The Press.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1857.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR,
WILLIAM F. PACKER,
OF LYCOMING COUNTY.

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT,
WILLIAM STRONG,
OF BERKS COUNTY.
JAMES THOMPSON,
OF ERIE COUNTY.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
NIMROD STRICKLAND,
OF CHESTER COUNTY.

To our Subscribers.

We have several notes calling for extra copies of last Saturday's "PRESS." Not a copy of the whole edition was left at 12 o'clock on that day. Those who desire the back numbers of this paper, we regret to add, cannot be supplied. Of ten thousand printed of the first number of the "PRESS," not one remains, except those we have filed.

Hon. John Buchanan Floyd and the Reservation at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

At a late hour last evening our correspondent at Washington forwarded us the letter which appears in THE PRESS of this morning, giving a full account of the sale, by order of the Secretary of War, in accordance to section four of the last navy appropriation bill, of a certain military site, or reservation, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. The Chicago *Press* and the New York *Tribune* have both made serious complaints about this sale; and it is quite right that all the facts should be known to the public. The *Tribune* complains that there was no auction—no public sale; but *forgets* to state, that had there been such an auction or public sale, the result would have been a combination among the interested parties by which the Government, instead of receiving the sum of $7 50 per acre, fixed by the Secretary in his instructions to Major EASTMAN and Mr. HEISKELL, (the Government agents,) would have received only $1.25 per acre, as has been the case heretofore. The agents made a sale at $12 per acre, $5 more than the maximum fixed by the Secretary. The result, so far from being satisfactory to our opponents, is made the pretext for an outcry which is scarcely worthy of serious reply; and the facts presented by our correspondent are more than sufficient to the Secretary's vindication.

Governor FLOYD's administration of the War Department has thus far been eminently wise, liberal, and just. We question if any man could have been selected for that position who, by nature and by inclination, was better adapted to its various duties. He is bold, prompt, and resolute in action. No claimant is ever turned away from his door without a hearing. No appeal to his sense of right is ever unheeded. Keenly alive to the honor of the Administration, he would cut off his right hand before lending himself to any combination which, while affecting that Administration, would discredit himself. If ever the New York *Tribune* was called upon to repent an act of injustice to a political opponent, we predict that it will be so called upon in the present case, and we have no doubt it will freely acquit Gov. FLOYD of all censure in any part of the transaction of which it complains.

SUBSTANTIAL THOUGHTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL MEN.

The policy of intimidation in politics is the worst thing in the world. It helps nobody and harms everybody. When one class in any State seeks for special privileges, it is sure to excite rivalry in another class; and when threats are added to the endeavor, this rivalry is certain to breed revenge. So, if a State is arrayed against a sister State, or a section against another section, argument fast disappears before denunciation, and angry alienation closes up the scene. The South, in her moments of excitement, is never able to help herself—her phrenzy only adds fuel to the northern fires of fanaticism—but it is when, in a serious and silent mood of preparation, she can fortify herself from her own resources, and lay deep the foundations of her independence. Such, in our opinion, is her present attitude. We do not for a moment encourage the idea that any one quarter of our beloved country *can* exist apart from any other section, even without doing so in a state of exasperation. But it is enough that a serious effort is making in the South to this end, and that there is confidence in its triumph. We have a thousand evidences of the truths of this assertion—the absence of Southern merchants from our marts of trade—their withdrawal from northern watering places—their establishment of wholesale warehouses in their own great cities—their attempts to organize lines of steamships between the Southern and the European ports—their successful manufacturers in iron, and in cotton, &c.

It is at this conjuncture of affairs in the commercial world that we find a marked and happy change in the political feelings of the northern and western States. The demagogues who have made agitation their business have been driven from the public stage, or occupy a part of it, in a state of despondency and disappointment. Nor are the efforts of the Southern people conducted in a bitter spirit. Their silence is ominous of their success, and it is clear they do not intend to excite alarm in the free States. We have, then, a plain duty to perform. And first, let us expel from our parties all sectionalism. Let us, as Northern men and Western men, leave slavery to those who have inherited it, and whose right it is to enjoy, and whose obligation it is to protect it. To do otherwise (as all the past, early and late, has shown with eloquent and costly experience) is to affront our brothers, to degrade the slave, to damage the free black, and, above all, to injure ourselves. The fitting time to begin the good work is now. What true patriot will say no to the proposition?

ANOTHER PIONEER OF PENNSYLVANIA GONE.

