

Bradford Reporter
Free Speech, Free Press
E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.
Towanda, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1849.

Terms of the Reporter.
The Reporter is published weekly, on Wednesdays, for cash paid in advance, \$1.00 per annum, in advance, per square of ten lines, 20 cents for the first, and 15 cents for each subsequent insertion.

To avoid misunderstanding, we would state to those whom we have forwarded bills, that the account only includes the two past years, ending last week, during which time the paper has been published by us alone—and has no reference to the time the paper was published by E. S. Goodrich & Son.

North Branch Canal—Allotment of Work.
We take the allotment of the works on the North Branch, and the remarks which follow, from the "Keynote." It will be seen that the result is highly encouraging for the completion of the work, at a sum below that stipulated by Mr. Foster, in his estimate.

The commissioners in accordance with the true spirit and meaning of the law, we understand, awarded the contracts as they were bound to do, to the lowest bidders who were considered substantial and competent to do the work. This was certainly right, and it is expected the contracts will be rigidly enforced, and in case of abandonment the percentage retained. The experience in contracting is now so general, that there can be but little excuse for men bidding below what the work can be done for, and then abandoning it and procrastinating its completion. In all such cases the penalty ought to be rigidly enforced. We have been informed that the bids are nearly, if not quite, 30 per cent. below the estimates of the engineers, and that, at the same rate, it would not cost a million of dollars to complete the whole line in the best and most substantial manner.

We never doubted for a single moment that the work would be completed, if funds were provided to carry it on with proper economy, within the estimates of Mr. Foster, and we are now more than ever sanguine in this belief. The apprehensions which have been generally entertained, that this work would cost the state double the amount of the estimates, and involve an extravagant and unprofitable expenditure, the public may rest assured is wholly unfounded, as the result will prove. If the funds are provided for its completion, and the work carried on as it ought to be, it will prove to be the best improvement. It will soon return the amount of money to the treasury now wanted to finish it, and create a permanent sinking fund in itself, of not less than \$300,000 per annum. A few years are only necessary to set the truth of this opinion, and we voluntarily stake any little reputation we may have on the result, if it is properly managed.

The numerous friends of THOMAS B. and HENRY C. OVERTON, will be rejoiced to learn that Edward OVERTON Esq., of this place, has received a letter announcing their arrival at San Francisco on the 31st of October, in good health, after having passed through many dangers and sufferings of the severest character. Capt. SINGER remained on the schooner, which they left some distance below; on the coast, reaching San Francisco partly by traveling until they reached a point where the steamers touched.

The "Warren Ledger" complains that the Towanda papers do not reach there, until they are two or three weeks old, and very irregularly at that. We have also a letter from Harrisburg, informing us that the Reporter is from one to two weeks in reaching that place—when two days and a half is ample time. We know that it is almost impossible to communicate with the latter place, with any regularity. There is manifestly great neglect somewhere, and we have stood until it has become a crying evil. The coming session of the Legislature makes it necessary that the evil should be remedied—and we hope to see some attention paid to it. The mail matter for Towanda, should be sent by Williamsport—now it is often forwarded up the North-Branch.

The Post Master at this place is in no way responsible for the derangement we complain of. It is beyond his reach and control. If the Post offices were managed with as much care and promptness as ours, we have no reason to find fault.

The Mystery at Elmira.
The Elmira Gazette of the 6th, says, that no tidings have yet been heard of the missing man, Mr. Salisbury. It was reported that he was seen in the town of Catlin, and a man went in pursuit who has not yet returned. The persons arrested on suspicion of having killed him, have been released.

The Message.
We promised to give the Message to our readers this week—but as we have not received it, of course they will not expect it. Without doubt, we can publish it next week.

Dr. J. GIBSON MILES, the notorious individual who was convicted at Harrisburg, on three indictments for seducing three sisters, and attempting to procure abortion, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Dauphin County Prison, to \$200 fine, and costs.

The Ballotings for Speaker.
The following are the names of the candidates for Speaker of the House of Representatives, as reported by the various newspapers.

