Bradford Reporter.

Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men!
Freedom for Free Territory.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

Towanda, Wednesday, March 7, 1849.

☞ *For the information of those who are indebted, and wish to remit their dues, we would state, that postmasters are authorized by law to frank moneys, and all persons can take advantage of the privilege at our risk—the receipt of the postmaster will be taken as evidence of payment.*

Homestead Exemption.....No. 1.

Humane legislation on the subject of the relation of debtor and creditor, has generally kept pace with the progress of reform in the penal codes; and together they form a good standard by which to judge of the intelligence and enlightened humanity of the age.

Time has been when the famished wretch who stole eighteen-pence worth of bread to satisfy the cravings of nature, was hanged on the same gallows with him who murdered his own father; and time has been when the body of an insolvent debtor was quartered, and placed at the disposal of his creditors, in parts proportioned to their several demands. And when the death penalty for theft was abolished, there were not wanting men who proclaimed with much clamor that all protection of the rights of property was at an end. So too, when the laws which gave the creditor power of life and death over his debtor, were abrogated, the monied classes pronounced it an infringement of their rights—an impairing of the obligation of contracts; and asserted that no security remained for the payment of their demands, since the law had interposed its bulwark between the life of the debtor and their unrelenting cruelty. And even a few years since, in this Commonwealth, when the law which gave the creditor power to drag his debtor from the bosom of a dependent family, and imprison him within the walls of a prison, was repealed, grasping avarice again muttered forth its resentment at the the escape of its victims.

There is a certain class of men in the community—and ever has been, since Mammon was cast out of heaven—who think that the great end of existence is to make money, and who look at every thing terrestial with an eye single to this one object. Whatever their professions may be, they in reality acknowledge no claims, and hold no rights sacred, save those of property. In their estimation, legislation wanders from its legitimate objects, except when employed in providing security for the wealth which they have already accumula ed, and furnishing facilities for the acquisition of more. They have, in sober truth, little idea that anything else deserves the protection of law, except the right of property. In their view, security seems specially constituted for this one purpose. Nothing else seems of much importance to them. They see everything through a *golden* medium. The earth is valuable in their estimation; but it is chiefly because it contains precious metals, and can be parcelled out and spread over with title-papers, so that they can say to other men—"Stand back! this is mine—I am Lord of the soil!" They value the sea; but chiefly for the reason that it can be navigated by ships, and commerce brings wealth to their coffers. They value men also; but it is for the reason that the true basis of all real wealth is labor—and they know that it is by the wear of human bones, muscles and sinews, that the wealth which they worship is created.

Now if this be true, that the rights of property are of all things most dear and valuable, and that the accummulation of wealth is the end of man's best aims and hopes here on earth, then the existing laws are just and proper, by virtue of which the hearth-stone, around which the dependent widow with difficulty rears her orphaned family, as well as the soil which contains the consecrated ashes of their father, may be taken and sold in execution. But if the rights of property are of a secondary character, and ought to be regarded as subsidiary to other and dearer interests, then it is a matter of serious inquiry whether the present laws which regulate the relation of debtor and creditor should not receive further alteration.

On this point we shall take the liberty to revert to first principles, although we may thereby incur the charge of radicalism. We venture this proposition, which we deem self-evident: that there is nothing in the constitution of things, or in the simple idea of justice among men, which makes it necessary that one individual should be born rich and another poor; that by the mere accident of birth, one person should be entitled to a monopoly of whatever is most desirable for bodily and mental comfort, and that another should be doomed thro' life to struggle with animal wants and privations, with scarce opportunity to reflect whether he has a moral nature or not. Nature never intended, no matter what bloating, overbearing wealth may say, that one man should starve, or be dwarfed in his moral as well as physical development, in order that another may fill his coffers with lucre. Her provisions are abundant and sufficient for all. The common elements of light, air and water, she has placed equally within the enjoyment of every living creature, and has thereby clearly indicated her intention that all should participate in the enjoyment of those other elements, the productions of the earth, which are indispensable to the comfort of man and the fulfilment of the ends of his existence. Nature is not in fault. Her designs are munificent—but the luxury and rapacity of some, doom others to want and wretchedness. Unfeeling wealth scoffs at these views, and pronounces them agrarian and radical. But the poor, who suffer from the evils of monopoly, and drag out a miserable existence, in consequence of being excluded from their share of Nature's bounty, have an abiding conviction of their truth—a conviction stamped upon the soul by long years of wretchedness and sorrow. When the rich man lavishes enough upon the mere superfluities of luxury, to make glad the firesides of a dozen families, to say that this is in accordance with Nature's design, is to remove all ideas of justice in human affairs, and libel Nature's God.

