

Bradford Reporter.

Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men!
E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

Towanda, Saturday, December 13, 1851.

Terms of the Reporter.
\$2.50 per annum—paid within the year.
\$1.00 for each month—paid in advance.

The newspapers, all over the country, have fallen into a great error, in regard to the Boston and Boston ticket. It is announced from Maine to California, and for what we know from Georgia to California, that the Bradford Reporter has nominated the aforesaid ticket. Now, we stated distinctly in our article, that we did not wish to be understood as playing off against any course in the future.

Our object, however, is not to bring him forward as a candidate; that has already been done in various sections of the State; but to introduce some extracts from papers showing the laudable feeling which is manifested to do justice to the North, and the favor with which Col. Mason's name is received, abroad. The first is from the Lakawanna Citizen—the second, a communication in the Eastern Argus.

When RICHARD BRODHEAD Jr., was elected U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania, we expressed our regret at the election. The Eastern Argus and the Pennsylvania, crowded over the event most lustily, and pulled the new Senator ad nauseam. They both announced that the result was well received by the papers of the State.

Soon it becomes manifest that Mr. BRODHEAD is not in favor of Old Buck for the Presidency, and the Pennsylvania is down upon him. Of course, in return, BRODHEAD is not particularly anxious for Foxxy's election as Clerk, and after that affair has been consummated, Foxxy says him the compliments contained in the following article, which we take from the Pennsylvania of the 5th.

In the midst of the rejoicings of the true Democracy of the whole country over the election of Mr. FOXXY to the Clerkship of the National House of Representatives, the conduct of Brodhead—the latest indication of mediocrity, malignity and meanness upon the U. S. Senate is everywhere laughed at and despised. He burrowed into every nook and corner, retailing the most shameless slanders against Mr. FOXXY, and though rebuffed in all quarters, by gentlemen who knew his falseness, he persevered in his wretched task to the end; and then, like a whipped spaniel, whined over his failure.

We grumbled at BRODHEAD'S election—but now that the Pennsylvania has left to abusing him, we are not certain but he is better than we had supposed. One evidence of that fact has already been afforded, and if the Pennsylvania continues to show reasons why it should applaud him, we will take back what we said.

TOWANDA'S GRAND PARADE.—We inadvertently omitted last week, to notice the Panorama which has been exhibiting in this place, to the great satisfaction of those who visited it. The display was a magnificent and pleasing one, and amid the host of minstrels and humbugs which are preambulating the country, this Panorama is really worthy of attention. It will richly repay the visitor for the time and money spent. The following notice is from the Oxford Times:

TOWANDA'S MEXICAN PANORAMA, was exhibited at this place on Friday and Saturday evenings last. It was attended by a large audience, who seemed well pleased with the novel views presented. The entertainment is pleasing, and wholly unobjectionable, and is rather instructive.

This interesting Who is the title of Thad Stearns' new paper at Lancaster, being a continuation of the Union and Tribune under a new title. Of course it does not particularly cotton to the National Administration.

Canal Commissioners.
The selection of a candidate for Canal Commissioner to fill the place of Hon. John A. Cassin, is already exciting public attention. We trust, that the nomination of the claims of the Democratic North will not be overlooked. Her claims have been deferred from Convention to Convention, until the time has come when she will demand that some respect should be paid to those democrats whose uniform and ever ready majorities are always looked to, in time of need.

There is no man in the North better qualified for this important post, than Col. GORDON F. MASON, of Bradford, whose name will be presented to the next Democratic Convention by the North East with great unanimity. Col. MASON does not need our recommendation to make him favorably known over the Commonwealth. He represented this District three years in the Senate of Pennsylvania, with usefulness and fidelity, and gained for himself a high reputation throughout the State. Regarding the interests of the State, as being above the mere matter of the elevation of men, we should rejoice to see him occupy the position for which he has been named, for we know him to be abundantly qualified to discharge its duties and assume its responsibilities. We know him to be possessed of that firmness and unbending honesty, blended with practical good sense and useful knowledge, acquired by a life of industry, which applied to the management of our public works, would be of an immense benefit to the Commonwealth.

