THE DEMOCRAT.

MONTROSE, PA:

Thursday, March, 22, 1849.

☞ Our thanks are due Messrs. Streeter, Taggart, Mason and others, in Harrisburg for important documents.

☞ *The N. Y. & Erie Telegraph*, we understand, is completed and in operation to Honesdale from New York. In a few days, therefore, we may expect to be within talking distance of Gotham.

What! More Patent Medicines, exclaims the reader as he glances at the opposite page. Aye, more Patent medicines. But we wish to whisper in your ear that within the next few weeks we shall turn out of our columns something like three times the amount we now put in. Have patience therefore; we shall not increase in the aggregate our present quantity of that kind of advertising.

The Coal Trade—The Tariff.

We find in the last Pottsville Emporium the proceedings of a "Meeting of the Coal Operators" of that region, held at the American House, in that Borough, on Friday week, which contain several important facts and admissions in relation to the cause of the depression of the Coal business for the past year, which it may be profitable to notice. After the opening of the meeting in the usual way, a Committee of three, consisting of Messrs Joseph S. Silver, George H. Potts, and Joseph G. Lawton, was appointed "to make a report of the state of the Coal Trade for the consideration of the meeting, which report was made, read, adopted, and ordered to be printed in all the papers in the Borough, and in pamphlet form." The *substance* of the report, which is what we are now after, is given below, interspersed with some remarks of our own thrown in by way of interlude, to awaken recollection as regards the operations of certain Whig demagogues and deceivers during the last election canvass in this State. The "Report" begins—

"The people of Schuylkill county have been brought to the verge of bankruptcy by a bold and novel system that was practiced last year, and is again introduced this spring."

"Some speculative persons enter the Eastern markets in advance of miners, and by offering our Coal (which they have not yet bought) at prices below what it costs us to produce it, they secure all the orders for immediate delivery.

The nature of mining requires that the daily product shall have an uninterrupted sale and removal from the mines.

Having thus all the orders in their hands these forestallers avail themselves of this peculiarity in our business, and of our want of union for common protection against such a scheme, to alarm our smaller colliers, and thus to break down our market to suit their purpose.

In this way a barrier is created between the producers of coal and the consumers, keeping them effectually apart; which must in the end, if tolerated, be equally injurious to the interests of both parties. To put a stop at once to this unjust system, the Colliers of Schuylkill county are earnestly urged to form an efficient organization without delay.

The only legitimate regulator of prices is the relation between demand and supply, with some reference also, of course, to the cost of production."

[Here, then, is the gist of the whole matter—the legitimate and only true cause, fairly and frankly stated. It will be seen that no Tariff is so much as implicated, or even alluded to, as being either directly or indirectly instrumental in producing the evil they complain of, and are taking measures to avert; but the whole cause, from beginning to end, is explicitly charged upon the operators themselves, and the inequality between "demand and supply." We wish these admissions distinctly noted and considered, as they not only fully corroborate what we have steadily maintained from the utterance of the first panic cry to the present time, but are facts which must have an important bearing in all future discussions in regard to the Tariff in Pennsylvania. The Report proceeds]—

"A careful survey of the market in every direction enables us to say with confidence, that all the Coal which can be forwarded from the different regions in 1849, will be required for consumption: so that none need envy his neighbor's market, nor suffer any one's blindness or necessities to regulate him in the matter of prices.

We start this Spring with a market unusually bare of stock. Every department of trade and manufacture is being revived, and money is correspondingly abundant. The established order of things must be reversed, if the Coal trade, upon which all others have more or less dependence, shall be the only branch of industry that is to remain depressed."

[The Report then proceeds to state the amount of Coal produced during the past year from all the mines in the State, which is 3,089,238 tons. Besides this, there was AN OVER-STOCK from 1847, over and above the usual allowance for dormant stock, *which was consumed in* 1848, of 210,762 tons making the entire consumption in 1848 3,300,000 tons.

The estimated capacity of the same mines to produce Coal in 1849 is—

The Schuylkill mines,	1,850,000	Tons
" Lehigh, do	800,000	"
" Delaware & Hudson,	480,000	"
" Wyoming & Shamokin,	257,000	"
Or total amount,	3,387,000	Tons.

The Report then continues]

It will be seen that this tonnage will furnish for the wants of this year, only about as much as was actually consumed last year. The return of vigor to general business, warrants us in expecting that the usual annual increase (which was interrupted last year) will resume its regular progression now. This regular increase in the consumption of our Coal, has been 25 per cent. for several years previous to 1848, when it fell to 13½ per ct. Taking this lowest possible standard, there will be required nearly 400,000 tons over the largest quantity that can be delivered to market, by the carrying machinery known to us, from all sources, in 1849. If the regular increase be wanted, then there will be over 700,000 tons short!