Hon. ALEXANDER M'CALMONT died at Franklin, Venango county, on Monday morning last, the 10th of August, in the 72d year of his age. Judge M'CALMONT was once a pioneer of the West. He was an early settler of Venango, and his own advancing footsteps have marked the progress of that flourishing region. He filled, during his career, many an important position, beginning with editing a Democratic paper, and after occupying various county offices, closing his relation to public affairs by acting as President Judge over the Courts of the Clarion district. Judge M'CALMONT was greatly esteemed. He has left behind him a most thriving family. His two sons, Hon. JOHN S. M'CALMONT, (who now occupies his father's place on the bench, in his father's old district,) and ALEXANDER M'CALMONT, Esq., of Pittsburgh, are among the rapidly rising men of our State, and belong to a school that has done everything for western Pennsylvania.

"THE HERALD OF FREEDOM,"

This is the name of the Republican paper published at Lawrence, Kansas. It seems to have fallen under the grave displeasure of the extremists because it will not join in the abuse of Governor WALKER and the friends of the Constitution in Kansas. It is violent enough, however, going Topeka and all the other absurdities with a relish. One gleans, however, something of its real feelings in the following article in the issue of the 8th of August:

"HOW TO RESTORE PEACE TO KANSAS.—Let the people alone! It is this continuous effort of a foreign power to govern them that makes all the disturbance. Gov. Walker's reply to the ruffians who applied to him for troops to enforce the bogus laws when he first came, was sensible and to the point. Said he: 'If the people made the laws they must enforce them themselves; if they did not, they are not fit to be enforced.' This remark, which was repeated throughout the Territory, rendered him somewhat popular until he came to Lawrence with the troops. Touch Lawrence and you touch all Kansas. Gov. Walker has not attacked Lawrence, and does not intend to. He is too much of an American for that; but the '*big boo*' that he made at so small game as the Lawrence charter, rather alarmed those at a distance. But the people here never lost a day's work nor an hour's sleep on his account. The troops are now gone, quietly as they came, without causing the excitement of a travelling caravan."

We have two excellent synoptical sketches of sermons preached in this city yesterday, reported by one of our corps, which we will publish during the week; one from the Rev. JOHN CHAMBERS, the other from the Rev. T. H. STOCKTON, both eminent in the ministry of Philadelphia.

New Presidential Mansion.

We have yet to open the first newspaper which takes ground against the necessity of a new Presidential Mansion.

CAN'T BE HELPED.

A Republican friend of ours—a personal friend, of course—reports to us an urgent request preferred to him by a political brother of his in western New York, to change the general election day in Pennsylvania from the fatal second Tuesday in October till some time about the Christmas holidays. The mischief to be remedied by the great reform is the bad effects of our election reports upon the progressives in the Northern States. They don't like the conservatism of the Keystone, they say, and they can't stand the rebound of their popular enthusiasms, when they strike against the Gibraltar of the Democracy. They think the political sentiment of the Union ought to split exactly at the seam along Mason and Dixon, but they can't get at it while the mountains and valleys of Pennsylvania, stretching all the way between the line and Lake Erie, play breakwater against the rising floods of Northern fanaticism. They can neither get along with us nor without us, and they can hardly hold their own headway at home under the damaging influence of our intractable obstinacy. Our friend asks us what encouragement he can safely give to the petition. Our answer must be courteous, but it must also be decided—we can do nothing for him, for certain reasons, of which the following are rather a hint than a complete sample:

Pennsylvania is in about the right place, where she is, both in geography and politics. She lies in the region of the Union's heart, safely lodged against the backbone of the Alleghanies, with the Atlantic and the Lake country well placed within her grasp. In this position she has behaved well in the Old Union, from the day that WASHINGTON was inaugurated till JAMES BUCHANAN took the succession.

She never yet voted wrong in the federal *elections, if success is the standard*. Somehow every thing has gone well with the nation and all the world concerned, while Pennsylvania has kept her place and done just what she pleased, uninfluenced by the ups and downs among her neighbors.

She has been steady, consistent, persistent, and all the time herself and nothing else. Constancy looks to a blind man very like Obstinacy, and Steadiness may be mistaken by a person *subject to fits for Stupidity; but if a community* has the luck to start right it may make progress very decidedly and effectually without going through revolutions to effect it. Things can go ahead by keeping straight on when they are set right, and will succeed something better than by turning summersets in the track. Progress requires Conversion in those who are not in the right course, but regular uniform growth is the order for things that are all right *at the start*.

