instituted. JOHN BIGLER's majority of 370 in 30,558 votes, gives a proportion of 1 in 83, and a fraction—his majority of 351 in 45,897 votes gives a proportion of 1 in 101 and a fraction—while WILLIAM BIGLER's majority of 8465 in 364,533 votes gives a proportion of 1 to 43 and a fraction.

From still another point of view we have the following result. JOHN BIGLER's majority is by the first count about twelve votes in every thousand, but WILLIAM BIGLER's is over twenty-three in every thousand. In every aspect the case is in favor of Pennsylvania, and well does she deserve the trophy, for never was a battle more gallantly fought, or victory more nobly won.—Pennsylvanian.

BIGLER IN LOUISIANA.—The New Orleans Bulletin, a Whig print of the most inveterate stamp, pays a noble compliment to the Governor of Pennsylvania. It speaks as follows:—"Gov. BIGLER, of Pennsylvania, in his inaugural address to the Legislature, is plain and explicit on the subject of the fugitive slave law, and fully sustains the sentiments expressed prior to his election. The address is replete with patriotism, sound sense and good feeling, and will no doubt exert a powerful influence in arresting a course of conduct on the part of some citizens of that State, which promises, if continued, to produce frequent and disgraceful scenes."

How TO DRY POWDER.—The last Minersville Bulletin tells the following as an actual occurrence:— On Friday a week, a man named Keaf, residing at Primrose, about a mile from this place, brought home a keg of wet powder for the purpose of drying it, and accordingly procured a large iron pot, put in the powder, and set it over a blazing fire, while he, with a stick provided for the purpose, commenced to stir it. As may be supposed, he had not been engaged in this business long before an explosion took place—knocking the old man heels over head—the old woman and several others, ditto.

It is reported that no serious damage was done to either house or occupants.— We consider this a most expeditious plan of drying powder.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Cambria at Halifax. Decline in Cotton—Broadstuffs Firm.—Opening of Parliament—Attempted Assassination of the Queen of Spain. HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 21.—The steamship Cambria, from Liverpool, with dates to the 7th instant, arrived here at half-past 3 o'clock this afternoon. She brings 63 passengers from Boston and 3 from Halifax.

The Cambria reports her own arrival out, having arrived at Liverpool on the 1st February at 10 o'clock A. M. The steamship Atlantic, from New York, reached Liverpool at 10 A. M. on the 4th instant. The News by the Cambria is one week later than our last previous advices by the Niagara, but the political advices present no features of striking importance. The Cambria will leave about 6 o'clock for Boston, where she will be due early on Monday morning.

ENGLAND.—The speech of Louis Napoleon at the dinner given by him to a number of distinguished Englishmen, wherein he declared that the report of warlike intentions towards England was false, considerably calmed the public mind, and caused more confidence for the future. Parliament was opened by the Queen in person, on the 3d. Her Majesty, in her speech says that the relations with foreign powers were of a friendly character. She refers to the probable completion of a treaty between Germany and Denmark, and calls attention to the recent outrages in Ireland; and promises attention to their more effectual suppression. She alludes to the satisfactory state of the public mind, the public revenue, and in conclusion directs attention to the proposed amendment of the Reform Bill, with reference to Parliamentary representation.

In the House of Commons Sir Benjamin Hall asked for an explanation of the resignation of Lord Palmerston. Lord John Russell responded, stating amongst other causes that Lord Palmerston had unreservedly approved of the recent illegal coup d'etat of Louis Napoleon. Lord Palmerston defended himself in his speech as some length. He attacked his late colleagues, and in the course of his remarks alluded in terms of high praise to the American Minister, Abbott Lawrence. In the house of Lords the Earl of Derby, in a protectionist speech, alluded approvingly to the conduct of Louis Napoleon. At Holmesherth, Yorkshire, a large reservoir recently burst, occasioning heavy floods and much damage to factories.— From 60 to 100 lives are reported to have been lost by this accident.

SPAIN.—We learn from Madrid that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to assassinate the Queen. She was fired at and wounded in the shoulder. The perpetrator of the fiendish act has been arrested. FRANCE.—France continues tranquil, but frequent arrests are still being made in the Departments. Protests against the recent act of Louis Napoleon in reference to the confiscation of the property of the Orleans family, continued to pour in. It is believed that something will be done to revoke the arbitrary decree. The Paris Bourse was firm. From other parts of the Continent there is nothing of striking importance.

From Santa Fe. A letter dated Santa Fe, December 31st, published in the St. Louis Intelligencer, gives some interesting items from that distant point:—

The Apaches have been robbing, plundering and murdering in all directions, from Sabinal, on the Del Norte, down towards El Paso, and on the route towards the Copper Mines. During the month of December, they committed depredations and outrages almost daily. Seven persons have been murdered—several robbed and stripped of their clothing, and a large quantity of stock—sheep, cattle and horses—driven off. A village recently settled, called Santa Barbara, at a point on the western side of the Del Norte, about thirty miles above Dona Ana, has, it is supposed, been destroyed by the Indians. Some time last month they entered it, and parading about in contempt of its few inhabitants, left with the threat that the next time they visited it they would "wipe it out."