This is the true state of the market and its prospects; and its correctness is so clear that all must at once perceive that the market is in our hands.

We invite especial scrutiny to every detail of these estimates for we are not mistaken in any important particular.

After the adoption of the Report, a resolution was adopted pledging all participators in the meeting to sell no Coal for three weeks except they received for the same $2 per ton for White Ash, and $2,50 for Red Ash, at Mt. Carbon. This is a reasonable resolve, and we trust will force the "Eastern speculators" to pay a fair price for the article, or let the market alone.

Having quoted so largely from the Report, we might here rest the question of its political bearing and importance. These cannot but be at once apparent to the simplest mind. The report furnishes a flat and perfect refutation of all that has heretofore been said about the deleterious influence of the Tariff of 1846 upon the Coal business of Pennsylvania, and convicts the whole clan of '42 Tariff clamorers, from Gov. Johnston down to the most insignificant bar-room brawler, either of woeful, consummate ignorance about the matter, or else of arrant duplicity and fraud. Which, we leave for others to judge. The Tariff of 1846, which these political mountebanks have assailed and maligned as being the sole cause of the depression and temporary disaster in the Coal business, now stands acquitted of *any* agency in the matter, and that too by the confession of the operators themselves!—What will our Whig friends who have asserted this agency—and those also who have been misled by the false clamors of their leaders—say to these facts? We are curious to learn.

Another fact seems clearly deducible from this report, and that is, we are about to witness the death agonies of the Protective system, which even by the Schuylkill Colliers is not now deemed worthy of a reference, or even of a parting glance. It has served its turn, by giving Whiggery temporary power in this State and the Nation, and its services are no longer required—the Coal operators can live without it. Not a lisp is now heard to encourage the timid and desponding miner about the repeal of the present tariff, or the restoration of that of 1842. The clamors, the tales of wo and ruin, the sympathetic appeals, and captivating promises, made by these operators and their allies, the Whigs, last fall, have all of them been forgotten, or died away in the echo. The cue has been given by the "Powers that be" at Washington, that no Tariff change need be asked or expected, and lo! their efforts are now directed to undo their deception, and to let down expectation as mildly and cautiously as possible. Altogether it is a sagacious move, and we want the people to look at it as it is.

The Guillotine in Motion.

Notwithstanding the repeated declarations previous to the election by Old Zack and his friends, that in the event of their success, no man should be turned out of office or proscribed for opinion's sake, yet we notice that quite a number of heads have come off already, from no other reason under heaven than that they were DEMOCRATS, and still the "work goes bravely on." The people will learn by-and-by we reckon, how to understand Whig promises, and what credence to give them. Gen Taylor, however, has shrewdly attempted to screen himself from the charge of double-dealing, by handing over all applications for office to different members of his Cabinet, who are all "*Ultra* Whigs," and who pass upon them after the most approved style of proscriptive Whiggery. Whether he will satisfy the *people*, that this is the construction he wished them to put upon his anti-proscriptive, no-party pledges, *before* the election, is quite another thing. Were we to consult the interests of the Democratic party solely, we should say off with their heads, gentlemen, hustle out everything not "Ultra Whig" just as soon as possible.

New Hampshire Election.

The Democrats have just achieved another victory in New Hampshire, which is certainly worth recording if not crowing over. Their majority for their candidate for Governor is about 5000—2000 gain since March 1848.

In the 1st Congressional District, Tuck, Free Soil Whig, is re-elected by a majority of about 100. In 1847 his majority was upwards 1300. In the 2d District Chas. H. Peaslee, Democrat, is re-elected by a majority of about 3000—also a large gain. In the 3d District, James Wilson, Taylor Abolitionist, is re-elected by about 200 plurality, having lost some 1200 since '47. In the 4th District the Democrats have elected Hon. Harry Hibbard by a very large majority.

The Senate is nearly unanimously Democratic—the House has 60 Democratic majority, and the Council 4 Democrats, 1 Federalist.

Only 300!

The correspondent of the N. Y. Sun from Washington [illegible] of Wm. J. Brown, Esq., the 2d Assistant Post Master General, by the New regime, says:

"Mr. Brown was the appointing officer of the Post Office Department, and among the sixteen thousand Postmasters included in his range of power, but three hundred were displaced during his four years of office for derelictions, politics, and all other causes put together. The order and economy maintained in the P. O Department by its late officers under the pressure of the change to low postage, and the immense increase of mail routes in our new territories, are the surprise and admiration of their successors. The public has never justly appreciated the untiring energy and integrity of Ex-P. M. General Johnson in the extra difficulties of his position during his term, but the cabinet was prompt to confess a high estimation of his services."

