THE DEMOCRAT.

MONTROSE, PA:

Thursday,.... February, 8, 1849.

THE CANAL BOARD of this State met and organized on Friday last, all the Commissioners being present. The nefarious attempts of Power, the Whig member, acting under the advice of Johnston and his unscrupulous co-adjutors at Harrisburg, to force Judge Longstreth, whose health is very feeble, to resign, so that Johnston might fill his place with a *Whig*, proved abortive. So heartless and infamous a scheme cannot fail to recoil with blasting force on its authors. The Judge endured the journey to Harrisburg (spoken of by an article we copy from the Pennsylvanian) and has returned to Philadelphia, much exhausted in strength, but we trust not essentially worse than when he left home.

The Calhoun Manifesto.

We have just finished the perusal of this document, which was adopted by a majority of the Southern members of Congress at the recent caucus in Washington. It is a paper of great ability and ingeniously drawn up, of course, and addressed *exclusively* to the slave holding community. Owing to its length and general dearth of interest—to those who have no sympathy with the peculiar doctrines of the distinguished Carolinian—we give only the following synopsis of it.

It opens with a recital of "grievances long endured by the south"—the imaginary aggressions and violations of faith on the part of the non-slave-holding States—the obstacles that have from time to time been interposed by State legislatures to the reclaiming of fugitive slaves—refers to the attempt made at the time of the adoption of the Missouri compromise to encroach on the rights of the slave States—and then passes to the consideration of the prohibition of slavery in the territories, and the designs of the free soil party upon the district of Columbia. The fact of these its author deems the crowning outrage of the whole, portending clearly ultimate emancipation throughout the entire South, and the final subjugation of slaveholders to their slaves.

It concludes by solemnly adjuring the slave states to stand by each other, since with union every thing can be done, and without union nothing. It affirms that it has been the want of concert among the southern states which has brought about the present state of things, full of danger to the south, the Union, and our system of government. The address proceeds to say:

"If you become united and prove your love in earnest, the north will be brought to a pause, and that may lead to a change of measures and the adoption of a course of policy that may quietly and peacefully terminate this long conflict between the two sections. If it should not, nothing would remain but for you to stand up immovably in defence of rights involving our property, prosperity, equality, liberty and safety. As the assailed you would stand justified by all laws, human and divine, in repelling a dangerous blow without looking to consequences, and to resort to all means necessary for that purpose. Your assailants, and not you, would be responsible for consequences.

"Entertaining these opinions, we earnestly entreat you to be united, and for that purpose to adopt all necessary measures. Beyond this we think it would not be proper to go at present. We hope, if you should unite with anything like unanimity, it may of itself apply a remedy to this deep seated and dangerous disease. But if such should not be the case, the time will then have come for you to decide what course to adopt."

The vote on adopting this address was 42 to 17; the following are the nays:

Messrs. Barnwell, Metcalfe, Underwood, Rusk, Houston, Pendleton, Preston, Chapman, Toombs, Stevens, Hilliard, Moorehead, Cooke, Cabell, Bowman, Chapman.

It is a remarkable fact (but ominous for good, we trust,) that this address has fallen still-born from the printer's hands, having excited no interest, either North or South. Few take the trouble to print it, fewer, comparatively speaking, to read it, and still fewer to talk about it. Its statements of grievances are everywhere esteemed exaggerated, and its gloomy, lachrymal prognostications, if not wholly imaginary, are at least fraught with little or no alarm. The entire movement from beginning to end, is pretty generally regarded as a farce, originated with a view to awe timid and dough-faced Representatives from the North to yield the principle of non-extension. That some have been operated upon is feared, although few, we apprehend, can fail to see through its transparent design, and detest and spurn the motives of its authors. Not that we would call in question their sincerity, for we doubt not the most of them are sincere in desiring the extension of their "peculiar institution;" but sincerity is no evidence of right, no more in this case than any other. The followers of Mahomet or Joe Smith are doubtless as sincere as are John C. Calhoun and his confederates; but their sincerity does not prove them right, or excuse their fanaticism. Neither does the sincerity of these men who are leagued together in their conspiracy against freedom, sanctify the cause in which they are engaged, or prove it right. They are simply slavery fanatics, having a *pocket-interest* in the issue (which *makes* them sincere) and have persuaded themselves that slavery is right, and should be extended over the whole world. In a word, they are become a species of monomaniacs, entitled to our charity for their delusion, but to no encouragement in a course of wrong.

A Singular Fact.