Our object, however, is not to bring him forward as a candidate; that has already been done in various sections of the State; but to introduce some extracts from papers showing the laudable feeling which is manifested to do justice to the North, and the favor with which Col. Mason's name is received, abroad. The first is from the Lakawanna Citizen—the second, a communication in the Eastern Argus.

Canal Commissioners.—That the next Democratic Candidate for Canal Commissioner should be furnished by the North is so evident, that it seems to be generally acquiesced in. It may be considered as conceded. A correspondent of the Pennsylvania signing himself "Northern Pennsylvania," recommends the nomination of Col. L. L. TATE of the Columbia Democrat. Now in anything that relates to the success and promotion of our brethren of the Democratic press, we may justly be expected to sympathize. In this case however, while wishing all manner of good, whether of honor or profit to our friend of the Columbia Democrat, we have another preference for Canal Commissioner. That preference is for Col. Gordon F. Mason of Bradford County. We have not room today to give at length our reasons, and state why we believe he should be the candidate presented and urged by the North.—but we may say that these reasons are many, and to us very conclusive, and also, that there is a strong feeling in his favor throughout this Northern Democratic region.

Mr. Editor.—As the time approaches for the nomination of a candidate for Canal Commissioner, to be supported by the Democratic party at the next election, I perceive that the several sections of the Commonwealth are putting forth their men and urging their claims upon the consideration of the party, and the convention which will assemble on the 4th of March next. Already there are many good men named for this important post—men whose capacity is of the first order, and whose democracy is above all doubt of reproach, so that in any event the Convention will have presented to it material from which to select a candidate who shall do honor to the Commonwealth, when elected. I desire, Mr. Editor, to add to the catalogue of worthy names, still another, not inferior in any respect to the public eye; one that has done much and good service in the democratic cause, who is abundantly capable to discharge the duties of the office with honor and credit to both himself and his constituents, whose integrity and firmness are above the reach of contumely, and of the most sanguine assurance of a watchful guardianship over the interests of the State, and a certain guarantee of a faithful discharge of official duty. That man is Col. Gordon F. Mason, of Bradford Co. Col. Mason, although comparatively a young man, has been long and actively employed in public life. Having represented his district for three years in the State Senate, where he exhibited by his industry and research, a most thorough acquaintance with the condition and interests of the State, and especially that portion of the great mass of its Commonwealth which she derives the maximum of her revenue—her gigantic public improvements—he is peculiarly fitted for the office of Canal Commissioner. In addition to this, the late election of the Board from the North Eastern half of the State—a portion of democratic heritance which covered themselves with glory in the late election by their majorities for the democratic nominees. Col. Mason is a true, tried, faithful democrat, an ardent friend of our glorious Union, and a firm supporter of the Compromise. His nomination by the Democratic party, would ensure a triumph at the polls, and his election would shed new lustre on the purity and permanency of Democratic principles.

State Treasurer.
The papers announce that Gen. BICKEL will be a candidate for re-election to the office of State Treasurer. We presume there will be no opposing candidate among the Democrats. Of course, his reelection is certain. This is a result which will be of great benefit to the Commonwealth, for she has never had a better or more efficient officer. Gen. B. has guarded the interests of the State with zealous care, and by energy and promptitude has placed the credit of the State upon a secure foundation. We are assured that he has ferreted out and remedied many abuses since he assumed the duties of the office; preserved the funds of the State from peculation, and put a stop to the thieving propensities which some of the agents of the State have an evident inclination to.

We owe Gen. B. a debt of gratitude, in the North, for the interest he has manifested in the prosecution of the North Branch Canal. He has labored assiduously, when the Treasury was almost empty, to procure the funds necessary to keep the work in operation, and with success. His election will be particularly well received where those exertions are known.