If we are correct in these views, as to the benevolent intention of Nature towards all her children, is it the true province of legislation to aid in carrying out that intention, or to thwart it? By means of their superior ability, opportunities and more intense love of gain, some persons will acquire wealth and monopolize the earth's surface to the exclusion of others. Ought legislation to afford facilities to the last of acquisition even to the extent of enabling some to rob their fellows of the right to a burial-place on God's earth, or ought it to hold their avarice in check? Every treble sentiment of man's heart revolts at the idea of making the acquirement of wealth the chief object of human existence. They are only base, earth-born souls that can so mistake the means for the end. Nature herself forbids the idea. She has scarcely furnished material enough to make one man in a hundred wealthy; but she has provided enough to insure a competence to all, to the intent that all may pursue that moral, intellectual and social development of their faculties, wherein consists the legitimate design of their being. To maintain that one man should be permitted to gather within his clutch so much of the material comforts of life, as to leave little or nothing for the necessities of his fellows, is impious. That superfluity which the rich man does not need, but which he grasps with the instincts of avarice, has been accumulated by abstracting from the little comforts of the poor, and has robbed them of their necessary support.

Hon. James Cooper.

We stated, last week, our determation to award full and impartial credit to all those who had stood up manfully for the interests of the North. The retirement of the Hon. JAMES COOPER from our State Legislature to the councils of the Nation, affords a proper opportunity to speak of his course, in reference to the North Branch, without the imputation of partisan or sinister motives.

When public men by their virtues, and magnanimous, self-sacrificing exertions, throw off the trammels of party, and stand out as the servants of the People, to advance the cause of mankind, the press, speaking in behalf of the public, owe that man some taken of distinction. Such is now the position of Hon. James Cooper, before this community. Though strong in his attachment to the policy of the Whig party, yet with just conceptions of patriotism, and possessing talent of a very high order, combined with an ardent temperament and amiable disposition—qualities so essential to a great statesman—he will, we apprehend, never be found standing between the pillars of the temple, choosing rather that the edifice should be demolished, and his country prostrated, than that he should be shorn of his strength. We wish there were more of such men in both parties. Mr. Cooper is the United States Senator, of this Commonwealth, from the 4th of March last; to doubt that he will adorn that station, and rank among the first of the patriots and statesmen in that body, would be to question the manifest evidence of the past. Perhaps there may be no important public act of his, in the Senate, in which we shall concur; we differ as to the policy and measures best calculated to subserve the greatest good of the country; but he is not the less a statesman and patriot, who will never permit his country to be disgraced, to serve his party.

The generous, open and firm stand he has taken in favor of the completion of the North Branch canal, contrasts highly to his credit, with the shuffling demogogueism of certain other syrophants for public favof at Harrisburg, whose mouths were full of promises before the election, but now quail at the lash threatened by party leaders. It may be said, what has he done, that his enemies should praise him? We have no praises for his whiggery—but we have confidence in his integrity, and from the past are justified in believing, that on every great occasion, his course will be directed, not by political tricksters, but by what is for the public good. It this is principle that has distinguished his devotion to the great interest of Northern Pennsylvania; for which he deserves, as he will receive, the gratitude of the North. A moiety of his integrity and patriotism in some statesman that have made larger promises, and the completion of the North Branch would now be placed beyond doubt.

For California!

Our borough last week sent another emigrant to join the multitude who are hurrying to the golden regions, is the person of Mr. THOMAS B. OVERTON, who leaves behind him a troop of friends endeared to him by the many sterling qualities he possesses, and his enlarged and generous heart. He will be joined in New York, by HENRY C. OVERTON a son of Edward Overton Esq., also of this borough, with whom his many friends parted with regret, and with a wish for his future welfare. They proceed, we believe, via. the Isthmus to San Francisco.

Mr. SAMUEL KELLUM 2d., an enterprising and substantial farmer of Durell township, left some weeks ago, for the El Dorado, and must be now some distance on his journey.

Counterfeit Susquehanna Co. Money.