Carisal, a village about 150 miles west of El Paso, has been served in this way. The murder of Robert I. Brent, says the letter, which happened on the 2d inst., has made a deep sensation here, where he has left many warm friends. Mr. Brent, with his friend, Mr. Biggs, was coming up from El Paso, and had reached to within twenty miles from the upper entrance of the famous "Jornada del Muerto," on which they were travelling, when they were surprised by thirty or forty Apaches, who were mostly on foot. A fight ensued, in the course of which Mr. Brent received a shot from a rifle, from which he died in a short time.

The mining interests of this territory would no doubt be extensive and valuable if the country was in a situation to invite hither the capital and enterprise necessary to develop its immense mineral resources. Further trials of the silver ore, recently found near Taos, show that it is exceedingly rich. A weight of silver worth nearly three dollars, has been extracted from about thirty pounds of ore. All the reports from the gold mines on and near the Gila River continue to be highly encouraging as to the yield of metals. New parties are going out for the purpose of working them.

On Monday last, says the Harford County (Md) Gazette, in various parts of this county, a rumbling noise was heard about day-light, somewhat resembling thunder. It was supposed by many to be the shock of an earthquake.

The Temperance Question.

As the session advanced, the petition for legislative action on the subject of temperance increase in number, and what they differ to some extent in the remedy proposed, all seem to look ultimately to the only effectual remedy, the abolition of the traffic. A bill similar to the Main law has been reported, and this measure is certainly the most effective has many who advocates outside of the Legislature; many friends it has within the halls cannot yet pretend even to guess. We have little idea that such a law will pass the present Legislature, and we are by no means certain that it would be advisable to pass it if it could.

We do not think that we are prepared for a law so stringent in Pennsylvania. We fear that if enacted it could not or at least would not be enforced, and we found the opinion on the difficulty that exists in the enforcement of the present law, which every body knows is daily and hourly violated with impunity. It is worse than useless to enact a law that cannot be enforced. These remarks will apply with equal force to a prohibitory law which while it punishes the violator of the law, does not destroy the article.

In this, as in most other matters of importance, "hasten slowly" is a good maxim, and we are in favor of action by the present legislature in accordance with the prayer of the petitions originating in Harrisburg, asking for an amendment of the constitution prohibiting the traffic; we hope to see a resolution to that effect submitted at the present session, to be fully and fairly discussed, and we have no doubt correct conclusions arrived at. The vote on the amendment will indicate very correctly the state of public opinion, and if adopted then will there be no hesitation as to the adoption of something like the Main law as the legislation necessary to give vitality to the constitutional provision.

We presume that the adoption of the amendment would also settle the constitutional question. A difference of opinion exists as to whether this question can be submitted to the people, some supposing that five years may elapse after the adoption of the amendment providing for an elective judiciary. The provision of the constitution is "The no amendment or amendments shall be submitted oftener than once in five years, and appears to us to be intended to prevent the submission of the same question to the people after they have been once decided by them in the negative; to prevent the incessant agitation of the same question, and not the submission of amendments of a different character at shorter intervals. Keystone.

THE PENN FAMILY.—Grannville Johnson, of Pennsylvania Castle, England, the great grandson of William Penn, is the representative of that branch of the Penn family to which Pennsylvania owes its name, and is the first of his name who has ever visited the Pennsylvania Historical Society, was very handsomely received a few weeks ago. He was addressed by Judge Sargeant, and made a very happy and some reply. We quote from his speech:—"During the repeated pilgrimages which he had made to the burial place of his great ancestor, at Jordans, in Buckinghamshire, and he was pleased to find a correct representation of it in the Hall, so obscure indeed, that it is scarcely possible to discover where his remains repose, for the Society to which he belonged placed no memorial to mark the graves of their dead. He had felt a painful regret; but when he came to America, and landed in this city, and beheld the beauty of its situation, the splendor of its public and private buildings, the area of ground it covered—when he reflected that it contained nearly half a million of inhabitants—when he had visited the interior of this great State, and seen the fertile farms, the populous villages, the happy and contented freemen, and the general prosperity of the whole country, and especially when he found the veneration and affection in which his ancestor was held, he felt that here a monument had been raised far beyond what stone or brass could commemorate."

The emigration to California is now as great as ever as at any former period. There are thirteen steamers now running from New York, and it is said that all their accommodations have been taken for every trip till April. The Chesapeake and Promethee, which sailed on Friday, carried out about one thousand passengers, a large portion of whom are reported to be enterprising persons, in good circumstances, some being accompanied with their families.

THE DEATH PENALTY.—The Senate Committee in the Rhode Island Legislature has reported a bill substituting the penalty of death, and abolishing imprisonment for life. At the same time, says the Providence Jour., it guards against the abuse of the pardoning power by a provision that no persons sentenced to imprisonment for life, for a term of not less than five years, shall be released, except upon the concurrent vote of three-quarters of all the members elected to the House of the General Assembly.

SHOCKING MURDER.—The Meriden Gazette gives an account of a most shocking murder committed in Charles County, Maryland, upon Mr. James N. Johnson, by tying him to a fence, placing fuel upon him and setting it on fire. This atrocious barbarity was committed by a man named Smith and Osborne, who have been arrested—their unhappy having barely survived long enough to announce them as his murderers.

Two men, named Woodruff and Morton, have been arrested at Mobile, Ala., in spurious money in their possession.