# THE DEMOCRAT.

**Thursday, May 2, 1850.**

**To Advertisers.**—[illegible] paper [illegible] NINE THOUSAND [illegible] paper in the County [illegible] ers, may be sure of [illegible]


## The Secretary's Vetoes.

We perceive with much gratification that the bill giving to the people of this county the right to elect their own Prosecuting Attorney, has passed both branches of the Legislature, and we presume ere this has received the Executive's polarization's notion. The vote in both House was in favor of the return was nearly unanimous. At the general election in October, then, the people of this county will have a right to choose their own Prosecuting Attorney for the ensuing three years; and we hope they will feel the responsibility attendant on the exercise of that prerogative, so as to make a wise selection. It is now altogether probable that the present incumbent will be in the reform [illegible] who shall be abundantly capable, honest and faithful, not only to the commonwealth and its laws but also to the county. The Prosecuting Attorney has it in his power to make or ruin the county a great deal of cost, either by encouraging prosecutions and getting up indictments to be quashed as soon as they come before the Court, or by [illegible] and refusing to lend a countenance to all such petty vexatious prosecutions [illegible] The man who will [illegible] will be [illegible] to pay [illegible] that impor-tant [illegible]

We [illegible] Harrisburg, Mr. Wolfe [illegible] a copy of [illegible] has just published [illegible] the Legislature and review the action of the Governor. Its principal [illegible] have already given, and therefore [illegible] Our [illegible] of them; [illegible] the one relating to the [illegible] bring of a character that should be [illegible] every body, we subjoin

SECTION 14. That from and after the twenty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, or persons or body corporate, directly or indirectly, to issue, pay out, passe, utter or put in circulation, [illegible] or any other paper purporting to be a bank note or bill, or other note, or any character or appearance of a bank note or bill, purporting to be a bank note or bill issued under the laws of this Commonwealth, or any other State, or any bank note or bill, or other note, or any character or appearance of a bank note or bill, purporting to be a bank note or bill issued by any corporation, or association of persons, not located in Pennsylvania, of a less denomination than five dollars; and any violation of the provisions of this section by any corporation or body corporate, shall subject such corporation or body corporate to the payment of five hundred dollars; and any violation of the provisions of this section by any person or persons holding any office or appointment of trust or profit under the constitution and laws of this state, shall subject such officer to the payment of one hundred dollars; and any violation of the section by any other person, not being a public officer, shall subject such person to the payment of twenty-five dollars, one-half of which, in each case, shall be paid to the informer, and the other half to the use of the commonwealth; and it shall be the duty of the attorney general of the commonwealth, and the district attorneys of the several counties, to prosecute for the penalties and forfeitures imposed by this section, when they are informed of the violation thereof, and for that purpose [illegible]

SECTION 15. That it shall be the duty of the attorney general of the commonwealth, and the district attorneys of the several counties, to make special inquiry, from time to time, as to the [illegible] of such notes, and to institute proceedings against the chartered banks or banking association of any [illegible] in violation of this act.

From this it will be seen that from and after the 21st of August next, the circulation of all bank notes of less denomination than five dollars, except relief notes issued under the very penalties. That this measure will suit every body at first we do not expect; indeed we [illegible] a general murmuring against it among men of money," and not only especially the rich of nothing it with impunity. We think, however, that these threats will hardly be carried out, and that the good sense of the people will dictate acquiescence. We *hope* for this, because we are firmly convinced that the process on as good one, calculated to purify the present circulating medium, and to give us a currency that shall be safe and safe—one that the poorer classes of people, who handle but little money, may take without fear of depreciation or loss. The fact is, there are too many small notes afloat in this country, and too little specie, and it will always continue so unless the former are shut out of circulation. No man, while he can get off a paper dollar (and has one in his purse, will pay out either a gold or silver one. It is natural for a man, if he has one kind of money poorer than another, to put that away first; and hence it is that the small note currency continually keeps the gold and silver of the country locked up and out of the channels of circulation. The enforcing of this law, *therefore*, will tend to bring the specie *into* circulation, and as we said before, to purify and cleanse the currency of the State. In the island of Cuba, it is well known, not a paper dollar is allowed to circulate, and yet a more wealthy and prosperous country can scarcely be found. The same is the case in Holland, and to a great extent in France. We repeat, therefore, the hope that the law will be respected—certainly that it shall be tested before it is condemned.