The Philadelphia Spirit of the Times, of the 1st inst. says that a new counterfeit five dollar note perporting to have been issued by the Susquehanna County Bank, at Montrose, Pennsylvania, was passed last evening at the store of Joseph Neall, corner of Eight and Poplar streets. It is made of flimsy paper; the word "FIVE" is printed across the right end, and two busts and the figure "5" on the left end. It is very different from the genuine issue of this Bank. The man who passed the note was shortly after arrested by Constable Larison, at the corner of Sixth and Parrish streets, and taken before Alderman Conrow. He delivered the change to Mr. Neall, from whom he had received it; refused to answer any questions because he had no lawyer, and was finally locked up, and will be sent below this morning. Whilst on the road to the Alderman's office, he drew a knife on the Constable, but the weapon was wrested from him by a friend of the officer.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK, for March, still keeps up the high character, which its enterprising publisher has gained for it. The number before us, is filled with entertaining and valuable matter, while the embellishments are superb. No magazine of light literature, in this country, presents stronger claims upon the patronage of the public.

DAGUERREOTYPES.—Messrs. Small & Cutling, as will be seen by the advertisement, are prepared to take the countenances of our citizens with a "beam of light." We hear their pictures very highly spoken of, and would recommend a call from all who may desire likenesses of themselves and friends.

A FOUNDLING.—An infant, apparently three or four months of age, was found upon the porch in front of the house of W. Watkins Esq. in this borough, on Wednesday evening last, about 11 o'clock. It was a female, and a fine, healthy child. It is almost needless to say that the little stranger was taken in, and cared for in a proper manner.

Last Hours of the Thirtieth Congress.

Disgraceful Scenes!

The XXXth Congress has at last closed. Its last hours were tumultuous and disorderly. The telegraphic report is so confused, that we can scarcely make out what business was transacted.

The main features of the proceedings are, in the Senate, the bill passed for the coinage of Gold Dollars and Double Eagles; the defeat of the House amendment to confine the appointment of Surveyors of the Line between the United States and Mexico to the Topographical corps; the passage of a bill introduced by Mr. Breese, providing for the translation and publication of the Spanish and Mexican laws of California in effect at the time of the Treaty; passing the House bill providing for taking the next Census; the passage of the Home Department bill, after a very animated discussion, by 31 to 25; the recession from its Cherokee amendment to the Civil bill; the killing of the branch mint in New York; the passage of the General Appropriation bill, after a long contest to fix and finally taking back Mr. Walker's amendment; and finally, at about 7 o'clock. Sunday morning, the Senate adjourned.

At two o'clock, Sunday morning, Mr. CAMERON rose to a point of order, during a discussion in which it was contended that Congress had legally expired, when Mr. Hangman FOOTE walked up to him, shook his fist in his face, and struck him.—They were parted by Senator Fitzgerald and others

In the House, the New-York Mint bill was passed to no purpose, however; the Naval Appropriation bill went throught slightly amended; the amendment to fix the 10th of March for the day of offect of the Minesota bill was receded from and the appointment of all officers under the bill placed at Mr. Polk's discretion by a vote of 105 the 60; the District Slave trade was shoved by with scarce a recognition; the Walker Amendment to the General Appropriation bill disagreed to, 10 to 104; concurring with Senate to establish a Board for Mexican Claims; Extra Compensation to Clerks, &c. went throught with a rush; a hundred conflicting motions were made and finally, at 6½ Sunday morning, the XXXth Congress came to a stormy end.

At 10½ o'clock, Saturday night, Mr. GIDDINGS walked over to Mr. MEADE's seat, and struck him slightly. The pugilistic display was then stopped, until about 2 o'clock Sunday morning, the House was without a quorum. Several resolutions, private bills, &c. were disposed of, when Mr. JOHNSON of Ark. reached at Mr. FICKLIN of Ill., knocked him down, and drew blood. A rush was made to part them. The speaker called to order. There was tremendous excitement, but the conflict was over in a minute. No bones broken. There was plenty of the ardent in the capitol, and in the midst of the whole Mr. FICKLIN was taken from the Hall.

The cause of these disgraceful proceedings, we do not learn—but will give our readers full particulars, next week.

Correspondence from Harrisburg.

The North Branch Canal—Amendments and postponement—Position of the State Administration—Mr. Cooper—Election of Judges—Extension of Slavery—Harmonius whiggery.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 28, 1849.