Col. JOHN W. FORNEY, having been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, has retired from the editorial control of the Pennsylvania, Mr. M'KEAN being promoted to the Editorial chair, while our quondam friend, Wm. FORNEY, late of the "North Pennsylvania," appears as Associate Editor. We congratulate Wm. upon his accession, and trust that he will find his labors more pleasant, than endeavoring to instill his principles into our blighted and obstinate Democracy. Still we believe he has learned something by his short sojourn in Bradford, which will be useful to him hereafter, and if it will acknowledge that we told him nothing but the truth, on the occasion of that ride from Waverly, we will be good friends with him, and acknowledge the many good fruits he really possesses. What say you Wm.?

N. B. No change is expected to take place in the political course of the Pennsylvania. If we might volunteer a word of advice, it would be to curtail the usual number of puffs, by one-half.

More Agitation.
The rumors of the Democratic members of the House, laid a resolution on the Compromise upon the table. The result was concert of action in the election of officers, and a harmonious majority in that body. We did hope that this signal failure to enroll the Compromise upon our records, would be a sufficient warning to those discontents who are endeavoring to break up the Democratic party.—But hangman Foote, who has done more to produce the disunion feeling than any man in the country, is now endeavoring with Cons of Georgia to organize a Union party, which shall absorb the two great parties at the South, and the prime object of which is the elevation of Foote to the Vice Presidency.—Not content that the country is quietly and peacefully settling down into an observance of the different measures comprising the Compromise, he has introduced into the Senate, a new firebrand, in the shape of resolutions reaffirming these measures.—Not content that they are now laws, and in no danger of being disturbed, he insists that the North shall re-affirm them, and those men who failed to favor their passage, must come up to the mark, or be no longer considered Democrats. It is asserted plainly that only upon such a platform can the Democracy North and South be united.

We are gratified that it was left for Mr. Foote to open afresh the exciting discussions which have engaged the attention of the country and had partially, if not entirely subsided, before the amateur hangman introduced them into the councils of the Nation. The very men who have been the loudest in denouncing "Agitation"—Such men as Foote—are the men who have least desired the questions to be settled. They will not now allow them to remain unsettled.—Demagogues—low panders to sectional feeling—with more impudence than talent, as long as they can keep the feeling of the South aroused, they are enabled to ride upon the crest of the wave—but once depending upon their own talents and merits they sink into obscurity. If Foote could succeed in his scheme of a Union party he is vain enough to imagine that he may reach the Vice Presidency, which position, God forbid, he should ever disgrace.

The action of the Democratic caucus should teach the Democratic party a lesson. Upon the ancient platform of our party, it is possible for us to be united, and to achieve a glorious victory in 1852. Any attempt at interpolation upon that creed—any attempt to make the Compromise a shibboleth—will be suicidal—fraught with danger and pregnant with disaster. Why may not the Democracy be allowed to differ upon this, as upon the Tariff—as upon Harbor and River Improvements—and upon other questions? As long as any portion are willing to respect and carry out the guarantees of the Constitution, who shall prescribe how those guarantees shall be respected.

If the National Convention requires implicit faith in the justice of the Compromise measures—if it attempts to make them part and parcel of the Democratic creed—if, in short, endorses the prominent features of the Fillmore administration—and will not allow Democrats to think and judge for themselves, it requires no prophet's ken to see what will inevitably follow. The great Democratic party of the North, will never accept of Foote as a leader. They are not debased and degraded, so lost to every generous sentiment of honor,—as that. Let the National Convention when it convenes, select good and pure Democrats as its candidates, who are distinguished only by their ability and patriotism, and encouraged by their support of Republican principles. Let it insert upon its banners, the principles of Jefferson and Jackson and Van Buren. Let it signally and promptly rebuke those mischievous and ambitious persons who would eradicate the ancient landmarks, and obliterate the ancient watch-words, and then will await its honorable and glorious victory. If other counsels prevail, distraction will overtake its ranks, and defeat is certain. There are breakers ahead! In 1852, to avoid which prudent and cautious action is necessary. Our only hope is, that the leaders are so anxious for the spoils, that they will play to win, and consequently take the only course which will ensure success. No thanks to them, that that course is the right one. If any body thinks that there is not yet to be a gale, they are reposing in unfounded security. There is rough water ahead, and the breakers look dangerous. The only true way is to adopt Davy Crockett's motto—"Be sure you're right and then go ahead." We ask now, to be excused from following Mr. Foote's lead. If we ever have to come that, it will be after a season of fasting and prayer.