It is a singular fact, and an exceedingly mortifying one to the croakers of "ruin," in this State, that while the Coal and Iron interests have been driven to the brink of utter extermination by the operation—by the operation of that monstrous, infamous, "British Free Trade Tariff of 1846" (?) the late annual Report of the Board of Canal Commissioners shows an actual increase of revenue on our Public Works (in the language of that document) "as compared with the year 1847, of $13,965 on Coal; and of $24,595,36 on Iron." Let the '48 Tariffites, and the "ruin" praters reconcile those discrepancies if they can.

THE TELEGRAPH.—After a long delay, we are enabled to announce the completion of the New York & Erie Telegraph to this Village, from Binghamton, where it intersects a Telegraph connecting with Ithaca, New York, and—"all creation." The company putting up the wires passed through town on their way east on Saturday. An office, we understand, will be opened here in a few days, and the completion of the entire line through from New York is promised during the present month. We hope the public may not again be victims to "hope deferred."

FOWLERS & WELLS' Phrenological and Water Cure Journals for February have already been received. They are, as usual, richly freighted with useful and instructive reading on various subjects of physical, mental and moral reform—especially the former, which contains some very interesting articles.

☞ The statement made in our last paper (upon the authority of one of the attorneys for the plaintiff) in relation to the decision of the Court in case of Jane Rose vs. Charles Adams, viz: that it was determined that the division of the contracts, &c., of the estate of the late Dr. Rose, made by the executor, was legal and binding, seems to be erroneous, or at least is contradicted by the opposite side. We know nothing about the case further than the record shows, and therefore do not choose to interfere in the question of misunderstanding or veracity between the parties. The following statement having been furnished us by the *other* side, we give it publicity, hoping it will settle the dispute—in the minds of the community, at least, if not of the lawyers.

The facts as appear by the record seem to be as follows—

Mrs. Rose instituted an action of replevin for a pair of Oxen that were sold to the defendant by Mr. John Simpson and which Mrs. Rose claimed as her own *private property* by virtue of the "Divorce." Evidence was given upon various points in the cause, and under the Charge of the Court the jury found for the defendant, and assessed his damages at two dollars. It seems, therefore, that it was not decided in the case that said "Divorce" was firm and effectual, as if it had been so decided, the defendant would have taken it to the Supreme Court on a writ of error; but now, of course, he cannot do it, as judgment is in his favor. Further comment is unnecessary.

THE CONSTANT: Its causes, prevention and cure. Showing the Efficacy of the Drug Treatment, and the superiority of the Water Cure in this disease, by Joel Shew, M. D., pp. 98, Fowlers & Wells, 131 Nassau-st. N. York. Price 25 cts.

A copy of this work, which is a series of lectures delivered by the author in Clinton Hall, N. Y., in December last, has been received. We need scarcely add a further recommendation than its title affords. From the examination we have given it, we hesitate not to say that is replete with interest and instruction for everybody. Hydropathetics will of course be pleased with it, while disbelievers in that mode of treatment cannot fail to derive from it much useful information.

A CORRECTION.—A friend in Piermont, having observed our notice of the collision on the N. Y. & E Railroad in the 4th number of this paper, corrects one or two slight mistakes into which we were led by our informants. It was the *conductor* and not the engineer, who was in fault, and who made his escape. The engineer, Mr. Esmond, was blameless in the matter, and is still on the road, enjoying the full confidence of the company.

THE POSTAGE BILL.—The following paragraph from a late letter of a Member of Congress to a neighboring print, may explain the condition of the Postage Bill, now, it seems, pending before the Senate:

The Bill which Mr. Broadhead brought forward at the last Session passed the House with some amendments. *The same Bill is now pending before the Senate.* The adjournment did not make it necessary or even proper that it should originate again in the House, because it is the same Congress, and the Senate continued the business by a resolution. Notwithstanding this fact, the editors of the country press seem to be of the opinion that the House is neglecting their interests, &c. They are constantly calling on members of the House instead of the Senate and Senators, to move in the matter. I would be pleased if you would in some way make an explanation and call upon the Senate. Yours, &c.

☞ HENRY CLAY—so the telegraph announces—has been elected to the U. S. Senate for six years from the 4th of March next by the Legislature of Kentucky.

☞ A bill for the erection of a new county out of parts of Luzerne, to be called Lackawanna, has passed the Senate of this State. It is thought it will pass the House.

SENATE DISTRICT, No. 22.—Partial returns from the 20th Senate District, composed of the counties of Armstrong, Cambria, Clearfield and Indiana, have been received. They elect Augustus Drum, the Democratic candidate, beyond a question.