MR. EDITOR:—You have already been apprizid, that the Bill for the Completion of the North Branch Canal, was lost in the House of Representatives on Thursday last, by a small majority. A motion was immediately made for its reconsideration, which was agreed to, and on the next day the Bill was placed upon its feet again by a majority about equal to that by which it was voted down on the day before. It has stood in that position until to day, when it was again called up and an amendment offered by Mr Little, to strike out the entire bill and insert another, as follows:

The Original Bill, presented by Mr. FULLER, Jan. 26, 1849, entitled "An Act to provide for the completion of the North Branch Extension of the Pennsylvania canal."

SECT. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the Governor be and is hereby authorized to negotiate a loan, by issuing certificates of stock, for a sum sufficient to complete the North Branch canal: $500,060 of said loan to be paid into the Treasury in the year 1849; $500,000 in the year 1850; and during the year 1851 such a sum, if any, as the canal commissioners shall deem necessary for the final completion of the work—an estimate of which they are hereby directed to furnish in their annual report; which loan shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per annum, payable half yearly at the bank of Pennsylvania, in the city of Philadelphia, and for the reimbursement of the said loan, at the expiration of twelve years, and the payment of the interest accruing thereon, the tolls hereafter accruing on the North Branch Division of the Pennsylvania canal are hereby specifically pledged.

SECT. 2. The Governor is hereby authorized to cause to be executed certificates of stock, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 6 per cent., signed by the State Treasurer, for the sums borrowed in pursuance of this act, and reimbursable as aforesaid; which stock shall be transferable upon the books of the Auditor General, or at the Bank of Pennsylvania, by the owner thereof, or by his, her or their attorney, and new certificates of the same shall be issued to the holder or holders thereof, by the officers aforesaid.

SECT. 3. The money authorized to be borrowed by this act, shall be applied to the completion of the North Branch Division of the Pennsylvania canal, and the revenues accruing on the said canal from and after the passage of this act shall be, and they are hereby set apart and appropriated as a fund for the payment of the accruing interest, and for the re-imbursement of the loan aforesaid; as an additional guarantee for the payment of the principal and interest thereof, the faith of the state is hereby pledged.

SECT. 4. When at least $300,000 of said loan shall have been taken, the Governor shall notify the Canal Commissioners of this Commonwealth, who are directed as soon as practicable thereafter, to put so much of the unfinished part of the North Branch canal under contract by public letting, as they may deem practicable with a prudent and speedy prosecution of the work, commencing at the southern terminus of the unfinished line.

SECT. 5. When the said canal shall be completed to the New York state line, the article of anthracite coal going north, shall be chargeable at the rate of one cent per ton per mile, until a sum is realized sufficient for the repayment of the principal and interest of the money expended in the completion of the same.

SECT. 6. The Canal Commissioners are hereby authorized to employ a competent civil engineer to take charge of the location and construction of the work authorized by this act, who shall have authority with the approbation of the board to appoint such assistants as may be deemed necessary. *Provided*, That the salary of the principal engineer shall not exceed the sum of $1,750 per annum, and the pay of the assistants shall not exceed $3 per day.

The Amendment, proposed by Mr. LITTLE, Feb. 20, 1849.

That for the purpose of completing the North Branch extension of the Pennsylvania canal from the mouth of the Lackawanna to the New York state line, the Governor is hereby authorized and required to negotiate a loan not exceeding $1,377,500, for which negotiable certificates of stock shall be issued and be transferable in the usual manner, bearing an interest of six per cent. per annum, payable in specie semi-annually at the Bank of Pennsylvania, and the principal to be reimbursed in twenty years from the original dates, respectively, at which said loan or any portion thereof, shall be negotiated.—And the said loan shall be negotiated and paid into the treasury in such amounts and at such times as the board of Canal Commissioners may deem necessary under the provisions hereinafter contained, for the prosecution and completion of the work, not exceeding $300,000 within the present year; and the revenues accruing on the said canal from and after its completion, shall be, and they are hereby set apart and appropriated as a fund for the payment of accruing interest and the re-imbursement of the loan, in addition to the faith of the State, which is hereby pledged. *Provided*, That no proposals for such loan shall be issued, until the Governor shall be satisfied, upon a certificate given to that effect in writing, by the Auditor General and State Treasurer, that the revenues of the Commonwealth will be adequate to meet the current expenses of the government and continue the punctual payment of the interest on the State debt, including the loan hereby authorized. *And provided further*, That before the loan shall be negotiated, or the work on the canal put under contract, the board of Canal Commissioners shall be satisfied tha the same can be completed for a sum not exceeding the amount of such loan; and satisfied, also, that such means shall have been adopted, as will secure a proper connection of the North Branch line of canal at its northern terminus with the Chemung canal at Elmira, in the state of New York, cotemporaneously with the completion of the said North Branch line in Pennsylvania, and for the purpose of making the necessary preliminary surveys or examination, they shall be authorized, if they deem it expedient so to do, to appoint for this temporary purpose an engineer, at a salary not exceeding the rate of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

