

ment of the people. But while the present is bright with promise, and the future full of demand and incentive for the exercise of the intelligence, the past is a record of failure and useless exertions, and of a slow and unimproving march towards a goal which it will eventually fail to fulfill the object of a wise design.

When the grave shall have closed over all, who are now endeavoring to meet obligations of duty, the year 1850 will be recalled as a period filled with anxious apprehensions. A success or a failure in relation to the future of the Union, and the relation to the various interests, institutions, and habits of sentiment and opinion, which may respectively characterize them. Mutual forbearance, respect, and non-interference in our personal actions as citizens, and an enlarged exercise of the moral principles of civility in the public dealing of State with State, whether in legislation or in the execution of laws, are the means to perpetuate that confidence and fraternity, the decay of which is a mere political union, on so vast a scale, could not long survive.

In still another point of view, is an important practical duty suggested by this consideration of the magnitude of the political system, to which our political system, with its corresponding machinery of government, is so rapidly expanding. With increased vigilance does it require us to cultivate the cardinal virtues of public frugality and official integrity and purity. Public affairs ought to be conducted in a settled conviction that the people of the Union, that nothing short of the highest tone and standard of public morality marks every part of the administration and legislation of the General Government. Thus will the federal system, whatever extension time and progress may give it, continue more and more deeply rooted in the love and confidence of the people.

That vice economy, which is so far removed from parsimony as to corrupt and corrupting extravagance—that singular regard for the public good, which will from upon all attempts to approach the treasury with insidious projects of private interest, or unscrupulous practices—these are the cardinal virtues which, in the legislative department, guards against the dangerous temptations incident to overbearing revenue, and in the executive, maintains an unrelenting watchfulness against the tendency of all national expenditures to extravagance—while they are admitted elementary political duties, they are not less essential to the success of the government in view of the more impressive sense of that necessity, which is directly suggested by the considerations now presented.

Since the adjournment of Congress, the Vice President of the United States has passed from this scene of earth, without having attained the period of his life which he had intended to spend in the bosom of his country. Having occupied almost continuously for more than thirty years, a seat in one or the other of the two houses of Congress, and having, by his singular purity and wisdom, secured unbroken confidence and respect from the nation, and a high reputation for his noble and patriotic labors. His loss to the country, under all the circumstances, has been justly regarded as irreparable.

In compliance with the act of Congress of March 3, 1853, the oath of office was administered to him on the 24th of that month, at Annapolis, Md., and he has since that time, with a strength gradually declining, and was hardly sufficient to enable him to return to his home in Alabama, where, on the eighteenth day of April, in the most calm and peaceful way, his long and eminently useful career terminated.

Entertaining unshaken confidence in the young intelligent patriot, who has so long and so nobly served his country, and in the honor and advancement of my country, I hope it may be my privilege to describe and secure, not only your cordial co-operation in great public measures, but also those which it is always so desirable to cultivate between members of co-ordinate branches of the Government.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 5, 1853.
Estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for the Fiscal Year.
The following report comes from the U. S. Treasury Department, Nov. 23, 1853.

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THE DEMOCRAT.

The Largest Circulation in Northern Pennsylvania—1623 Copies Weekly.
S. B. & E. B. CHASE, Editors.
MONTROSE, DECEMBER 15, 1853.

Wanted at this Office
A ton of good Anthracite Coal. Who of our subscribers will do us a favor by drawing a load soon, for cold winter is fast upon us!

The News.
The President's Message, and abstracts of Reports from the Department Bureau, crowd out our usual summary of news and miscellaneous work.

In Congress but little has been done further than preparing business for future action. The appointment of the Standing Committees in the House has been completed. This is one of the most difficult and responsible duties of the Speaker. In the Senate the committees are completed. Several members have given notice of their intention to introduce important Bills, among which we notice with pleasure that our representative, Mr. Grow, has started the Homestead. There will not probably be much done in Congress until after the holidays. Beverly Tucker, editor of the Washington Sentinel, has been elected government printer.

