THE DEMOCRAT.

Thursday, January 24, 1850.

To Advertisers.—*The circulation of this paper exceeds 1,100 copies, (and is daily increasing,) which is MORE THAN ONE-THIRD GREATER than that of any other paper in the County. This fact, so important to Advertisers, may be strictly relied on.*

☞ We have received, per politeness of Mr. Wells, a copy of the list of members of the House of Representatives, with a place of residence at Harrisburg, and their P. O. address when at home. Will not friend Streeter furnish us with a similar one for the Senate?

Another Disastrous Fire!

About 6 o'clock this (Thursday) morning, our citizens were startled by the cry of fire and the ringing of the church bells, &c., and on proceeding in the direction of the light, it was soon discovered that the Tannery of Wm. Foster, Esq., situated a short distance west of the Baptist church, in the out-skirts of the Town, was wholly wrapt in flames, and so far had the fire progressed that any attempt to extinguish it was deemed entirely needless. The engine belonging to the Borough, however, after a long time spent in preparations, was brought to bear upon the pool of the building over the Vats, if possible to save their contents from destruction, but whether the effort was successful or not, has not yet been ascertained, as the fire has not yet (at this writing) burned out. The building itself, the engine and all the machinery belonging thereto, (and possibly the entire stock on hand, which, fortunately, was very light) were therefore totally consumed. The loss is quite heavy, exceeding, probably, $2,000. We understand that Mr. Foster had an insurance on the building and stock of $700 in the Lycoming Company. The origin of the fire is of course a mystery

Melancholy Casualty at Wilkesbarre.

We are pained to learn that a most melancholy accident occurred in the neighborhood of Wilkesbarre on Saturday last, resulting in the death of three young ladies in the family of Judge Woodward—one of them being his eldest daughter, aged about 13 years, another, an adopted daughter, aged 19, and the third a niece, of about the same age, who was visiting his family. It appears they were enjoying themselves sliding on the ice over the river, or over a cove that put up from the main body of the river, when the ice gave way, precipitating the forward one into the water beneath; the second, hastening to her rescue, also fell in, and the third following the example of the second, met with a similar fate. Their bodies were soon recovered, but not until the vital spark had fled. The adopted daughter, it is said, was to have been married this week.

Congress—The Slavery Agitation.

More than eight weeks have elapsed since Congress first convened, and yet what has it done of the least moment to the country? What! Why look at the "hall" and answer for yourselves. Both branches assembled on the 3d of December. The Senate immediately organized. The House succeeded in electing a Speaker on the 22d. The President's Message was delivered on the 24th. A bill granting to the widow of ex-President Polk the franking privilege passed both branches on the 27th. The Standing Committees of the House were appointed on the 31st. The Senate chose a chaplain on the 4th of January. The House elected a Clerk on the 11th, a Sergeant-at-arms on the 14th and a Door-Keeper and Postmaster on the 18th. These acts comprise everything that has transpired of the slightest importance to the country, or worth knowing by the public. The remainder of the time has been spent in fruitless agitation of the stereotyped subject, (slavery extension,) and in skirmishes and passages-at-arms between the ultras and fanatics of the north and the south. Of this, we apprehend, the people of the country are getting already quite tired. It certainly does no good, for neither party becomes convinced that it is in error. On the contrary it tends to exasperate and to alienate both sections, and render still more difficult the prospect of the ultimate adjustment of the dispute. We would not have our Representatives knuckle to the propagandists in the least, or make dough-faces of themselves; but they can carry out their opposition to slavery extension, in our judgment, in a far more effectual, and less exceptionable way, by dispensing with all talk and gasconade, and simply voting aye or nay when the time for action shall arrive. These speeches to goad and inflame the south, which is already lashed into a perfect phrenzy of excitement on the subject—speeches doubtless designed only for "buncumb," (to be used at home,)—we have but a very poor opinion of. It is true the south generally leads off in these controversies, and exhibits a vast amount of bitterness towards those who don't agree with them—that slavery is just the sacred and most hallowed institution under Heaven; but then, northern men are under no obligations to follow them in their fanatical course, and especially when doing so must inevitably make matters worse instead of better. The best way for northern Representatives to get along with them is to remain quiet, and to let them entirely alone until the proper time for action arrives. It will surely come quick enough, and the question can then be met *far* more effectively than by these petty skirmishes. California will soon be knocking for admission into the Union as a State, with her constitution prohibiting slavery in any shape *except* for crime, and then the struggle will commence *in earnest*. That the propagandists will resist her application to the utmost is already apparent. Indeed, resistance is *anticipated* of her application has already commenced in the Senate on the attempt to extrict the present and past administrations of having *forced* an organization of a State Government upon California, clearly shown. But resistance must, and we think will, be in vain. There is patriotism and firmness enough in the Representatives from the north, if there is not conservatism enough in those from the south, to bid her a cordial welcome, and thus give to this distracting question, so far as it relates to her, an effectual quietus.