---

☞ No reports have yet been made by the committees of the Senate and House, either on the compromise question, the Foot and Benton, the Galphin, the Ewing, or the Horner affairs. It is said that the compromise committee have agreed upon a report, and that Mr. Clay is drawing it up and will present it soon. The report of the Ewing investigation, in the House, it is said, will contain some startling, and to the accused and whiggery, some humiliating developements.

---

☞ Savanah, Ga., was visited by a very serious conflagration on Tuesday week—the largest that has occurred there for many years. A whole block, principally frame buildings, occupied as retail stores, shops and residences was consumed. Loss estimated at from 70 to 100,000 dollars.

## From Harrisburg.

A friend writing from Harrisburg a few days since expressed the opinion that the Legislature would adjourn about the 1st inst. He also writes discouragingly of the Apportionment bill, and thinks it extremely doubtful whether any kind of an Apportionment receives the sanction of all the branches of legislation this session. He says it is well understood that his Excellency will veto any bill of the kind that does not fix the Armstrong (his own) district to suit *him*, as he is doubtless anxious to return to the Senate after his Executiveship shall expire. Best, he is quite confident, will vote with the whigs during the remainder of the session.

The appropriation for the completion of the North Branch Canal, which has passed the House in the General Appropriation bill, he is very sure makes the appropriation a little doubtful, but says that it is the general opinion that we shall get the money, or the most of it, during the present session. "It is now," he adds, "in the best shape that it can be got, for there is a decided majority in both branches of the Legislature opposed to interfering with the State Debt. The fact that the North Branch will be completed by the State gradually, but certainly, seems now to be fully established."

In addition to the foregoing we glean the following from the papers:

The General Appropriation Bill passed the House on Monday. The bill to erect Montour county was amended in the House so as to submit the question of a new county to the people of Columbia county at the next election. The Senate, however, refused to concur in this amendment.

The Senate passed the Wethersill divorce bill on Friday, but on Saturday recalled it from the House, re-considered and negatived it.

The House has passed another appportionment bill, the third, we believe, this session. Whether it will meet the approbation of Mr Speaker Best and his Excellency or not is yet a problem. If it does, we will publish it. Bills to re-charter the following Banks have passed the House. York Bank—veto 12, nays 39; Bank of Pittsburg—32 to 22; Farmer's Bank of Lancaster—16 to 39; Easton Bank—38 to 35; and Kensington Bank—35 to 35. Several other Bank bills have also passed first and second reading.

The Senate, on Monday, passed to second reading a bill to establish a Free Banking System—veto 16, nays 13. [The same bill has already been rejected by the House by an overwhelming vote.]

No day of final adjournment has yet been agreed upon.

---

☞ We forgot to mention last week that the Grand Jury of this county on Thursday found a true bill vs Thos. P. and Ancel St. John for conspiracy—the entire board of Bank Directors being prosecutors. If they would bring to trial some of their old suits against one or both of the parties, the people would begin to think they were in earnest, and perhaps be quite as well satisfied. As it is, there is a strong suspicion prevalent that this conspiracy suit is brought to balance certain other ones commenced by the St. Johns. In what the alleged conspiracy consists we have not been informed.

---

"CHILDREN AND FOOLS," &c.—The editor of the Bank organ says that we would not now have two lies hanging over us if we had said less about the "bank gentry" and the rascalities perpetrated by those who got up and have managed it. We admit the truth, and we may as well say here that it is about the only truth that has appeared in that sheet since our remembrance—it is so scarce a commodity for it, in fact, that it really appears for some "Children and fools" [illegible] Susquehanna County Bank. We have no reason to doubt he speaks by authority.

---

HOW OUR OWN GALLOWS.—The Bank organ grinder announced last week, with great gusto, that we had "got into the lumbo." Two or three weeks ago, in a sally, pettifogging attempt to manufacture public opinion, (perhaps a Grand Jury?) he declared that when *we* spoke of a certain gentleman as having "got into the lumbo," we meant to say he had gone into "durance vile." He has, therefore, perpetrated a foul libel "upon our good name, fame and credit," according to his own interpretation and standard of judgment and justice. We shall not proceed against him, however, until the suits against us are terminated, lest we have our own costs to pay.