Only 300 removals in the Post Office Department during Mr Polk's Administration! How many think you, reader, the new dynasty will hustle out within the period of its reign? We will venture all the old type in our office against a good "Havana," that it will quadruple that number in six months. Who will take the wager?

INDIGNATION.—The indignation of the Democratic press toward those professed Democrats who voted against and defeated the liability principle in the case of the Farmer's Bank in Phila., is universal, if not absolutely overwhelming. So far as we have seen any expression—and we have seen it in numberless instances—it has been in decided, bitter condemnation; and we have no fears that the press will not be fully sustained by a betrayed and equally indignant people. We regret extremely that any Democrat should have so far deserted from the fundamental doctrines in his creed, or wandered from his duty to his party and constituents, as to be found in such company. And especially is it humiliating to think that Susquehanna county has been so basely misrepresented.

☞ There has been nothing said or done in the Legislature in relation to the North Branch Canal since our last, or in relation to anything else of any interest. The most of the time is occupied in legislating upon petty, local matters and corporations, of no sort of public good, and which should never be allowed to come into the Capitol on any conditions. Besides, the session thus far has the name of being a very lazy one. A resolution to adjourn on the 10th of April has passed both branches.

TOO SENSITIVE.—The Philadelphia News, (Whig) asks if "there is not a violation of taste and propriety in still applying to the President his military title," and suggests that such titles are "offensive" to some (meaning the "Buena Vista Quakers," we suppose.) We submit whether it is not *General* Taylor who is the President. But for his *military* title he never would have been known beyond the precincts of Baton-Rouge, and he who first suggested his name for a civil station would have been deemed a ripe candidate for a lunatic asylum. We think our cotemporary too sensitive by half. To this day it has no scruples about saying *General* Jackson, when speaking of that good old man and illustrious Ex-President.

☞ *The Working Farmer* for March (a new publication noticed by us last week) has been received. It is more than a rival for any of the Agricultural periodicals now visiting our table. We shall do the March No. the honor of borrowing copiously from its columns. Price only 50 cents a year. Address Kingman & Cross, Clinton Hall, N. Y.

"Shoot the Deserters."

We heartily endorse the following remarks of the *Lancasterian* in relation to the detection of the "seven" professed Democrats who have abandoned their party and its principles, and affiliated with Whiggery on the bank question. Such *Democrats* (!) ought to be scarce, as we doubt not they are. One of them, in particular, Mr. Little has sunk himself so low in the estimation of his constituents as to be beneath pity or contempt.

THE FARMERS & MECHANICS BANK.—INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY, &c.—When the Senate bill, extending the charter of this Bank was in the House, after a long and sharp discussion, the provisions of Mr. Laird's Model Bank Bill, embracing the individual liability clause and other salutary restrictions, were fastened upon it, by the unanimous vote of the Democratic members, together with the votes of some of the Whigs. This was the first Bank bill that passed the House, and the vote on its final passage was generally regarded as the test of the House, on every other application of the same kind. The bill, as amended by the House went to the Senate, when all the House amendments, (the individual liability and other restrictive clauses,) were stricken out, and as thus amended was again sent to the House. Here, after a severe struggle, the bill finally passed, as amended by the Senate, without any of the House restrictions—and has already received the signature of the Governor.

The worst page of the history of this Bank bill remains yet to be told and the wonder, that it became a law in its present shape, after the first action of the House increase the more, when it is seen that seven democrats voted for it, in union with the entire Whig and Native vote of the House. The names of the seven democrats are CARL, ELLIOTT, FRICK, GORDON, GROVE, LITTLE and SCHOONOVER.

The friends of Bank Reform had hoped that no bill could be passed through the House, without having the wise and salutary restrictions of the Shunk Policy engrafted upon it. The individual liability clause was prominent among these restrictions, and now forms part of the charters of some dozen banks. The late Executive insisted on this policy being rigidly enforced, and refused to give his sanction to any bill without it. With these views he went before the people, for re-election, and the Democracy, by a majority of near 18,000, sustained him, in the correctness and soundness of his doctrines. Their votes, stamped the doctrines as the policy of the party. They looked to their representatives to enforce it, on every occasion, and the more so now, when the Legislature is deluged with applications for new charters and the renewal of old ones. This is the first recession made by any democratic representative, and is to be regretted as indicative of the intention of those six seceders to falter in their duty and prove recreant to the trust the democracy reposed in them.