Artist's Union of Cincinnati.—The first annual drawing of this institution will take place on the first day of January next. Those wishing to avail themselves of the chance of procuring a painting of the highest order of artistic merit, should no longer delay. This Union is composed entirely of Artists, and the paintings on exhibition are unusually valuable. Every subscriber not only receives two magnificent Engravings, worth nearly the full amount of his subscription, but also may obtain one of the most splendid and valuable Original Paintings of the American School of Art.

Members who subscribe for more than one share in the distribution, are, for every five dollars subscribed, presented with an additional engraving, worth nearly that amount. Each member will also be entitled, from the date of this subscription, to a monthly publication devoted to Literature and the Fine Arts.

Subscribers for 1851 will receive a copy of Mount's celebrated picture of "Catching Rabbits," and a beautiful print of "Washington," after Sir Arthur's celebrated Portrait, which is admitted to be the most correct and life-like representation of the Father of his country now in existence. The engravings for 1851 may be seen at this office, and we consider them as far ahead of any similar production we have ever seen. The agent for this place, is Wm. H. PERKINS who will receive and remit subscriptions for 1851, it immediately made.

When and where is Dr. SALZBURG'S address to appear? How long before we are to be enlightened by the profundity of his wisdom? Let us not burn in ignorance! Will the respectable gentlemen who are to stand as sponsors, hurry it forth? An answer is at hand, when the good and the wise and the patriotic should not permit their modesty to deprive the country of the inestimable benefits of their counsels. Nor shall we allow the Doctor to be deprived of a single iota of the glory which the production must be the means of bringing upon somebody. We will see that he has fair play, and due credit for the labor and pains he has taken.

The trial of CATHERINE HANAWAY before the U. S. District Court at Philadelphia, will probably be concluded this week. The prisoner, was indicted for treason, in being accessory to the Christiana riot, in September last. A great number of witnesses have been examined, and the evidence elicited, fails of showing the complicity of Hanaway in the matter. It appears that the alarm was given on the morning of the day of the unfortunate occurrence, that kidnappers were in the neighborhood, and a negro had but lately been kidnapped in that region, the colored population immediately congregated armed with weapons, to defend one of their number from the danger they supposed him to be in.

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There is a total lack of evidence to show anything like organized or premeditated resistance to the enactments of Congress. A band of ignorant negroes congregated together under a sudden alarm, in fear of being kidnapped, and excited and furious, did not stop to inquire whether the action of the slave catcher, is under authority of law, or not.—They should be punished for the outrage committed upon the laws, and dealt with as justice requires, but to say that they are guilty of the misdemeanor of high treason, is a stretch of law which has no parallel in these days of humanity and intelligence.

The Danville Intelligencer, ELLIOT BEST'S paper—(see nothing more be said!)—accuses us of sinister motives in applauding Gov. BICKEN'S nomination for the Vice Presidency. It also accuses the Reporter of having deserted and denounced Gov. PORTER in times gone by. In this latter charge, we are not concerned, further than to "vindicate the truth of history." The Reporter was a fast and true friend to Gov. PORTER, and defended him until the last moment—much longer, in our estimation, than he deserved. That thissteadfastness, was ever advantageous to its editor, or ever given as a reason why it should be, we have yet to learn.