---

☞ The editor of a certain whig paper is mightily pleased, judging from a late issue, to think that we have been drawn into the law by Mr. Drinker and others. Had he not better fix bounds to his delight? for, should the unheard-of precedent be now for the first time established, as he seems to desire, that an editor is liable to be prosecuted, indicted and "bull-ragged" about for merely saying that another gentleman has been prosecuted for libel, &c., he (we speak not without authority,) *he* will be put in a fix *exactly similar* for certain articles he published not many months since. In fact, he is liable almost every week to such prosecutions, as but very few numbers of his papers can be produced that do not register the prosecutions of some body. Even to publish the proceedings of court, or of any other legal prosecution or investigation, is libelous if his standard be correct. And yet who swallows the absurdity that it is correct? If it is, then the city papers are each liable to more than a score of prosecutions and indictments daily, on an average.

---

☞ The new Bank Bill makes it the duty of Directors of all Banks to require Cashiers (sect. 10, art. 5,) to give bonds to the amount of one-fifth the capital stock when it is $200,000 or less, of one-eighth when it is between $200,000 and $500,000, and one-tenth when it is between $500,000 and $1,000,000. And it further declares that the neglect or wilful violation of any of the provisions of said act by the directors, or any one of them, "shall be deemed a misdemeanor, and that upon conviction in any criminal court in this commonwealth, he shall suffer such punishment by fine not exceeding $1000, and imprisonment in the county jail or penitentiary not exceeding three years." (Sec. 16.)

Now what would be the present condition of the Directors of the Susquehanna County Bank who have held office at any time since Mr. St. John came into the concern as Cashier, if that law, and those penalties, had been on the statute books and enforced? "We pause for a reply."

---

☞ Henry E. Hotchkin, a native of Massachusetts, was arrested in Savannah on Saturday, charged with being an abolitionist. After an examination he was discharged upon condition that he would leave the city in 48 hours. We chronicle this news little at the hoaxed of another kind prosecution.

---

☞ We notice with much surprise that a few northern Democratic papers, which take their cue from the Washington Union and other southern journals, are endeavoring to cast all the blame and odium of the late Senatorial *emeute* upon Col. Benton, while Foote is hounsed as a paragon of coolness, intrepidity and patriotism, and otherwise lauded to the "third heavens" of earthly glory. The great point upon which they hang Foote's exoneration, is, that he simply acted in self-defence. In self-defence! "good heavens!" What need was there of drawing a pistol upon Col Benton, when there were scores of Senators all around him to rescue or preserve him from peril? Is not such an excuse ridiculous in the extreme? Besides, it is far from being clear that Col. Benton advanced towards Foote with hostile designs. On several occasions before, he had left the Senate Chamber when Foote was abusing him, in a state of high excitement; and as he would have to pass down the aisle that led to Foote's seat to obtain egress, it is not impossible that he simply started with the same purpose again. But admit all that Foote claims, viz. that Benton, infuriated by personal abuse which Foote has long continued to pour out upon him, did advance towards him with a design to chastise him, there was then no justification for Foote's conduct. The man who, under such circumstances, would draw a pistol, is worse than a dastard—he is an assassin at heart—and the Senate should have proceeded at once to expel him. Benton, as we said last week, was to blame for becoming anxious and captious at Foote's abuse, but between him and Foote's there is no comparison.

---

BANKS.—We begin to fear our present Legislature is no sounder on the question of Banks than previous ones have been. The Senate has gone in for those institutions with perfect hosannas—having passed already nearly a score of charters—and the House seems to be following its footsteps with remarkable precision. No less than a half dozen of those institutions, some of them very suspicious ones too, have got their re-charter from that body. It is some comfort to know that our Senator and Representatives can wash their hands in innocence of any such derelictions.

---

☞ Thos J. Hough, until recently a Clerk in the Philadelphia Post Office, was arrested a few days since on charge of pilfering from the mails during the period of his clerkship. An examination was had before Judge Kane, at which the Post Master, J. P. White, strove desperately to get him committed, but there being no evidence against him, he was honorably discharged.

By the way, we will mention here that every daily paper in Philadelphia announced the fact of Mr. Hough's prosecution immediately, and published the proceedings of the examination; and we have not yet learned that any of them have been prosecuted or indicted for libel therefor.

---

"CONSCIENTIOUS SCRUPLES."—Mr Prentiss, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of New Orleans, censures the practice of Attorneys for the Commonwealth taking extra fee to carry on criminal prosecutions. The editor of the *Crescent*, of that city, says he has known him to refuse a fee of five thousand dollars to prosecute. So says an exchange. Wonder if there are any more Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys troubled with such conscientious scruples.