They can have no excuse for this defection.—They cannot plead in justification or even extenuation of their act, that the power, the influence and the wealth of this corporation had extended its operations to other interests, which they had deep at heart—that without taking the steps they did, they could not succeed in carrying measures which they believed just in themselves, and essential to the interests of the State. The democracy ask of them, and will require a stricter accountability for their conduct. The probable defeat of a right will not justify a wrong. "Honesty is the best policy," is a proverb which will apply as forcibly to public as private duties; to politicians as well as individuals and he who does wrong to secure a right, violates political as well as moral obligations.

We must confess that we dreaded the power of [illegible] We knew what they had effected, in times past, and were fearful of the present. But when we saw the first vote on this important legislation, our fears vanished, and we believed that a jealous and argus-eyed democratic representation would see that the Republic suffered no detriment. In this we have been deceived, and have truly discovered that the shadow does not reveal the nature of the substance.

☞ There has been some inquiry whether Congress passed the proposed postage bill previous to adjournment. It did *not*, and did not reach it. For our own part we begin to despair of ever getting anything more done by Congress of public good, until some radical reforms are accomplished by the people, by way of "returning" *out* all of those Congressmen who are too indolent or too shiftless to attend to the public interests, and sending better and more faithful servants in their places.

READING.—The municipal election took place in Reading on Friday, resulting in a complete Democratic triumph in all the officers except Mayor, which was lost through division, two Democratic candidates being in the field. The average Democratic majority is about 200.

THE FIRST RESIGNATION.—The editor of the *Pennsylvanian*, John W. Forney, has resigned his commission as Deputy Surveyor of the port of Philadelphia. As an editor of a democratic paper, he adopted the proper course to relieve himself from the odium of holding office under a whig administration.

THE SCALPEL is the title of a new quarterly work in pamphlet, containing about 18 pages, the first and second Nos of which have been received. It is a "Journal of Health, adapted to popular and professional reading, and the exposure of Quackery" edited by Edward H. Dixon. From a brief review of its contents we are convinced that it is a useful work, and one that should have a general patronage, not only among professional men, but the community at large. Price 25 cents per No. Address Box 3121 New York Post-office.

HORN'S RAILROAD GAZETTE is the name of a new paper recently started in New York. Its title fully indicates its object, and we are sure it will be found a great desideratum to travellers and tourists. It contains diagrams of all Railroads in the United States, with tables of distances from place to place, the times of arrivals and departures of the cars, and everything else that is of interest to travellers. Terms $2 a year.

☞ The *Easton Democrat and Argus* comes to us this week in an entire new dress, looking as bright as a new pin. The *Argus* is one of the best of our exchanges, and we cordially wish friend HUTTER all possible success.

HOLDEN'S DOLLAR MAGAZINE for March is a choice number, not a whit behind any of its predecessors in interest or merit, and that is saying a good deal in its praise.

The *Genesee Farmer* for March has been received. We shall advertise it hereafter by giving extracts from its richly stored columns, *credited*.

A landlord in Cincinnati, not being able to eject an obstinate tenant, fastened a band over his chimney, and thus smoked him out.

THE STEAMER CRESCENT CITY sailed on Thursday for Chagres. She has three hundred and thirty-eight adventurers, bound to *El Dorado*.

List of Jurors.

Drawn to serve at April Term, 1849.

(Court to commence April 16th.)

GRAND JURORS.

Auburn—George Stebbins.
Apolacan—Asahel Graves, John Hickey.
Brooklyn—Ephraim K. Howe.
Choconut—Edward Burke, James Troddell.
Clifford—J. G. Cuddeback, Sinton Yarrington.
Dimock—Dyer Lathrop, Charles Risley.
Forest Lake—Luther Kellum, Dyer Taylor, John S Town.
Franklin—Levi Summers.
Great Bend—Isaac H. B. Rose, Fayette Trowbridge.
Herrick—Ezra Carpenter, G. W. P. Laken.
Lenox—Adam Miller, Allen M'Daniel.
Liberty—Daniel L. North.
Silver Lake—John O'Day.
Springville—Landers Lyman, Cyrus Warner.

TRAVERSE JURORS.

Auburn—Daniel Cooley, Elisha Cogswell, Thos. W. James.
Bridgewater—Jeremiah Brando, Alferd E. Corwin, John McCollum.
Brooklyn—Nathan Aldrich, Horace Little, Elisha B. Mack.
Clifford—Orren Thatcher.
Dimock—James Lathrop, Jabez Giles, Jas. N. Eldridge.
Friendsville—Andrew J. Keys.
Gibson—Otis Stearns.
Great Bend—Milton Gilman, Aaron Thomas, Wm D. Trowbridge.
Harmony—Robt. M'Kune, Morgan Shutts, Henry Perine.
Harford—Alanson Aldrich, John J. Roper.
Herrick—Edward Dimmick.
Jessup—Joseph Backus.
Jackson—George W. Tyler.
Lathrop—Levi Bisbee, G. N. Benjamin.
Liberty—Andrew L. Smith.
Montrose—Fayette Avery.
New Milford—Elliott Aldrich, Ebenezer Avery, Allen Tennant jr.
Rush—Michael Gennel.
Springville—Wm. L. Avery.
Thomson—Stephen Gelatt.