Section.
11 Jacob Seiler & Co.
12 Dykens & Wenzel
21 John M'Conrad
27 Patrick Burke
67 Patrick Burke
69 Sunbuck & Little
75 Jacob Seiler & Co.
98 J. & L. Lamson
111 John Snodgrass
112 John Snodgrass

Section.
113 Mead & Carrigan
114 Francis Blair & Co.
134 Jackson M'Fadden
159 John Sturdivant
162 George Leibrock
173 Cochran & W'Lang
174 John M'Mahon
182 Roy M'Gee & Co.
183 Edward Ceras & Co.
184 Wm. Phelan & Co.

The ballottings up to our latest dates, show pretty much the same results. The Free Soil vote was given to Messrs. Root, Tuck and Wilcox, alternately. Messrs. Howe, Crawford and Campbell, or Mr. Foy for Wilcox. Still, unless the party lines are broken, no Speaker can be elected who is obnoxious to the Free Soilers. We have a report that on Friday night, a caucus of the Democratic members was held, and Mr. Cobb withdrawn. Should this be the case, and an unexceptionable man be substituted, it is probable that a speaker was elected on Saturday.

The small band of men who have stood so firm in this struggle, have earned themselves high honor, and deserve the gratitude of the North. For the first time in the last few years, the Slave Power has been unable to effect its purposes. A few determined and uncorruptible men have held in check the influence which heretofore has been accustomed to ride over and dictate to the councils of the nation. The outset of this contest was marked with the usual arrogance which characterizes the South. They went into the caucus with the express determination to support no one for Speaker who was not pledged to them. They have been signally foiled and baffled in the undertaking. This check is soon to be followed, we trust, by other and more signal demonstrations which will overthrow the power which has controlled, and dictated the Democratic party so long. The men who at the outset of the present Congress—so pregnant with good or evil to our country—have learned the Slave Power that it is not all potent, have earned the highest praise.

The two Binghamton Democratic papers—the Democrat and the Courier, have been purchased by J. B. DICKINSON, who will edit them.

Mr. Clay in Baltimore.
Hon. HENRY CLAY arrived in Baltimore on Friday, and was warmly welcomed by thousands of his friends. He addressed the people from Barnum's Hotel.

He said that he always felt at home when in Maryland, the State being the birth-place of his father. He felt afraid that the importance of his return to the Public Councils of the country was over-rated by his friends. He still felt his old devotion to the service of the public, but at the same time, he felt the weight of time upon him, which unfits him for the active service of his earlier days.

He then alluded to the slavery question, and said there was unnecessary agitation upon the subject. The evil could never exist in California and New Mexico. The cool climate of the business of the country, the habits and pursuits of the people forbid it. He then spoke of the importance of the Union, and said that, contrasted with it the slavery question sank into nothing. Under all circumstances, he would stand by the Union.

He considered that no one question could be of sufficient importance to cause a dissolution, and should defend the Union, fight or wrong. If it should be dissolved, our country would require no historian. Men would arise and play the part of Philip and Alexander. There would be foreign alliance, and foreign and domestic wars, until every trace of liberty be lost in this part of the world.

Mr. Clay became quite animated. He spoke with feeling and powerful effect. He thanked the people for the affectionate kindness they had always shown him, and should ever remember it. He closed amid tremendous and reiterated applause.

Proceedings of the XXXIst Congress.
The Senate met at 10 o'clock, and the House at 10 o'clock.

House of Representatives.
The House met at 10 o'clock, and the Speaker, Mr. Root, took the oath of office.

Ballot for a Speaker.
The House proceeded to call the roll at 12 o'clock, which having been got through with, it was found that two hundred and twenty-one members had answered.

SENATE—Senators ROBEY, Turner, Dayton and Sebastian took their seats to-day. No business of public interest has transpired to-day, the President's Message not having transpired.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—This morning the journal was read, and the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting estimates, was placed on the member's desk.

SENATE—Senators DICKINSON, BOLLARD and BRADY appear in their seats to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—The House met as usual. The journal was read, when, on motion of Mr. Root, the ballottings for Speaker were resumed.

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PROBABLE MURDER!
The astounding disclosures relative to the mysterious disappearance of Dr. Geo. Parkman, which have just been made in Boston, have fallen like a thunderbolt upon that city, and produced a universal emotion of horror and consternation.

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