---

☞ Quite a serious fire occurred on Front street, New York, on Wednesday night, between 10 and 12 o'clock. It broke out in a candle, lard, cotton [illegible] store, which its contents, and an adjoining building occupied by several firms engaged in a similar business, was totally destroyed. A number of buildings adjoining were likewise more or less injured by the fire. The fire that trap from [illegible] on Saturday, performing most admirably. She has been built expressly as the pioneer of a new line of Liverpool steamers, (the Collin's line,) at an expense of $350,000. Her dimensions are 290 feet length on deck, 45 feet beam, and 32 feet depth of hold—her capacity 3,300 tuns. She is finished in the most expensive style, and is said to be the most magnificent and gorgeous "floating palace" in the world.

---

### Clippings from Exchanges.

MIZZLING FOR PAYS.—A man by the name of *Henry Drinker*, has brought a suit for libel against the editor of the *Montrose Democrat*, for exposing the enormous frauds perpetrated upon the public by the defunct Susquehanna Bank. The fearless conduct of the editor deserves the gratitude of the people, and especially of the Democracy, for dragging the swindling operations of this infamous concern to the light of day. We hope that the prosecutor will be rebuked by the Court of Justice for his unjustifiable attempt to conceal the rascalities of those who managed its affairs.

The editor speaks out boldly and says, "We have taken up on the side of the people, who have been robbed and plundered by that abominable swindling shop out of thousands and hundreds of thousands; and not all the libel suits he or they may pile upon the records of the county, against us, shall frighten us from faithfully adhering to their cause. Whenever, therefore, we see any thing wrong that has not been exposed, in relation to said bank, we shall fearlessly expose it within the limits guaranteed to the press." We say go ahead, and drag the scullions from their hiding places.—*Berks County Press.*

☞ The editor of the Montrose *Democrat* has been prosecuted for libel by some of the rogues connected with the broken Susquehanna County Bank. His sin consists in his having told the truth and if a Jury can be found in Susquehanna county to commit him we must be much mistaken in the material of that county.—*Easton Argus.*

VIRGINIA.—The election of delegates (representatives) to the State Legislature, held on Thursday, resulted in a Democratic victory as usual, only a little more so. The Democrats gained five members and the whigs two.

---

☞ What has become of the May number of Graham's Magazine? We notice all our exchanges entitled to it have been supplied, but our number is "among the missing."

---

☞ Barnum, the Museum man, has contracted for the erection of a new capacious Hall, Up Town, on Broadway, opposite Bond street, which is to be christened "Jenny Lind Hall," and in which the Swedish Nightingale is to be caged during her stay in New York.

---

☞ The Foote and Benton affray is likely to be brought before the civil authorities of Washington City, at the solicitation of Col. Benton, who addressed a note to the U. S. District Attorney for that purpose.

---

☞ The united Menageries of Raymond & Co. and Van Amburgh exhibited at Lancaster, in this county on Tuesday last.

---

☞ Counterfeit $2 Relief Notes on the Farmer's Bank of Lancaster are in circulation. They are the re-issue, and can be detected by the signature, which is printed.

---

The profits of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company were for the past year, $848,578 01, which is over 16½ per cent. on their capital.

## Is this a Time to Increase Banking Capital.

The country has not been ruined by the operations of the independent treasury and the tariff of 1846, as was confidently predicted by the most prominent whig statesmen of the country, and, indeed we may say, by the whole whig party. On the contrary, it was never, as a whole, more prosperous. But there is danger of this very prosperity leading to measures, in which whigs and nominal democrats may unite, that will arrest the steady and progressive improvement which is now so happily pervading every part of the country, giving employment and dispensing comfort to the industrious and frugal everywhere.

Already do we see a restless and speculative spirit manifesting itself in various ways, and among others, in the numerous applications to the legislature for new banks. This is always one of the first indications of a disposition to launch into extravagances and the very wildest romance of speculation. It is successful in obtaining bank charters, the way is then opened for every extravagant and visionary enterprise, which the wildest hallucinations of a deranged mind can suggest.—If the legislature will yield to this spirit and grant bank charters to all who apply, our prosperity will be short-lived. It will soon reach its height from which there will be a downward movement, in which thousands and tens of thousands of honest and unsuspecting men will be overrun and utterly ruined.

But, say the loose, thoughtless and reckless advocates of an increase of banks, these commercial revulsions are inevitable—they will come under any system. Grant that this is true to a certain extent, and that it is the nature of man, in his anxiety for the accumulation of wealth, to overreach himself. Does this afford any reason or justification in government, or those entrusted with making laws, to adopt systems or policy which it is known will hasten the return and aggravate the effects of the commercial periods of adversity and distress which it is admitted are in some measure unavoidable? As well might a man who knows he is subject to periodical attacks of disease, justify himself in leading a reckless and dissolute life, in the idle vain, both he knows will hasten the return and aggravate the severity of the attacks. There is just as much want of good sense and sound morality in one case as in the other.—The very animals learn from instinct to avoid those things which are poisonous and injurious to them: but man, who boasts of reason and cultivated science, will not be taught, even by experience, the fatal errors which tend to his destruction, morally, politically and pecuniarily.

