

party must in that case, go into a hopeless minority in both sections of the Union.

I have now given you my notions, in a plain way, of what the democratic party of Pennsylvania is called upon to do in this unhappy state of affairs, and in this its day of peril and dismay. I am most anxious to see that party restored to its former position of greatness and strength, that it may bring back the palmy days of the Republic. Its principles will live, live in the hearts of men, live forever. They are inherent in the nature of men, and in the organization of society. Let them live, then, in the embodiment of that great organization, founded and matured by Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Jackson. American history glows on every page with its wonderful achievements. Let not its glory depart. You, my dear Sir, can do much in this work. The Democracy of the Keystone are looking with anxious hearts. May they not be disappointed. Place them right before the country and the world, and their organization will be invulnerable, their success certain. The nation needs the service and will reward the servants. Let the democratic party now step forward and enter the breach—let it restore peace, and settle the policy of the government upon the plain and triumphant principles of justice and humanity, and it will add another trophy to its victorious career—will rear another monument to its fame, as solid and enduring as the rock of time.

Truly your friend,  
E. B. CHASE.

### Harrisburg Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Dec. 18, 1854.

Thinking that perhaps your readers would like to know what is now going on at the political Babel of the State, I will give you a brief letter on the subject.

Already our town begins to present the usual aspect of "noise and confusion" preparatory to the opening of the session of the Legislature. The Hall of the House is undergoing repairs, and everything about it is being put in ample order, for the flapping of the new era, and the development of those new events which we are all anxiously looking for.

Never before has there been a time when politicians were so sorely puzzled, to speak exactly where the land will lie. Speculation is life of course, and each settles conclusions to suit his own method of reasoning, and generally differs from everybody else. I should not be surprised if several days were spent in vain efforts to organize the House. One thing is certain—no party has a majority in that branch, hence it can be organized only by a coalition of some kind between different elements. It is more probable that coalition will take place between the Whigs and Know-Nothings on the election of Speaker, for two reasons—first because the Whigs generally belong to that order, and second because there is a more natural affinity between them, and because the Democrats never stoop to that kind of expedients for success. It is very certain therefore that the Speaker will be a Know-Nothing Whig, unless there should be anti Know-Nothing Whigs enough to hold the balance of power, who in that case might go over to the Democrats and elect one of that party. The latter event though is not much looked for.

The question of United States Senator attracts more attention than anything else, and it is not a little singular how many there are who feel themselves amply qualified for, and deserving that exalted station. Ex-Gov. Johnston, Conrad, Thad. Stephens and Simon Cameron, are the prominent candidates, however, and one of them will doubtless be elected. Should General Cameron receive the nomination of the Democrats, I should not be surprised if he should be elected, though the complexion of the Legislature would seem to be against it. Cameron well understands how to bring order out of chaos, and how to get votes in a close pinch, and if I judge rightly there is the material in this Legislature. There are so many who are responsible to no particular party, that without political injury, they may vote for whom they please. In such a body, "Simon" is a bad man to beat. We shall see.

Already Governor Pollock's friends are in a snarl, and everything bids fair for an awful time in disposing of the spoils at his command. What his policy will be in the general, no man can conjecture, but if he can succeed in keeping together the discordant elements which brought him into power, he will prove himself a politician of uncommon sagacity. He will find himself surrounded by difficulties the most perplexing and dangerous. Under such circumstances, with no stable elements on which to stand, it will be wonderful if he does not make a complete failure, and find himself, after a while, engaging "where shall I go?"

Col. Jacob Ziegler has purchased the Democratic Union of Geo. M. Luman & Co., and is to be the future conductor of that paper. He formerly edited the Butler Herald, and is a man of considerable ability. He has been the Chief Clerk in the State Department under the present Administration. I have no doubt he will make the Union a good paper.

When the session shall open you may hear from me again and often.

### Washington Correspondence.

Washington, Dec. 16, 1854.

Two weeks of the session has passed, and though little of course has yet been done in Congress, still the history of these two weeks is not without its significance. The anxiously looked for Message of the President has gone forth to the country, and I may safely say that it has generally disappointed the public expectation. Those who expected it to assume the tone of "young America," headlong, impetuous, warlike, abounding in great adjectives and highly wrought declamation, to their disappointment found it of the most pacific tone, assuming but little, and setting forth the affairs of

the country in a very business-like, off-hand manner. Indeed, this is a remarkable feature of the Message, when compared with those which have emanated from the "White House" in past years.

But there is another very large class who are disappointed and puzzled by the message in another respect, composed of extreme men upon both sides of the slavery question. Those who have planned their political fortunes to the policy of repealing the Missouri Compromise, and who by doing so have dug their political graves at home, are most grievously disappointed by the silence of the Message on that question. They expected a "cutting" from the Message—they expected the total annihilation of all opposition—a 44 pounder discharge which should sweep everything before it and place them on the pinnacle of power—which should lift them from out their graves higher than Gabriel's Trumpet will ever raise them, which should summon "the sea" the great political ocean—to give up its dead—which should bray bones and vigor into the valley of dry bones and make them live again. Cruelly disappointed are these poor fellows—for they are left alone in their inanity. The President sternly refuses to honor them with his company, and their sorrows. They are a sorry set of fellows, and may be picked out by a stranger, by the ominous silence and settled melancholy which reigns about their seats, or the measured tread with which they pace the Rotunda, whistling in a kind of abstract air.

"O Jordan is a hard road to travel!"