The steamer *George Law* arrived at New York on Monday, with the California mails. Her news is not important. She brings about \$2,000,000—always \$2,000,000—in gold dust. The news of an alliance between England and France, for the purpose of forcing the Czar of Russia to withdraw his troops from the Danubian provinces, which we give in another column from the New York Herald, is very important if true. Such an alliance, for such a purpose, would embroil the whole of Europe in war, and is such an emergency, let the crowned heads "stand firm under."

For the particulars of a destructive conflagration in New York, see another column. The immense publishing house of the Messrs. Harper, and much other valuable property is totally destroyed.

There has been a terrible flare-up in the good city of Erie, in this State. The difficulty grew out of the attempt of the Lake Shore Railroad Company to widen, at Erie, the gauge of their track, to comport with that of the Erie road. Against this the people of Erie protested, and finally a mob of several hundred persons tore up the track, destroyed the bridge, &c. Both parties claim to be right, and more serious disturbances are threatened. The passengers, mails and freight are carried around the seat of war in carriages.

The Collins steamer *Arctic* arrived at New York on Sunday morning last. Her news is not very important. A decided trial of strength between the Russian and Turkish armies was daily expected. The operations of the Turkish army had received the encouragement of eminent military men all over Europe. The English Parliament had been formally prorogued to the 31st of January next.

A serious collision took place on the Erie Railroad, on Thursday evening last, near Jersey City, between the *East Express* going down, and the *Emigrant* train just starting out. Several persons were seriously injured, and one, a brakeman from Owego, was killed. It is stated that in two minutes more the Emigrant train would have been switched off, and out of danger—a fearful lesson of the value of time.

The Homestead.
Mr. GROW, I give notice, that on tomorrow, or some subsequent day, I will introduce a bill for the encouragement of agriculture, and every other branch of industry, by granting to every actual settler upon the public domain one hundred and sixty acres of land.

We clip the above from the proceedings of Congress last week, by which it will be seen that the distinguished member from this District has taken "firm by the forelock" in the introduction of the Homestead into that body this session. This is right—and we have now little doubt that with the determined energy and zeal that Mr. Grow always brings to a measure in which he enlists from heart, the bill will be passed before this long session shall close.

Of all the speeches on that question in Congress last session, none surpassed, if indeed any equalled that of Mr. Grow, and our readers will remember that the bill finally passed the House, and was lost among the anti-progressive of the Senate. But that bill must pass. A measure founded upon such just and beneficent principles, and commended by every instinct of natural right, must finally pass every legislative assembly constituted upon the elective principle. Hence rights will be vindicated through the ballot-box, and those representatives of a free people who attempt to restrain them, will in the end find out the fallacy of their rage.

Destructive Fire in New York.
A destructive fire occurred in New York on Saturday last. We take the following particulars from the Herald of Monday:
The alarming fire of Saturday, in Franklin Square, was the principal topic of conversation yesterday. In all circles and among all classes the destruction of the great publishing house of the Harpers was alluded to, and dwelt upon with much interest. Going to church and coming from church, the loss of employment to one thousand souls, and over a million of dollars, was the absorbing theme of conversation.

Thousands visited the scene of disaster yesterday. From early in the morning till late in the night there was one constant crowd in Cliff street, Franklin Square, and the other streets near by. On the site of Harper's printing house, yesterday, nothing was left standing but one tall chimney, which looked like a monument among the ruins. The fireman had pushed over all the other walls to prevent accident from the falling. During the day a few workmen were engaged getting out the safes, which were buried beneath the huge hills of brick. The entire force of the Fourth ward police were constantly on duty yesterday, guarding the premises against the hordes of thieves prowling about such places in search of valuables. We understand that, in spite of the vigilance of the police, some portions of printing presses, exhausted books, &c., had been carried off as the particulars as to the loss of the Messrs. Harpers, and the insurance upon their property.

