

The Democrats of the City of Lancaster will meet on THURSDAY EVENING, January 31, at 7 o'clock in the Court House...

Our Democratic friends of the city will bear in mind the meeting to be held in the Court House, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for Mayor, Assessor and Town Clerk...

S. E. Ward Meeting.

The Democrats of the S. E. Ward met at Henry Nauman's, on Saturday evening last, and placed in nomination Alderman C. V. Camp and William White...

The following delegates were then appointed to represent the Ward in the City Convention, viz: Frederick Miller, J. M. Westheffer, John Yeagley, Jacob Gump and Henry Gorchert.

N. W. Ward Meeting.

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Decision of Judge Lewis.

We copy from the York Gazette, a portion of the very able opinion delivered by Judge Lewis, at York, on the 14th inst., in a case involving the legality of a will made on the Sabbath day.

A Message from the President.

On the first page we publish the Message from General Taylor, in reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives, asking for certain information in regard to California and New Mexico, and making inquiry about the mission of T. Berziza King and other whig politicians, sent out at the public expense, during the recess of Congress, to control affairs in California so as to make it a Whig State.

The Balance of Trade.

Among the arguments, or rather the assertions, of those who endorse the theory of the Secretary of the Treasury, in favor of a high restrictive tariff on imports, is that which constantly proclaims that we import enormously more than we export; that the balance of trade is against us; that there is a constant drain upon us, carrying the precious metals out of the country.

Appointments by the Canal Commissioners.

J. J. Kellar, Lancaster, Collector. Stewart J. Cole, Columbia. S. B. Bigler, Harrisburg. George Smith, Beach Haven. Thomas B. Stewart, Northumberland. Allison White, Duncannon. C. D. Eldred, Williamsport. Thomas B. Stewart, Northumberland. Stewart Law, Newport. D. W. McCormick, Lewistown. A. S. Harrison, Huntington. A. A. Douthett, York. E. Zeigler, Duncannon's Island. J. Shookmaker, Juniata Aqueduct. John H. Stewart, Juniata Bridge. J. K. Heckman, Easton. H. Scarborough, New Hope. T. H. Bristol, Philadelphia. T. Biting, Paoli.

Supervisors.

J. M. Soliday, Delaware Division. Benjamin Saylor, North Branch. Thomas Bennett, West Branch. H. D. Rodermel, Susquehanna. John M. Ghaughlin, Easton. J. E. Miller, Lower Juniata. J. P. Anderson, Upper do. John Peters, Western Division.

Whig Masters.

M. H. Horn, Easton. Robert Williams, Hollidaysburg. J. G. Chesnut, Northumberland.

State Treasurer.

At the election on the 11th inst., the vote stood for BECKES, (Dem.) 74—BALT, (Whig) 50. Gen. BECKES, we understand, has tendered the post of Chief Clerk to Col. ASA DROCK, of Susquehanna, who held the appointment under Snowden and Plumer. He is a very worthy and competent man.

The Past and the Present.

With this number commences the fifty-first volume of the "Intelligencer," and now that it has weathered out the storms of half a century, and through sunshine and clouds, has ever been the advocate of democratic men and democratic measures...

Forty years! What changes have taken place since the advent of the nineteenth century? The "Intelligencer" started into existence during the memorable "Reign of Terror" under the elder Adams, and lent its assistance in hurrying that administration to power and placing Thomas Jefferson, the president of Democracy, in the chair of State.

In the fifty years that have passed away, what rapid strides have been made by our country in its onward march to greatness and to glory! A half a century ago, we were comparatively a feeble nation, just emerging from the colonial state, and had but commenced the experiment of governing ourselves. Since then we have maintained our national progress in two bloody wars, in which the superiority of our arms were abundantly manifested—have quadrupled our population—have bound the different States together by thousands of miles of railroads and canals, by telegraphic and other methods of international communication—and now stand prominently forward as one of the greatest nations of the world for modern times.