Another Collision on the N. Y. & E. Railroad.—We learn that two freight trains came in collision about a mile from the Starrucca viaduct, on the N. Y. & E. Railroad, on Saturday night last, at about 12 o'clock. Both locomotives were very badly disabled, and thirty-one freight cars were more or less smashed to pieces. Two men, we also understand, were considerably injured. In consequence of the track being blockaded with the fragments of the wreck, the Passenger train from New York was delayed several hours.

☞ The following was one of the toasts given at a late German supper in Baltimore:

"Haynau—Abhorred by *all the world*, and held in utter contempt by *the rest of mankind*."

Congress.—The House has finally got organized, as will be seen by our reports this week. Mr. Glossbrenner, the Sergeant-at-arms, is a Democrat, and has been for many years editor of the York Gazette. He was voted for by the south to heal the wound made by their treachery to Mr. Forney. Mr. Horner, the present Door-keeper, who is continued till 1851, is a New Jersey whig. Mr. Johnson, Postmaster, also continued, is a southern Democrat.

State Treasurer.—Gen. John M. Bickel, of Schuylkill county, was on Monday last chosen State Treasurer for one year from the first of May next. He was the caucus nominee of the Democratic party, (nominated on the 12th ballot,) and was elected on the 1st ballot, the vote standing, Bickel 70, Gideon J. Ball, whig, 50. Gen. B. is said to be a very fine, capable man, and a true Democrat. The telegraph last evening announced that he had appointed Col. Ash Dimock his Chief Clerk.

☞ The pocket-organ of the Second Washington, after a lapse of four weeks, has just discovered that the numerous Hibernicisms and blunders in the "message" were *typographical* blunders merely. Nonsense. The booby knows better. The fact is notorious everywhere that the message which was read before both branches of Congress, was, *verbatim*, the same as published in our paper, and even in his—both of us having copied from The *Tribune*. We have before us, also, a copy of the message, "printed at the office of the Republic," (the accredited administration organ,) in which all of those "bulls" occur. The truth, then, therefore, is apparent that they were made by the *author* of the document, whoever he may be; for, although the President and his private Secretary (Bliss) had daily examined the "proof sheets" for three full weeks, yet they never detected one of them until they were detected and produced rounds of tittering and laughter during the reading in Congress. So much for our cotemporary's attempt to be "smart" at the expense of truth.

Doings at Harrisburg.

Our last report brought down the proceedings of the Legislature to Monday week. On that day, in the Senate, Mr. McCaslin (democrat) submitted the following resolutions which were debated during the day:

Resolved, That the pending amendment to the Constitution, now on the files of the Senate, (No. 16), be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report it in its statutory character, and reduce it to a simple clause, to provide for the election of Judges by the people.

Resolved, That the said committee be further instructed to prepare and submit to the Senate a clause to be incorporated into the Constitution, providing for the meetings of the Legislature biennially, or once in two years, and that they be limited to sixty days.

Resolved, That said committee be further instructed to report a clause, to be made a part of the Constitution, limiting the action of the Legislature to the passage of general laws only; and that said laws be so framed as to authorize the courts to supply the deficiency, and confer all rights, powers and privileges of a local character.

Resolved, That said committee be further instructed to prepare and report a clause to be engrafted in the Constitution, fixing fifteen to be the highest number of Representatives from any one county or city and county, with a corresponding number of Senators.

Resolved, That said committee be further instructed to propose and report a clause to be made a part of the Constitution as aforesaid, providing for the election of a Lieutenant Governor by the people, to be chosen at the time of the Governor's election.

Mr. McCaslin advocated the adoption of his resolutions in some brief remarks, declaring that he was a friend to the election of Judges by the people, but thought that measure had better be deferred a year longer for the purpose of adding other amendments named in his resolutions. Mr. Darsie, (whig) had opposed the election of Judges, and voted against the proposition heretofore. He was opposed to the resolutions of Mr. McC.

Mr. Streeter said, that he feared the Senator from Greene had fallen a victim to a shrewd design to postpone and defeat the amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. M'Caslin rose to explain. He had no disposition whatever to defeat it.

Mr. Streeter said, that he did not charge him with any such design. He had, no doubt, unwittingly fallen a victim to a device of the enemy.—There was a class of individuals in this Commonwealth, composed principally of the judges and those acting with them, who were endeavoring to defeat the amendment. It was not to be expected that their attack upon it would be open and undisguised. They would covertly seek to effect their object.

Mr. M'Caslin again rose, and disclaimed having had any correspondence whatever with any judge or lawyer, in reference to the subjects embraced in his resolutions.

