

# REPORT

Wednesday, April 2, 1845.

## RENEWAL

The Office of the Bradford Reporter has been removed to Col. Meany's Brick Store, (up stairs), entrance on the North side.

### The North Branch.

We extract from the Luzerne Democrat the following article, in relation to what would be the productiveness of the North Branch if completed:

"This Canal of yours begins no where, and ends in a swamp, as I understand it."

This was said by a member from one of the Middle counties of Pennsylvania, to one of the Luzerne Representatives, a few years ago, when pressed to vote for an appropriation to the North Branch Extension of the State Line.

If our Tax-payers were in possession of the facts connected with this Line, they would not permit it to lay a day longer in its half-finished state, going to decay. They would never allow it to fall into the hands of a Company. If Pennsylvania is ever to be freed from paying interest by the revenue derived from her internal improvements, it is to be from the North Branch tolls mainly. Now to the proof of some of these things.

The North Branch, extending from the Lackawanna to the State Line, is 94 miles, intended to connect with the Chemung Canal; through this canal with the Grand Erie canal at Montezuma, making a distance from Wilkesbarre to this latter point of 185 miles, being 11 miles less than to Havre-de-Grace, then by Erie canal through populous Rochester, to the fast growing Buffalo, on Lake Erie—opening that immense Lake trade, and our coal finding a nearer and better route than can be found by any other Canal into that vast western world. Or, turning at Montezuma in the other direction, you will supply Utica and Syracuse; and turning at this latter place you will find by the way of Oswego a market through Ontario into Her Majesty's Dominions, and the Subjects of Victoria may warm their shins with Republican coal from Wyoming. You connect the North with the mighty improvements of the Empire State, you are abroad upon the "Great Lakes," stretching North and West, and South, you touch the salt waters of the Ocean. It will be the magnificent chain stretching from the Main to those wondrous inland seas—and will be a strong bond of brotherhood between the Empire and the Keystone.

If the Lowlander had said "Why this canal of yours passes through veins of coal and iron of the ripest deposit and inexhaustible, with the finest limestone quarries in the world, and leads to markets that have no end, and are unnumberable—that furnishes the western merchant an earlier and nearer routes to his own Emporium, than by his own canal, and places him nearer Philadelphia than New York, giving him a choice of markets. In truth, the North Branch has a beginning, but her markets have no calculable end."

The heaviest part of the work has already been executed at a cost of \$2,488,039 60, drawing out of the Treasury per annum, at 5 per cent. interest, \$144,446 97—the work going to decay, and no revenue—valuable farms with big ditches dug through them—their owners unremunerated, and patiently awaiting the completion of this Extension as an ample measure for their damages. The sum required to put it in navigable order is estimated by our Canal Board at \$1,277,452 81, bearing an interest \$63,362 64, at 5 per cent. Without the further expenditure of this sum, the two millions and a half already invested is worse than a total loss.

What revenue would go into the Treasury when this work was completed?

Many years since De Witt Clinton estimated the consumption of coal for Northwestern New York, that would be supplied from the Susquehanna, at 500,000 tons per annum. This amount for the present population, and its wants, is a low estimate. Her salt works—

cupolas—manufactories—steam power, will make heavy demands—to say nothing of supplying that large country with fuel for hamlet, town and city.—

Their fuel, already scarce, is decreasing with increasing demand, and increasing in price. The first year, after opening that canal, we should send, on it, say, but 150,000 tons. This, paying toll 100 miles, at one half per cent. per ton per mile, would amount to \$75,000.—

Thus, then the receipts on the single article of Anthracite coal for the first year would more than pay the interest on the sum necessary to complete the work. To this add the tolls on the Bituminous coal which Bradford would send North and South, and the tolls on lumber from Bradford, Tioga and New York—tolls on the salt, plaster and provisions which New York would send southward—and the iron in pigs, bars, and sheets that Columbia and Luzerne would send West and North. What an outlet for the furnaces blazing around us—for the rolling-mill products, and for our nail factories. The receipts on these would amount to as much more.

