Intelligencer & Journal.

GEO. SANDERSON, EDITOR.

Lancaster, February 19, 1850.

☞Rev. **Henry Slicer**, late Chaplain to the U. S. Senate, will preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in this City, on to-morrow (Wednesday) evening—service at 7 o'clock.

On our First Page

Will be found a neat biographical sketch of Mrs. Sarah Polk, the esteemed lady of the lamented ex-President—also, an excellent speech of Mr. Meek, of Centre county, delivered in the House of Representatives in opposition to the passage of the supplement to the Reading Railroad Bill—and a brief, but comprehensive address in favor of the establishment of Normal Schools, by Rev. James A. Devinney, of Carlisle, a delegate to the late State Educational Convention. We bespeak for each of them an attentive perusal.

☞It will be perceived from our advertising columns, that Mr. Woodville intends giving one of his highly interesting entertainments at the Mechanics' Institute, on Thursday evening. Mr. W. is one of the most happy and forcible delineators of the peculiarities of character now before the public; his songs, whims, oddities and humorous drolleries constitute one of the richest treats of the season, and as many of our good citizens will recollect his visit to this place some six years since, we have but to announce the fact of his appearance to insure him a full house. Those who have never had the pleasure of hearing him, we commend by all means to embrace the coming occasion, for we feel assured his entertainment, in point of taste and true humor, will render more than satisfaction to all.

☞Mr. Muhlenberg, of the Senate, will accept our thanks for a pamphlet copy of his very able speech on the supplement to the act incorporating the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company.

☞Col. Kaufman, one of the talented Representatives in Congress from Texas, has our thanks for a pamphlet copy of the admirable speech of Gen. **Houston** on the Slavery question, made in the U. S. Senate on Friday week.

Gen. H., though a Southern man with Southern feelings, took strong ground in favor of the Union. The two concluding sentences of his eloquent peroration is as follows:—

"I wish, if this Union must be dissolved, that its ruins may be the monument of my grave, and the graves of my family. I wish no epitaph to be written to tell that I survived the ruin of this glorious Union."

The "North Pennsylvanian."

We have received a prospectus for the publication of a weekly Democratic journal, about to be commenced in Towanda, Bradford County, by our talented and energetic young friend, Wien Fornet, Esq., late editor of the Saturday *Gleaner*, an excellent literary paper published in Philadelphia. We can cheerfully recommend Mr. F. to the Democracy of Bradford county, as a gentleman every way worthy their encouragement and support. A thorough-going, radical Democrat, of the real Jackson and Polk stamp, with rare business talents, and a gifted and ready writer, he cannot fail to gain the confidence and esteem of all who form his acquaintance. We wish him abundant success in his undertaking—he is eminently deserving.

We shall be pleased to forward the names of subscribers to the "North Pennsylvanian" from this region. The paper is to be published in quarto form of eight pages, once a week, at the rate of $2 per annum, or $1,50 when paid in advance.

Canadian Affairs.—

The letter of Earl Grey to Lord Elgin, containing instructions as to the course he is to pursue towards those concerned in the annexation movements in Canada, is likely to work more to the advantage than the overthrow of the annexationists—so thinks the Albany *Argus*. The first impression which it appears to have made in the Provinces, seems to justify this opinion, as it is met with ridicule it not defiance by the people.

We learn, says the *Argus*, from most reliable sources, that the removal from office of all those engaged in the movements referred to, by the Governor General, Lord Elgin, has done more to aid their cause than almost any thing else, and that the edict of Earl Grey, the Colonial Secretary of the British Government, will only add fuel to the flame. The United States certainly has not quite outgrown its clothes yet, and has considerable spare room for settlers, and is likely to have for some years to come; but if our Canadian neighbor has determined to come into our family circle, and will promise to behave herself when she gets there, we must incline to the opinion that when she has fully determined to "change her condition in life," no power the other side of the great waters will prevent it. That time has not yet come—but it is certainly approaching.

☞Col. William Bigler, of Clearfield, spent two or three hours in our City last week, on his way to Philadelphia. He is in fine health and spirits, having entirely recovered from his recent indisposition.

☞The original manuscript copy of General Washington's Farewell Address to the People of the United States, was sold at public auction, at the Philadelphia Exchange, on Monday evening last, for the sum of $2300. It was purchased for Jas. Lenox, Esq., of New York.

☞The State Election in New Hampshire will take place on the 12th of March.

☞The vote in the U. S. Senate, on receiving Mr. Hale's petition for a peaceable dissolution of the Union, was nearly unanimous against it—only 3 voting in the affirmative, to **51** in the negative. The *trio* who voted in the affirmative were Messrs. HALE, SEWARD and CHASE. Pass their names round!

☞Senator Gwyn and Messrs. Wright and Gilbert, the two Representatives elect from California, are now in Washington, prepared to take their seats as soon as Congress shall admit the newly organized State into the Union. The other Senator, Col. Fremont, has not yet arrived—being detained at Panama by the illness of his lady.