Their entire loss of buildings, stock, engines &c., is estimated at \$200,000. In the establishment were thirty-three large power presses, and eleven smaller and other apparatus for publishing. The loss of the sheet stock, is also that of \$250,000—that is, the sheets in the folding room, bound trimmed and ready for the covers.

The Messrs. Harpers are insured for only about \$250,000. Of this \$200,000 is insured in Boston, and the rest is distributed among all the principal companies in the city and country, none of the policies exceeding \$5,000. We have, as yet, been unable to learn the names of these various companies, all the policies being in the hands of the Messrs. Harpers, who were buried beneath the ruins. It is probable they will get out in a few days.

The most valuable property of the establishment, the stereotyped plates, we understand, are in a good state of preservation. These plates are valued at \$400,000, and are not included in the above estimate of \$200,000. This property was stored away in vaults, behind the main sidewalk, both on the Pearl street and Cliff street side, and were blockaded up from the fire by the falling of the walls.

In consequence of the rapidity with which the flames spread throughout the establishment from floor to floor, and building to building, very little work was done. The last issue of the January number of Harper's Monthly Magazine were on the press, and the plates in the stereotype rooms—all these, of course, were lost. Among those plates stored away in the vaults and saved were those of their illustrated Bible, one of the most important publications of the Harpers.

The Harpers have published a card, stating that they will resume their business in a few days. The most extensive loss, next to the Harpers, was sustained by George F. Coole & Co., occupying the wing of the story buildings, Franklin Square, and adjoining Harper's establishment. The Messrs. Coole & Co. have for many years been the publishers of the elementary spelling book, so extensively used in the schools throughout the United States. They also did a heavy business as book binders, and in the manufacturing of their books. As far as we have been able to learn, the entire loss of the Messrs. Coole & Co. is about \$200,000. They are insured for about \$100,000 in the various insurance offices of the city and country. Their entire building and stock are in complete ruins.

The building adjoining Coole & Co. towards Pearl street, No. 231 Pearl, was occupied as a chair factory and paint store. The entire stock was destroyed. The extent of the loss and the insurance, not yet known. Adjoining this, as published yesterday, was No. 319 Pearl street, occupied by W. H. Thayer, wholesale druggist. Here the fire was arrested and part of this building was saved, but the stock from the great flood of water poured upon it, is probably a total loss. We are unable to estimate the loss upon this building or the insurance effected.

Towards the north, the fire extended to No. 337, occupied by John H. Hoppelle, who was damaged by both fire and water. On the opposite side of Pearl street, the greatest loss was the Walton House and the Franklin Square Hotel. The old Walton was the first to ignite, and being dry and combustible, it was soon in flames. The upper stories are entirely burned out. There is yet standing the iron wall and the lower story, but owing to its great age, it will never be repaired, but give place to a new building from the foundation.

It was kept by J. G. Brown as an emigrant boarding house who lost his entire stock of furniture, and was uninsured. His loss is fixed at \$2,000. The building was under a long lease to Philip G. Martin Esq., and his damage fixed at \$10,000. Mr. Martin was fully insured. The basement of the old Walton was occupied as a cork manufactory, by Messrs. Negland & Williams, whose loss was quite heavy, but who are said to be fully insured, in the Etms among others.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior.
Mr. McCall's report is not quite so long as those of the other Secretaries, but too long to be read by more than one person in a thousand. It states that during the past fiscal year 8,819,411 acres have been surveyed, and 10,262,891 acres brought into market, in the same period, there were sold 1,083,495 acres. Located with bounty land warrants, 6,742,500 acres; with other warrants, 9,427; selected for the States, swamp lands, 16,684,253; donated for railroads, &c., 1,427,457; total sold and located, 25,346,992 acres.

The whole number of land warrants issued under existing laws, up to the 30th of Sept. last, were 266,043, of which there were then outstanding 76,947. The quantity of land required to satisfy the latter is 3,778,190 acres. Warrants have been issued under various acts calling for 25,354,640 acres.