The former charge concerns us more intimately, and we pronounce the insinuation intended to be conveyed as false and malicious. There is no person responsible for the course of the Reporter, other than its editor whose name is at the head of its editorial columns. It is unjust to make any other person answerable for what it may say. And so far as concerns Col. BICKEN, we have no favors to ask of him, nor do we expect any. We shall be satisfied, if he fulfills our expectations in administering the Government upon those principles of Democracy which we know he has at heart. We have every confidence in his integrity and firmness—we believe he will be the Executive himself, and not permit the interested councils of "outsiders" to warp his judgment, or lead him from the Republican path he has marked out, and already entered upon.

President's Message.

From Fourth Page.
Irides within our border, has claimed my earnest and constant attention. Congress having failed, at the last session, to adopt my recommendation, of an additional regiment of mounted men specially adapted to that service should be raised, all that remained to be done was to make the best use of the means at my disposal. Accordingly, all the troops adapted to that service that could properly be spared from other quarters have been concentrated on that frontier, and officers of high reputation selected to command them. A new arrangement of the military posts has also been made, whereby the troops are brought near to the Mexican frontier, and the tribes that are intended to be exterminated.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to realize all the benefits that are expected to result from these arrangements, but I have every reason to hope that they will effectually check their marauding expeditions. The nature of the country, which furnishes little for the support of an army and abounds in places of refuge and concealment, is remarkably well adapted to that predatory warfare; and we can scarcely hope that any military force, combined with the greatest vigilance, can entirely suppress it. By the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect the territory of Mexico against the incursions of the savage tribes within our border; with equal diligence and energy; as if the same were made within our territory or against our citizens. I have endeavored to comply, as far as possible with this provision of treaty. Orders have been given to the officers commanding on that frontier to consider the Mexican territory and its inhabitants as equally with our own entitled to their protection; and to make all their plans and arrangements with a view to the attainment of this object. Instructions have also been given to the Indian commissioners and agents among the tribes, to protect the territory of Mexico against the incursions of the savage tribes within our border.

The difficulties of defending our own territory, as above mentioned are superadded, in defending the territory of Mexico against the incursions of the savage tribes within our border. The fact that we have no right to station our troops within her limits and that there is no efficient military force on the Mexican side to cooperate with our own, so long as this shall continue, the number and activity of our troops will rather increase than diminish. The Indians will naturally turn towards that country where they encounter the least resistance. Yet these troops are necessary to subdue them and to compel them to make and observe treaties. Until this shall have been done, the country will enjoy no security from their attacks.

The Indians in California, who had previously appeared of a peaceable character, and disposed to cultivate the friendship of the whites, have recently committed several acts of violence. As a large portion of the reinforcements sent to the Mexican frontier were stationed there, I considered it entirely inadequate to its defence. It cannot be increased, however, without an increase of the army; and I again recommend that measure as indispensable to the protection of the frontier.

I invite your attention to the suggestions on this subject, and on others connected with my department, in the report of the secretary of war. The appropriations for the support of the army, during the current and fiscal year ending 30th June, next, were reduced far below the estimate submitted by the department. The consequence of this reduction is a considerable deficiency, to which I invite your early attention. The expenditures of that department for the year ending June last were \$9,069,559. The estimates for the year commencing 1st July next, and ending June 30th 1853, are \$7,898,775 83; showing a reduction of \$1,161,492 75. The Board of Commissioners to whom the management of the Military Asylum was entrusted by the act of 3d March last was entrusted with the selection of a site for the establishment of an Asylum in the vicinity of this city which has been approved by me subject to the production of a satisfactory title. The report of the Secretary of the Navy will exhibit the condition of the public service under the supervision of that department. Our naval force, about during the present year has been actively and profitably employed, in giving protection to our widely extended and increasing commerce and interests in the various quarters of the globe, and our flag has everywhere afforded the security and received the respect inspired by the justice and liberality of our intercourse, and the dignity and power of the nation. The expedition commanded by Lieutenant De