Mr. Streeter said, that he did not make any such allegation; but the tendency of this measure was to postpone and defeat the amendment. Why was the Senate called upon to postpone this matter? Not because the amendment is not necessary, but because the Constitution is generally so defective that we cannot survive five years under it. The present Constitution was framed by men fully competent to the task. But a few years have passed since it was submitted to the people, and by them confirmed. It was said by the advocates of the pending resolution, that no petitions had reached the Legislature praying that the Judiciary might be rendered elective. And yet, forsooth, these same Senators tell us that without any petitions whatever, the Constitution must be ripped and torn to pieces by the Legislature. The provision regulating the election of judges works well. All that the people ask is that their appointment may be transferred from the Governor to them.—If we were to have an entirely new constitution, he would rather that a convention should at once be called for that purpose. The friends of an elective Judiciary were not to be deceived by this subterfuge. It was well understood that there was a large majority in the Legislature in favor of the amendment, and hence this covert attack.

The resolutions were further advocated by Messrs. King, and Dunn, and opposed by Mr. Walker.

In the House a great number of petitions were presented chiefly pertaining to local matters, among them were several praying for the renewal of the charter of the Easton Bank, the Lancaster County Bank, and for a new Bank at Easton.

A resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of referring all applications for divorces to the Courts of Common Pleas of this Commonwealth, was adopted.

A bill was also passed giving to the Auditor General and State Treasurer each $300 additional compensation for their extra labors on Commissioners of the Sinking fund.

An amendment providing for the removal of the Auditor General and Surveyor General at the pleasure of the Governor after 1851, was rejected.

On Tuesday but very little was done either in the Senate or House worthy of note. In the Senate the resolutions of Mr. McCaslin relative to the enlargement of the Constitution were further discussed by Messrs. Walker and Darsie in opposition, but no final disposition was made of them. The House passed a great many private or local bills of no consequence to our readers. The Senate bill changing the name of the York Savings Bank to York County Bank, was passed.

On Wednesday likewise a great many petitions were presented and considerable local business transacted in both Houses. Mr. Packer concluded his able speech in favor of the Amendment to the constitution as it passed the last Legislature. The Judiciary com. of the Senate reported a bill providing for the election of Auditor and Surveyor General by the people. Mr. Powell a bill making an appropriation for the completion of the North Branch Canal.

On Thursday the business done was of about the same character of that on the previous days. The McCaslin resolutions were still further discussed in the Senate, and in both Houses the nominations for State Treasurer were made.

On Friday a great many petitions were received and referred. In the Senate, Mr. Streeter presented several from the citizens of Auburn, praying for the extension of the Lehigh navigation laws to said township; and one from citizens of Susquehanna county, praying for the incorporation of a certain turnpike company.

He also read a bill in place in consonance with the prayer of this last petition.

In the House the resolutions in relation to Free Banking were disposed of, and a considerable amount of unimportant business was done.

☞ We are happy to see our Senator, Mr. Streeter, take so bold a stand in favor of the amendment of the constitution adopted last winter, and against the device got up by Messrs. McCaslin & Co. to defeat it. We have no objections to further amendments, such as are proposed, when it is expedient to adopt them; but when they are brought forward merely for the purpose of postponing and ultimately defeating the one that has already passed through the ordeal of our Legislature, we are disposed to give them no countenance.

Free Banking in the Legislature.

In the proceedings of the House of Representatives, on Friday, Mr. Killinger, (whig,) offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That the Committee on Banks be requested to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Free Banking Law on such basis and terms as may conduce to the general advantage, and more equally distribute the privilege of banking among the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The resolution was lost—yeas 18; nays 65.

This was declared to be a test vote by the friends of the resolution on the subject of Free Banking, which is really nothing but a new device, got up by Bank speculators and sharpers, to cheat the people, in that body. An admirable article on the subject from the *Keystone*, in another column, is commended to the reader's attention.

Court Proceedings.

Grand Jury found True Bills vs. Flood and Peter Brady for Larceny, Edward Clark Prosecutor; and one against T. P. St. John for obtaining property under false pretences, S. D. Townsend Prosecutor. Ignored one vs. Alonzo Beveridge for Perjury, and James Mock, the Prosecutor, to pay the costs; and one vs. Alfred S. Wilson, for Larceny in case of H. B. Burnham. Grand Jury discharged on Wednesday morning.

Court.—Dunker vs. Crosson, et al. in case for damages done to Pl'ff. in upsetting his carriage on the Wilkesbarre and Bridgewater Turnpike Verdict for Plaintiff, $63.

Hartley vs. Bennett, ejectment for 68 acres of land in Lenox. Darius Tingley was admitted as co. Def't. Verdict for Pl'ff. Case and Grow for Pl'ff, Lusk and Bentley for Def'ts.

Hartley vs. Tingley in covenant—Pl'ff took a non-suit. Case and Grow for Pl'ff, Lusk and Bentley for Def't.

Stevenson & Co vs. Sally Ward, Executrix of Wm Ward, dec'd, in case. Verdict for Pl'ff—Richards for Pl'ff, Chamberlin and Turrell for Def't.