The entire area of the public domain is estimated at 1,584,000,000 acres. Within the States exclusive of California it is 41,182,918. The amount received from sales up to June 30th, was \$142,283,478, being \$53,289,462 more than the cost. The report enters into some particulars to prove that these lands which have cost \$88,994,013, will yield the net sum of \$31,181,369.

It is recommended that our present land system be extended over New Mexico and Utah. The operations of the Pension office are spoken of favorably. The applications for pensions under the law of 1853 (widows of revolutionary soldiers married after January 1800) have proved unexpectedly numerous, the appropriation for this was too small. Reference is made to the numerous frauds committed on the Pension office, and many are recommended for guarding against them.

The business of the Patent office goes on with much greater system than it did formerly, notwithstanding the great increase in the number of applications. Still a long period elapsed before final action can be given at all, on applications, and a simplification of the process required by the laws is recommended. Indian disturbances are described as having been less frequent than usual, during the year. The importance of directing their attention to agriculture is strongly urged. Their number amounts to about 222,000, of whom 40,000 are in the States. The operations of many of the Indian departments have been suspended. The operations of the Census Bureau have resulted in the completion of their work, with an unexpended balance of \$16,000 of the appropriation. Nothing has been done with the Mexican Boundary Survey; that of the New Mexican Boundary has been transferred to the State Department.

The removal of the Seminoles from Florida has been transferred to the War Department. The agents are providing places for the removal of the Texas Indians. The plan for removing the California Indians has not succeeded, chiefly owing to the difficulty of procuring a safe place. A reform in the Army and Navy and Interior Departments, which can be done at a cost not exceeding \$5,000,000. Some further improvements in the public buildings, required for the health and convenience of the officers, are recommended.

The estimates of the amounts required for the service of the Department during the year ending June 30th 1854, are \$5,947,783. A Michigan Judge—There used to be a judge in the southern part of Michigan, who had an expression under which he cleared his ignorance and perplexities, and that was that he must decide according to the principles of substantial justice. On one occasion a culprit was undergoing a trial for petit larceny. The officer was an old one, and was one he believed him guilty, but the witness was lamentably deficient. After the arguments were closed, the Judge rose to charge the jury. He had determined to have the fellow convicted, but he could not fortify his purpose by the facts and the law. At last, after floundering about for a long time, he closed in the following summary: "Gentlemen, you never lose sight of substantial justice. That is the end of all law. The evidence may be rather deficient in this case, but gentlemen, you ought, I think, to keep in view the eternal principles of substantial justice. Gentlemen, I think this man ought to be convicted. He is a tall, thin fellow, with a good deal of hair, and I think you had better bring him in guilty any way."

Agricultural Notice.
Those intending to compete for premiums on grain of whatsoever kind, who have collected, or less, specimens of their respective crops with Mr. George Fuller, of Montrose, on or before the third Wednesday of January next, at 12 o'clock (noon), after which time none will be admitted to competition. They will also give statistics of their crops in the winter, together with the statistics of those who assisted in measuring the ground and the crop; also the ground, whether soil or otherwise, the quantity of manure, of plaster, &c., used and how applied, together with the general treatment of the soil and crop. Each proprietor will not sign his statement, but will affix the name with Mr. Fuller in witness whereof he has made his decision. The Judges, S. A. Newton, P. Wells, and Sam'l Targart, will meet at Mr. Fuller's store the third Wednesday of January next, at 12 o'clock, to examine the specimens of grain and make their decision.

Medical Society.
The annual meeting of the Susquehanna County Medical Society will be held in New Montrose, on Wednesday the 4th day of January next, at 10 o'clock A. M. Officers for the ensuing year will be elected and original essays will be read.
G. Z. DIMOCK, Secy.

DONATION NOTICE.
The members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose, being limited in their means to sustain their minister, would ask the assistance of the charitable people of Montrose to aid them in their necessities, with the exception of a donation of \$100.00 per annum. Donations will be thankfully received on Monday the 19th from 3 till 5 o'clock P. M.
Wm. N. STEWARD.