The experience of England and this country come up to this now undisputed point—that where a canal depends for tonnage mainly on coal and iron, the investment is always profitable.—There is not a single English canal in a coal or iron district that has not advanced quadruple above par.

The only question to be settled, is—will the supply of coal and iron be sufficient? Ours is well named the "Great Coal Field," and is like the ore banks of our little neighbor, Columbia—inexhaustible. Coal and iron, of equal quality, are no where so cheaply placed on the lines of our public improvements as in these two counties.—The demands for these two articles would be immense upon the opening of this Branch, and would increase with a rapidity unparalleled. We should warm our friends in New York, and touching the Buckeye at Cleveland, would supply the densely populated part of his State, through his own improvements. The people of Sandown, who might want an Anthracite fire toward off the sweepers from the Rocky mountains, must come to us.

**THE IRON DISTRICT.**—Hunt's Merchant's Magazine, in an article upon the coal and iron of this country, furnishes the following information:—The iron district which spreads through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Western Virginia, traverses regions exuberant with coal, and abounding in water power; and traveling farther West, we find in Ohio, Kentucky, and particularly in Missouri, immense stores of metallic wealth, adjacent to the most fertile agricultural districts. It is to Pennsylvania, however, we must chiefly direct our attention, where two-fifths of all the iron in the United States is made. The United States contain 80,000 square miles of coal, which is about sixteen times as great as the coal measures of Europe. A single one of these gigantic masses runs from Pennsylvania to Alabama, and must embrace, itself, 50,000 square miles. Out of fifty counties of Pennsylvania, no less than thirty have coal and iron in them; and, out of the 46,000 square miles of Pennsylvania, which form superficies, there are 10,000 miles of coal and iron; while all Great Britain and Ireland have only 2,000—so that Pennsylvania alone has an area of coal and iron five times as great as that of Great Britain. The quality of the coal or iron is as rich as that of Great Britain, and they have the advantage of lying near the water level; while those of the latter country are sometimes more than one thousand feet below the surface, and are excavated through subterranean passages.

**SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.**—The Newport, N. H. Argus, of Saturday, states that a son of Joseph Welch, living in the neighboring town of Unity, was sent by his mother to a sugar orchard some distance from home, alone upon an errand. Remaining absent an unusual time, some one went in pursuit, and found him dead and cold, suspended by the neck from the usual frame where sap is boiled. Being but 12 years old, it is not reasonable to suppose he would have committed premeditated suicide, and it is supposed that he had taken the rope from his sloop for the purpose of constructing a "swing," and became entangled in the noose.

### Destructive Fire!!

Five Buildings consumed in this Borough!

Our Borough has been visited by a calamity, which unfortunately, has been the lot of many villages in this Commonwealth of late to experience. An alarm of fire was raised about 4 o'clock, P. M., on Monday last, when it was discovered, that the building known as the Eagle Tavern, was so much on fire as to baffle every exertion to suppress its progress. Not five minutes elapsed after the alarm, before the whole of the north west, and upper part of the building was in flames. Two families occupied the house, and it was with much difficulty, that the property in the lower part was saved. The third story could not be approached, and we understand some beds, bed clothes, and clothing belonging to the family of Mr. Chase was consumed.