The Hague Street Explosion.

We learn from the New York papers, that the whole number of dead bodies recovered from the ruins of the building destroyed by the recent explosion, amounts to 63, and the wounded to 40!—What a heart-rending scene it must have been.

California Gold.—We learn from the *Pennsylvanian*, that from the 9th to the 15th inst., there was received at the U. S. Mint, in Philadelphia, upwards of ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS!

Handsome Revenue.—It is stated that the rents of Col. Fremont's property at San Francisco, amount to $40,000 per annum.

☞The trial of Professor Webster for the alleged murder of Dr. Parkman, in Boston, is fixed for the 19th of March. When arraigned before the Court, and the usual question of "guilty, or not guilty?" put to him, he replied in a clear and emphatic voice—"I am *not* guilty."

Arrested.—Seven individuals have been arrested and imprisoned in the County Jail, on suspicion of having committed a burglary and assault upon Mr. Patterson, of Colerain township, a few weeks ago.

☞About 1500 Valentines passed through our P. O. on Thursday last.

California.

The interest excited by the discovery of the rich gold mines of California, says the Baltimore *American*, seems to increase by every arrival from that El Dorado of the far west. The millions of dollars already sent from California in gold and gold dust, demonstrate that whatever exaggeration there may have been, or may still be, respecting the extent of the precious deposit in that country, the basis of a reality has been found sufficient to warrant the belief of immense resources still awaiting exploration.

The commerce of the world is already affected sensibly by the developments of mineral wealth in California. The harbor of San Francisco is thronged with the shipping of all nations, and it has become the central point of a trade which, to judge from its beginnings, may one day become among the most extensive and the most lucrative ever enjoyed by the greatest cities. The glories of Tyre and of Carthage; the more modern splendors of Venice and Genoa; the massive opulence which has made London the imperial seat of commerce in our own days—these must hereafter all stand in a subordinated comparison with the future mistress of the Pacific seated by her mountains of gold.

To give permanence to the prosperity of California upon the scale of its present promise, it is requisite that some more substantial depository of her golden treasures should be discovered than has been found yet in the sands of the Sacramento. It is believed that this discovery has been made, and that in fact the *placers* where gold dust and detached particles of gold of various sizes, are dug from the alluvium, have received these deposites from the washings of the mountains in whose bosom, in whose very structure and substance, the mother-veins of gold exist in combinations with rock and earth. Should this prove to be true, the business of mining will then become regular and permanent. Capital will be required to establish fixtures and machinery; and labor, no longer desultory and individual, will have to be directed by science, and be steadily continued as at a settled occupation. It must also follow that villages, towns and cities will grow up in the neighborhood of the richer mines, and the cultivation of the ground, to procure subsistence for a resident population, may be regarded as another result to be expected.

It is a strange phenomenon—this sudden uprising of a State on the Pacific. If the age were less fruitful of marvels, we might pause in astonishment at this apparition for which History gives no precedent. A full—panoplied Minerva, the State of California has come into a mature existence at once, and like her mythological prototype she has sprung from the head of her sire. But the succession of prodigies at this day is so rapid, that one has no time to experience surprise. Our epoch has taken for its motto *nil admirari*—to wonder at nothing.

Democratic Union Meeting.

A great Democratic Union Meeting, of all those who sustained the Democratic platform in the last Presidential campaign, and who are now opposed to the fanatical efforts of the Free Soil and Abolition agitators, to sever the Union, is to be held in Philadelphia, at the CHINESE MUSEUM, on the evening of the 22d inst. The call is published in the *Pennsylvanian*, and is signed by several thousands of the staunch and incorruptible Democracy of the City and County. The meeting promises to be a tremendous outpouring of the people, and its proceedings will, doubtless, have a happy effect in rebuking the fell spirit of disorganization and disunion which is now so rife in some sections of our beloved country.

Usury.—The Judiciary Committee of the State Senate, have reported a bill relative to the legal rates of interest. Under its provisions, a person may pay and receive such rates of interest, for the loan of money on notes, drafts, &c., growing out of any business transaction, to any length of time not exceeding twelve months, as the parties may agree upon in writing; but on all judgments the rate is limited to six per cent. The act is not to apply to bank discounts or to loans on real estate.

We doubt the policy or fairness of a law of this kind. Either the present legal rate of interest is wrong or it is right. If the first, then the new act ought to embrace in its provisions all classes—as well judgment and bank debtors as any other. If the old law is right, then would it be an act of injustice to place any unfortunate or needy individual at the mercy of the greedy Shylocks who infest every community. As it is, with all the legal enactments and guards against usury, the needy in many instances are *shaved* almost to the bone—then, how will it be when the greedy and avaricious dispositions of these money dealers are not held in check by the law, but each one is permitted to take advantage of his neighbor's necesities, and exact any amount from the poor unfortunate who, from the force of circumstances, is placed in his power?