Small Notes and the N. Branch.

Speaking of this scheme of Gov. Johnston and the Whigs, to complete the North Branch Canal, the Democratic Union remarks:

The small note proposition introduced on this subject seems to be very specious, but we contend that the whole scheme is perfectly visionary, and if passed into a law to-morrow would fail to raise the sum required to make this canal. The proposition requires the banks, for the privilege of issuing small notes, to loan ten per cent of their capital to the State, at *two per cent per annum.* The whole banking capital of the Commonwealth is about twenty-one millions of dollars. Fourteen millions of this amount is located in Philadelphia.—Now we ask the members from Philadelphia, in either house, will one of these Philadelphia banks touch your two per cent loan, for the privilege of issuing small notes? We have yet to meet the first bank officer who will do it, and we have seen *a few* this winter. Then there are two-millions and a half more of this bank capital located in Pittsburg, and we are assured by gentlemen from that city that these banks will not touch this loan. This then brings us down to a country bank capital of less than five-millions from which this loan is to be obtained, and we venture to say that one half of these country banks would not take it.

But say the advocates of this bill penalties and taxes are to be imposed on the banks refusing to accept of the provisions of this bill. Why the banks will laugh at your penalties. Are not many of them now required to loan the State money by their acts of incorporation; but will they do it? The fact is, the banks will set your law at defiance, and no judges or juries will ever be found to enforce its *expost facto* provisions.

The proposition will either be amended by its friends in the Senate, (and we rather suspect that this is the scheme) to give the banks *five or six per cent* for this loan and *the small note privilege beside*, or the act will stand as a blank paper on the statute book, wholly nugatory, and without proving of the slightest advantage to those who lend themselves to its passage.

We trust that those Democrats who have this great improvement deeply at hearts and who have voted for this Whig proposition, will abandon it, and go for an honest loan to complete the North Branch canal, and it may yet be carried. If they adhere to this bill, which we regard merely as a lure to lead them estray, they will find their high hopes blasted, their improvement remaining a desert waste, and their political friends effectually destroyed.

Small Notes vs. Gold Dollars.

Just at the moment that Labor is rejoicing at the prospect of an increase of the precious metals, by a coinage of gold dollars—directed by Congress, in the hope, that it would protect the people from loss, and secure to industry its just reward—our State Legislature has determined upon neutralizing the benefits of the expected issue, so far as Pennsylvania is concerned, by the creation of a new batch of paper money.—Paper dollars will drive gold and silver dollars into the coffers of the bank, and the iron chests of the rich and parsimonious.—The toiling masses are always paid off in the worst currency—often-times that which is purchased at a discount by the employer to be paid out to his workmen *at par.* This currency leads to improvidence and poverty—sometimes to vice—and frequently, too frequently, to ruin. It cannot be laid by for a rainy day. It may perish in the hands of its holder. Therefore it must be got off, and so the earnings of a week are often squandered on Saturday night. The "relief notes" of W. F. Johnston, based upon State Credit, led to precisely these consequences. Will not the small notes based upon Bank Credit, doubtless suggested by the same public benefactor, affect the interest of the working classes in a still more disastrous degree.

Oh, blessed Whig Policy! How eloquent of promise—how barren of performances! How meek in the minority—how bold in power! When will the voter learn that your real elements are Hypocrisy, Fraud and Selfishness! What new lessons do they require to know, that your nature is unchanged and unchangable. ?

☞ Business on the Erie Railroad continues to increase steadily, and the present month's receipts will be large. The section from Binghamton to Owego, 22½ miles, will be ready for the cars by the latter part of May, when a very profitable section of country will be brought into close connexion with New York. The contractors west of Owego are pushing ahead rapidly and have already accomplished much. *Binghamton Iris.*

APPLES.—A few bushels of good graft Apples would be very acceptable at this office.

Mr. Meredith's Confidante.