SECT. 2. That when three hundred thousand dollars of said loan shall be negotiated, the board of canal commissioners shall proceed agreeably to existing laws, to put so much of said canal under contracts, as they may deem proper, having a due regard to its completion at as early a period as may be consistent with the interest of the commonwealth, and sound economy in the construction of the work.

SECT. 3. That when said canal shall be completed to the New York state line, the article of anthracite coal going northwardly shall be chargeable with a rate of toll not less than one cent per ton per mile, until a sum is realized sufficient for the repayment of the principal and interest of the money expended in completion of the same, as hereinbefore authorized, *Provided*, That the loan hereinbefore authorized, shall be exempted from taxation for any purpose, during the time it has to run.

SECT. 4. That the canal commissioners are hereby authorized to employ a competent civil engineer, to take charge of the location and construction of the work authorized by this act, who shall have authority, with the approbation of the board, to appoint such assistants as may be deemed necessary. *Provided*, That the salary of the principal engineer shall no: exceed the sum of one thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars per annum, and that the pay of the assistants shall not exceed $3 per day.

This amendment has been prepared by the friends of the bill, with a view to obviate the objections which were known to be entertained by Governor Johnston, and it was hoped that, if he had the least friendship for the measure his friends would withdraw their opposition, and allow the bill to pass, but it seems they are determined not to be content with anything short of the control of the entire management of the work, allotment of contracts, &c., appointment of engineers, and disbursement of the funds on the, line, for this purpose Mr. Finlin, an intimate friend of the Governor, moved an amendment, providing that the Governor should appoint the engineer who have exclusive control of the work and the disbursement of all monies to be paid out on the line. The whole question was then postponed to Thursday the 8th March, when it is to be the special order of the day. I cannot predict the result, as every effort is made by certain wise ones professing to be acting for the administration, to throw obstacles in the way of its passage. Notwithstanding all Gov. Johnston stump speeches in favor of the north branch, while on his electioneering tour last fall, and in face and eyes of his message—it is evident to everybody here that he is now not only withholding his aid from the project, but is silently and trickishly throwing cold water on the efforts of its friends. His Secretary is openly opposed, and nearly all of that wing of the whig party, which hovers around the throne, are operating against it.

The pretense is that, if we complete the canal we must necessarily increase the debt, and that would embarrass and render the administration unpopular. Thus would they sacrifice the interest of the state, to the narrow policy of fearing responsibility.

The North Branch has no enemies here, everybody is impressed with the importance of its speedy completion. The only question to be overcome is to provide the means, and it seems to be a *sine qua non* with the Governor's friends, that the means must be raised in such manner as to relieve him from all responsibility. In making this statement, I do not include all the whig members of the Legislature. for there are many high minded, noble hearted whigs, who have lent their powerful aid to the interest of the north. Among these I may mention Mr. Cooper the chairman of the committee of ways and means, who took an early and decided stand, in favor of the North Branch Canal. I am sorry that we cannot command his services any longer. He will probably resign his seat in the Legislature in a day or two, preparatory to entering the U. S. Senate, on Monday next.

The Senate to day passed a resolution recommending an alteration in the constitution so as to provide for the election of Judges. It met with warm opposition though it did not assume a party shape. Mr. Drum, the Democratic senator in place of Gov. Johnston, made an able and powerful speech against the passage of the resolution. It was the maiden speech of the new senator, and was listened to with great attention, and evidently took well with the audience, although it was on the wrong side of the question. The gallant Small took the affirmative side, and in the course of his remarks administered a most withering rebuke to his Hon. Judge Patton, for the language held forth in his charge to the Jury in the case of the commonwealth against the Factory girls—showing in glowing language the power of wealth, money and influence, over destitute orphan girls who were forced by necessity to work in a cotton factory. The vote on the passage of the resolution was 21 to 10 showing a strong feeling in the Senate at least in favor of altering the constitution in this particular.