The act which has recently passed the legislature to regulate the banks of this state contains, in one certain section, a valuable provision to improve the currency and to afford additional security to the people. But they will not be sufficient to protect the community against a repetition of the evils of an excessive and inflated banking system, if the legislature will entertain and grant all the new applications for banks.

This is a time, above all others, when the course of the legislature ought to be decided and unmovable on this question. It is clearly owing to the operations of the independent treasury and to the clearness with which bank charters have been granted for some years back, that we are not now in the midst of a commercial and pecuniary crisis. Gold is now being discovered more extensively and being brought into the country in greater quantities than at any former period of our history. Indeed, the accounts of its discovery and existence in exhaustless quantities, seem almost [illegible] and have already created a well founded apprehension of a depreciation in the relative value of paper money. Nothing but insanity or a stubborn determination to disregard every admonition of common sense, it seems to us, could prompt to such an unwise and suicidal course.

We have not sought to disturb the existence of the old banks that are sound. We well know, that if we took that course, we would be charged with ultraism and a wanton disposition to destroy the best interests of the country. All we have aimed at, therefore, was to discourage improvements and restrictions, and the creation of a multiplication of new banks. Some of the restrictions we desired, have been adopted in the act recently passed, while many that we esteemed as the most important, among which was a provision to exclude from circulation all notes under ten dollars, have been rejected. We trust, however, only postponed.

We cannot be mistaken in the belief, that the sense of the country, including all parties, is against the creation of new banks. The democrats have generally adopted this as a part of their creed, by resolutions in most of their primary meetings, and are therefore especially bound to oppose them. The mass of the whigs, the farmers, mechanics and productive classes, we sincerely believe, are alike opposed to them, and are placed in a false position owing to the attitude the two parties occupy on this question. Could the sense of the whole people be taken for or against the increase of banks of issue, the majority against it would be overwhelming. Yet we have every year in the legislature, men who come under the name and garb of democracy, who regularly vote, not only for every new bank project that is started but also for every other corporate and speculating scheme that the wildest and most visionary speculator in the community with may suggest.

These men are among those who make the loudest pretensions to democracy, and are always talking about the necessity of union and harmony in the democratic ranks. They deprecate radicals and radical measures as injurious to the party. These men we regard as worse than whigs. They are whigs in every thing but the name—*they are democrats with whig principles*, and do more to sustain the whig party than they could if they would assume the name, as they are ever found ready to enter into arrangements and compromises with the whigs when it suits their purposes.

This class of politicians will be found advocating, and sustaining new banks on the present occasion, and denouncing the *radicals* which constitute nineteen twentieths of the democratic voters of the state, but who have had their best hopes frequently disappointed by the defection of the few, some of whom are corrupt and susceptible of being bought with a price, while others are whigs in principle and feeling, and only attach themselves to the democratic party to obtain position and power, the more effectually to promote their own selfish purposes. If the democratic party were to discard and discern all such unprincipled men, and rely upon the integrity and soundness of its policy and carry it out in good faith, the honest and sincere men of the country would every where rally to its support and sustain it triumphantly.—*Harrisburg Keystone.*

---

The Phœnix hotel at Whitehall, N. Y., was destroyed by fire last week, together with eight other buildings adjoining.

## A New Colony on the Pacific.

Give us time to get into California, with our slaves and pass no act of Congress to hinder us, and we want nothing more, said Mr. Calhoun when he rose to express his pleasure that Mr. Webster had declared himself hostile to the prohibition of slavery in the territories. What Mr. Calhoun in the name of the slaveholders asked of Congress, the Committee of Thirteen mean if possible to give. They intend so to connect the question of admitting California with other matters in dispute between the north and the south, as to protract the debate to the latest possible moment. The more complicated they make the question the more delay there will be. If perseverance can effect their object, they will postpone the admission of California to another session, and give the owners of slaves time to establish themselves and the institution in that country. While their friends in Congress are thus employed, the propagandists of slavery are not idle at home. They are making arrangements for planting a slave colony in California. The Jackson *Mississippian* of the 12th of April, says;

"The elements of this slave colony are in existence. We have had the opportunity of personally knowing the fact, and we now say that it is comprised of citizens of several of our southern states—some of whom are well known in the Union. Letters have passed through our hands only this past week from citizens of Georgia, Alabama and Virginia, in each of which propositions are made to join the colony with slaves. This colony receives the countenance of some of the first citizens of Mississippi. Site intensest felt is universal, and it is not extraordinary.