All hope was abandoned of saving the house next north of the Eagle tavern, belonging to Thomas Elliott, Esq.; the personal property in it was removed, but scarcely was this done, before the building was enveloped in flames. It was soon discovered that the house occupied by Mr. Cross, would have to share the same fate; the two buildings south of the Eagle tavern and adjoining it, were in the meantime consuming.—It was only by desperate exertions, accompanied with much danger that the fire was stayed without destroying the dwelling of William Watkins, Esq., next to Mr. Cross'. Five buildings were burned to the ground. One occupied as a Tin and Stove shop by D. C. Hall—the dwelling part unoccupied. The next building was but partially occupied. The Eagle tavern, occupied by two families, Mr. Chase and Mr. Coe. The dwelling house of Thomas Elliott was a very valuable and spacious building. The next house was also of the largest class in this village, and occupied by Mr. Cross as a boarding house. Nearly all of the personal property was taken out of the several buildings burnt, but nevertheless there was much destruction of it, and a large amount of it rendered useless. Although the wind was blowing very strong from the south, yet it was with much difficulty that the store of Hiram Mix & Sons's, and the Drug store of Dr. E. H. Mason, on the east side of the street were saved. During the time, alarms of fire were raised in different and remote parts of the borough, occasioned by buildings being on fire from cinders and coals that were carried in the strong current. For a while, inevitable destruction seemed to await the largest portion of our village.—Three of the buildings consumed, were owned by C. L. Ward, Esq., on which we are not aware that there was any insurance. Mr. Elliott had, we understand an insurance of \$1800 on his house. The house occupied by Mr. Cross, belonged to the Towanda Bank.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the exertions of the citizens of the borough, and to several persons from the country who happened to be in town. We noticed the efficient aid which many of them in particular rendered. The ladies, too, were out, and in the lines passing water from the river; without them these lines could not have been formed; and we may with safety say, that the fire was checked without destroying Mr. Watkins' house, principally by means of the line composed largely of the ladies; had this line been broken up, we can scarcely predict where the conflagration would have been stayed, short of all the North part of Main street. Nor were the exertions of the ladies confined to passing water; they were at work in the houses saving property. To them, and to all who contributed to save property so immunitely exposed, and the fairest portion of our village from being at this time in smouldering ruins, the warmest thanks, and highest credit are due.

Whether this lesson will teach our citizens the necessity of an organization of fire companies, time will show. Our opinion is, it will show nothing, unless it be, more of that apathy which has so long characterized this borough on the subject of fire.

**AUDITOR GENERAL.**—We learn from Harrisburg, that it is generally conceded there, that Judge LAFORTE will be appointed Auditor General. We trust it may prove true.

### Splendid Prize Banner.

The Democratic Union of the 15th inst., says: We have been shown a beautiful prize Banner presented to the Hon. BENJAMIN A. BIDLACK, member of Congress from Luzerne county, under the following circumstances. On the day of the nomination of POLK and DALLAS, by the Baltimore National Convention, a number of prominent Democrats from New York and Pennsylvania, casually met in a friendly circle, and discussed the subject of the nominations. The New Yorkers doubted whether the vote of the Keystone State could be secured for the Democratic nominees at all, owing to the excitement growing out of the tariff of 1842, whilst the Pennsylvanians contended, on the other hand, that they would give a larger majority than New York. Mutual pledges were interchanged, and an appropriate banner promised to the winning party. The promise thus made, has been faithfully redeemed. Before Mr. Bidlack left Washington for his residence, immediately after the adjournment of Congress, he was visited by JONATHAN D. STEVENSON, Esq., on the part of the New Yorkers, who presented to Mr. Bidlack, and through him to the Pennsylvania Democracy, a silk banner superbly executed, which cannot have cost less than from four to five hundred dollars. The scroll is of gold, on white silk ground; in the centre medallion the head of JEFFERSON; top, escutcheon of the Union; on the right of Jefferson, the arms of Pennsylvania, on the left, the arms of New York—in the lower medallion, the head of FRANKLIN. Motto: "no distinction but those of merit." Trimmings: marine border, blue, gilt stars—streamer of bunting—gilt fringe, silk cord and tassels—surmounted by a cap of Liberty, red with blue velvet border and 13 stars.

We understand that Mr. BIDLACK intends depositing the banner in some public room in this place—there to remain until November, 1848, when an opportunity will be afforded to the New Yorkers to win it back again if THEY CAN.

### "The Law of Newspapers."

1. Subscribers who do not give EXPRESS NOTICE to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.
2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publishers may continue to send them till arrearages are paid.
3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the offices to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they have settled their bill, and ordered their papers discontinued.
4. If subscribers remove to other place without informing the publishers, and their paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
5. The courts have decided that refusing to take a newspaper or periodical from the office, or removing and leaving it uncalled for, is "prima facie" evidence of INTENTIONAL FRAUD.