A vote was taken in the Senate on Monday last, on the resolutions instructing our Representatives in Congress to vote against all further extensions of Slavery into new Territories, and resulted in a unanimous vote with the exception of two Senators, in favor of the resolution. They will probably pass the house also by a vote nearly as unanimous.

You will have seen by the newspapers that there is strong feelings of animosity existing between Gov. Johnson and Mr. Cooper, the U. S. Senator, elected. They have both been on to Washington to meet President Taylor, and it is said Cooper first got the ear of the President, and the Governor was sent home with a flea in his ear. ROLLIN.

THE WHOLE NUMBER of members of the Baptist Church in the United States is 737,078; baptized in one year, 39,829; licensed ministers, 1367; ordained ministers, 5874; churches, 10,264; associations, 579.

REMARKS OF MR. WILMOT,

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

In the House of Representatives, February 17, 1849.

The bill appropriating for the execution in part of the Mexican treaty, being under consideration—

Mr. WILMOT requested that his friend from Michigan [Mr. McCLELLAND] would yield the floor, to enable him to make a brief statement, which he felt was called for from him at this time. The request being granted, upon condition that a few moments only should be occupied—

Mr. WILMOT proceeded to say:

That while listening to an interesting debate in the Senate, he had been informed that a gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. STEPHENS,] in the course of his remarks to his committee, had referred to him, in connection with certain expressions or declarations, of the President of the United States. He regretted that the gentleman from Georgia had made any reference or allusion to the subject whatever, because he was satisfied that no good could result from it. He had had no conversation with the gentleman from Georgia, during the present session. He was not aware that a word had passed between them, and therefore there could have been no concert in giving publicity to the matter about which he desired to speak.

During the second session of the preceding Congress, I had a conversation with the President upon the subject of the proviso which I had offered at the previous session in connection with an appropriation which he desired should be made to enable him to conclude a peace with Mexico. It was previous to the introduction of the three million bill, but in anticipation of such a measure, which he was extremely anxious should pass. The President either sent for me, or I had called upon him, and he expressed a desire that I should call again, naming the time; when he could have an opportunity of conversing with me without interruption. I called in pursuance of his request—it was in the evening. The President said that the proviso was giving him great trouble and embarrassment, and if insisted upon as an amendment to an appropriation bill would present a serious obstacle in the way of consummating a peace. He said that he had no doubt of his ability to negotiate an early peace, and named a day not distant, within which he could bring about such a result, provided he could obtain from Congress the necessary money appropriation, unrestricted and unclogged with any conditions. I presumed to question the efficacy of such an appropriation in bringing about so desireable a result; and expressed my apprehension, that an appropriation of the character he desired, would excite the jealousy of the Mexican people, and cause them to distrust the integrity of their own rulers. He answered me very properly, by saying that he was much better informed as to the state of affairs in Mexico than I possibly could be: spoke of having confidential agents in Mexico, who kept him fully informed as to the movements and temper of the Government there. I assured the President that I had no wish to embarrass his Admintion in any respect, much less a matter so important as the making of an early peace; that so far as I was concerned, I would be just as well satisfied with the expression of Congress in any other form as with the proviso; that all I desired was to obtain the expression of Congress, in an authoritative and legislative form, to the effect that slavery should forever be excluded from all territory that we might acquire from Mexico; and I doubted not that such was the feeling of others who had favored the movement. I suggested, in the course of the conversation, the introduction of a joint resolution declaring this principle, and said that I should be satisfied with it in that form. The President said, substantially, and I think almost literally, "Mr. Wilmot, bring it forward in that form; I assure you such a declaration would not be unpopular in Mississippi." I noted particularly that he did not name his own State, but supposed, and made no doubt but such was his intention, that he purposely presented an example in which the slave interest was stronger than in Tennessee. He further said, "that he had been brought up surrounded with this institution, (slavery:) that all his habits and associations were connected with it; but," said he, and with a good deal of earnestness of manner, "I do not desire to see it extended one foot beyond its present limits; that he was conscious that it could not be done, without endangering the peace and safety of the Union."

On my return to my lodgings, I draughted a resolution in accordance with the suggestion I had made; but upon consultation with friends of more legislative experience than myself, (never before having been a member of a legislative body,) I became fully satisfied that any attempt to get through Congress such a resolution would be idle and therefore abandoned it.