Court adjourned Wednesday night.

Opposition to the admission of California.

The *Evening Post* in the course of an excellent article upon the subject, called forth by the resolution of Mr Clemens, of Ala. asking the President for information as to whether he had not forced the organization of a state government upon the people of California, has the following remarks They are prefaced by a reference to the non-intervention doctrine of Messrs Cass and Buchanan:

"The people of California have taken these political doctors at their word; they have framed their constitution; they have settled for themselves the question which agitates the Union; they have settled it in such a manner that no slave can be employed in mining or in agriculture, throughout the whole western half of the ancient province of Upper California, and they ask to be admitted into our confederacy as a state. Of course Mr. Cass and Mr. Buchanan, and their followers, have expected that the new state will be received into the Union, with bows and smiles, and that Mr. Calhoun will walk over to Mr. Webster, and, seizing his hand, in a transport of patriotic delight, congratulate him upon the happy settlement of an angry controversy in regard to so large a part of the new territory.

Mr. Calhoun and his friends however manifest anything but pleasure at the result; and instead of a peaceful settlement of the controversy, we have only the beginning of a new quarrel—a quarrel probably fiercer and more violent than the old one, because it has even less of plausible occasion. The more clearly a disputant is in the wrong, the more passionately is he likely to conduct the controversy.

Yet this must be said for that class of statesmen to which Mr. Calhoun belongs, who place the perfection of our institutions in a certain balance of power and influence between the slave states and free—that the admission of California into the Union with her present constitution deprives the slaveholders as completely of the advantage which they expected from the acquisition of a vast southwestern territory, as if Congress had prohibited the introduction of slavery. That slaves might profitably be employed in the mines, there was no doubt; the institution would have taken quick root if it could but once have been planted there, and California would finally have added half a dozen new slave states to the Union. The disappointment of these expectations is grievous, let it come from what quarter it may; it is just as hard to bear when caused by the act of the inhabitants of the country as by act of Congress. We must expect that a thousand pretexts will be got up to stave off the necessity of swallowing so bitter a draught—this humbug of military operation is one of them. We must expect angry debates lengthened to the last possible hour."

☞ We are pleased to see the Hon. John N. Conyngham at the head of the Committee of Ways and Means, and Hon. Andrew Beaumont at the head of the Committee on Inland Navigation. This speaks well for the good sense and judgment of the Speaker, and is highly favorable to the interest of the North, especially in reference to the North Branch Canal. These gentlemen are two of the most worthy and able members that ever were elected to the House of Representatives in the State. From their high character for ability, the people of the North, and indeed, the whole State, expect much at their hands, and we have no fears that their just and reasonable expectations will be disappointed.—*Wyoming Dem.*

☞ The seventh trial to elect a member of Congress in the 4th (Palmer's) District, Mass., which took place on Monday terminated in no choice, as before.

Report of the Board of Canal Commissioners.—The North Branch, &c.

Through the politeness of our Representatives, at Harrisburg, we have been favored with several copies of this important State Document. It is exceedingly well prepared, and makes a very flattering exhibit of the condition and earnings of our Public Improvements during the past year. On the subject of the North Branch Canal it is very explicit, as the following extract will show:

"Upon receiving official information from the Governor, that a surplus of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was in the treasury, applicable to the completion of the North Branch extension, under the provisions of the act of the 10th April, 1840, to provide for the ordinary expenses of government, the Board took steps at the earliest practicable period to place a corresponding amount of work under contract. Proposals were publicly invited, and on the 1st of December the contracts were allotted, at prices ranging from twenty-five to thirty per cent below the estimates of Wm. B. Foster, Jr., Esq., the engineer appointed by the Board. The letting of the sections was so arranged as to place the most difficult portions of the work under contract, with a view of bringing the whole line into use at the earliest period practicable.

"It may be said with truth, that the early completion of this work is a financial measure. Connecting, as it soon must, by means of the New York improvements, with the most populous portions of western New York, and with the great chain of lakes, it will open a market for the iron and coal of the North Branch of the Susquehanna, which, with the return trade, cannot fail, in a very short time, to yield a revenue more than equaling the interest on its entire cost. But without a canal connection between its northern terminus and the canals of New York be delayed, there can be no doubt that the tolls derived from the trade thrown upon it, and conveyed from and to the terminus at the State line, by means of the Erie railroad, and other channels of transportation, will be far greater in amount than the interest on the sum now required for its completion.

"In addition to this, the impetus that will be given to trade, agriculture, and the mining interests of the sections along the line, must necessarily cause a rise in the valuation of taxable property, which will be another source of revenue to the Treasury of the State. The amount expended on this canal is two millions four hundred and eighty-four thousand and nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty cents. For years the Common wealth has been paying interest upon this dead capital. At the time of the suspension of the work, the amount estimated for its completion was one million two hundred and seventy-seven thousand four hundred and fifty-two dollars and eighty-one cents. The recent contracts, under the act of the last session, have been allotted at from twenty-five to thirty per cent. under that estimate. In every aspect in which this question may be viewed the Board entertain no doubt, that the early completion of this canal, would materially advance the public interest.