North Branch Canal Meeting.

A mass meeting of the friends of the North Branch Canal in Wyoming, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Bradford, was held in Tunkhannock on Monday evening the 29th ult., the proceedings of which we find in the *Wyoming Whig*. Judge Jessup was chosen President, with some fifteen Vice Presidents, and three Secretaries. The meeting was addressed by Cols. H. B. Wright of Luzerne, Elhanan Smith, of Wyoming, and B. S. Bentley, Esq., of Susquehanna. A strong batch of resolutions were adopted in favor of the early completion of the said Canal the sentiment of which has been anticipated by what we have previously published. One of them contains a pledge of the individuals of the convention to support no man for Governor or Canal Commissioner "who is not publicly known to be in favor of the speedy completion of the North Branch Canal." Another

Resolved, That C. L. Ward, John F. Means, Jno. C Adams, E. R. Meyers, and Wm. Elwell, of Bradford, Willard Jackson, Sherman D. Phelps, S. S. Winchester, Bradley Wakeman, Elhanan Smith, John Standerant, of Wyoming, H B. Wright, Samuel Benedict, Geo. M. Hollenback, and Charles Dorrance, of Luzerne, B. S. Bentley, J. T. Richards, Albert Chamberlin, Henry Drinker, J. B. Salisbury, Daniel Searle, and Hon. Wm. Jessup, of Susquehanna, be and are hereby apointed delegates from this convention to visit the seat of the State Government and lay the proceedings of this body before the Legislature, and also to aid in procuring the passage of a law to speedily complete the North Branch Canal.

The convention was characterised by good order, and unbounded enthusiasm in the cause for which it was assembled.

A NEW ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.—A company is now forming for the purpose of opening a new route to the Pacific via San Juan River and Lake Nicaragua. It is said that a few thousand dollars will make the San Juan River navigable to the Lake, through which steam vessels can pass to Leon, a small town within ten miles of the Pacific coast. Over this ten miles a plank road or canal can be easily made, and the route then will be some 500 miles nearer than by Chagres and Panama.

☞ A New York paper says that no young man who gets out to California and can afford it, should neglect to take with him a good wife. The editor says that there are thousands of respectable, amiable girls in that city, who would marry and emigrate, if they were only asked.

Canal Commissioner.

We have received the following communication from a well known Democrat in our county on the subject of the next Canal Commissioner. We give it, reserving remarks for our next number, further than to say that in the main, we approve his suggestions:

To the Editor of the Democrat:

As the *West* has now two members of the Board of Canal Commissioners, and the *East* one, the *North* is entitled of *right*, to the next one to be elected. In looking around among her many able and deserving citizens, I can see no man who seems to stand fourth so conspicuously for that station as Col. ASA DIMOCK, of Susquehanna. His extensive acquaintance with the Internal Improvement system of the state; his thorough and acknowledged business talents, his honesty and fidelity to every trust, point him out as the man upon whom the next selection should fall.

Susquehanna, too, has a claim above any other county in the State. While Bradford, Luzerne, Lycoming, and Monroe have all been honored with important, some of them numerous, public offices, conferred upon their citizens, Susquehanna, one of the steadiest, strongest, and most reliable among them, has been put off year after year with barely a *bone!* The office of Canal Commissioner for the next three years belongs, by every principle of right and justice to the *North*, and the selection of Col. DIMOCK, of Susquehanna, would be received with universal approbation, and his election would be certain to follow by a triumphant majority. He would get at least twelve hundred majority in his native SUSQUEHANNA.

The North Branch Canal.

About the only business of general interest to our readers transacted by our Legislature during the past week, is the discussion of the bill for the completion of the North Branch Canal. Saturday, in particular, was almost exclusively devoted to that subject, and the discussion of it, as reported, is rather interesting. A correspondent of the Pennsylvanian writes as follows:

The speech of the Honorable speaker was impassioned and eloquent. The exordium was frank, deliberate, and argumentative, whilst the peroration was interspersed with glowing rhetoric and crowned with poetic wreaths. Mr. Little also made a calm, business-like speech in favor of the measure, giving a brief outline of its origin, condition, and advantages, and concluding with an earnest appeal that something might be done by the present Legislature, to ensure the completion of a work in which not only his constituents but the whole Commonwealth are concerned, whether it is considered as a revenue measure to replenish the Treasury, or as a measure of justice to the north for the benefit of a faithful but long neglected people.