"The idea is not visionary.

"Letters reached us from California, stating that *slave labor at the mines is worth ten dollars per day.* A slave can at least secure that amount of gold to his master. After the placer mines shall be exhausted, and even now, the gold in the rock, which is the original source of all the deposits in the rivers, cannot be profitably obtained but by slave labor. Then again, the valleys to be cultivated, require irrigation, which is another profitable sphere for the employment of our slaves. Thus, then in the only two pursuits now known in California, slave labor is a more profitable investment than in the United States.

"Justified by the Constitution, and rendered expedient from its violation by others, the colony will be formed in California, we reiterate, *if the country is not stolen from us by the action of Congress.* A grosser outrage on the south could not be perpetrated in view of the intense anxiety of our people to go there with their property.

*Let it be understood, and pondered upon, that five thousand slaves will be sent to California before the expiration of this year, if the odious measure now before Congress, to admit California with territory enough for a dozen states can be as it ought to be, repudiated by Congress.* We look upon the present moment with feelings of intense interest. Here is our only and last hope of being participators in the golden harvests of California, for which southern blood has been spilled so profusely, and shall we lose it? *The value of our slaves at home would increase one hundred per cent* if we could have free migration by an addition to our present FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS to the value of that slave. A slave in California is now worth *five thousand dollars!* Such is the deep pecuniary interest that may now be sacrificed by the admission of California. Take that away from the south, and besides placing us at the mercy of the north by the increase of free soil states, and nearly all that we have won from Mexico, save National honor, is forever lost to us."

It was but the other day that Mr Webster succeeded in Congress at the possibility of the existence of slavery in California. The owners of slaves rise and tell him that not only can it reach there, but it can exist to the great profit of the slave-holder; and that if he will but help them, as he is now doing to delay the admission of California, they will plant it there. He treated the idea of employing slaves to cultivate the land by irrigation with contempt. The owners of slaves stand up and tell him that this was an ignorant, groundless contempt, and that the work of irrigation, and the processes of manuring, are the occupations best suited to the labor of bondmen.

Can any one doubt, after reading the extract we have made, that if the question of admitting California be postponed a few months longer, a slave colony will be planted in California, and an influence obtained there which will but endanger its present constitution? If the owners of slaves believe one-half of what is there said of the value of slaves and slave labor in California, is there any doubt that the attempt thus threatened will be made? If it be not it is because wealth has lost its seductions, and human nature has changed. If the southern planters themselves do not engage in the enterprise, there are men at the north enterprising enough and unprincipled enough to adopt the idea—to buy up gangs of slaves and take them to a country where their value will be so enormously enhanced and labor employed with the certainty of such prodigal returns.—*Evening Post.*

---

THE CONSISTENCY OF THE TARIFFITES.—We ask the earnest attention of consumers of iron to the following extract from an article in the iron organ of yesterday:—"The Rolling Mill owners *generally follow the ordinary rules of trade, by buying their metal* at the LOWEST NOTCH of the market, like dealers in merchandise.—Little can be said against the fairness of this, when no unfairness is practiced to affect the market, and this we have never known in this market."

So then the Rolling Mill owners "buy where they can buy cheapest." But they are unwilling to let the farmers, mechanics, and others in this country enjoy the same privilege. O, no! A tax must be imposed upon foreign iron, so that the consumers may be *compelled* to buy from them at their high prices. Comment is unnecessary.—*Pittsburg Post.*

---

"SPUNCK BY LIGHTNING.—Our neighbors in Blakely appear to be peculiarly unfortunate with their churches. The Lutheran church at Archbald was consumed by fire a few days since, and on Monday the Baptist church in Blakely centre was struck by lightning, and the front end nearly destroyed.—*Carbondale Journal.*

## Law of Slavery in Mexican Territories.

The New Orleans *Picayune* says that it has been a subject of dispute in Congress and elsewhere, whether slavery was ever abolished in Mexico legally, that is, in accordance with the constitution of that Republic. The decree generally referred to as establishing the point, is that of Guerrero, during his dictatorship, and being an executive act, on a subject purely legislative, its obligation is often disputed.