Henceforth let not lying federalism arraign the Democratic Canal Board on the charge of hostility to the completion of this important work.

The Magazines.

Sartin's Union Magazine for February is of our table. Among its numerous embellishments are "Week's First effort in Art," "A Valentine," a "Portrait of Mrs Polk," "Winter Serenaders," &c., all superb engravings. It contains 72 pages well stored with papers from the pens of Mrs. Osgood, Mrs E. Oakes Smith, Miss Murtineau, Mrs. Kirkland, Frederika Bremer, Prof. Hart, and others

Godey's Lady's Book for February is also before us, brilliant with gems of Art and Literature, as usual. Among its embellishments are "The Nest at Home," "Our Post-Mistress," "Fashions for February," "Cupid among the Roses," "The Elopement," and a Portrait of the publisher, Louis A. Godey, all choice, and some of them very superior engravings. It contains thirty-seven contributions from the pens of the most distinguished authors in the country, among whom are Mrs Joseph C. Neal, Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, Henry G. Lee, Simms, Arthur, &c.

Graham's Magazine for the same month is likewise on our table. Its embellishments we think superior, as a general thing, to those of either of its competitors noticed above. They are "The Dream," "The Prize Secured," (a magnificent picture,) "The Valentine," (another charming one,) "The Lay of Love," "Paris Fashions," "Burlington, Vermont," and a "Portrait of Gen. Warren." Its contributions are of the first order, being from the pens of the best writers the country can produce. Graham's is second to no magazine published in the country

Banking upon State Stocks.

The Pittsburgh *Despatch* and Bunner of the 2d inst., after noticing the Keystone in a very respectful manner, expresses its dissent from our views against free banking based on State stocks, and respectfully asks for our objections *in extenso*. The *Despatch* is entitled to a respectful answer, and we intended to have given one ere this, but we have had our attention engaged with other matters, and even now, we do not propose to go into the subject at length. We have, on more than one occasion, stated the substance, or strong points of our objections, and we can now do little more than reiterate them. In the first place, we hold that no man can lend money without he has got it, and that State stocks are not money, nor is the paper issued upon their pledge either money, or the representative of money. Besides, we hold that all such paper issues are bills of credit, within the meaning of the constitution, and therefore, prohibited by the supreme law of the land—the constitution of the United States.

The greatest evil of the present banking system, is the permission given to the banks to issue more paper than the amount of the capital actually paid in, and thus to create a paper currency purporting to be convertible into specie, when it is well known that it does not represent what it purports, and is therefore a cheat and a deception upon the public. But it is said that a currency based on State stocks is better than the present, because that those who have the management of the present banks may and do in many instances waste the capital, or get up banks without any real capital, and cheat the note-holders, which it is said they could not do if stocks were pledged for their redemption. This admits the defects of the existing system, but does not prove the soundness of the one proposed.

No system of banking that does not require the capital to be paid in, in money, can be sound, because nothing but money can be made a safe foundation of banking operations. Now if those who are in favor of pledging stocks, would agree that the whole capital of the bank shall be paid in, in specie, and agree to limit their issues and to require a pledge of stocks as collateral security that they will not waste and misuse the capital, there might be some propriety in it. But to make the stock the basis itself, of an issue of paper, would be to create a currency founded on State credit in the form of stocks, which cannot possibly be better, when carried to any great extent, than an issue of paper by the State itself, redeemable in State stocks, as are our present relief issues, which were, at one time, depreciated from 15 to 20 per cent., and would again depreciate largely, if issued to the amount they went at first, under the act of the 4th May, 1841. It was by their cancellation and reduction to a comparatively small amount, together with the fact, that they are receivable in payment of all dues to the Commonwealth, that they have been brought near to their par value; but they are not yet at par, and never will be, because there is no money to redeem them with when it is wanted.

We do not regard the little experience that has been had in New York, as worthy of any consideration, because the system is but limited in its extent and operation, and since its establishment there has been no commercial crisis or revulsion to test it. If the system should ever become extended throughout the United States, we think it requires no extraordinary sagacity to perceive that in case of a commercial revulsion there would be a greater depreciation of property, and more bankruptcy in the country, than at any former period of our history.

But the actual losses to the holders of notes of broken banks, is but one of the evils of the banking system, and perhaps one of the least. It is the inflation of the currency far above a specie standard, by which the spirit of speculation is excited, and a sudden and fictitious value is given to property, again to be as suddenly reduced by the contraction of such a currency, which from its very nature is certain and inevitable, that we view as the greatest evil of the system. We therefore regard any system, that has a tendency to encourage the increase of a paper currency beyond the specie standard, as one of the greatest evils that can be inflicted on the country, and such, we believe would be the effect of the free banking system founded on stocks. We have but glanced at a few of the objections to it.