The friends of the North Branch Canal are making a bold and united movement to secure its early completion by the State.—The charter of the Company incorporated to finish it having expired, it is now proposed to raise money on the faith of the Commonwealth, by specifically pledging the tolls on the finished part of the line, to the payment of the interest and principal of the new loan to be contracted at six per cent., and which, it is estimated, can be liquidated within the term of twelve years. The scheme is certainly plausible, and we believe can be realized to the letter of the promise.

As an indication of the public spirit prevailing along the North Branch valley we might refer to a communication adressed to the House from C. L. Ward and others of Bradford county, pledging themselves to contract with the State to finish that portion of the canal which is located in Bradford Co., on the terms stipulated in the original letting, and to take in payment six per cent certificates of State loan at par. Gentlemen of equal enterprise in other counties, it is alleged, will tender the same proposition, all and execute its obligations in good faith.

Another correspondent writes as follows:

Mr. Fuller addressed the house until the hour of adjournment. The following are the most important statistics contained in his speech:

"The State has already expended about $2,500,000 on the unfinished canal from the mouth of the Lackawanna to the New York State line, which is a distance of 94 miles. It is estimated by able engineers that it will require to complete it $1,100,000.

The North Branch Canal is now finished and navigable from Northumberland to the Lackawanna—a distance of 73 miles, and on that part alone, the tolls received this year, according to the report of the Canal Commissioners, amount to about $150,000 and are chiefly derived from coal going south.

The canal passes through the centre of the Wyoming and Lackawanna coal field, which is sixty miles long and five wide, containing 192,000 acres, and according to geologists, containing twenty-two billion eight hundred and forty million tons of coal.

By this canal, when completed, the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware will be connected with those of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, and the southern counties of the State of New York will be brought fifty miles nearer Philadelphia than New York city.

It is estimated that the receipts on the canal, when completed, will be $300,000 the first year—a sum sufficient to pay interest on the money already sunk and lying idle, expended on the unfinished part of the line, and also on the sum necessary to complete it. Mr. Fuller called this bill "*a revenue bill*;" and indeed, if his data be correct, the term is justly applied to it. A very strong effort is making to procure its passage. Some of the ablest of the members are moving Heaven and earth in its support. The people in the very large section of country interested in this measure have flooded the Legislature with petitions, both this year and last, and will take no denial. If the calculations and estimates made by its friends are correct, there should be no hesitation in passing the proposed bill and authorizing the speedy completion of the North Branch Canal.

News by the Canada.

The following is all we find of interest in the intelligence furnished by the Canada, whose arrival we briefly noticed last week.

The commercial news is favorable. Cotton has advanced ½ to ¼ per cent. Flour, U. S. sweet, 27s to 27s. 6d. Indian Corn 29s to 33s.

Louis Napoleon is occupied in giving grand receptions to men of eminence of every shade of political opinions. When he appears in public the populace receive him with every demonstration of respect.

In Prussia the Ministry is actively engaged in preparing special laws by which the principles of the constitution shall be carried into effect.

From Austria we learn that the war against Hungary is still being waged, and that the accounts are favorable for the Austrians. Wrangel still preserves order at Berlin. Frankfort continues the focus of intrigues, having for their object the unity of Germany, which it is considered, cannot be effected.

It is mentioned in the Paris papers that the Pope, wishing to avoid foreign intervention, intends to try the effect of a personal step. It is said that he will go to Civita Vecchia, and make an appeal to the people and if not responded to, will "let things take their own course"—what this expression means we do not exactly know. He still remains at Gaeta.

The Austrians are preparing to recommence the war with Charles Albert

Attempts are being made to excite the lower classes against the rich.

Since writing the above, we have one day's later news. Odillon Barrot is spoken of as the probable Vice President of France.

An immediate intervention, it is said, is to be made in favor of the Pope by the great Catholic powers of Europe. The Judges in the Writ of Error in the O'Brien case are said to be divided in opinion.—The trial of Duffy has not yet commenced. Perth is reported to have been taken by Prince Windischragtz.—*Sat. Post.*

The Canal Board.

Judge Longstreth will make the effort to proceed to Harrisburg, this morning, though still, we regret to say, in a most feeble condition. We called at the residence of his brother, (where he has been staying since his arrival in town on Saturday,) but found that his physician had left orders that he should see no body. Impelled by the strongest sense of public duty, however, and against the earnest advice of all his friends, he has deemed it necessary to go to Harrisburg to participate in the organization of the Board of which he is a member. Nothing but this obligation would induce him to run the great risk of the journey in his present precarious state of health.