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Signed JAMES SLAUGHTER, Pres't, PERRY BARNARD, V. Pres't, J. M. Westheffer, Sec'y, Daniel Lagen, Sec'y.

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The following gentlemen were elected to represent the ward in the Democratic City Convention, to nominate officers to be supported at the ensuing city election—Adam Delet, J. W. Jackson, Frederick Sener, Jacob Reber and Sebastian G. Musser. [Signed by the officers.]

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Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools.

The 16th Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Common Schools of Pennsylvania, has been made to the Legislature. It discusses at length the imperfections of the present system, and suggests various important modifications and amendments, with a view of remedying the defects and imparting to the system greater usefulness. The evils complained of are—

1st. The imperfect state of the Reports to the State Department, which presents a fair statement of the condition of the schools.

2d. Frauds on the Department, by which the State appropriation is drawn without the necessary tax being collected.

3d. Inequality of teachers.

4th. An improper selection of books.

5th. The want of a direct and intelligible communication between the Directors and Superintendent.

6th. Want of funds.

To remedy these defects, which have led to interminable complaints, the power of the Legislature is invoked; and among other things recommended is the vesting in some person or body the power of appointing county superintendents, who should be active and zealous friends of liberal education, having a knowledge of the qualifications proper for a teacher, the best mode of instruction, and of the books suitable for schools. It is proposed that these should exercise a general supervision over the schools of their respective counties, with power to examine teachers, select books best suited for the schools, &c., and also to make out clear and explicit statements of the number of schools, scholars, teachers, and the amount of money expended for the use of the department. These reports are now so imperfect as to be almost useless, and are alleged to furnish no true view of the operations of the system; while in many districts the gross frauds are practiced on the treasury by the directors levying a tax sufficient to entitle them to their share of the State appropriation, after receiving which they recall their warrants from the collectors and support, for a short period, the schools of the district on the bounty of the State. The returns of the time during which the schools are open, and the expenditures are equally fraudulent; for the money of the State having been pocketed, the fraud is continued for its own concealment. But aside from this, many of the reports are made in such a manner as to be utterly unintelligible, and the fact of the incompetency of directors is strikingly apparent.

The subject of establishing Normal Schools is the next in importance, and it is proposed to establish with and emanating from them a Central High School, receiving its pupils entirely from Normal Schools, who should be selected for their talents, learning and virtues. The only objection to this is deemed a want of funds, but even this, in the opinion of the superintendent, should not be a barrier to its progress. The school taxes collected the last year amounted to \$436,135.81, and the State appropriation to \$182,883.55, making the total amount expended for school purposes \$619,019.36, with which amount the schools were kept open an average period of four months. With the auxiliaries of county superintendents, Normal Schools, and a Central High School, the expenditures would be increased at least two fold, which added to the cost of maintaining the schools for the entire year, the disbursements would reach \$1,250,000, which it is proposed to raise by a tax on local inheritances, instead of the present mode, and for these reasons:

1st. It would not be oppressive on the citizens.

2d. The per centage imposed on collateral inheritances is partial, and hence unjust.

3d. The present school tax is in variance with the system, is partial in its operations, and oppressive on large portions of the community.

These positions are argued at considerable length, in contrast with the present operation of the school law. The report proposes, in fact, a radical change in the system, which will more evenly distribute the burdens of the support of the schools, and adapt them to the requirements of the people. In many counties, it is suggested, the schools might be kept open throughout the entire year, but as such could not be the case in others, the ratio for each taxable inhabitant, while it should be equal in every part of the State, should be graduated according to the time the schools are kept open.

The appropriation now made by the State is regarded by the superintendent as literally squandered, and in his view, should the foregoing recommendations be approved by the Legislature, might be transferred to the sinking fund, to aid in the extinguishment of the public debt.—Daily News.