I informed the gentleman from South Carolina, immediately in front of me, [Mr. WOODWARD,] of this conversation a few days after it occurred. He spoke of it as a matter of interest and importance to his constituents and asked me if I had any objection to its being made public. I understood him to wish in some way to make public the declaration of the President to me respecting the extension of slavery. I expressed a wish that it should not be made public—not that the conversation was confidential, further then the nature of it, and the circumstances attending it, would imply confidence—but I did not wish that my conversation with the President should be made the topic of public discussion, either here or through the press of the country.

Some time during the last session of Congress in conversation with the gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. STEPHENS,] or with others in his presence, I narrated substantially what I have here said. The gentleman has thought proper to refer to it on this floor. I repeat my regret that, he has done so, because I can see no possible good that can result from it; but in so far as any responsibility may attach to me in this matter, I have no regrets. Before God I have stated substantially the declarations of the President to me without however, entering into all details of the conversation.

Gen. Taylor's Cabinet.

General Zachary Taylor, is now, in all probability, the President of the United last Monday being the day for his inauguration. His address will be given to our readers next week. A thousand conjectures are afloat in regard to his Cabinet. From what we can learn, we should judge tha the following would be somewhat near the mark:

J. M. CLAYTON, of Delaware—State.
W. M. MEREDITH, of Pennsylvania, Treasury.
CRAWFORD, of Georgia—War.
ABBOT LAWRENCE, of Mass.—Navy.
THOS. EWING, of Ohio—Postmaster General.
PRESTON, of Virginia—Attorney General.

NARROW ESCAPE.—A fortunate escape occurred to the party in company with Mr. Overton, on Saturday last. In the Narrows above Ulster, at the most dangerous and exposed part, one of the horses slipped and fell, bringing down the other, and the sleigh, horses, and passengers were precipitated down the precipice. Wonderfully no serious danger was done, and the party gathering up the team, baggage and themselves, proceeded on their way.

COL. FREMONT'S EXPLORING PARTY.—We find in the St. Louis Union, a letter from Puebla, New Mexico, dated on the 28th November, stating that Col. Fremont and party had commenced, on the 26th, the ascent of the first range of mountains near Puebla, and were pursuing their toilsome march, through snows, toward the Pacific ocean.—The snow was about two feet deep, and the party were within five miles of the top of the first range of mountains. It was the intention of Col. F. to go to the Pacific by an entire new route, south of all his former routes across the continent. His present survey will be of much interest.

THE HEMPSTEAD TRAGEDY.—Mr. Miller has been discharged after a full examination of the accusation of having murdered his own family. There was not a particle of evidence disclosed that tended to produce the least suspicion against him.

Proceedings of the XXXth Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1849.

SENATE.—Mr Jefferson Davis, from the committee appointed to notify General Taylor and Mr. Fillmore of their election as President and Vice President of the United States, reported that they had discharged that duty.

Mr. Davis also submitted a resolution for the appointment of a committee to make arrangements for the reception of the President and Vice elect in the Senate Chamber, on the 5th of March next.—The resolution was adopted, when the chair appointed Reverdy Johnson, Jefferson Davis, and John Davis, as the said committee.

The bill giving authority to the Commissioner of Patents to renew patents within three years after their expiration, was discussed and laid upon the table.

The Senate then took up the bill to regulate pensions to officers, soldiers and seamen disabled in the public service, which after discussion, was passed.

HOUSE.—Sundry land and other bills were presented, among them Mr. Greeley's bill, giving a farm to each actual settler. It was advocated briefly by Mr. Greeley, and then, on motion, laid on the table.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Vinton in the Chair, and took up the California bill.

Mr. Sawyer offered an amendment striking out the Wilmot proviso, in the twelfth section of the bill. He spoke his five minutes, and concluded that it should be left to the people of California and New Mexico to decide whether or not slavery should exist there.

Various amendments were offered by Messrs. McClernand, Murphy, Meade, Ashmun, Birdsall, Greely and others, each beind limited to five minute speeches.

Mr. Preston's substitute for the bill was rejected Mr. Gayle only voting affirmatively.

No essential amendment was agreed to when the committee rose and reported the bill, which was ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Meade moved to lay the bill upon the table and the question being taken it was negatived by a vote of yeas 86, nays 127.

The bill was then put upon its final passage when it carried in the affirmative, the vote standing—yeas 126, nays 86.

The motion was laid aside, and the House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Cranston in the chair, and took up the Territorial Bill of New Mexico.