The first appointment by Mr Meredith, however due it may be to the two or three gentlemen who successfully urged his [illegible] for the Treasury portfolio, will [illegible] ability be rewarded by Pennsylvania [illegible] new insult. Charles B. Penrose Assistant Secretary of Treasury! Who is he? He was Speaker of the Senate of this State during the Buckshot War, and fled ingloriously from the popular wrath awakened by the outrages planned by himself and his associates. He espoused the infamous doctrine that a solemn majority was to be defied—and an "election treated as if it had never been held." In the whole record of political profligacy, nothing equals that monstrous attempt against the sovereignty of the people. Mr. Penrose left the Democratic party under significant auspices in 1835. He it was that headed the band of Senators who deserted to the Whigs on the bill to charter the Bank of the United States of Pennsylvania—an institution that has inflicted the deepest injuries upon our reputation and our credit. The appointment of such a man at the head of a responsible bureau in the Treasury Department, however grateful it may prove Mr. Meredith to be, is not a compliment to our good old Keystone.

We do not wonder that M'Clintock Young, Esq., the able, accomplished, and highly experienced Chief Clerk in the Treasury Department threw up his commission in disgust when called upon to serve under Charles B. Penrose.—*Pennsylvanian.*

EX-PRESIDENT POLK, in a speech at Richmond, Va., on his way home, paid a happy and just compliment to the character of the American citizen. He said, "I am no longer a *servant*, but one of the *sovereigns* of the nation." This is what we call genuine republican sentiment, and would that every man exalted to high stewardship by the people, might as justly appreciate the relative positions of the servant and sovereigns of the Union. The people are the sovereigns—with them exists the power to exalt and to cast down—their only rulers are the law and a sense of right—the administrators of law are but their servants.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Mr. Clay's letter on emancipation, addressed to R. Pindell, Esq., dated New Orleans, Feb 12, is received. It occupies two columns of the Tribune. He advocates the gradual abolition of Slavery in Kentucky. That a period should be fixed, say 1855, when all born after that should be free at the age of 25. All born before it, remaining slaves for life, but liable afterwards to be hired out for three years by the authorities of the State to pay for their transmission to Africa. The offspring of those to be free at 25 to be free from their birth, and apprenticed for 3 years to maintain the colony, until the commencement of the new system. All the legal rights of the proprietors of slaves to remain unimpaired and unrestricted. The annual transportation of all born after a specified day—upon their arrival at the prescribed age—to the colony. To be continued until the separation of the races is complete.—*Alb Atlas.*

THE HOME DEPARTMENT.—A good deal of curiosity is manifested to know the character of the Home Department recently created by Congress. The following details are therefore interesting:

It is to have a Secretary and Chief Clerk, the former at a salary of $6,000, and the latter at a salary of $2,000; and its officers are [illegible] from the State Department the [illegible] dence and control of the Patent Office and Census—from the Treasury Department the control of the Land Office, the C[illegible] Survey, and, I believe, the L[illegible] Bureau—from the War Department [illegible] Indian and Pension [illegible] vy Department, the Naval P[illegible] Bo[illegible]—and from the Executive, the control of the Penitentiary and the Commissioner of Public Buildings. That is, the heads of these several Bureaus are to report to the Secretary of the Home Department, (instead of reporting, as heretofore, to the above named heads of departments, respectively,) and to the Executive.—*Pennsylvanian.*

SENATOR HOUSTON, in a remarkable address to his Texan constituents, published in the Washington Intelligencer, has come out on Mr. Calhoun with a series of extraordinary charges, which, if true, must strip, the great Southern oracle of the respect and admiration he has so long and widely commanded. He accuses Calhoun of an inordinate ambition, to which he is willing to sacrifice the Union—and to crown which he hopes to break the Union and establish a Southern confederacy, of which he shall be the head.

He charges him with sacrificing the South by the compromise of his nullification scheme at a moment when, as Mr. Clay told him to his confusion, but for that movement, the protective system of the North was no more—that it would have been annulled at the very next session of congress. He charges him with fickleness and falsehood as a politician—asserting that Mr. Calhoun as early as during Monroe's administration, concurred with Mr. Monroe's cabinet in the policy of restricting slavery from all territories where it had not been authorised by law. He proves Mr. Calhoun another Wilmot upon the proviso of 1787.

More and worse than all these charges, he accuses him of taking advantage of his position as a cabinet minister to abstract from the archives of the nation, *his written opinion endorsing the restriction of slavery.* At any rate all such evidences of his former opinions, have disappeared from the files of the departments. We regard this address with its charges, as the most remarkable document of the day. It shows Mr. Calhoun in an unenviable light—as a man reckless of everything to serve his ambition. What rejoinder it will call forth remains to be seen—it will hardly be left unanswered.—*N. Y. Sun.*

The Wayne Co. *Democrat* publishes a long letter from the Rev. W. Kenney, protesting against Gen. Taylor's violation of the Sabbath on his way to Washington. The letter is couched in strong denunciatory terms.

The Usury Laws.

WE are pleased to see that the bill re[illegible] the usury laws of Pennsylvania [illegible] the State Senate [illegible] the negative [illegible]

The [illegible] a capital and [illegible] them because they do limit and restrain the demands of some capitalists.