In order to avoid this journey, Judge Longstreth wrote a friendly letter to Mr. Power, his Whig colleague, explaining his condition, and inviting him to come to Philadelphia to organize the Board. To this letter Mr. Power did not deign to reply, but verbally pleaded the Attorney General's opinion as a reason for not complying with the most reasonable request of Judge Longstreth.

A more ridiculous absurdity than this same Attorney General's opinion, it would be impossible to conceive. It is only equalled by the Governor's notion in regard to the bills which he found in the Executive Chamber awaiting his decision when he came into office! The Attorney Gen has decided, so runs the rumor, that there can be no legal organization, and indeed no legal session, of the Board of Canal Commissioners, save in the room of the Board at Harrisburg. A few plain facts will expose this shameless pretext:

In 1833, the Board of Canal Commissioners organized at Philadelphia, and elected James Clark, President.

In 1841, the Board met in Philadelphia, and elected Thomas Tustin, Superintendent of Motive Power.

As late as September last, the Board organized and met on the Erie division of the Pennsylvania Canal.

In November last, the Board met in Philadelphia and transacted business.

The object of the whigs, instigated by Johnston and his cabinet, is to get rid of Judge Longstreth "by death, resignation, or otherwise." The cold blooded cruelty of their scheme has in it, the same malice in the first degree. Let them take the responsibility of their inhuman conspiracy.—*Penn.*

FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—A letter from Honolulu, dated Nov. 2d, 1848, says that the greatest excitement prevails in Polynesia, relative to the gold discoveries in California. People of all classes have the gold fever—natives and foreigners—and are using every means to get to the gold regions. All kinds of goods which might answer for the California markets are selling at the highest rates. The price of a cabin passage from Honolulu to San Francisco is $100, steerage $80. The Polynesian of Oct. 7th, publishes 70 announcements of intentions to depart.

A large amount of gold dust has been received from California, and several Sandwich Islanders who left previous to the gold discovery, have come back with handsome fortunes, procured by two or three months' digging.

The habor at Honolula was crowded with ships. Forty-four whale ships and six merchant vessels are in the inner harbor, and quite a fleet is lying off outside.

☞ Major Noah, in his last "Sunday Times," goes into an argument to prove that "the gold of Ophir" of Scripture celebrity, came from California. From the vast amount of the gold of Ophir, used in the construction and the ornaments of Solomon's temple, the length of the voyages of the ships, which were sent for the gold, and various other considerations, he infers that it was California gold that so wonderfully and magnificently enriched the famous temple of antiquity. The Major states the cost of the temple at upwards of four hundred and fifty millions of pounds sterling. The ships sent by Solomon and Hiram of Tyre for the gold and treasures of Ophir, required three years to make the voyage and as the locality of Ophir has not been ascertained, and as the length of the voyage would seem to correspond very well with the distance to California, it is conjectured that ancient Ophir and modern California, are one and the same place.

Washington, Jan. 31st.—The Southern mails have all come through, bringing up dates from Texas, New Orleans, &c. The Cholera had subsided, and ceased to attract attention The Hon Nathan Clifford Minister to Mexico, left Pensacola on the 16th instant, enroute for Mexico.

The California Excitement

Is spoken of by some as a "bubble," a "mania," a "humbug." We look upon it as neither of these, but more as a providential incident, by which a new and noble stimulus is to be given to gigantic enterprises which, otherwise, might have lain in obscurity. If not a dollar of gold should be returned to our sea board from the Pacific, the migration of a population of freemen sufficient to found a state, and prepared with all the weapons necessary to overcome the wilderness and the soil, will prove an incalculable treasure. Our Western Empire is one day to be our grandest empire, even as was that of Rome, and this gold excitement is to found it.

Very different was the "Tulip Mania," which ruined the merchants bankers and nobles of Europe. That was a delusion without a basis present or prospective. Very different also, was the "South Sea Bubble," which ruined so many confident Englishmen and "*canny*" Scotch, and to which the great astronomer, Newton, subscribed £200, whereof we have seen the receipt, snugly enseconced in a box with the manuscript of his Principia, in the Royal Society's rooms, London. More, too, like a humbug, was the "*Morus Multicaudis*," and the "Kempo" speculation, neither of which fairly promised gold, or to settle any waste country. Those who cry mania and humbug of California, are, it may be, like the fox which cried "sour grapes".—*N. Y. Sun.*

WE HAVE carefully re-read the manifestoes of Messrs Calhoun and Berrien, and cannot let them pass without further expressing our convictions in relation not so much to the real or apparent justness of their grievances, as to the effect they are likely to produce upon, and the response they will receive from the people of the South. Mr. Calhoun exaggerates the hostility of the North towards the South. The deep seated repugnance of the North to slavery has, with a bare exception in favor of the ultra abolitionists—less of enmity towards the South where slavery is constitutionally guarantied, than toward slavery as likely to spread over new regions and perpetuate itself.