**ENCOUNTER WITH A BULL.**—The sad fate of Slaymaker's bull has a parallel in the following which we take from the Baltimore American:—The train which left Philadelphia for Baltimore on Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock met with an accident about half past seven o'clock when a little east of Elkton.—The train was proceeding at the rate of twelve miles an hour when the locomotive encountered a large Durham bull, over which it passed entirely and without injury to the engine or tender. Not so however with the rest of the train. The first and second cars were thrown off and demolished, the first one thrown down a precipice a few feet, and the second broken to atoms. The remaining cars were not removed from the track. The number of passengers in the train could not have been less than five hundred, and all the cars crowded, yet strange to say, notwithstanding the injury to the cars not a passenger was seriously hurt. A gentleman of this city had his foot bruised, and another his forehead slightly cut, and the conductor, Mr. Smith, was slightly injured by a part of a car falling on his breast. The passengers reached Baltimore about four o'clock yesterday morning.

The animal which caused the accident was of course killed instantly.—Both his horns were broken off, and it would seem that as the cars approached he had placed himself in a hostile attitude and received the blow on his forehead or horns.

### Correspondence from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, 28th March, 1845.

The House of Representatives have passed the Appropriation Bill, in which is contained an appropriation of \$200,000 to Common Schools.

Col. Wilson, of your county offered a Resolution fixing the 15th April for the final adjournment of the Legislature. The Resolution passed the House unanimously, and was immediately sent to the Senate, and taken up and passed unanimously through that body also.

Numerous local Bills have passed both branches, and many public Bills of great importance remain yet to be acted on.

A motion has been made to reconsider the vote by which Sullivan county was defeated, and the bill is still before the Senate.

Much time has been consumed in disposing of the Bill to continue the District Court of Philadelphia, the great effort being to pass the law—so as to allow each of the Judges of the Court a salary of more than \$2,000. The Senate passed the Bill in various forms, but the House inflexibly adhered to their determination to allow but the \$2,000, and the Bill passed in that shape.

The Supplement to the Bill to incorporate the North Branch Canal Company passed Committee of the Whole in the Senate.

The Bill to extend the Towanda Rail Road from the Borough of Towanda to the Coal Mines has passed the Senate, and been sent to the House.

**FLORIDA.**—This State, admitted into the Union, by the late Congress, has provided for the organization of her State government. The Tallahassee Sentinel, says, the Constitution provides that so soon as official information shall have been received that Congress has provided for the admission of Florida, the President of the Convention, or in his absence, the Secretary of the same, shall immediately issue writs of election, to be held on the first Monday after the lapse of sixty days thereafter, (probably about 12th of May next,) under the existing laws; at which election the following officers are to be chosen:

1st. Seventeen Senators—to hold office one half for two years from first Monday in October 1845, the other half one year from next October, to be determined by law.

2d. Forty-one representatives in the General Assembly—to hold office until first Monday in October 1846.

The General Assembly, so constituted to assemble at the seat of Government on the fourth Monday after the election, and to elect besides their own officers, two United States Senators; four Judges of Circuit Courts—also Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, to hold office for the term of five years; the clerk of the Supreme Court and clerks of the Court of Chancery; the Attorney General of the State; four Solicitors in the Circuit Courts; the Secretary of the State; a State Treasurer and Comptroller of public accounts.

3d. A Governor, to hold office for the term of four years, to be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the State.

4th One Representative in Congress.

**GROSS NEGLIGENCE.**—We, in common with all our citizens, have borne for a long time, without grumbling, the miserable manner with which some of the Post Offices, between Ralston and Harrisburg are conducted. It is now almost impossible to obtain direct information from Harrisburg, and very frequently, a mail comes loaded with the accumulations of a week. There is neglect somewhere, and we incline to the opinion, that it is at Williamsport. It has become a serious evil, here, and requires amendment.