Mr. Vinton offered an amendment giving the settlement of the boundary to the Supreme Court, and advocated its passage.

Mr Greeley opposed it on the ground that the majority of the Court were slaveholderes. He advocated the passage of the bill without this amendment.

Mr. Toombs opposed the bill vehemently, and replied to the remarks of Messrs. Vinton, and Greeley with severity.

Mr. Schenck followed in an earnest speech.—Be denied that Texas had any claim upon New Mexico, and denounced the entire acquisition of the new Territory. He also opposed Mr. Vinton's amendment.

When he had concluded, the Committee rose; and the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March. 2

SENATE.—The Senate convened at 11 o'clock today, according to resolution previously adopted.

After attending to a few preliminaries of no special interest, Mr. Butler reported a bill relative to holding the Circuit Courts in the State of Kentucky The bill was considered by unanimous consent and passed.

On motion of Mr. Hunter, the Senate then took up the bill from the House, in favor of remitting the duties on goods destroyed by the great fire in New-York in the Spring of 1845.

Mr. Houston moved to substitute the Senate bill on the same subject, which differs from that of the House, by excluding insurers from the benefit of the bill.

The subject elicited an interesting debate between Messrs. Hunter, Webster, Phelps, Calhoun and others.

A motion to lay the subject on the table was rejected.

Mr. Phelps moved to amend the substitute so as to embrace insurers, which was also rejected.

After more discussion, the motion to lay the whole subject on the table, renewed by Mr. Webster was agreed to, and the subject was so disposed of

At one o'clock the Vice President, George M. Dallas arose and delivered an impressive valadictory, and in conformity with the announcement given yesterday, vacated the Chair and retired from the seat.

On motion of Mr. Benton Mr. Atchison of Mo. was unanimously chosen his successor. Mr. Atchinson then took the Chair, and in a brief and appropriate manner returned his thanks for the honor which had been conferred upon him.

Mr. Webster offered a Resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to Mr. Dallas for the able and impartial manner in which he had discharged his official duties. The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Pearce of Md. reported a joint resolution in favor of purchasing 1.000 copies of Gayle's History of the Proceedings of the Second, Third and Fourth Congress's which was considered by unanimous consent and agreed to.

The Senate then spent considerable time in the consideration of private bills, and the transaction of various other matters of business, of no special interest.

Mr. Berrien presented the credentials of his colleague, Wm. C. Dawson, elected for the term of six years from the 4th of March next to fill the place of H. V. Johnson, whose term expires.

HOUSE.—The House convened at 11 o'clock and organized with the customary formalities.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Conn. the rules were suspended, and the Senate bill providing for the liquidation of the claims of American, citizens against Mexico, agreeably to Treaty stipulations was taken out of the Committee of the Whole for action on the part of the House.

Mr. Smith offered an amendment in the shape of a substitute, which he advocated in a strenuous manner. If any member called for the reasons for his opposition to the bill from the Senate as it stood, he was prepared to give them, he observed.

Mr. Staton of Tenn. followed, and advocated the payment of these claims without delay. The Government had gone to war because of them, and had obtained an ample equivalent for them. He gave a history of the case in support of his argument.

Mr. Collamer of Vt. was the next speaker.—He concided entirely with the remarks of the gentleman from Tennessee, and opposed the amendment heretofore offered to the bill by Mr. Ingersoll.

Mr. Evans of Md. followed on the same side of the question. He was ready to pay promptly all the just claims of our citizens against Mexico; but he was not willing to pay the ten thousand spurious claims which had been drummed up for political purposes.

Mr Joseph R. Ingersoll spoke in favor of the proposition, and explained the nature of the claims embraced in his amendment.

The question was then taken and decided in the negative by Yeas 43, Nays 152.

The bill was then amended by the adoption of Mr. Smith's substitute, and in this form, after some discussion, passed.

Mr. Harralson of Ga. moved to suspend the rules in order to take up the bill providing for payment for horses lost during the late War.

The question being taken by Yeas and Nays, was decided in the negative, by Yeas 93. Nays 101.

On motion the House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, on the state of the Union, Mr. Stephens of Ga. officiating as Chairman, and proceeded to the consideration of the amendments made by the Senate to the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill.

Mr. Vinton of Ohio, moved to amend the Senate's amendment respecting the Territories of California and New-Mexico by attaching to it the substance of the Wilmot Proviso.