As to the District of Columbia, every man north of the Potomac, and a majority, we believe, south of it, hold the same opinion, to wit, that it is a deep and damning blot upon the national honor, that a slave mart should stand under the shadow of the Capitol of the Republic. That the stain should be wiped from this common soil of the people, is a general desire of both North and South, if the voice of the masses be consulted. Even the people of Washington, by no means abolitionists, have petitioned for the abolition of slavery in the District.

Mr. Calhoun in his report, is the representative of but a small class of the white population of the South. He has taken the ground of the aristocracy—the planters—and with these his words will be potent, but with the greater and mightier phalanx of the people, the mechanics, artisans and laborers, his doctrines will find no favor. These are in agreement with the people of the North in opposition to the extension of slavery, and though they may not countenance any interference with the institution existing at the South, they will frown down any cry or attempt at disunion. South Carolina might at a pinch try nullification, but she would find no sympathy "round about."

Our opinion is that the senatorial manifestoes will fall dead, or at least will not produce any marked excitement at the South.—Thinking men will read them both, and will admire the manliness and ability with which they are written; aye they will read them with profit, because the reading will beget a stronger sense of the greatness and glory of our Union, and the little possibility there is that it should ever be sundered by sectional difficulty. The good sense of the North will keep it from infringing upon the constitutional rights of the South, and the South, never belligerent in words, will be cautious how she hazards her own safety by striking at the federal compact.—*N. Y. Sun.*

State Treasurer's Report.

From the Annual Report of the State Treasurer we gather the following facts: The balance in the Treasury on the 30th of November 1848, was $577,299,39—The loan for ninety days of $140,000 authorized by act of 9th February 1848, has been paid. The *estimated* balance in the Treasury for the fiscal year, ending 30th Nov 1849, is placed at $901,090 39. A sum sufficient to pay the interest upon the public debt as it falls due.

The five per cent abatement, amounted in the aggregate to $41,522 11—the Treasurer suggests that some means be devised, whereby the tax collected be brought into the Treasury at a less expense. Under the present system, the expense is *eleven* per cent—five being paid to the collectors, one to the County Treasurer—and five per cent abatement.

In relation to the filthy and ragged Relief notes in circulation, under the present system of cancellation, which will take 3 or 4 years to destroy them it is suggested, that a loan be authorized, for their redemption, bearing an interest of six per cent, free of taxation and re-imbursable in two or three years—the whole amount now outstanding is $702,664.

The Revenue from the public improvements, for the last fiscal year was $1,550,555 03—and the expenses for repairs, ordinary and extraordinary and motive power were $1,003,429 78—leaving a balance from the improvements of $542,125 25. The extraordinary repairs during the last fiscal year, amounted to $388,508 57, the burning of the aqueduct at Freeport, not only increased the expense, but greatly decreased the Revenue from the main line. The Report suggests the establishment of a sinking fund, for the payment of the public debt.

The Treasurer believes that the State sustained a large loss, in consequence of money at interest and debts due from solvent debtors, being taxed for other than State purposes. If this description of property were taxed *four* mills on the dollar for State purposes, and exempt from taxation for any other purpose, the revenue of the State would be increased to four fold the amount that is now derived from that source. The views of the Board of Revenue Commissioners, on this subject, are appended to the Report.

The estimated Revenue from Canals and Railroads for the year ending 30th Nov. 1849, is $1,650,000.

The Homestead Exemption.

All reforms are at first sight repulsive to timid men. Who does not recollect when to whisper a suspicion against a bank was fairly deemed sedition? Who cannot recall the time when the abolition of imprisonment for debt, was denounced as a plundering vagary? And yet all men unite in regarding banks with suspicion, and imprisonment for debt is itself buried in the deepest dungeons of oblivion, and nobody suffers, while many are blessed. The principle of the Homestead Exemption is undergoing the first of these processes. It is now being bitterly assailed as a scheme to revive the old laws of feudality, or an invention to perpetuate property in families. We have recently seen harder things attributed to this proposition than ever have yet been dreamed of in our philosophy.—One thinks it will give rogues a chance to defraud their creditors; but he forgets how any law, no matter how just or severe, may be evaded by the wrong-doer. What, then, is this principle of Home Exemption? It is a project to protect the poor—the laboring—the toiling—from the horror of houselessness. It is a project to make inviolable the humble homestead. Now, by the law, all is swept away; and the poor family is scattered houseless, penniless, and friendless, upon the cold charities of the world. Judicial sales of a debtor's real estate usually arise from a debtor's misfortune or imprudence. In either case the calamities fall upon the wife and children, who are innocent and helpless sufferers. To exempt the homestead from forced sale, is therefore to protect these unoffending parties. A man owes a higher duty to his family than he does to his creditors, and the former should be aided and cared for by legislation quite as effectually as the latter. This then is what is understood by the Homestead Exemption.