Messrs. Editors.—A few of the most vulgar of the Locomotive scribbles have set upon a typographical error that appeared in the printing of the President's message, and afterwards they know that the sentence was not written by him, they still choose to call it his. If any of these men can borrow a Bible, as we hardly suppose they own one, and refer to the fifth chapter and 12th verse of the Acts of the Apostles, they will find the following words, being very like what they attribute to Gen. Taylor:—

And by the hands of the Apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people, and they were all in one accord in Solomon's porch; and of the rest durst no man join himself to them." The doctrines of the Bible are perhaps quite as applicable to them as those of Genesis.

The above, which we clip from the North American of Tuesday last, is one of the most ridiculous attempts to bolster up the literary character of the President that we have ever read. A typographical error, forsooth! Well, in all our experience with types, we never yet knew one of them to perpetrate such a blunder, or more properly, bull, as is contained in that part of the Message, which says—"we are at peace with all the world, and seek to maintain our cherished relations with THE REST OF MANKIND!" No, no—it went to do attempt of evade the well merited ridicule of the Democratic press, by laying the blame on the Compositor. Even suppose the blunder had been made by him, we would ask who read the proof? The Message was doubtless seen and scanned by the Cabinet, and during the three weeks that intervened between the meeting of Congress and its delivery, ample time was afforded to read it over and over again, and correct any errors that might have crept into the document. Of course we do not throw any blame upon Gen. Taylor; for it is admitted in the above extract that the message "was not written by him"; and we doubt very much whether he even read it until after it was printed.

But, the most amusing thing of all, is the quotation from the Scriptures, to justify the blunder made by the writer of the message. The term "rest" in the text, we should hardly think means "the rest of mankind"; and if the biblical critic of the North American will take the trouble to consult some of the most eminent commentators on writers, such as for instance as Scott, Clarke, Lightfoot and Calnet, he will find that not only does the word bear the application he gives it, but that the phrase "of the rest," by supplying the ellipsis, make good sense, which is far from being the case with the blunder in the President's Message.

It would be much more to the credit of the North American, and vastly better for the Whig party, to own up to the fact that the writer of the Message perpetrated the blunder—rather than rendering it ridiculous in a vain attempt to make an intelligent people believe it was a typographical error. The blunder of the Democrats about not owning a Bible, is as bad taste, and couched in an unpointedly language, as it is false and unfounded in point of fact. We marvel that a paper professing any regard whatever to decency and truth, would give place to such a vile attack upon a party numbering in its ranks a majority of the people and some of the best and most distinguished men in this or any other country.

The bill for the better regulation of the Common Schools in this City, has passed both branches of the Legislature and been signed by the Governor. We shall publish it as soon as we can obtain a copy.

The Territorial Bill.

The Washington Union of the 13th inst. publishes Senator Forster's Bill to provide for the organization of the territorial government of California, Deseret and New Mexico; and to enable the people of Jacinto, west of the Nueces and east of the Texas, to form a Constitution and State government, and for the admission of such State into the Union upon an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatsoever. The bill contains fifty-eight sections, eighteen of which are devoted to California, and the rest to New Mexico, Deseret and Jacinto. The territory proposed for Jacinto includes the disputed territory between the State of Texas and the Republic of Mexico, or that barren country lying west of the Nueces and east of the Rio del Norte. This disputed country contains 100,000 square miles, or about one-fourth of the whole territory proposed for the State. The entire region lies south of the points 36 deg. 30 min., and connects the territory of New Mexico with that of Texas, as Deseret connects New Mexico with California. The geographical position of each division may be described as follows:

North of 36 deg. 30 min. South of 36 deg. 30 min. Total.

California, 125,000 sq. m. 50,000 sq. m. 175,000 sq. m.

Deseret, 175,000 do. 50,000 do. 225,000 do.

New Mexico, 30,000 do. 40,000 do. 70,000 do.

Jacinto, 100,000 do. 100,000 do. 200,000 do.