Before we consent to reform, we must be convicted of error, and as at present disposed we must wait for the proof before we undertake the operation.

We say that Pennsylvania has been a full, active partner in every enterprise and every action of the Republic, which has given it its present prosperity and the assured prospect of its continuance. We appeal to the documents, and there rest our case.

As for the spirit, policy, and principles of her people, what change should they undergo to answer the reasonable demand of the age, and to meet the responsibility of their position?

They take care of themselves. Is not that a good way of doing their duty to other people? The stable people of the Keystone buy only what they can pay for and cannot produce for themselves. They sell only what they produce by their own industry, and do not need for their own consumption. They are not hucksters. A quiver in the stock market of London does not send a shock to the heart of her business. If the Rothschilds drop the key of their safe into the Atlantic, it does not shake the Alleghany mountains, or trouble the trout in their streams. She pays seventy-five per cent. of the value of all her commodities to her laborers, and invests the other twenty-five, less a trifle, for economical support in new productive improvements, which also goes to the laborer.

She beats the Empire State in representative population two Congressmen every ten years ever since the year eighteen hundred and thirty, and will hold on at that rate until she adds Empire to her other title of Keystone State of the Union. She marches forward at this rate on this route because she employs her capital in the development of her own materials, and hands it over bodily to the citizens of her home prosperity.

Pennsylvania is independent in fact as well as in the declaration of Seventy-Six—politically independent of all the world including her sister States, and industrially and commercially independent of the jobbers in stocks, wars, and revolutions, on both sides of the Atlantic.

Her people are moral because they are industrious, and they are quiet and conservative because they are right and know it well.

She is German, very German, and just as democratic, *but nobody ever charged her with being* either devilish or deranged, nor is she desperate in anything. Scare up the wildest sort of Yankee excitement, heat it red-rot, stir it with stump oratory till it boils over, then bring it over to Pennsylvania, and we will warrant you that it will get cool enough to be handled without gloves by the time its surges reach old Berks, or the healthy region of the Tenth Legion.

She has a spark-catcher and a damper for every crazy locomotive she catches in the chase of the "illimitable perspective." But for real reforms that can be woven into the web of the common life of a healthy people, where has she a superior? Will some one eloquent in the use of contemptuous epithets please to lay his finger upon the spot where she is at fault?

Some other day we will give the due attention to the progressiveness of Pennsylvania. *We will point to the milestones which register* her steady onward advance, and will feel as proud of the record as we are happy in its facts.

So we say to our Republican friend that is jogging us to mend our pace and alter the direction of our pathway, that we can't accommodate him.

We think it is best for all parties to hear from Pennsylvania about the middle of October before they go to the polls in November. They will know all the better what it is best to do about the Presidential Election, which will be as important hereafter as they have been fortunate heretofore under her wholesome direction.

THE EQUALITY OF THE RACES AGAIN.

We spoke, a few days ago, of the unconquerable repugnance of the white race against all efforts to confer political and social equality upon the negro. The following paragraphs from the Madison (Wisconsin) *Argus*, of the 11th of August, show that what was predicted in our article of Iowa on this subject has transpired, and that Wisconsin will give the same proposition, shortly to be voted upon in that State, a still more emphatic rebuke:

"IOWA CONSTITUTION—NEGRO SUFFRAGE OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED.—The new Constitution recently passed in Iowa has been adopted by a majority of probably 5,000 or 6,000. The vote was light and strict party lines were not observed. The Republicans generally voted for it, as did many Democrats. It is a liberal and fair instrument. The principal objection to it was a clause in the bill of right, which nullifies the Fugitive Slave Law. But knowing it to be void, many national men voted for it, notwithstanding.

"From indications thus far, negro suffrage is overwhelmingly defeated. For instance, Scott county gave *322 majority for the Constitution* but 1,245 majority *against* negro suffrage. Jasper county gives 400 majority for the Constitution, but almost unanimous against negro suffrage. And so it is throughout the State.

"This is an indication of western sentiments upon this subject. It almost certainly declares the result on the same question in this State. There, as here, the Republican party accepted it as the issue—*the Democrats openly avowed themselves against* it. The result is completely satisfactory. Negroes cannot vote in the white West, yet awhile.

New Railroad from Philadelphia to New York.