The amount to be exempted need not be large—say a small house and lot valued at five hundred dollars, making an increased provision for cities where property is higher. Let this law of Pennsylvania be prospective—affecting no obligations for the Past—but opening the way and preparing all, capitalist and mechanic, for the Future. What an inducement to Industry it would be! The hours too often spent at the ale-house or the tavern, would be given to labor or to study, and every working-man would strive to provide a Homestead for his family.

In order to let our readers see that this is no untried idea—no Utopian scheme—it is just that the progress of this humane project should be shown. It is a part of the fundamental law of Michigan and Wisconsin. Connecticut has provided for homestead exemption. Vermont is discussing it in her Legislature. Indiana is favorably considering it. Ohio is deliberating upon a similar proposition. Our neighbor, New Jersey, promises to adopt it. And in a debate which took place in the New York Senate, on the 15th of January last on a bill "to exempt from execution the homestead of a householder having a family," of ten Senators who discussed the subject, *every one was in favor of the principle.* So that those who suppose a homestead exemption is a plot to plunder and to pull down will see that it has many eminent advocates, who regard it as a wise, just, humane and highly philanthopic design.

Here now is a proposal to protect Labor. How many will raise hands in its favor? We are always arming Wealth with new privileges. Now let us extend to the masses a little of a spirit which has heretofore been exclusively exercised for the few. The banker breaks and defies the law, leaving the poor workingmen who took his promises to pay, to suffer. Now let us extend a shield over those who, in nine cases out of ten, are prostrated through the villainy, or the imprudence of others. Even when the humble citizen is directly the cause of his own ruin, is it not inhuman to make his poor children—probably his frail and feeble wife—suffer the hunger of poverty and "the humiliations of pauperism."

Senator SHALL, of this county, has introduced a bill into the State Senate, which is either imperfect in itself, or else strangely misunderstood. He fixes the amount of property to be exempted from execution, "not to exceed, *in clear yearly value*, the sum of three hundred dollars." This is construed by some to mean *interest*, not *principal*. Many, therefore, regard the bill of our worthy Senator as looking to exempting property from forced sale, to the amount of from five to six thousand dollars! If this be his design, he goes too far. Even in New York the highest sum proposed to be exempted is $1000, and in other States $500 is the ruling amount. But we think his language is misunderstood, and await his explanation.

The principle is holy—is just—is progressive. Let the details be prudently arranged, and calmly digested; and no measure that has ever been placed upon our statute book will be more triumphantly vindicated by the results.—*Pennsylvanian.*

Great Dam of Ice in the Susquehanna.—The late rains in the Susquehanna and Juniata region caused the ice to break up sooner in the up river country than below, consequently the ice dammed at the falls above Columbia, so that the water was backed over the Conewago falls, which are some sixteen feet high, up to Middletown. At York Haven one of the fine saw mills on the canal was raised from its foundations and broken up by the floating ice. When the ice gave way it swept away almost everything it came in contact with, and we are apprehensive that considerable damage has been done to the Pennsylvania and Tidewater canals. In many places the ice is piled up between Conewago and Columbia, from fifteen to twenty feet above the present water line, and the river is still high.—*Dem. Union.*

☞ Three new powerful engines were put on the Erie Railroad last week, and the whole motive power of the road has been put in perfect repair.—*Binghamton Iris.*

Official Letter from Panama.

Crossing the Isthmus—Gold Harvest by English and Others.

The Washington *Union*, of Wednesday, contains the following extracts from a letter written by General P. F. Smith, at Panama, which will be valued for their authenticity:

PANAMA, Jan. 7, 1849.

The situation of affairs in California is really most extraordinary. No accounts we had are exaggerated. Captain Henrien de Langle, of the French brig of war Genie, now here, says that he learned at Valparaiso and Lima, that there had been bro't to those places from California, to be run into bars, gold to the amount of nine millions of francs, (near $1,800,000.)