Total, 330,000 340,000 670,000

From the above table it will be perceived, that considerable more than one-half of the territory acquired from Mexico by the treaty of 1848, is now in the hands of the Missouri Compromise line, which, if it were adopted as the basis of a settlement of the present existing question of the day, would in the end give a preponderance to the Free States of the Union, even leaving out of question the fact that the people of California have already, by their solemn act in Convention, excluded slavery from the entire territory.—By that decision the relative proportion of free to slave territory is set as 2 to 1, separating the Missouri Compromise line from the one which that enactment, all north of the line would be forever free territory, whilst all south of it would be slave free territory, as the people might desire. But, even this view of the case gives the slave-holding interest more than it can receive; for, in no event, is it all probable that any portion of Deseret will ever become slave territory. Take, then, that portion of it lying south of the Missouri Compromise line and add it to the northern portion, and we have a territory (out of which a number of free States will be formed), of 400,000 sq. miles; whilst, on the other hand, giving them the whole of New Mexico, (which is doubtful), and Jacinto to boot, the slave territory will only number 170,000 sq. miles. We present this view of the subject, so that our readers can perceive at a glance the true state of the question which is now agitating the country and producing ill feeling and discord in the halls of Congress. Were this line adopted, we should have to a certainty at least four free States in the territory, and the balance of the two slave States could be formed, and they only with the approbation and consent of the citizens of the territory.

Gen. Cass' Great Speech.

The speech of Gen. Cass in the Senate upon the proposed bill to legislate for the Territories, and against the Wilcox Provision, has been a clear and statesmanlike argument that has ever been delivered in that body, and our only regret is that its almost interminable length precludes its insertion in our columns. He argued against the right of Congress to legislate on the subject—and intimated his intention to resign his seat in that body sooner than for the Provision under the instructions of the Michigan Legislature. The speech occupied the greater part of two days in the delivery, and was listened to with the most profound attention.

Legislative News.

The bill amending the Constitution, so as to make the judges elective by the people, passed the Senate on the 18th inst.

The Governor has nominated W. B. McCLELLAN, Esq. of Pittsburg, to be President Judge of the Allegheny District, in place of Judge Patton whose commission has expired.

A bill has been read in the Senate, by Mr. Fraley, erecting parts of Lancaster, Lebanon and Dauphin counties into a new county, to be called Conowing.

The following resolutions have passed the Senate: Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the law authorizing a tax on the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

Resolved, That the same committee to which has been referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the loan of the Commonwealth now pending in the Senate, be and they are instructed to report on the expediency of authorizing the issue of a new five per cent loan, to the present holders, exempt from taxation, redeemable in twenty years, with coupons attached, which shall be receivable by the government in payment of taxes.

A General Appropriation Bill has been reported in the House, by Mr. Conyngham.

A great many bills of a local character have passed both branches, and the members seem disposed to make the present a working session.—Whenever anything of general interest is transacted, we shall give it our readers.

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FINANCES OF THE STATES.

Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. We have before us the Annual Message of the Governors of Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. They are all interesting documents, as furnishing an exposition of the financial affairs of the respective States. All are imprinted, but all have made or are making preparations to liquidate their indebtedness as rapidly as possible.

The gross indebtedness of Pennsylvania amounts to \$40,511,173. But the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund hold the sum of \$113,500, which, if deducted from the aggregate, would leave an amount of public debt at \$40,397,673 99-100, and subject to a further deduction so soon as the sum of \$127, 637 89-100, now in the fund, shall have been appropriated to additional purchases of State loans.