Have, departed in search of the British commander Sir John Franklin, and his companions in the Arctic Seas, returned to New York in the month of October, after having undergone great perils and suffering from an unknown and dangerous navigation and the rigors of a northern climate without any satisfactory information of the objects of their search but with new contributions to science and navigation from the unfrequented polar regions. The officers and men of the expedition, having been all volunteers for this service, and having so conducted it as to meet the entire approbation of the government, it is suggested, as an act of gratitude and generosity, that the same allowances of extra pay and emoluments be extended to them that were made to the exploring expedition to the South Seas. I earnestly recommend to your attention the necessity of reorganizing the Naval Establishment, and appointing and fixing the number of officers in each grade providing some mode of promotion to the higher grades of the navy having reference to merit and capacity, rather than seniority or date of entry into the service, and for retiring from the effective list upon reduced pay those who may be competent to the performance of active duty. As a measure of economy as well as of efficiency in this arm of the service, the provision last mentioned is eminently worthy of your consideration.

The determination of the questions of relative rank between the sea officers and civil officers of the navy, and between officers of the army and navy, in the various grades of each, will also merit your attention. The failure to provide any substitute, when corporal punishment was abolished for the officers in the navy, has occasioned the conveying of numerous courts martial upon the arrival of vessels in port, and is believed to have an injurious effect upon the discipline and efficiency of the service.

To moderate punishment from one grade to another is among the humane reforms of the age; but to abolish one of the severity, which applied so generally to offences on shipboard, and provide nothing in its stead, it is to suppose, a progress of improvement in every individual, and a general leniency which is not assumed by the Legislature in respect to any other class of men.

It is hoped that Congress, in the ample opportunity afforded by the present session, will thoroughly investigate this important subject and establish such modes of determining guilt and such gradations of punishment as are consistent with humanity and the personal rights of individuals, and at the same time shall ensure the most energetic and efficient performance of duty and the suppression of crime in our ships of war.

The one dock in the navy yard at New York, which was ten years in process of construction, has been so far finished to be surrendered up to the authorities of the yard. The dry dock at Philadelphia is reported as completed, and is expected soon to be tested and delivered over to the agents of the government. That at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is also nearly ready for delivery; and a contract has been concluded, agreeably to the act of Congress passed last session, for a fitted graving station dock on the Bay of Francisco. I invite your attention to the recommendation of the Department touching the establishment of a navy yard in conjunction with this dock on the Pacific. Such a station is highly necessary to our commerce and effectiveness of our fleet in that ocean, which must be expected to increase with the growth of commerce and the rapid extension of our whale fisheries over its waters.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis, under a revised and improved system of regulations, now affords opportunities of education and instruction to the pupils quite equal, it is believed, for professional improvement to those enjoyed by the cadets in the Military Academy. A large class of acting midshipmen was received at the commencement of the last academic term and a practice-ship has been attached to the institution, to afford the amplest means for regular instruction in seamanship, as well as for cruises during the vacations of three or four months in each year.

The advantages of science in nautical affairs have rarely been more strikingly illustrated than in the fact stated in the report of the Navy Department, that by means of the wind and the currents charts, projected and prepared by Lieutenant Maury, the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ports of our country has been shortened by about forty-two days. The estimates for the support of the Navy and Marine Corps for the ensuing fiscal year will be found to be \$5,856,772 19; the estimates for the current year being \$5,900,621.

The estimates for special objects under the control of this department amount to \$2,681,220 89, against \$2,100,980 for the present year, the increase being occasioned by the additional mail service on the Pacific coast and the construction of a new mail steamer California, authorized at the last session of Congress and some slight additions under the head of improvements and repairs in navy yards, buildings and machinery.