Slanders on Mr. Hannegan.

A short time since we stated, that we did not believe the base charges of the Whig press and letter writers, against the Hon. E. A. Hannegan, our late Minister to Berlin, and remarked that we hoped that we would have the privilege of saying they were not true. We now have that privilege, which we embrace by publishing the following article from the New York *Globe*:—

Mr. Hannegan.—We perceive that our late Minister to Berlin, Hon. Edward A. Hannegan, has returned in the Europa; and a personal friend of ours, who knew him intimately abroad, authorizes us to say that the letter defamatory of Mr. Hannegan, published in the Whig papers of Boston, and copied elsewhere, makes nothing but statements utterly without foundation. Mr. Hannegan never tasted a drop of ardent spirits during his whole residence in Europe, and his conduct was one of the most amiable and exemplary character under all circumstances. The stories, therefore, of the letter writer in question are most cruel as well as unjust; and were no doubt the manufacture of some personal ill feeling and malignity. We trust that the journals which gave unintentional circulation to these malicious charges against Mr. Hannegan, will copy this correction.

We wonder what the New York *Evening Post*, *Atlas*, *Tribune*, and other papers, who not only published the falsehoods of the British letter writer, but added to the mass of corruption tales of their own manufacture, to the injury of Mr. Hannegan, simply because he differed with them in politics, think now? These libellers may yet sorely repent their work.—*Baltimore Argus*.

A Nut for the Whigs and Free Soilers to Crack.

The Richmond *Whig* complains bitterly of the Democratic politicians of the Old Dominion, for taking the wind out of the sails of the Whig slaveholders, by pretending a rampant zeal for the extension of slavery. The whigs, says that 'leading organ of their party, at a moderate calculation, own two-thirds of the Negroes in the State, and the whig party is largely in the majority east of the mountains, where the black population is principally found. "The demagogues," says the same paper, scoffingly, "who traduce the whigs by calling them the abettors of the Abolitionists, do not, themselves, in nine cases out of ten, own a negros toe-nail."

And yet the whigs of Virginia are in close alliance with the whigs of the North, the latter boasting so loudly of their opposition to slavery and its extension to the territory acquired from Mexico! If this is not "aiding and abetting" the Abolitionists, then are we at a loss to know the true meaning of the terms. Oh, consistency! thou art indeed a jewel that cannot be too highly prized.

☞Railroads and Telegraphs have brought distant cities and markets near our doors; and it is wisdom on the part of our business men to improve these facilities. Merchants would find it for their interest to trade at Simmons' Oak Hall in Boston, which is probably the largest clothing establishment in our country.

Taxables in the County Towns of Pennsylvania, 1849.

Adams—Gettysburg,	451
Allegheny—Pittsburg, (proper,)	9176
Armstrong—Kittaning,	346
Beaver—Beaver,	487
Bedford—Bedford,	225
Berks—Reading,	3349
Blair—Hollidaysburg,	553
Bradford—Towanda,	256
Bucks—Doylestown,	259
Butler—Butler,	276
Cambria—Ebensburg, no return.	
Carbon—Mauch Chunk,	1609
Centre—Bellefonte,	283
Chester—West Chester,	596
Clarion—Clarion,	148
Clearfield—Clearfield,	109
Clinton—Lock Haven,	168
Columbia—Bloomsburg, no return.	
Crawford—Meadville,	461
Cumberland—Carlisle,	969
Dauphin—Harrisburg,	1703
Delaware—Chester, no return.	
Elk—no return.	
Erie—Erie,	1187
Fayette—Uniontown,	582
Forest—no return.	
Franklin—Chambersburg,	659
Greene—Waynesburg, no return.	
Huntingdon—Huntingdon, no return.	
Indiana—Indiana,	186
Jefferson—Brookeville,	177
Juniata—Mifflintown, no return.	
Lancaster—Lancaster,	3043
Lawrence—Newcastle, no return.	
Lebanon—Lebanon,	457
Lehigh—Allentown,	802
Luzerne—Wilkesbarre,	503
Lycoming—Williamsport,	364
McKean—Smithport, no return.	
Mercer—Mercer,	246
Monroe—Stroudsburg, no return.	
Mifflin—Lewistown,	590
Montgomery—Norristown,	995
Northampton—Easton,	1399
Northumberland—Sunbury,	282
Pike—Milford, no return.	
Perry—Bloomfield,	136
Philadelphia, (proper,)	22,730
Potter—Coudersport,	64
Schuylkill—Pottsville,	1231
Somerset—Somerset,	179
Susquehanna—Montrose,	164
Sullivan—Laporte, no return.	
Tioga—Wellsborough,	144
Union—New Berlin,	153
Venango—Franklin,	205
Warren—Warren,	215
Washington—Washington,	575
Wayne—Honesdale,	342
Wyoming—Tunkhannock,	124
Westmoreland—Greensburg,	211
York—York,	1598

The boroughs having taxables over 1,000, are Harrisburg, Mauch Chunk, York, Easton, Erie and Pottsville.