The Newark *Mercury* says that the New Jersey Railroad Company intend asking for an extension of their branch road from Millstone to Lambertville, with a design of connecting it at Philadelphia with the southern and western routes. This road, the *Mercury* thinks, will form the great connecting link between New York and the South and West. The distance between New York and Philadelphia, by this route, would be about the same as by the present road, and would create a very strong competition, greatly to the advantage of the public, but not adding much to the benefits of the companies, we should think. For the carriage of heavy freight, the lower road would perhaps have the advantage, but passengers would be apt to prefer the upper.

ADVANTAGE OF FOREIGN TRAVEL.—An elderly lady, who, with her daughter, has but recently returned from a rather rapid journey through England, France, part of Germany, and Italy, was asked, the other day, if they had visited Rome, and she replied in the negative. "La! Ma, yes we did," said the daughter, "that was the place where we bought the bad stockings!"

THE UNION MEN, NORTH AND SOUTH.

The most cheering indication of the political future is the present vigorous and healthy movement in the South against the advocates of extreme measures on the slavery question. This movement includes many, if not most, of the leading men in the Southern States. It is based upon an indestructible principle. It will be at last irresistible, because this principle cannot be successfully antagonised. If there were now pending before Congress and the country a new series of uncompleted legislation on the territorial question, the friends of the Union in the South would be in a hopeless minority. The efforts of the fanatics of the North would in that event stimulate counter purposes in the South; and the feeling aroused on the one side would be retaliated by the most vehement denunciations on the other. Happily, however, the accepted policy of the Government and of the great majority of the people is a permanent and peaceful policy. Every real friend of the Union cannot fail to see that it has already taken the vitality out of the Abolition organization of the North and West, and that the leaders who were so sanguine of sectional success in 1856 have been driven, by this policy, from their assumed vantage ground, and compelled to take refuge in local minorities. There never was a period when, in our opinion, all the just rights of the South were more certain of protection than at the present; and, therefore, there never was a time when the Union men of the whole nation could present a bolder or more imposing front.

But the organization of the Union element in the South will not only produce good results in that quarter. It will also be responded to from the North and the West. We remember well the exclamation of a Southern statesman, in a moment of great peril, when the waves of Abolition seemed about to sweep away all the guarantees of the Federal Constitution. "There would be no hope, no motive for the Southern people to preserve this Union of States, *if they had not a band of brothers and of friends amon, the Union men of the free States.*" This band, small for at least ten years past, is now grown strong again. It is increasing its force every day. The disintegration of certain parties has vastly added to its advancing column. The memories of WEBSTER and of CLAY impel and invoke thousands to its spotless standard. It is extending its conquering legions over all the Northern and Western regions. Men who opposed us last year are in its ranks this day, and are glad to forget past grievances in an earnest co-operation for future nationality. Such is the augury and the aspect of the present.

Union men of the South! your cause is good. It is good for your own welfare and for ours. Your fidelity encourages us, and our consistency will encourage and strengthen you!

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—To-night the Orchestra will play the overtures to "Tancredi" and "Fra Diavolo," thus contrasting Rossini and Auber, the Italian and French schools. An agreeable feature will be a duet by Miss Richings and Madlle. Scheller. These ladies will also sing solos. Signor Vieri gives an air from "La Somnambula," and another from "La Traviata." Mr. Frazer will sing "Bonny Dundee," and an English ballad.

SANFORD'S OPERA HOUSE.—The second week of the season commences this evening. An entire change of performance is to take place. The farce of "The Virginia Mummy," a laughable extravaganza, will be preceded by Ethiopein Minstrelsy, by Sanford's Opera *Troupe*. There will also be dancing by the Sanford children. The entertainments are very popular with our citizens, and Mr. Sanford has exactly hit the taste of the public.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE.—Mr. *Nagle has been* so well patronized in the first week of his juvenile actors performing that he has determined to run them through a six night's re-engagement. The Wren Family are very clever, particularly the youngest, little Frederick and small Martha.—There is some singing, wonderful from such mere children, and capital dancing by little Julia Christine.