There is the extreme "Anti" too, who are disappointed in this respect. They expected a strong Nebraska Message, which should "light the fires anew" and bring them to the point where "forbearance ceases to be a virtue." But this class find comfort in drawing the most favorable conclusions from its silence. They conclude that it is given up as a "bad job" and interpret silence to mean a consent that hostilities should cease. So they are making merry over the best of a bad job all around, and occasionally throw out side shots at their more disbelieving opponents, just to be sure with. Any one can see that there is a different atmosphere about "Capitol Hill" from what there was when the adjournment took place last summer. A little time, and the elections, have opened the whole batch,—melted the whole concern, and I think taught men a lesson on legislation, laboring their constituents, and over the heads of their constituents, which will not soon be forgotten.

Last Wednesday, Max of Indiana made a speech in Committee of the Whole on his Bill excluding Slavery from Kansas and Nebraska. The bill is a transcript of the Missouri prohibition. His speech was a most uncomfortable one to the Nebraska man, who now very strongly deprecate any allusion to the matter. They say we must have peace, and beg possibly that the subject may drop. They doubtless have it mentioned, especially in the case of the Kansas election. "It makes them nervous, but the Judiciary was inexorable. I do not believe the Administration would offer much resistance to Max's Bill, if they were once convinced that his message would settle the difficulty. There is an evident and commendable anxiety for peace at all quarters. Stephens of Georgia, and Campbell of Ohio, had a brilliant set-to Thursday last, in which the former tried to prove that Nebraska had nothing to do with the northern elections. It was an interesting debate, but in the end the Georgian was driven to the wall. The subject turned on the power of Congress under the Constitution to prohibit slavery in the territories. Campbell demanded of Stephens if such a power existed in the Constitution, and after a good deal of quibbling he declined answering the question. He was fairly caught for if he answered yes, his cards of "popular sovereignty" would fall to the ground, while if he answered no, he would disprove the doctrine of the South, that Congress is bound to legislate for the protection of slavery in the territories, and therefore has full power over the subject. It was a "tight spot" and the Georgian carried.

The President sent the nomination of C. L. Sevier as Governor of the Monmouth territory of Utah, to the Senate last Wednesday in place of the prophet Brigham Young. It is said that Brigham claims an appointment to govern the same from the Almighty, and declares his people shall not yield to human authority at Washington. The appointment of a military man, of skill and genius, is thought to have some reference to this dispute between the President and the People.

Senator Badger has made a speech on his Bill to increase the pay of members of Congress and Justices of the Supreme Court, fifty per cent. His statistics as to the expense of living &c., were quite conclusive that a change might safely be made. The history of the legislation in this matter of Congressional compensation is this: By the act of 22d September, 1789, the pay of a member of Congress was fixed at six dollars a day, and six dollars for every twenty miles of travel. The act to continue in force till the 4th of March 1795, after which the compensation was to be seven dollars a day, and seven for every twenty miles. The latter rate was limited to the 4th of March, 1796. On the 19th of the same month a reduction was made to the rate fixed in 1789. By the act of the 19th of March, 1816, a change was effected from a salary of an annual compensation, the presiding officer of each branch receiving \$3,000 and each member \$1,500, the mileage system remaining as before. The unpopularity of this measure secured its repeal on the 8th February, 1817, the act of repeal to take place after the close of that session of Congress. By the act 22d January, 1818, the rate now observed was established, of eight dollars a day and eight dollars for every 20 miles of travel between the members' residence and the capital, the President pro tem of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, receiving each eight dollars a day additional.

Last Tuesday, Wallbridge of New York led off in an able and eloquent speech on his resolution removing the duty from foreign coal.

His speech was of a free trade character, and put the Whigs, who are so anxious to avoid the raising of old issues at this time, to the rack. He argued with great effect, fortified by statistics, that the real interest of this country could be found in the competition of the world on our own markets, and that there is no Tariff duty operated only as taking that amount from the consumers and placing it, like a gratuity, in the hands of the producers. He showed that from the wonderfully increasing consumption of coal in all the departments of social and business life, making the greatest demand for the article, no danger could be apprehended from foreign competition, but that on the contrary the market would be stimulated thereby, while a slight decrease in price would still further stimulate the consumption. The subject bids fair to open the whole question of the Tariff before the country. Let it come. [Pars.]

It has been beautifully said, "the veil that covers the face of futurity is woven by the hand of Mercy." Soak not to raise that veil, therefore, for sadness might be seen to shade the brow that fancy had arrayed in smiles of gladness.

The Susquehanna County Medical Society will hold its nineteenth annual meeting in Montrose on Wednesday the 23d day of January next at 10 o'clock A. M.

Physicians Charges will be the subject for consideration. The present high price of all the necessities of life renders the subject rather interesting. A full attendance is requested.

E. Z. DIMOCK, Secy.

Donation Visit.

The friends of the Rev. David Dimock are respectfully invited to attend a Donation Party at his place of residence, on the afternoon and evening of Friday, Dec. 23d.

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All that certain piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the township of Oxford, Susquehanna County, and bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of Geo. Brownell's land, thence south to the middle of Lick creek so called, thence down the said creek to the northeast corner thereof to the middle of another creek, commonly called the northern branch of the Tunkhannock, thence down said creek to the said Geo. Brownell's land, thence north thirty degrees with said line to the tract of logging containing forty acres, by the same more or less, with the appurtenances, I framed house, 1 small shed, some fruit trees, and mostly improved.

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