Mr. Clay's Speech.—The Washington *Union* shrewdly remarks that there is a certain class of people who take a pride in idolizing him. These people will, of course, cry up his last speech to the skies. "For example, the correspondent of the Baltimore *Patriot* writes, in a style of man-worship that is truly ridiculous:

"It is conceded on all hands, by Locofocos and Whigs alike, with a few exceptions by ultras, whom nothing could satisfy, that Mr. Clay's speech is unanswerable."

"Unanswerable!" Why, his own argument against the Missouri Compromise was founded on a palpable sophism—the assertion of a fact which does not exist. No one contends for holding the territory south of 36deg. 30min. eternally and irreversibly subject to the introduction of slaves. When it shall hereafter enter as a State, it must adopt such a constitution as a majority of its voters shall determine."—*N. Y. Globe.*

A Protest.—Twenty-four members of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, have filed a Protest against the passage of the supplement to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad bill, on the ground of its unconstitutionality and unfairness. Their names are:—John Cessna, D. H. B. Brower, B. G. David, Wm. Brindle, Wm. H. Souder, W. J. Jackson, W. J. Morrison, Wm. Henry, M. Myers, John B. Meek, R. Simson, E. Mowry Jr., T. C. Scouller, D. Steward, E. C. Trone, J. Hastings, Samuel Marx, A. Beaumont, J. R. McClintock, H. Williams, J. Black, Samuel Robinson, J. E. Griffin, J. F. McCulloch.

A Head Off—Good Beginning.

Gen. James Watson Webb, (of U. S. Bank notoriety,) the lately appointed Charge de Affaires to Austria, has received his quietus in the Senate.—The nomination was rejected on Tuesday last, by a vote of **34** to **7**! The seven Senators who voted for his confirmation, are Messrs. Seward, Spruance, Wales, Mangum, Berrian, Dawson and Bell. Mr. Clay, it is understood, not only voted in the negative, but *spoke against the nomination* as one "not fit to be made."

This summary rejection, it is said, has caused a considerable fluttering in some other quarters, and several more of the newly appointed Taylor office-holders are expected to go by the board.

[By request.]

Proceedings of the Lancaster Co. Temperance Society.

At a meeting of the Lancaster County Temperance Society, held in the Presbyterian Church in the village of Mountjoy, on Saturday the 2nd inst., the following resolutions were adopted.

Resolved, That the bonds, by which man is linked to his fellow man—the social law, by which all members of a community are obliged to share its weal or woe—the noble impulse of our nature, which prompts us to relieve the distressed, administer comfort to the miserable, bind up the broken heart, and elevate the character of man—and a desire to fulfil that divine command of the Scripture, "love your enemies as yourselves," were the motives that actuated those who commenced the great temperance reform, and they are still the influences that impel us onward to perfect it.

Resolved, That, (since every effect must have a cause,) the bloated countenances, the clouded intellects, blasted hopes, crushed affections, ruined domestic happiness, beastly drunkenness, premature death, misery, wretchedness, and crime, that we see and know exist around us, and which may be summed up under the general head of the evils of intemperance, have a *cause*, and that cause is the present liquor traffic.

Resolved, That we hold all men to be equal, and to have a right to do that which makes them happy, while not infringing upon the rights of others; but when a man, or any set of men, pertinaciously persevere in a business that is spreading untold evils and wickedness through the land, we, as a portion of those who suffer, claim the right, and will exercise the privilege, of doing what we can to put a stop to such nefarious conduct.

Resolved, That in our opinion the present license law is contrary to the principles upon which all constitutions should be based, and defeats the true end for which governments are established; for, if the business itself is right, the law allows a *few* to do that from which the *many* are excluded; and, if the business is wrong, no legislature can have rightful authority to license it.

Resolved, That those who sign tavern licenses, certifying that the person applying is a man of "good repute for honesty and temperance," when it is notorious that many of them are neither honest or temperate, are guilty of gross immorality most pernicious in its influence, and are responsible before God and man for much of the evil that results from intemperance.

Resolved, That while we sympathize with the effort now making in various parts of our State, for the purpose of procuring a modification of our present license laws, so as to make it more difficult to obtain a license, and, when obtained, more difficult to do injury to society, by dealing out the accursed poison, we gladly look forward to the day, not far distant we hope, when an entire prohibitory law will be passed, making it a penal offence to sell intoxicating drink as a beverage, and our legislators thus wash out the stain that now defiles the fair escutcheon of our State, and Pennsylvania cast off her load of guilt, and prove herself in morals as in position, the Keystone of this great confederation.