We have often heard it contended that the repeal of the usury laws would really be a benefit to the borrower as well as to the lender, but we have no faith in such arguments. Under the present system nearly the whole amount of money loaned, is loaned at the legal rate of six per cent interest. A small proportion, we grant, is loaned from nine to twenty-four per cent. when money is scarce; but it is only a small proportion. If the restriction were removed, and the banks and private capitalists allowed to obtain the highest interest they could force the borrower to submit to, the common rate of interest would probably average some nine or ten per cent, instead of from six to seven, which is, we suppose, about the average at present.

If this would not be the case, why are such strenuous efforts made by certain parties to abolish the present laws? It cannot be for the benefit of the borrower, for there is no provision in the usury laws forbidding lenders to take *less* than six per cent.—the limitation is only on the other side, that they shall not exact *more*.

But it is said that, if the law were repealed, in hard times the usual rates of interest would rise to eight or nine per cent, and that then capital would flow in to our assistance from other places. But is it not better to limit ourselves to the use of the capital we have at six per cent, than to pay two or three per cent more on that, for the sake of luring to a comparatively small amount of capital from other States or Nations, for which also we are to pay at the increased rate?

Of course such additional capital would not remain any longer than the high rate continued—and would it be well to continue the high price on all domestic capital, for the sake of keeping among us the comparatively small amount of foreign? We think not.

Business and labor in the Eastern and Middle States, cannot, as a general thing, afford to pay more than six per cent, even if they can afford to pay that. The great majority of farms in Eastern Pennsylvania for instance, will hardly pay six per cent. And the wholesale or retail merchant, manufacturer or builder in this city, who pays more than six per cent. interest as a regular price on the total amount of his capital, will in nine cases out of ten end in bankruptcy.

Is it asked why the sellers of money should not be allowed to take what they can get, as well as the sellers of flour or dry goods—what right has government to interfere in one case more than the other? We answer that government has a right also to regulate, if it should be judged necessary and expedient, the prices of flour and dry goods. Money differs from articles of merchandise, in the respect that it can be more easily monopolized and controlled. If it were possible for capitalists so to monopolize the breadstuffs of the United States as to raise the price greatly above a fair and equitable compensation it might become necessary for the legislature to interfere in the matter. In addition to this we may urge [illegible] more directly within [illegible] legislation.

At six per cent. interest, payable annually, capital doubles itself in between [illegible]

[illegible] That they are violated to a greater extent than most other laws, we do not believe.—Probably at least ninety-five dollars in every hundred loaned in this State, are still at the legal rate of interest. Of late years, the disposition on the part of men in mercantile business to disregard the law, has been increasing, and the consequence is that failures are occurring every month, in which it is found that the assets have all been devoured by usurious interest. For usury seldom prevents a failure—it only delays it; handing over, in the interim, the property that ought to go to the creditors, to the note-shaver. When there is nothing more left for the shaver, the man fails, and his creditors get, perhaps, ten cents in the dollar.

We know that the English political economists all take ground in opposition to usury laws, but they never succeeded in persuading the wise legislators of England to abolish these laws until the accumulation of capital had reduced the usual rate of interest below the legal standard. The only changes made until within the last few years, were reductions of the legal rates.—For instance in 1554 the legal rate of interest was fixed at 10 per cent; in 1624 it was reduced to 8 per cent.; and in the reign of Queen Anne to 5 per cent.—at which rate it continued until a few years back, when we believe the usury laws were practically abolished. It will be time for us to follow this example, when with a legal rate of 5 or 6 per cent, the market price shall be 3 or 4.

One more remark, and we have done.—It is, we think, an error to imagine that the flowing in of foreign capital to a city or state, when the times are what is called hard, in consequence of an authorised increase in the rate of interest, would be a benefit. Hard times are generally the natural corrective of mercantile imprudence and over-trading. They teach men prudence and foresight. If men have eaten and drunken too much over night, it is better that they should bear the unpleasant consequences the next morning, than put off the evil day by a second resort to stimulants. For the penalty will assuredly have to be paid in the end.

For these and other reasons we are opposed to the proposed repeal of the usury laws, and we trust that our readers will consider the subject deeply before aiding in a movement of such doubtful propriety.—*Phila. Saturday Post.*

Rail Road Iron.

"The editor of the Miners' Journal is authorized to receive orders for the supply of railroad iron by English establishments at $2[illegible] per ton deliverable in New York. [illegible] than it can be manufactured for in this country."