I deem it of much importance to a just economy and a correct understanding of naval expenditures, that there should be an entire separation of the appropriations for the support of the naval service proper from those for permanent improvement, at navy yards and stations, and from ocean steam mail service, and other special objects assigned to the supervision of this Department. The report of the Postmaster General, herewith communicated, presents an interesting view of the progress, operations, and condition of his Department. At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of mail routes within the United States was 196,290 miles; the annual transportation thereon 22,572,255 miles; and the annual cost of such transportation \$2,427,754. The length of the foreign mail routes is estimated at 18,346 miles, and the annual transportation thereon at 615,208 miles. The annual cost of this service is \$1,472,197, of which \$488,847 is paid by the United States Government, and \$983,350 is paid through the Navy Department. The annual transportation within the United States (excluding the service in California and Oregon) which is now, for the first time, reported and embraced in the tabular statements of the Department exceeds that of the preceding year 6,162,855 miles, at an increased cost of \$247,110. The whole number of post offices in the United States, on the 30th day of June last, was 19,795. There were 1,699 post offices established, and 256 discontinued, during the year. The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year, including the appropriations for the franked matter of Congress, of the Departments, and officers of government, and excluding the foreign postage, collected for and payable to the British post office, amounted to \$6,727,868 75. The expenditures for the same period (excluding \$20,599 49 paid under an award of the Auditor, in pursuance of a resolution of the last Congress for mail service on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1832, and 1833, and the amount paid to the British post office for foreign postage collected for and payable to that office) amounted to \$6,094,872 99, leaving a balance of revenue over their proper expenditures of the year of \$703,290 90. The receipts for postage during the year (excluding the foreign postage collected for and payable to the British post office) amounted to \$97,610 79 or 18.64-100 percent, over the like receipts for the preceding year. The reduction of postage under the act of March last, did not take effect until the commencement of the present fiscal year. The accounts for the first quarter, under the operation of the reduced rates will not be settled before January next, and no reliable estimate of the receipts for the present year can yet be made. It is believed, however, that they will fall far short of those of the last year. The surplus of the revenues now on hand is, however, so large that no further appropriation from the treasury in aid of the revenues of the department is required for the current fiscal year; but an additional appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1853, will probably be found necessary when the receipts of the first three quarters of the fiscal year are fully ascertained. In his last annual report the Postmaster General recommended a reduction of postage to rates which he deemed as low as could be prudently adopted unless Congress was prepared to appropriate from the treasury, for the support of the Department, a sum more than equivalent to the mail services performed by it for the Government. The recommendation of the Postmaster General, in respect to letter postage, except on letters from and to California and Oregon, were substantially adopted.

The public statistics of the United States have now been accumulated for more than sixty years, and interspersed with private acts, are gathered through numerous volumes, and from the cost of the whole have become almost inaccessible to the great mass of the community. They also exhibit much of the incongruity and imperfection of hasty legislation.—As it seems to be generally conceded that there is no "common law" of the United States to supply the defects of their legislation, it is most important that the legislation should be as perfect as possible, defining every power intended to be conferred, every crime intended to be made punishable, and prescribing the punishment to be inflicted. In addition to some particular cases spoken of more at length, the whole criminal code now extremely defective, some offences are imperfectly described, and others are entirely omitted; so that flagrant crimes may be committed with impunity. The scale of punishment is not in all cases graduated according to the degree and nature of the offence, and is often rendered more unequal by the different modes of imprisonment, or penitentiary confinement, in the different States.

Many laws of permanent character have been introduced into appropriation bills, and it is often difficult to determine whether the particular clause expires with the temporary act of which it is a part, or continues in force. It has also frequently happened that enactments and provisions of law have been introduced into bills, with the title or general object of which they have little or no connection or relation. In this mode of legislation so many enactments have been heaped upon each other, often with but little consideration, that in many instances, it is difficult to search out and determine what is the law.