Say, after giving many examples of the inadequacy of any and all securities, except the precious metals, to preserve paper money at par, and showing how inevitably such paper and the stocks on which it is secured, sink in value in times of monetary revulsions, proceeds: "These instances will serve to explain why so many schemes of agricultural banks for the issue of circulating and convertible notes on ample landed security, and so many other schemes of a similar nature, have fallen to the ground in a very little time, with more or less loss to the stockholders and the public. Paper of perfect solidity, and payable at the moment, is only equivalent to specie; consequently specie can only be supplanted by notes of unquestionable credit, and payable on demand; and such notes cannot be discharged by a bare security, even of the best possible kind."—*Harrisburg Keystone.*

☞ The *New York Globe* newspaper has passed into the hands of Geo R Hazewell, and Col. J S Du Solle, (late editor of the Philadelphia *Times*. The Col. who is to have charge of its editorial columns, is a sound Democrat, and a splendid writer. It is his design also to make the *Globe* foremost among the *news* papers of the day, as well as a standard Democratic Journal. May his efforts be crowned with success.

☞ The New Orleans *Delta* publishes an anonymous letter post-marked Washington, Texas, in which the writer says that Dr. Webster is innocent of the murder of Dr. Parkman, and that he himself is the guilty one, and is on his way to California. The letter is signed "Oromoko." It is written on coarse paper, and in quite illiterate style. The editor thinks it no hoax.

Prof. Webster.—The Grand Jury have found a true bill against Prof. Webster, charging him with the murder of Dr. Parkman. The examination was not wholly *ex parte*, several witnesses having been examined who said they saw Dr. Parkman after his disappearance.

The Speaker's Chair.

A parody on the "Old Arm Chair."

I love it, I love it, and who shall dare
To chide me for loving that Speaker's old chair—
I have cherished it long, and had little rest,
Until I resolved to do ALL *for the* BEST.

I have dreamed every night for these many weeks past,
Of that Chair, and the means to obtain it at last;
I have counselled with whigs from the east to the west;
And at last—*I resolved to do* ALL *for the* BEST.

When the bargain was made, but no matter where,
That I could be placed in that Speakers old chair,
My mind was at ease, I at last got some rest—
By the sage resolution to do ALL *for the* BEST.

The Democrats may thunder as much as they please,
Since my object's attained, my poor mind's at ease
They may swagger, and rant, for I know they're distressed,
Since they see how I fixed it, *by doing* ALL *for the* BEST.

The whigs too, despise me, but what do I care,
Since I am promoted to the Speaker's old chair—
"A cool hundred" I'll make, which will ease my poor breast,
And the world will agree—I've DONE ALL FOR THE BEST.

Gen. Taylor at last Surrenders.

President Taylor at last surrenders. In the *Republic* of last Thursday, his policy for the settlement of the Territorial Question is authoritatively disclosed. In commenting on his message, we said that the ground he occupied on the subject, so far as we could infer anything from that document, was identical with the ground taken by General Cass in his Nicholson Letter. This view is completely confirmed by the *Republic*, in the following paragraph, taken from an editorial in its columns:

"President Taylor, after mature deliberation, has indicated a mode in which this question can be satisfactorily adjusted, without wounding the feelings or disturbing the rights of either section of the country. Leave the whole matter to the people of the new Territories, in whom, by the very nature and necessities of our institution, the whole actual and efficient control of the whole matter is ultimately vested.—The sentiments of President Taylor on this subject have been responded to with the fullest approbation by the Whig press of the North. We have not seen the first journal which has excepted to this portion of the Message. It is equally commended by the Whig press of the South. Here, then, is a national platform on which the Whigs of all quarters can stand together. Waive the Territorial organization, and admit the new countries when they are prepared for admission as sovereign States.—Standing in that capacity, the whole subject is in their exclusive cognizance and control; and Congress has nothing more to do with them than with other States in their domestic and municipal affairs.

"This course could well enough be taken, but for the gentlemen who have a personal and partisan interest in agitation. If they are met with firmness by the friends of the Administration and the Union, their factious purposes can be easily defeated, good feeling and harmonious counsels can be restored, and the Legislature can devote its attention to the other great questions of policy which have been recommended to their attention by the President."

By the unanimous consent, then, of the Whig press, North and South, the entire Whig Party, in the twinkling of an eye, is translated from the low and Sectional ground of the Wilmot Proviso, to the high and national platform of the Cass doctrine of Non-Intervention—the doctrine of the Nicholson Letter. This is the position of the *Republic*, the organ of General Taylor. If the assumptions of the *Republic* pass unquestioned by the Whig press at the North, we shall henceforth regard the Whig party as committed to the maintenance of the policy of General Cass.—*National Era.*

Life and business in California.