Resolved, That we recommend to the local societies where they exist, and to temperance men generally, in other parts of the County, to unite together for the purpose of obtaining facts in regard to the violation of the License Law by liquor sellers, with the ultimate object of presenting them before the Court, at its next session in Lancaster.

ENOS CONRAD, Pres't.

Attest: Joseph Gibbons, Rec. Sec'y.

☞Commodore Turner, a naval officer of considerable distinction, died at Philadelphia on the 4th inst.

Eloquent Remarks.

A few days since, Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, presented a petition to the U. S. Senate, purporting to be from certain citizens of Delaware and Pennsylvania, asking for a peaceful dissolution of the Union; upon which question Gen. **Cass** spoke as follows:

Mr. President, no man who attends the discussions in the Senate can fail to perceive the predisposition which prevails here to push principles to their extremes. If we do not find a massive wall where they must stop, we follow them indefinitely with as much metaphysical zeal as any of the disciples of the ancient schools of logic. The provision respecting the right of petition is contained in one of the amended articles of the constitution, which provides that Congress shall pass no law to prevent the people from assembling peaceably and petitioning for redress of grievances. I do not deny that the right thus secured is an important one, but I do not rate it by any means as high as the honorable senator from Ohio [Mr. Chase] appears to do. Thanks to the wisdom of our forefathers, and to the spirit of our institutions, the people of this country have a much more efficient remedy than the right of petition for any abuse by the government, whether apprehended or existing—the right of action; the right to send you home, and me home, and all of us home, and to put other and better men in our places, that their wishes may be accomplished. The government is theirs, and the ballot box is a far better security for its faithful administration than this humble right of petition. In England, whence the measure is derived, it is the best means the people have for a redress of grievances; and a poor one it is, too, there, as the experience of every day demonstrates. With a hereditary Executive, a hereditary House of Lords, and a House of Commons originally elected for the life of the sovereign, the right to petition is about all that is left to the people. Why, sir, if we were utterly to refuse to receive petitions in this country, it would produce no other effect than to rouse public indignation and hurl us from our places. No legislature in this broad land will ever place any improper limitation upon the exercise of this right. But, sir, the rare limitations which control it necessarily arise out of the nature of things. You would not receive a petition couched in insolent, or obscene, or blasphemous language. Would you receive one asking Congress to declare that there was no God, and to pass a law prohibiting the people of the United States from assembling for the purpose of religious worship? Would you refer such a petition, as the senator from New York [Mr. Seward] proposes to refer this, with grave instructions to report the proofs of the existence of a God, and to add their feeble evidence to the testimony upon that subject, which is found equally in the Book of Nature and the Book of Revelation, and which is with us and around us, from the cradle to the grave? Then, sir, if there are limitations to the duty of receiving, if not to the right of presenting petitions, what are they? They should be decent in their language, and the action they ask for should be within the sphere of our constitutional power. This principle the senator from Massachusetts, [Mr. Davis,] in my opinion, laid down the other day with equal truth and force. If I understood his vote, however, it happened to him, as to most of us too often in life, that his doctrine was better than his practice. I think, on a test vote on that occasion, he was among those in favor of the introduction of a petition asking what we could not grant. The constitutional object of the right of petition is declared to be the redress of grievances. Instead of a valuable right, an application to Congress to do what it cannot do, reduces it to a farce, and is calculated to bring the right itself into contempt. If we have no power to grant the prayer of the petition, why should such a petition be received? and our time thus profitlessly spent might be devoted to useful and national purposes. I am not speaking, sir, of a doubtful question—of petitions for measures of doubtful validity, and about which reasonable men may differ and do differ. These should be respectfully received and considered. But I speak of applications for the exercise of powers which we have clearly and undeniably no right to assume—like this for the dissolution of the Union, or for the annihilation of a State of this confederacy.

It has been said, sir—and it has been said in reproach—that if we ought not to receive petitions asking us to do an unconstitutional act, we ought not to receive petitions or remonstrances against such an act.

I do not so understand our own duties or the rights of the people. There is a great difference between a proposition to do what we have no right to do, and a remonstrance against doing it, when there is reason to apprehend it may be done. The one asks us to violate our oaths and the constitution, the other to recollect the obligations of both.

This petition asks us to dissolve the Union. I shall vote for rejecting it; and if there were any other mode by which our indignation at such a wicked and foolish proposition could be more powerfully expressed, I should adopt it with pleasure.

I had occasion some time since, and under much less imposing circumstances than the present, to say we ought to have one unpronounceable word, as the Jews had of old, and that word "dissolution." I repeat the sentiment—and with a stronger conviction, if possible, than ever of its truth and importance.