The operation of the Sinking Fund for the last year, will be seen from the following statement:

Collateral inheritance tax, \$180,312 44

Premiums on charters, 29,895 40

Eating house, beer house, and restaurant licenses, 5,876 70

Billiard room, bowling saloon, and ten pin alley licenses, 2,985 50

Chester, circus, and menagerie licenses, 2,210 00

Distillery and brewery licenses, 380 00

Total receipts to Dec. 1849, \$226,639 01

From which deduct amount disbursed, 100,000 12

Balance unexpended, Dec. 1st, 1849, \$126,637 89

The amount of interest paid on account of our State Loans for the last year, was \$2,007,616. This is an enormous sum to raise, in addition to the extraordinary expenses of Government; but it should be remembered that the greater portion of the debt was incurred in the construction of our Canals and Railroads, and the tolls on these received last year, amounted to \$1,628,800. The prospect therefore is favorable for the gradual but ultimate liquidation of our immense indebtedness—a consummation to be devoutly wished.

With regard to New York, we learn from the Message of Gov. Fish, that the net debt of the State amounts to \$22,895,058. The amount in the sinking fund for the payment of this debt is \$24,392 17. The aggregate receipts during the year 1849 were \$4,235,358, of which \$3,442,960 were derived from the State works. After paying the ordinary expenses of the government and the payments out of the Canal fund, there is left a sum of \$909,102 71, applicable to the completion of the \$112,000,000. The increase during the past year on canals amounted to \$225,500 over the receipts of the preceding year. The expenses of collection, superintendence, and ordinary repairs of the canals, are nearly \$70,000 less than during the preceding year. The annual interest on the general fund debt amounts to \$344,329 84.

Of the Canal Debt, \$34,018,913 94 will become due prior to January, 1856. The avails of the Canal Debt Sinking Fund will be sufficient to meet this amount, so the surplus for the years 1851-52 can be arranged to meet the loan falling due in 1851, and no further loan on the credit of the fund will be required to meet the stock now outstanding until the 1st of January, 1856, when \$4,000,000 will become due.

Concerning Maryland, we learn from the Message of Gov. Thomas, that on the 30th of September, '49, the public debt amounted to \$16,164,813. From this, deductions are made of certain property which since it is \$10,650,773. On the 1st of December last, there was a balance in the treasury of \$184,892 98, leaving \$551,833 69 still due from the State works. The revenue of '49 exceeded that of '48, by \$314,807 51. The sinking fund, on the 1st of December, amounted to \$1,899,537 61, being an increase during the year of \$106,029 47. The Governor estimates that on the 1st of December 1852, there will be a balance of \$872,830 53, and that the receipts after 1st Dec. 1851, will not fall short of \$1,450,000 annually. The Governor recommends a rigid adherence to the present revenue laws, and predicts that under their operation, every dollar of the public debt will be paid in thirteen years from the present time.

We repeat that on the whole, these statements are highly favorable. They indicate not only a disposition, but a determination and an ability on the part of three States, to reduce their indebtedness as rapidly as possible.—Bicknell.

Our readers will be glad to learn that the Hon. JOHN REED, one of the oldest and most eminent members of the Bar in that place, died on Saturday the 19th inst., aged 64 years. At the opening of the Court on Monday morning he was at his place among his legal brethren, but soon afterwards complained of being unwell and returned to his dwelling. He was a native of Adams county. In 1816 he represented the Westernmost district in the State Senate, and at the expiration of that term a term was appointed by Governor Findlay to the President Judgeship of the 24th Judicial District, which was at that time composed of the counties of Cumberland, Franklin and Perry. He filled this credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. At the time of his death he had charge of the Law Department of Dickinson College.

A New River.

A letter from Mr. REXFORD to Col. J. J. ARNEY, Chief of the Topographical Bureau, is going the rounds of the papers, stating that a River forty feet wide and more than waist deep made its appearance about the last of June in the heart of the great Desert lying between the mouth of the Gila and the mountains, in Cal. form. No stream existed there previous to that time. The water is said to be delicious, and the river affords an outlet to the most convenient spot for the traveller. Maj. R. says the river cannot be supplied from the mountains, which in that parallel and to the south, do not reach the regions of snow. Whence it comes and where it goes, is a matter yet to be determined.

Sad Casualty at Wilkesbarre.