Mr Benton settled that matter conclusively in a short speech in the Senate of the United States on the 27th ult. It consisted principally of passages from official Mexican documents, and authorized publications of Mexican law.

The decree of Guerrero which abolished slavery was dated September 15th, 1829. It was of questionable authority, but after the dictatorship expired, the General Congress (in 1831) reviewed the acts of Guerrero, and passed a general law classifying them, approving some, annulling others, and reserving a few for the consideration of a future Congress. Among the acts reserved, neither approving nor annulling it, was this decree abolishing slavery.

In 1837 the General Congress acted upon the subject, and passed an act declaring that slavery is abolished. Mr Benton says the words mean literally, "slavery remains abolished, without any exception in the Republic." The date was April 5th, 1837.

The next authority produced by Mr Benton is the Constitution of Mexico, adopted and promulgated in 1843, in which is the following clause: "None is a slave in the territory of the nation; and any introduced shall be free, and shall be under the protection of the laws."

Mr Benton added a number of authentic accounts from law books of the highest authority in Spain and in Mexico, showing that the abolition of slavery is a judicially established fact.

The second clause of Mr Benton's authorities describe the material difference between the state of slavery, as it existed in Mexico, and as it exists in the United States, by which he attempts to show that under the Mexican law, as it existed before the abolition of slavery, the Southern slaveholder could not take his slave into the territory with profit. The manumission laws, which existed at the same time, would effectually prevent the introduction of slaves from the United States. The facts are, undoubtedly, with Mr Benton; and the law of Mexico is as he stated.

These facts, it seems to us, are sufficient to settle the difficulty which now agitates Congress and the nation. These territories, by the laws which govern them, are free, and the moment a slave is carried there, he becomes free.

It will not do to say that when these territories were acquired by the United States the Constitution superseded the Mexican laws; for even if this were the case, the general law of the Constitution is free land, and slavery is only a local, municipal institution, recognized and permitted to exist wherever the Constitution is found it, but we are not aware that Constitutional instrument ever made any provision whatever for its *extension*. It is true that it recognized the slave trade, and provided for its abolition; and in compromising the Slave Question it was thought that it would be time enough to legislate for the extension of slavery when the time should arrive. Such a proposition as that of the Wilmot Proviso has had about the chance in Congress—*Phila. Ledger.*

---

### The Schuylkill Bank.

In Ohio, as we have already shown, no representative to vote even for the renewal charter of a Bank, is regarded by the Democrats as an offence never to be pardoned. The consequence is, that every man so voting is left at home. The Democrats do not lose by this course. They gain. They are daily encroaching upon the Whig strongholds by their bold consistency on this subject, and by their merciless opposition to a system which has so daringly and so long plundered the people. But in Pennsylvania there is a much tenderer regard for all sorts of banks; and representatives in the Legislature vote not only for old, but for new banks. No less than three charters for new banks passed the Senate of this state in one day last week—passed, too, by Democratic votes. The most recent movement, however, is to revive the charter of the *Schuylkill Bank*—that great gambling shop, by the failure of which so many honest people were ruined a few years ago. We see, with astonishment, that this bill has passed the Senate. If this concern is allowed to commence operations, the very next move will be to resurrectionize the dead bank of the United States. The principle is the same, and the man who votes for the revival of the Schuylkill bank, can next follow his vote consistently by supporting a bill for the revival of the charter of the monster itself. We again call upon the Democrats of the House to interpose between the people and the Senate for the purpose of restraining this loose and objectionable practice of clothing every bank with corporate powers that chooses to ask for them.—*Penn.*

---

ANOTHER VETO!—Wm. F Johnston, the anti-vote Governor, is going it with a perfect rush. Not satisfied with vetoing the Apportionment Bill, because the whigs did not get quite as much as they asked for—he has followed it up with a veto upon the bill restoring the licensing power to the Courts of Philadelphia, and he argues it partly on *Temperance* principles! O, Moses! Wm. F. Johnston to talk about temperance!!! and then to use that power without stint, which he so violently denounced when a candidate before the people! Verily, this why Governor is only consistent in his inconsistencies!

## Can Slavery go into California?

Two men were seen at San Jose, according to the *Alta Californian*, in sharp contest. The white beat the black, and cries of shame were heard, when the master was taken in custody.

Soon the parties were brought before the Alcalde.