We talk as flippantly of breaking up this Union as we talk about dividing a township. The great difficulty of our position is, sir, that we do not know how well we are off. The sun never shone on so prosperous a country as this; and yet we reject almost contemptuously the blessings of God, and seem utterly insensible to the favors he has showered upon us. Look over the pages of ancient history, sir, look round the world as it is; and where will you find more freedom, more happiness, less oppression, less misery, than in this country? And yet we seem from time to time ready to reject all these elements of public and private prosperity, and to destroy this government, the world's best hope and our own. Instead of this eternal system of complaining, we should bow our knees in gratitude to Him who gave us these blessings, and who, I sometimes fear, will strike us with judicial blindness, as He did His chosen people of old.

That we have difficulties at times to encounter is but the common lot of humanity, individual as well as national; but when these come, let them be adjusted in a proper spirit of compromise, and the future may bring us all that the fondest aspiration can desire.

This petition asks us to take measures to dissolve this Union *peaceably*. It professes to come from the followers of William Penn, the great apostle of peace; from a portion of the most respectable Society of Friends, whose high moral qualities no man appreciates better than I do. But what kind of a proposition is this? *To dissolve this Union peaceably!* I say it with all proper deference to the petitioners, but I say it emphatically, that he who expects such a result is either already in an insane hospital or ought to be placed there. He who believes that such a government as this, with its traditions, its institutions, its promises of the past, its performance of the present, and its hopes of the future, living in the heart's core of almost every American, can be broken up without bloodshed, has read human nature and human history to little purpose. No, sir; the Gordian knot that binds us together will never be severed but by the sword. To talk, then, of dissolution, is to talk of war. Both are inseparably connected, and the evil day that brings the one will bring the other. And what kind of a war will it be? Such a war, sir, as this the world has never seen. The nearer we have been as friends, the more deadly will be our feelings as enemies. It will have all the elements of a civil war—of an intestine war. Wherever the border may be, it will be marked by blood and conflagration from one end of it to the other. Far be it from me to weigh the injuries that each portion might inflict upon the other, and then strike the balance of evil with mathematical precision. It is enough for me to know that ruinous would be the hopes of both. And where is all this to end? If jealousies and fancied rival interests, or real grievances, are to divide us into two confederacies, where is that division to stop? Similar causes will exist; they are inseparable from human nature; and we shall finally be reduced to State sovereignties, and may read our fate in the fate of the Greek republics, so vividly portrayed by the ancient historians.

Why, sir, it is but a year or two since, on the occasion of a war with Mexico, that a distinguished senator from South Carolina, [Mr. Calhoun,] still unhappily detained from his place by sickness, depicted in glowing colors the danger of victorious generals returning from foreign conquest. I believed then, as I believe yet, that he greatly overrated the danger, and that there was a preservative force in this country which would laugh to scorn the efforts of military power. And it was but a day or two since, that the other distinguished senator from South Carolina, [Mr. Butler,] now in his seat, pronounced a splendid eulogy upon General Scott for the moderation he exhibited when he entered the capital of Mexico. The senator, if I recollect right, thought he deserved some distinguished mark of his country's approbation for remaining faithful to her interests and his own duties, and not placing himself at the head of a Mexican kingdom. Few men, sir, have a warmer personal regard for General Scott than I have, and perhaps still fewer place a higher estimate upon his services than I do. He has won a high station among the great captains of the age, and he has also won imperishable honor for himself and for his country. The campaign from Vera Cruz to Mexico is among the proudest feats on military record. But, sir, with all this, I have no thanks to render him for the moderation which the senator from South Carolina alludes. I do not believe that the thought of such treachery ever entered his mind; nor do I believe that, if he had made the attempt, there was one American in the army who would have deserted the standard of his country to follow the standard of a disloyal soldier. The stars and the stripes would have still been the pillar of fire by day and cloud by night, to conduct our gallant countrymen to that home, whose associations neither time nor distance could weaken or sever. All honor, then, to Gen. Scott, and to the army, for what they did and suffered; but there let us stop. I trust it will be long before we find a Rubicon in our country.

But, sir, what will gentlemen say who anticipate such danger from military power to the danger to be apprehended to great sections of our country, when these are arrayed against each other in an armor and an attitude it is easy to forsee but impossible to prevent? The border would bristle with bayonets. Every commanding height would be crowned by its fortress. Standing armies would become a part of the permanent organization of each. And the probability is, judging from the lessons of history, that we shall be brought together again by some powerful leader, and find ourselves in a consolidated instead of a confederated country, under the iron rule of a military despot. God save me from witnessing that day!

Washington Correspondence.

Washington, Feb. 14, 1850.

The principal topic of interest at the seat of government, for the past week, has continued the same—California and Slavery. This momentous question, however, has now assumed a shape more tangible and sensible, than it has ever before done.—Hitherto, it has been one of mere abstraction—it is now one of tangibility and texture.