We are pained to learn that a most melancholy accident occurred in the neighborhood of Wilkesbarre on Saturday last, resulting in the death of three young ladies in the family of Judge Woodward—one of them being his eldest daughter, aged about 13 years, another, an adopted daughter, aged 19, and the third a niece, of about the same age, who was visiting his family. It appears they were enjoying themselves sliding on the ice over the river when the ice gave way, precipitating the forward one into the water beneath; the second, hastening to her rescue, also fell in, and the third following the example of the second, met with a similar fate. Their bodies were soon recovered, but not until the vital spark had fled. The adopted daughter, it is said, was to have been married this week.—Dem.

A correspondent earnestly and indignantly protests against the removal of JOHN BARR, Esq., from the place of Collector of Tolls at Columbia, in this State, having been for some years in office, and when his collections for that period were \$40,000 more than those of any previous year. Our correspondent does not complain of the very capable gentleman appointed in his place; but regards his summary removal, when others appointed when he was, are retained, as a reflection upon a good citizen and an honest Democrat.—Penn.

ALEXANDER L. RUSSELL, Esq., of Bedford County, has been appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth, in the room of Townsend Haines, Esq., appointed Register of the Treasury. Mr. R. is the time of his appointment was Deputy Secretary.

JOHN S. SELWYN, (Dem.) has been elected, at a special election, to the State Senate of Maryland, from the Anne Arundel District, by a majority of 181 votes.

Washington Correspondence.

Since my last, not a few changes have occurred at the capital of the nation—11 men of almost every political nation. The exciting subject of Congressional elections, (in the House) has been disposed of in a most summary and anomalous manner—positions of parties upon important subjects seem to have become somewhat better defined—and the knowing spirits of both the North and the South are very fast assuming an attitude before the country, which, until now, to say the least, has been very equivocal.

The great contest of the present session was opened in the Senate on Wednesday last by General Cass, upon the resolution offered by Mr. Forster, of Mississippi, to provide territorial governments for all the country ceded us by Mexico; notwithstanding, all the country, California and Deseret have formed State Constitutions, and desire to be admitted into the Union at once. The object of this resolution being to cut off those sections from State government, by placing them, as territories, under the restraints of territorial laws. This is now true Southern policy, inasmuch as by both the constitutions of the two States of California and Deseret, slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited. By creating them territories, a hope (to those who hope it) might remain, that slavery could some day be introduced into them; which is not only very improbable, but decidedly impracticable.

This great question General Cass met in his characteristic, firm, and logical manner, and declared it to be the right of the people in the distant regions of the west not only to form constitutions for their government, but also to say themselves what institutions shall exist among them. He scouted the Wilcox Provision, and like the true democrat he is, declared his preference to resign his Senatorial seat, rather than sacrifice his opinion to fanaticism and disunion. And this he will undoubtedly do, unless the Legislature of Michigan modify the resolutions of instructions passed by that body last year; and I very much fear they will not incline to do it.

The fight has begun with equal force and violence in the House of Representatives. It commenced upon the reception of the Message of the President, accompanying the correspondence and other documents relating to California. Mr. Cleggman, of North Carolina, the acknowledged leader of the Southern Whigs in the House, made a long and exciting speech on Tuesday, which, in its disunionary tendency, can not be done by the most flagitious efforts of free soilers and abolitionists.—This speech proves clearly what I said in my last, that men can be found at the South as fanatical upon the subject of slavery, as can be produced in the North on the subject of Anti-slavery. And as a body, the Whigs of the South are as much opposed to anti-slavery, as Northern Whigs are to slavery—and in Congress the two extremes of that party have met upon the question, and the effect has been seen, to some extent, at least, in the recent elections in the House.

I believe it will be seen, in the end, that the democratic party, by the moderate and conciliatory course which it will pursue upon this all absorbing question of slavery in the territories, will have saved the Union, against the combined elements of faction from both South and North; and although the present appearance of things might indicate to the free man of the Union defeated in their suicidal designs upon the Republic.

What