The white man, at first, set the court at defiance. But he was sobered down, when he made the following statement:

"*That negro is my slave; I brought him from home with me. He has been among the free negroes of the town, getting drunk and doing as he pleased. I made up my mind to leave town this evening, and determined to take him along with me.* I met him in the street, and told him he must go. This he refused to do. I then leaned down to take up a stick to chastise him, when he seized me and flung me down. I then broke a stick over his head, which I had a right to do. *He is my property, and I intend to have him, and give him a good two hundred lashes into the bargain*"

The court yielded. The slave had been brought into California before the Constitution was formed, and upon that ground he was ordered to jail to await his masters orders. In the meantime, he was ordered to be publicly scourged.

A writ of habeas corpus was granted afterwards, by Judge Bennet, *but it was ascertained that the negro had been delivered to his master, and where the matter ended.*

This man is now a slave, and is likely to remain so, notwithstanding the Mexican law about the omnipotence of which, Mr. Benton speaks with so much confidence, and it with standing the will of God in favor of freedom in California, which Mr. Webster thinks it would be more trifling for Congress to re-enact.

Should California be denied admission into the Union this summer, and the slavery interest be permitted to triumph in consequence of the anti slavery clause in her constitution, the Pacific territory would swarm with cases just like this.

A slave is indeed to accompany his master from the states by promises of emancipation at a tolerably brief period of service. Encouraged by this promise, and relying upon its being kept in good faith, they go with him and remain, faithful to his service. If public sentiment and the law make it necessary, the master will, in turn, be faithful to his promise, but if not, if there is any encouragement to hope that his tyranny will go unchipped of justice, in nine cases out of ten the fate of the slave will be just as inexorable on the shores of the Yoba, as on the cane brakes of Louisiana, or in the cotton bottoms of Alabama.

A Havana correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer makes the following statement to that journal:—

"On our vessel are quite a number from Kentucky, several taking with them slaves under an agreement to give them their freedom after a certain term of service in the mines.—Will the slaves adhere to the contract?—They will. They are honest, and will not violate their word; they had opportunities to leave on the Indiana shore; every indication was offered at Evansville and elsewhere. And then they have behind family ties, for which they have the same interest that we have for sons, whose freedom they expect in time to purchase."

How can any one have patience any longer with the fashionable twaddle of cowardly politicians about the inutility of prohibitory laws against slavery in the new territories?—*N Y Eve. Post*

---

### The Cabinet.

The complaints and accusations that are made against the cabinet at Washington, have attracted public attention. From beginning to end there has been a series of annoying blunders, and now corruption is at work. In the midst of this, General Taylor stands indifferent and undecided; and the community are divided upon the point, whether this proceeds from ignorance or weakness. No party can sanction the opinion that the President is fit for the high station he fills, and we would gladly stop here. He has permitted himself to be used as a tool of unprincipled politicians, and to aid in the military greatness he had achieved, and with which he should have rested content. Before he laid aside his honored arms and assumed his *toga virilis*, he stood before the country as one of her proudest chieftains. He had tested his patriotism by actual deeds, dangers and sufferings, encountered and endured in her behalf. He was sized upon by crafty politicians, mere adventurers, men who would be more than nature warranted, as an available candidate for the Presidency. Since he has been there, what has he done? The unity of his character has gone; for he is not a universal or composite man. He had one commanding talent which placed him above his fellows as an aristocrat of nature, and that was military talent. He was no Napoleon, no Cæsar, no admiral Crichton, but a mere rough, uneducated soldier, trained in the camp, with no ideas beyond camp duty, camp discipline, and the art of war. How has he fallen! Do you hear of President Taylor? Does he occupy the public mind as the Executive should, as some of his predecessors have? We hear nothing of the Executive. Newspapers and correspondents speak only of the bungling diplomacy of Secretary Clayton—of the distressed financier, Mr. Meredith—of the money-making Crawford, who has of late manifested no deep an interest in procuring, with the help of the Attorney General, the back interest of claims that have been paid and settled—of the spotless, specious, speculative Ewing—Oh! what a party! what a cabinet!

It is said that General Taylor is tired of them; if so, we tell him that the country has anticipated his feelings, and the people are heartily sick of them. Let them resign at once before they overwhelm themselves and the Republic in disgrace.—*Union.*

---

THE FUNERAL OF MR. CALHOUN.—The Charleston papers of the 27th are filled with the details of the funeral honors paid to the remains of Mr. Calhoun. There was a universal suspension of business, public and private; the banks, the insurance offices, the counting houses, and stores of every description, being closed. A larger number of persons appeared in procession than has been known to assemble for a similar purpose in the history of that community