As I have written you all along, Mr. Clay's compromise proposition is now *more* than "obsolete idea." More especially now, since the President has transmitted to Congress the Constitution of California, which will throw all questions of *compromise* to the winds. There is nothing now to *compromise;* for California has sent her Constitution here, and asks for admission into the Union. It is republican in its form, and of itself, is the Model Constitution, perhaps, of the whole 31. Her Representatives are also here, ready to assume the functions of their stations. Now, what hinders a settlement of the question at once? Here it is—the following provision in her Constitution, which, though it is doubted by some whether she had the *right* to adopt, can scarcely be denied by *most* democrats:

"Sec. 18. Slavery or involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crimes, shall *never* be tolerated in this State."

Is it fairly to be doubted that California had not the *right* to say whether she would have the existence of slavery or any other institution within her boundaries? Is it not a fact that she has the power of excluding this or any other institution *from* her borders?

It is argued by some, that California ought not to be admitted with the above provision, because she excludes the South from a participation in her wealth. It is not so. If slavery is excluded, as they of that State have decided, do not *all* who go there, do so upon equal footing? But it would not be so if her Constitution were different. But this is not the matter at issue.

Mr. Foote, in his speech to-day, made use of the following language:

He declared that California was not a State, and never had any authority to form a State constitution. It was thus attempted to smuggle California into the Union. He complimented the patriotism and talent displayed in the debates and proceedings of the California Convention. He opposed the views of those who would rudely hazard the Union by bringing into the Union California, without any adjurnment of other questions. He stated the truth—and the truth would prevail—here was a plan to betray the interests of the South. He commented upon the views of Mr. Benton with great severity, and went on to remark that it was owing to the fact that his son-in-law was the Senator elect.

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He could not be suspected of any prejudice against California or its Representatives. But his duty to his State—to the honor of the South—induced him to oppose her admission in this way. If California was admitted, as an independent proposition, it would dissolve the Union.

Now all such talk as this is purely gratuitous, though coming from a good democrat. Mr. Foote was once as favorably disposed to the admission of California as a State as any man in the Union, until she adopted her Constitution, then the tune with him and others changed.

This question has ceased to be a *party* question, merely. Northern and Southern Whigs and Democrats will vote for the admission, and the loud talk about dissolving the Union if California is now admitted, is pure flummery. There are some in the South, whigs and democrats, who upon this subject of slavery, are as fanatical as Wilmot, Giddings & Co. are upon the other extreme; either of which, when this exciting subject is discussed, are very poor authority for conservatives. And the only difference between these extreme fanatics is, one would dissolve the Union to *perpetuate* Slavery, and the other would do so to *annihilate* it.—Either of which is dangerous enough. Now, it is not proposed to allow these hot-heads their own way in this thing, at all. The safety of the Union rests in the hands of the cool lovers of the Republic; and this being the fact, California will most likely very soon be admitted into our National family, and the Union will be dissolved just about as much as it was when a certain Whig party of the North declared it would be a few years ago if Texas was annexed.

The first of the week, the House acceded to the Senate resolution making an extra appropriation for the Treasury Department, so far as to grant $1, 250,000. If this does not satisfy Mr. Meredith, why I suppose he will —— "call again."

The California Message, No. 2, about which there has been so much expectation, and which, it was said, was to be *so* carefully and concisely written, came before the House on Wednesday. To the surprise of all, it contained only *three lines*, and a signature. It was accompanied by the California Constitution, transmitted to the President by Gov. Riley. It is now in the hands of the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

The House, as in this Committee, are yet upon the subject of the Annual Message, but probably that will be turned off very soon for something more important,—the admission of California.—My impression is, from all that I can discover, that there exists the strongest desire in the House to get a vote upon this matter—when, as soon that time comes, we shall see it pass by a quick vote, no doubt.

The House has refused to allow a Clerk to the Supreme Court of the United States to record the decisions of its Judges. Quite right.

J. Watson Webb's rejection by the Senate, seems to displease no one in particular. But *seven* Senators voted for him; Mr. Clay being one of his opposers. This will partially satiate a feeling which Mr. Clay must have had towards him since previous to the Philadelphia Whig Convention—and perhaps, too, proves a similarity of views, as to what Mr. Webb himself said of Gen. Taylor's appointments—that he was not possessed of ability to make a decent one—I thought there might have been some truth in what he had said, when I read *his* appointment.

I wish to call your attention to the manner in which the printing for Congress is now being performed. It is the most creditable work ever done for Congress, and it is a shame that the contractors receive so poor a remuneration. It is done at the *Union* office.

Our city the present week, has been the headquarters of music and amusement. The Germania Society, the Elenas, and the Panoroma of the burning of Moscow are here; and what, with balls and soirees, we have had rather a gay week.

Gen. Lopez, who was recently sentenced to death in Spain, escaped to this country, and is now here. He has been Governor of Valencia and Madrid.

ARAM.

☞The Pennsylvania Canals are to be opened on the 7th March, by order of the commissioners.

CITY AFFAIRS.

Proceedings of Councils.