We take the following extracts from one of Bayard Taylor's letters to the New York *Tribune*, dated San Francisco, Dec. 1, 1849.

Prices are higher than ever, and there is no probability of their falling before spring. At least provisions of all kinds, I am informed, are more expensive than they were last year, notwithstanding the supplies constantly coming in from Chili, Mexico, and the Sandwich Islands. There is no variation in the cost of living, except that lodgings may be had at a cheaper rate.—Houses are fitted up now ship-fashion, with state-rooms, each of which contains four berths. In this way an ordinary room will lodge twenty or thirty persons. The cost of lodging in this style is $6 per week—Boarding of a plain kind may be had at $14 and $16 per week, but at most of the eating houses it is $20 and $25. I see no probability of much reduction in prices for a year to come. In view of the enormous expense of living, even in the simplest way, there should be immediate provision made by the General Government for the proper remuneration and support of the army, navy, and all the civil offices.

Laborer's wages have slightly decreased since I last wrote. The carpenters have had a strike here as well as in Sacramento City, and gained their point. Waiters get $150 per month. Many persons have come down from the mines, seeking employment for the winter. I have no doubt there will be cases of want and destitution here, as everywhere. Several suicides have been committed, through disappointment and despondency. Physicians who are connected with the hospitals here, inform me that they have frequent cases of lunacy under their charge, some caused by the sudden accumulation of gold, and others by the lack of it. Poor human nature!

The amount of business transacted here would astonish our New York merchants. The commerce of the place, entirely exclusive of the vessels from the Atlantic, is already very important. During the month just closed there were seventy departures from this port, two of which only were for Atlantic ports. The commerce of the Pacific, reaching to Australia, India and China, is already concentrating to this metropolis of western America.

I felt here for the Sacramento country on the 3d ult., and returned on the 24th, yet in that interval the city was so changed that I no longer recognized the streets—The small, one story wooden buildings which replaced the tents standing when I first landed in August had been moved to the suburbs, and spacious three and four story houses built in their stead. The vacant spaces had been filled up: fronts of brick began to make their appearance; large hotels and restaurants, showily furnished, stared at me in unaccustomed places; the throng in the streets seemed doubled; and all the hurry, confusion, and noise of a great city was well imitated.

Mormon Coin.—The monetary notions of the Mormons at their Great Salt Lake settlement are less peculiar than appears from their idea of society and religion. We have a very curious coin in our possession, which is manufactured and extensively circulated among that remarkable people, and quite to the disparagement, travelers tell us, of every other species of gold currency. Of all the fanciful forms into which our golden wealth is wrought, this painted shape excels in singularity. Its weight is 15 pwts. Troy; its current worth among the Mormons, twenty dollars. Its circumference is that of a Spanish half-doubloon. One side bears the inscription "Holiness to the Lord," with the All-seeing Eye, surmounted by the prophet's cap; on the reverse appear the initials C S. L C P. C, the grasp of fellowship, with the date (1849) and value of the piece. It is clumsy, and in execution without merit.

Society and Morality.—One who has "seen the elephant" writes home to the *Tribune*; "San Francisco is a God-forsaken place, nearly given over to gamblers, professional idlers and tipplers. They seem a band of outcasts, met in brotherhood of woe." Daily arrivals of fancy and sporting men, pugilists, genteel loafers, and abandoned women from the States, are rapidly swelling their ranks."

This is another one of those absurd statements, says the Alta California, culled from "California correspondence," which we are repeatedly called upon to contradict, and which cannot even aspire to the propriety of a sober, one-sided view of the subject which it professes to elucidate. A man may imbibe prejudices and entertain false perceptions, or he may express an opinion detrimental to the truth, for all of which there are palliating circumstances; but for so wanton a perversion the author deserves to be held up to ridicule by the "rise again" of truth, pointed at by the finger of incredulity, and kicked out of his position as a writer for the press by the insinuating toe of ineffable contempt.

Sale of City Property.—The sale of lots belonging to the city took place yesterday in Portsmouth Square, as previously announced. One hundred and eighty-eight lots were sold, most of them being 50 vars (or 138 feet) lots. Though the lots generally lie a full mile from the business part of the city, the sales amounted, we learn to the very pretty sum of $96,065. To this must be added about $7,000, being the price of surveying, conveyancing, &c., of the property sold. Mr. George K. Tyler was the auctioneer of the day; and, as the terms of sale were cash, he may regard this day's work as having put our City Fathers in funds for some time to come.

Seizure.—The British barque Colloney, Livingston, from Oregon, via Vancouver's Island, has been seized at San Francisco, by Col. Collier, the Collector, for a violation of the revenue laws, in bringing a cargo from one American port to another.—We also learn that a vessel from Valparaiso has been forfeited, for bringing to this port brandy in packages of less than fifteen gallons, as prescribed by law.