The British consul tells me he has forwarded 15,000 ounces from this place across the Isthmus; and Lieut. Wood, of the British navy, commanding the Pandora, now here, says that the truth is beyond the accounts we have heard. These gentlemen also say that hundreds of people from the western coast of South America are embarking for the gold region; and most of the clerks in the commercial places have quit their employments for the same object.

It will evidently be impossible to prevent the troops, when they arrive, from deserting, and there will be no force to control the crowd of adventurers that will arrive.

No preparation was made here by the steamboat company for transporting passengers across the isthmus, or affording them any information or aid in relation to it. The roads are almost impassible, even for mules, and the number of boats on the river and animals on the roads, is entirely insufficient. The public property in charge of the quartermasters, has been lying a week at Cruces, waiting for thirty or forty mules to carry it; and the trouble, vexation, and exposure in getting it up the river Chagres to this place, brought on Captain Elliott, the senior quarter-master, an attack of cholera, of which he died on the night of the 5th, and was buried the next day at Cruces, in the church yard.

Major Fitzgerald has taken charge of the property, but he is now sick of a similar attack. I have directed all the public property and officers' baggage now there to be brought at once to this place, which is more wealthy. The greater part of it will be carried on men's backs. They are now asking $20 a piece for mule loads of one-third of the ordinary weight, the usual price being from $4 to $5 for full loads. I will not attempt to describe the roads or paths.

Under these circumstances, I think it will not be wise to send anything by this route except a messenger with a very small trunk, until other arrangements are made. The resources of the Isthmus are entirely unequal to the business now thronging to it. Flour to-day is at $40 a barrel, and the inhabitants of the town are alarmed at the prospect of pestilence and famine.

Mr. Birch, a very fine young man, a mechanic, from Washington, is one of the victims of the cholera at Cruces.

The *Union* also publishes some extracts from a Panama letter of the 7th Jan., written by an United States officer to a gentleman in Washington, in which the difficulties in crossing the Isthmus are admitted to be inconceivable, but we deem it necessary to give only the following items:

It is doubtful how long we shall be detained here. The California has not arrived, nor has any intelligence been received from her. A French man-of-war, now lying off Panama, left Valparaiso some 34 days since, but had heard nothing of the steamer. It is apprehended some accident may have occurred, or she could not have fallen so far short of the reckoning. I still hope, nevertheless, she will arrive by the 15th or 20th, so as to enable us to get under way at least by the 1st of February.

The passage across the Isthmus is inconceivably difficult. Such roads are to be found no where else, and such weather must also be peculiar to this particular latitude. When we reached Chagres, it was found that no provision had been made for the conveyance of the mails, and it became necessary to engage a canoe for this purpose, which was accordingly done, through Maj. A. Harris, at an expense of $40. We travelled in the boat to Gorgona, about 50 miles up the river, where we secured mules for the baggage and mails, at an aggregate cost of $32.

The necessary arrangements for transporting the mails over the Isthmus, have not been made. They will probably be attended to by the next arrival of the mail steamers.

There are about 500 emigrants, I understand, on their route over the Isthmus, and advices from Valparaiso, up to the 10th ult., state that up to that period 1,700 persons have sailed from that port for California; that clerks to the number of 480 had abandoned situations worth from $1000 to $1500, and that the merchants were compelled to call a meeting and raise salaries, &c. Besides this, I learn there are about 400 passengers waiting at Callao and Valparaiso for the steamer California. The gold fever is awfully prevalent here.

ANOTHER COLLISION.—We regret again to record another collision on our Railroad. We learn that the regular freight train which left Binghamton on Monday last was met near Narrowsburg by an extra freight train sent out of time from Port Jervis, and in the collision both engines were severely damaged—one nearly ruined; and a brakeman had both his legs broken. The freight, we understand, was also much injured. The company had but just put on the road three new and powerful engines, and with a commendable policy dispatched agents to investigate and report the circumstances attending the former collisions. We fear that the office of the agents will be no sinecure. If collisions must happen, it is certainly preferable to have the experiments tried on the freight than on the passenger trains; but we trust, for the interest we feel in the popularity and success of the Railroad Company, this will be the last collision we shall have to record.—*Binghamton Iris.*

THE PRESIDENT ELECT.—The *National Intelligencer* of Friday, refers to a private letter received from Baton Rouge, which states that Major W. S. Bliss and lady, accompanied by the lady of the President elect, may be expected in Washington by the middle of the present month, and that Gen. Taylor himself expects to be in Washington by the 20th.