RE-OPENING OF THE ARCH STREET THEATRE.—On Saturday evening Mr. Wheatley commenced *his fall season here. The house*, which will now accommodate about a fifth greater audience than before the recent alterations, was quite crowded. Every seat was occupied. The re-construction of the auditorium has been executed with skill and taste, and (though the heat was considerable) the ventilation has been as well cared for as possible. With all the box doors open, the atmosphere was less warm than might have been expected on such night. The principal features of the performance were the appearence of Mrs. Edward L. Davenport and *Mr. Wheatley, as Letitia Hardy and Doricourt*, in the old-fashioned but still popular play of "The Belle's Stratagem." (Mrs. Davenport, by the way, must not be confounded with another Mrs. D., late Lizzie Weston, who has recently belonged to Burton's, at New York.) Nothing can be more absurd than the whole plot of "The Belle's Stratagem." As the name indicates, it is a scheme by a romantic demoiselle to make her future husband in love with her. To effect this amiable purpose she passes herself off, first as a raw, vulgar, ignorant, and loquacious country girl, and then, at a masquerade, where her face is covered, as a fascinating lady of fashion, graceful, accomplished, companionable, and brilliant. As if this plot was not enough, *Doricourt*, the lover, feigns madness, to escape a marriage with the young lady, who has thus alternately disgusted and charmed him. The lady's father feigns illness to induce Doricourt to marry *Letitia Hardy*, and, at the end, both of the young people are made happy, in the usual stage manner. Mrs. Davenport fully entered into the spirit of her part, looking and playing it well, and being most tastefully and becomingly attired. She is a charming actress, and has, for the last few years, been considered one of the leading "stars" of the English theatres. The part of *Letitia Hardy*, albeit difficult, has generally been a favorite with actresses. Besides Miss Foote (now Countess Dowager of Harrington) and Miss Ellen Tree, in our own time, this part has been played by Mrs. Davison, and by the celebrated Mrs. Jordan. Its ruling idea has been conveyed from Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," and from Murphy's farce of "The Citizen." Mrs. Davenport, who achieved a decided success, was the recipient of a great number of bouquets—a foolish presentation, by the way, as it interrupts the business of the play. Mr. Wheatley took the part of *Doricourt*, which Elliston was supposed to have made his own until Charles Kemble also assumed it. Mr. Wheatley played it very spiritedly all through, and we have to add that the manner in which he and Mrs. Davenport danced the minuet in the Masquerade scenes could scarcely be surpassed. Not even professional dancers could have done it much better. If Mr. Wheatley's *Doricourt* were a trifle less impressive and syllabic in delivery, it would be much better. *Doricourt* is a dashing, impulsive, high-spirited man of the world, and should eschew the solid utterance of *Joseph Surface*. On the rest of the characters our opinion may be briefly stated. *Old Hardy* was naturally played by that reliable actor, Mr. Thayer. Mr. Dolman was too cold, and set, and sententious for *Sir George Touchwood*. His bride, *Lady Frances*, has little to do, except look handsome, and Miss H. Baker did as little and looked as pretty as possible. *Mrs. Racket* (who is used very badly in not being provided with a husband ere the curtain falls) was agreeably rendered by Miss Cruise. A well-established public favorite, Mr. J. S. Clarke, was very enthusiastically greeted when he appeared before the audience as *Flutter*—one of the most unnatural characters ever written. A scandal-monger, a tale-bearer, and a liar—such a person would be kicked out of decent company at the present time. Yet, in the play, though he abused and half-choked, he figures all through, an amusing creature, who is scarcely worth criticism, in a moral view. Mr. Clarke, who has the true *comica vis*, contributed agreeably to the success of the piece. The great merit of Liston, so long the best low comedian on the English stage, was that he did and said the most mirth-creating things with a face of imperturbable gravity. *He* was serious and natural, and the apparent *unconsciousness of being amusing* made the jest. After the play there was a complimentary call for the company, and, the curtain being raised, the *tableau* received a good deal of applause. Mrs. Davenport was finally, led across the stage by Mr. Wheatley, who afterwards complying with the loudly expressed demands of the audience, thanked them for their past patronage, assured them that he would endeavor to merit its continuance by taking a higher flight in the drama's name, referred to the improvements effected in the theatre during the recess, and announced that Mr. E. L. Davenport would make his appearance on Monday (the present) evening. He has selected the part of *St. Pierre*, in "The Wife," and will play it *to his own accomplished lady's Mariana*. On the whole, the Arch street theatre has re-opened brilliantly, with a good company, and a prosperous season may be anticipated

NATIONAL THEATRE.—Christy and Wood's minstrels commence a short season here this evening. We need scarcely say how popular they have been in New York. They open with a concert in their own manner, followed by one *a la Maretzek*, in which George Christy will travestie the handsome conductor. Then comes a burlesque on the famous Rochester Knockings, and the conclusion will be a pleasant farce which had a long run in New York, entitled "New Year's Calls." The programme is to be different each evening.