The Government of the United States is emphatically a government of public acts. The statutes should, therefore, as far as practicable, not only be made accessible to all, but be expressed in language so plain and simple as to be understood by all, and arranged in such method as to give perspicuity to every subject. Many of the States have revised their public acts with good and manifest benefit, and I recommend that provision be made by law for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statistics of the United States, arranging them in order, supplying deficiencies, correcting incongruities, simplifying their language and reporting them to Congress for its approval. 30th September, 1830, contained a provision for the extension of the Capitol, according to such plan as might be approved by the President, and appropriated one hundred thousand dollars to be expended under his direction, by such architect as he should appoint to execute the same. On examination of the plan which has been submitted by different architects, in pursuance of an advertisement by a committee of the Senate, no one was found to be entirely satisfactory, and it was therefore deemed advisable to combine and adopt the advantages of several.

The great object to be accomplished, was to make such an addition as would afford ample and convenient halls for the deliberations of the two Houses of Congress, with sufficient accommodations for spectators, and suitable apartment for the committees and officers of the two branches of the Legislature. It was also desirable not to mar the harmony and beauty of the present structure, which is a specimen of architecture, is so universally admired. Keeping these objects in view, I concluded to add the addition by wings, detached from the present building, yet connected with it by corridors. The mode of enlargement will leave the present Capitol unimpaired, and afford great advantages for the extension and the admission of light, which will enable work to progress without interrupting the deliberations of Congress. To carry this plan into effect, I have appointed an experienced and competent architect. The corner stone was laid on the 4th day of July last, with suitable ceremonies, and the work has advanced with great rapidity, and the foundations of both wings are nearly completed.

I again commend to your faithful regard the interest of the District of Columbia, and deem it necessary to remind you, that although its jurisdiction have no voice in the choice of representatives to Congress, they are not the less entitled to a just and liberal consideration in our legislation. My opinion on this subject were more fully expressed in a last annual communication.

Other subjects were brought to the attention of Congress, all resting on the same message to which would respectively refer. But I again invite your special attention. Allude to the recommendation for the appointment of a commission to settle the claims against the United States. Justice to the soldiers of the late war, the government is under the demands that some more judicious mode be adopted than an appeal to Congress should be made.

It is deeply to be regretted that in several cases officers of the government, in attempting to execute the law in the return of fugitives from justice, have been openly resisted, and their persons arrested and detained by lawless and violent mobs, in one case such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in other serious injuries to those officers and to individuals who were employed in their endeavor to sustain the laws. Similar actions have been instituted against magistrates, and so far as they could be identified, and still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in these cases, to give all aid legally in my power to the enforcement of the laws, and I shall continue to do so wherever and whenever their execution may be resisted.

The act of Congress for the return of fugitives from labor is one required and demanded by express words of the Constitution. The Constitution declares, "That no person to service or labor irone State, under the laws of any State or Territory, shall be discharged, or any law or regulation thereof, be used against such service or labor, but shall be delivered up to the party to whom such service or labor may be due." This constitutional provision is obligatory upon Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial Departments of the Government, and every citizen of the United States.

Congress, however, must necessarily be guided upon the subject, by prescribing the precise manner necessary to ascertain that the person is a fugitive from labor, and the means to be used for his restoration to the claimant. This was done by an act passed at the first term of President Washington, which was amended by that enacted by the last Congress, and now remains for the Executive and Judicial departments to take care that these laws be duly executed. This injunction of the Constitution is peremptory and as binding as any other; and it is exactly on the same foundation as that declared in the Constitution, that no bill of attainder, or post facto law shall be passed, or that which purports to be an equality of taxation, according to the clause declaring that all duties shall be uniform through the United States, or the provision that the trial of all crimes shall be by jury. These several articles and clauses of the Constitution, all resting on the same authority, must stand or fall together. Some objections have been made against the details of the act for the return of fugitives from labor; but it is worthy of remark that the opposition is aimed at the Constitution, and not at the details of the law. It is a requirement of the Constitution. Fortunately a number of persons are comparatively ignorant of the Constitution, and it is believed to be daily diminishing in number, which they present in some instances, as if they were the binding authority of Congress, and even states have proposed