Wintering in the Mines.—Our present space will be taken up with a few facts and speculations relative to the prospects of the miners during the approaching winter, they being of the most interest at the present time. And in the first place we will correct an erroneous impression which prevades the minds of many who have never visited the mines, that the dry diggings exclusively are accessible during the rainy season. Such is not the fact. Many old miners cling to the streams with great tenacity.—Selecting as comfortable a location as can be found, they pitch their tent, or erect their cabin, collect together their firewood and provisions for the winter, and, as opportunities present, emerge from their shelter and collect together as much of the precious dust as circumstances will allow of. In making arrangements for the rainy season, generally six or eight club together for the purpose of building and messing. In digging, from one to three act in concert. There are three reasons why portions of those in the mines prefer the streams to the dry diggings. The first is, there are not so many people there; the second is, the miner is sureer of being remunerated according to the labor performed; for in the dry field of operations, while the great majority may not be able to make their expenses, now and then one will strike a lead which will put money in his pocket—thus rendering the dry diggings more in the nature of a lottery than the efforts on the streams. The third reason is, the miner is on the stream early in the spring, and he follows the water as it recedes, at the approach of the dry season. In this he may secure a bar on which he can operate for three or four months.

There are miners at the present time in this city who are anxiously waiting for an opportunity to get provisions high up on the Yerba and Feather rivers; while at the same time we learn from gentlemen direct from those streams that it requires man's greatest effort to enable him to get along without any incumbrance, so swollen are the streams and in such condition are the roads. Among those from that quarter whom we have conversed with, there is but one opinion, and that is that there is not half enough provision there to supply the people during the winter, and that if the great body of the miners continue to entertain the opinion that opportunities will yet offer for them to supply themselves with provision, there must be an unparalleled amount of suffering before the rainy season is over, because after a time it will be impossible for them to retreat. Many are now in the mines with a supply of provision for two or three weeks, who intend, at the expiration of that time, to return to the settlements and remain during the winter. From the branches of the American river, and the dry diggings in the vicinity of the same, we learn that there are many who have recently arrived from over the plains; and the rainy weather commencing so early is particularly hard on this portion of our immigrants, for even were provisions as easy of access and as cheap as during the summer and a portion of the fall, many of these people would not be able to supply themselves for the winter, as a large portion of them have recently arrived, and some of them are much debilitated by their toilsome and protracted journey. In the neighborhood of the North and South forks of the American rivers there are immense congregations of miners. So rapidly have they collected together that quite populous towns have sprung up in the course of three or four weeks. This sudden creation of the liquid element has entirely checked operations and taken miners all aback; and there being so few of the necessaries of life within their reach, it is thought there will be a general rush for this place and San Francisco very soon, as in fact there is now.

We learn from those direct from the dry diggings of the North Fork, that the roads are altogether impassable for teams; and for packing, it requires all the vigilance of the driver to keep the animals on their feet. To get up and down the hills, which are always found in close proximity to the streams, it is impossible for four-legged animals to "propel" at all. In the southern mines the same unfortunate state of things exist. The deduction to be drawn from all the information we have at present is, that a few miners are making more than their daily bread, and that, as a matter of course, new beginners will form unfavorable opinions of mining before they have fairly applied the spade to the earth.

Treasurer Ball.

This Federal functionary has issued his report. The leading feature of this report is, that its author favors the issue of small notes, and a large increase of banking capital. He says, Pennsylvania from having sixty millions of banking capital, *alias paper promises*, has fallen to seventeen millions, and urges, that the tide of paper money be increased. In 1836, when Ritner & Co. purchased spurious Democrats, the banking capital was raised from seventeen to sixty millions. The cause of diminution since, is a matter of public notoriety to every man in the community. The suspension of specie payments in 1837 and 1840, together with exploded banks, and depreciated paper, have taught the people a lesson never to be forgotten. No greater curse could befall the people, than a bloated paper currency, and to none would it be more fatal than to the manufacturing interests. Every Democrat who votes for such a currency is equally a traitor to the principles of Democracy, and the true interests of the State, as Senator Best.—*Upland Union.*

Arrest for Forgery.—Yesterday morning James Arlington Bennet was taken into custody, on charge of having forged a promissory note for $9,600 on Mr. James Foster, Jr., of this city. The note had been made by extracting, by chemical means, the body of a letter written and signed by Foster, leaving the signature untouched, and then writing the body of the note above it. On its being presented to Mr. Foster, he denied all knowledge of it, and preferred the complaint, which led to the arrest of the accused. The grand jury found a true bill against Bennett for the forgery, and he is in custody awaiting the action of the court.

A Clever Year's Business.—By a report from Wm. English, Esq., the Superintendent of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railway, it appears that the State road has yielded a nett profit of eight per cent. on its cost, for the year ending December 1st.