The above is another one of those attempts of whiggery to make the present tariff odious with the people. But what shall we think of this federal croaking about ruined Iron Works, and the Injury the country is receiving from the importation of English railroad iron, when we remember that only a few years ago, Crittenden and Evans, gentlemen high in the whig ranks, and now looked to as very proper persons to occupy a place in the cabinet of Gen. Taylor, made repeated efforts in Congress to have English railroad iron admitted into the country *free of duty*, and for this every whig Senator but Mr. Miller, of New Jersey voted! So much for whig honesty.

What if a few thousand tons more of iron were imported during the last year, under the tariff of 1846? Were not millions of dollars worth more of breadstuff taken to Europe than were ever sent out previous to the enactment of the new tariff? If a hundred thousand dollars were taken from the profits of the manufacturers—millions were added to the profits of the farmer.—But what is this to those who are clamorous for more protection? They have no sympathy with agriculturists—except just previous to election. Who ever heard them lament the low price of flour and grain.—But when the profits of the manufacturer are affected, what a cry is raised for *more protection!*

The fact is, the question is reduced to this, shall the interests of the farmer or the manufacturer be attended to? The few thousands that are taken from the manufacturer under the present tariff, adds millions to the profits of the farmer.—*Sunbury (Pa.) Gazette.*

Important from California.

The N. Y. Tribune of Friday has the following "gold news," for which it was indebted to a mercantile House in Pearl Street. It is from a regular correspondent and agent, and is pronounced reliable.

San Francisco, Dec 1, 1848.

FRIEND ——: * * * * The prices obtained for goods here are enormous.—Were I to quote, it would not be credited.

You will undoubtedly have heard of the great discovery of gold in the country, a discovery which is destined to produce a greater excitement throughout the United States, if not throughout, Europe also, than any event which has happened for a century.

The amounts of gold obtained are truly astonishing, and the quantities every day brought to this place equally so.

Every article of food and necessity is of course very high at the Mines. Flour has been sold at $2½ the lb; four quarts of Wheat for a horse have brought $8; Boots, $75 per pair; Pork, $250 per barrel.

The wages of Carpenters are $10 per day; common laborers earn $8 a day or $1 an hour; a Cook, $60 to $100 per month.

Brandy fetches 4 oz. gold for a bottle; Bread $2 per lb; Blankets, $80 per pair; Washing is worth $8 a doz; Clerks, $3,000 per ann and found.

Emigration is pouring in from all quarters to the Pacific and it is quite impossible to find a place to put one's head in.

A room at a hotel rents for $200 per month. The commonest hovel or shanty you can imagine brings $30 to $60 per month.

The gold is inexhaustible, and for years to come immense quantities must continue to be got out, and a great trade must be carried on between this and all parts of the world.

The cargo I brought from ——— cost $9,000. The gross amount of sales from it has been $31,000. My partner came with [illegible], and we have cleard over $100,[illegible]

San Francisco, Dec 23, 1848.

* * * * Real estate has gone up here as well as everything else. A store and lot I paid $17,500 for, yesterday.

Lumber is worth $150 per M, and the carpenters can earn $10 per day.

The entire population of Oregon have abandoned their crops and homes, and are coming here. The Sandwich Islands are deprived of all their foreign population.—Every vessel from any port on this coast is filling with passengers for this place.

Mr. ——— formerly Consul at ——— informs me that two of his servants left him when the news first came. They have just returned with $75,000.

Capt. ——— of the Navy who returned last evening from the mines, informs me of one locality which has been found where gold is so abundant that there is no necessity for washing the earth: $700 per day is the amount obtained by each man.

Sheath knives are used to dig the gold, and have sold at the mines for $50 each.

I have conversed with many old friends of mine who have been at the mines, and gathered large quantities; they all say that they only want two months more the next Summer and they shall have enough.

Although this country and town are filled with gold, no vegetables can be had.—We eat but little else than beef and bread; all agricultural operations have ceased entirely.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.—The Boston *Traveller* publishes a letter dated "San Francisco, January 20th," which is twenty-six days later than previous accounts. The writer was a volunteer in Colonel Fremont's expedition, was taken prisoner by the Indians, and remained in captivity nine months—his life having been spared, and his liberty finally granted him, as he says, on account of his having been discovered by the Indians to be a freemason, of which fraternity, it seems, many of the red men are members.

The writer had been very successfully engaged in the gold mines, and had obtained gold enough to satisfy his ambition.—His statements in respect to the extent of the Gold beds, and the purity of the metal, rather exceed the marvellous description which we have heretofore received. He speaks of still further discoveries, and of still richer mines, which might furnish profitable employment, as he thinks, for all the young men in New England. He was at San Francisco recruiting his health.—There were thousands of people there awaiting the coming spring to resume operations at the diggings.—*N. Y. Sun, Mar.*