Feb. 12. Select and Common Councils met.—W. P. Brooks was elected a member of Common Council, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of D. B. Bartholomew.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Treasurer—J. Zimmerman.
Solicitor—A. Slaymaker.
Assessor—M. Bundle.
Collector of City Tax—J. M. Westheffer.
Collector of Water Tax—Philip Leonard.
Superintendent of Water Works—J. A. Messenkop.
Street Commissioner—Jacob Stormfeltz.
Regulators—James C. Carpenter, Geo. Albright and J. Dorwart.
Messenger—George Albright.

The following standing committees were appointed, viz:

Finance Committee—Messrs. Amwake, Weidler, Hamilton and Samson.
Water Committee—Messrs. Zecher, Harmony, Lightner, Steinman, Erisman and Beates.
Street Committee—Messrs. Zecher, Metzgar, Rohrer and Yiesley.
Market Committee—Messrs. Gillespie, Harmony, Gorner and Wilson.
Committee on Fire Engines and Hose Companies—Messrs. Lightner, Gorrecht, Metzgar, Steigerwalt, Morton and Gantz.
Committee on Buchanan Relief Fund—Messrs. Lightner, Gorrecht, Samson and Brooks.
Police Committee—Messrs. Amwake, Hamilton, Gillespie, Wilson, Torr and Gorner.

In C. C. on motion of Mr. Steinman, the Water Committee, together with the President of Councils, and one additional member from each body, were directed to inquire into the condition of the Water Works, and report such improvements as may be necessary to ensure a full supply of pure water, together with a plan and an estimate of the probable cost.

Mr. Samson appointed on part of C. C. S. C. concurred, and appointed Mr. Hamilton.

On motion, adjourned.

JAMES BLACK, Clerk S. C.
JAMES L. REYNOLDS, Clerk C. C.

New Cemetery.—

We learn that the Vestry of the Lutheran Church of this City, has purchased a splendid piece of ground, containing sixteen acres, fronting on S. Queen Street, and extending east to the Conestoga, for a Cemetery. It is a beautiful spot, known as "Woodward's Hill," and is admirably adapted for the use intended. It is not designed exclusively for the Lutheran Church, but members of all other denominations are at liberty to purchase lots for the purpose of burial.—Already about four hundred have been sold.

James B. Lane, Esq., is appointed Treasurer, to whom application can be made by those who are desirous of purchasing lots.

Great Fire in New Orleans.

New Orleans, Feb. 16—A. M.

A tremendous fire occurred in this city this morning, at about one o'clock, commencing in Camp street, and already nineteen buildings are in ashes, the most of which are large stores. The office of the *Picayune*, and Robb's extenseve banking house, are also destroyed. The fire is not yet extinguished, although the utmost exertions are being made by our citizens and the fire department. The loss is not far from $500,000, the principal portion of which is covered by insurance.

A Black Rainbow.—The Boston *Transcript* learns that a black rainbow was discovered on Tuesday evening about 8 o'clock, by the good people of New Bedford. Its direction was from the north-west to the south east, and it lasted about twenty minutes. It was very perfect, and of great size.

Fat Cattle.—The Albany Evening *Journal* speaks of a valuable drove of cattle recently brought to that market. Among them was one ox, nearly the size of a common elephant, weighing 3600 lbs; a five year old heifer, weighing 2300 pounds, which took a premium at Syracuse last fall; also three pair of cattle, averaging 4500 pounds per pair, including a pair of line backs, weighing 4500.

☞There were 45 deaths in St. Louis during the week ending the 4th instant, of which three were from cholera.

THE MARKETS.

HOUSEKEEPER'S MARKET.

Lancaster, Feb. 16, 1850.

Butter—Is plenty and commands a good price. Table butter sold at 17 to 20 cents per lb. Inferior brought 14 to 15 cents.

Eggs—Plenty, and sold at 12½a14 cts. per doz.

Potatoes—Good potatoes at 8a10 cents per half peck. By the bushel they are sold at 62½a75 cents.

Chickens—Plenty at 25a31 cents per pair.

Apples—Sold at 12½a18½ cts. per half peck.

Dried Apples—Sold at 3a4 cents per quart.

Apple Butter—Sold at 37½a50 cts. per crock.

Cabbage—From 3 to 6 cts. per head.

Lard—Extra sold at 8a9 cents. per lb.

Celery, Red Beets, Beans, &c. plenty, and at all prices.

LANCASTER GRAIN MARKET—(wholesale.)

Feb. 16.

Flour—Fresh ground $4,50 per barrel.

Wheat—White $1 per bush. Red 90a95 cents.

Corn—Old, 50 cents. New, 37½a45 cents.

Rye—60 cents per bushel.

Oats—Sold at $1,06, in bags of 3 bushels.

Corn—From 56 to 62cts. per bus. in the ear.

Oats—28 cents per bushel.

Clover Seed—$3,75a4.00 per bushel.

Whiskey—22 cents per gallon.

PHILADELPHIA,