**ARREST ON SUSPICION OF BEING ENGAGED IN THE SLAVE TRADE.**—The Wilmington (Del.) Gazette of yesterday says, Capt. Gray, of that city, was arrested on Friday last upon the charge of being engaged in the slave trade on the coast of Africa, a few months since, while commander of the brig Agnes. He gave the bail (\$5000) required by Judge Hall, the district judge, to appear in court at New Castle and take his trial in June next. The charges were preferred by the Hon. Henry A. Wise, he having cause to suspect the brig when on the coast of Brazil.

### News from all Nations.

The trial of "Big Thunder" and his associate anti-renters is now in progress at Hudson N. Y. It is one of the most important which has ever taken place in this country, in consequence of its involving the strength and force of republican government to preserve the civil relations of society embodied in contracts concerning lands.—Eight or ten members of the family of Jesse Glover, near Fulton, Missouri, have been poisoned recently. Four of his negroes and one child of Mr. G. have died. Two other children are dangerously ill and not expected to survive. A negro has been arrested on suspicion of having poisoned the family.—We learn from Washington that the Hon. John Y. Mason, Attorney General, has been appointed by the President acting Secretary of the Navy; Mr. Bancroft having left Washington on Saturday for Massachusetts, for the purpose of removing his family to the seat of government.—According to the Baltimore Patriot there is a rumor in Washington that a change is to be made in the Cabinet—that Mr. Buchanan is to be made Judge of the U. S. Supreme Court, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Baldwin, and that Mr. Walker, now of the Treasury, is to be transferred to the State Department.—A fire occurred at Prince Edward's Island, on the 25th ultimo, in which three sisters of the name of McLean, the youngest nineteen years of age, perished in the flames. Another fire broke out at the same place on the 4th inst., and a large building known as the Royal Hotel was destroyed with others.—The Supreme Court of North Carolina has decided in the great case of Rives against the Plymouth Rail Road Company, the claim of Rives to the superstructure, buildings and bridges of the company is a valid one—thereby giving to him the road, &c., which he claimed.—The Turk Island Gazette states, that there are about 160,000 bushels of Salt on hand selling at 6 cents. In about three weeks there will be considerably more packed, if good salt water continues; and the Ponds are in an excellent progressive state.—The sea serpent has been seen already at Cape Land. He was discovered about 10 yards from the shore and continued for two or three hours sporting on the surface of the billows, when he finally disappeared to parts unknown. His snout was seen by hundreds of spectators congregated upon the beach.—The stabling in the rear of Seaton's Hotel, Uniontown, Pa.; also the granary of Mr. McClelland, containing four thousand bushels of oats and other stores, were lately destroyed by fire.—One of the Washington letter writers contradicts the story that Mr. Lloyd, of Richmond, tendered the present of a horse to the President, and was removed from office in consequence.—It is stated in the New York papers, that some change will be made in the destination of the force in the gulf of Mexico, and the force in the Pacific will be increased.—An old man, about ninety years of age, named Tyner, who lived about twenty miles below Monticello, Mississippi, on Pearl river, was murdered a few days since by his son-in-law. The murderer has been arrested.—It is rumored that Mr. Brown, of Indiana, is to succeed T. L. Smith, as Register of the Treasury.—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (old school) will meet in Cincinnati on the 15th of May next.—Cooper is about to publish a new novel called "Satana's journal" the last census contains a million of inhabitants. Every twenty minutes death and a birth takes place.—The emperor of China, at the last dates, Nov., was expected "to kick the bucket."—The following is not a heading of the havoc sometimes made by those who write complimentary notices of the third person: "Mr. A. presents compliments to Mr. C. I have no doubt that which is not yours, no doubt are the expected one."—A man's riot took place in Baltimore last Friday night. Pistols were used—stones and brickbats thrown and used—a la mode, Southward.—Governor Thomas of Maryland, has been indicted by the Grand Jury of Washington city, for libel, contained in his late exposure of his matrimonial duties.—A Mr. Boyle recently killed a panther in a stream called the Pat in Arkansas, which measured nine feet from the nose to the tip of the tail.