The treasurer of the State of Florida, Mr. Auston, has recently passed through Washington with funds to pay the interest due next month on the seven per cent. internal improvement bonds of that State.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Sale of the Reservation at Fort Snelling, near St. Paul, Minnesota.

WASHINGTON, 4 P. M., August 16, 1857.

The Secretary of War, May 25th, 1857, instructed Major Seth Eastman, U. S. army, and Wm. King Heiskell, Esq., Washington city, to visit in person the military reserve at Fort Snelling, in the Territory of Minnesota, to examine and ascertain how far it had been made valuable by Government improvements; also, whether any actual, *bona fide* settlers were upon the reservation, who had made valuable improvements thereon, and had settled there with the expectation, superinduced by the Government agents, of having the pre-emption right extended to them, and whether, under all the circumstances, they should be allowed to purchase not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres each, covering their improvements at the Government price of $1.25 per acre. They were directed to report to the War Department, on both points, as soon as practicable, after they had obtained the desired information, so that they might receive further instructions.

They were further ordered to sell all that part of the reservation not included in any tract to which an actual settler had a just claim, either at public auction after giving due notice in the principal papers in the northwest, or at private sale in tracts or lots of forty acres each, so as to enable persons of small means to purchase, or in whole, whichever in their judgment was deemed best, but in neither case at less than $7 50 per acre. They were to examine Fort Snelling with reference to its being retained as a military depot for the use of the Government; and if necessary for such purpose, they are to reserve from sale the buildings and such land as they considered suitable, not less than forty acres. *They were not to enforce to sale that part* of the reserve which extended over a grave-yard and church, belonging to and claimed by the Catholic congregation worshipping there, not exceeding twenty-five acres, but to allow the same to remain in possession and under the control of said congregation, with the understanding that it was not to be used or disposed of for any other purpose.

The report to the War Department from Fort Snelling, dated June 10th, 1857, states that the agents, agreeably to instructions, had visited and carefully examined the military reservation at that place and the improvements thereon made by the United States and citizens. The improvements made by the Government were for military purposes, and of a character to render them almost valueless for any other. The fort and out-buildings upon the reserve were erected many years ago, and, owing to its isolated condition, could not have been built with any degree of permanency, which, with the great lapse of time since their erection, leaves them now in a dilapidated condition. The agents are confident that all the improvements could not be sold for more than $20,000, and are of the opinion that, were they to be sold by themselves, *they would not bring more than half* that sum. As an evidence of this, they respectfully refer to the sale of Fort Atkinson, which was sold some three years ago at public sale for less than $4,000. They would also refer to the improvements at the late Winnebago agency, which sold two years ago for about $7,000, and this too with a guarantee that the purchaser should have the right to enter the land at $1 25 per acre. Their improvements cost the Indian Department over $100,000, and were all made since 1848; and the *Military Reserve at Fort Winnebago was sold lately* at $3,50 per acre, whilst the land owners were asking and selling their lands in the neighborhood at $50 and upwards per acre. They find upon the reservation, extensive improvements made by citizens, the cost of which cannot be less than $30,000, which date back some twenty years ago. They also find that they are all owned and in the possession of the fort sutler, Franklin Steele, Esq.

Many of the improvements were made by himself with the knowledge and consent of the officer *in command* at the time. They are positive, therefore, in saying that Mr. Steele is the only claimant upon the same made by citizens. With a view to the best manner of disposing of this reservation under the instructions of the War Department, they came to the conclusion that unless they sold the same at private sale, it would in all probability be sold at little, if any, over one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and for the following reasons:

In 1852, 20th August, Statutes at Large, Vol. 10, page 36, Congress passed a law reducing the then reservation (of which this is a part), and directed that the Commissioner of the General Land Office should sell that not then wanted for military purposes, at public sale. The same was surveyed and advertised in the principal papers throughout the country. Three months' notice was given, and the lands proclaimed for sale. In 1853, at Stillwater, and all then offered were sold for $1.25 per acre. That part of the old reservation on the west side of the river was not sold, in consequence of the maps not having reached the land office on the day of sale. Persons went on and made claims without the authority of law, and then appealed to Congress for relief, and on the 2d of March, 1853, an act was passed allowing each claimant to pre-empt not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, at $1.25 per acre. Some of this land embraced a portion of the Falls of St. Anthony, and had improvements made upon the same by the Government, and was much more valuable than any part of the present reservation. The agents also collected such information in regard to the sale of other reservations as their time, under the circumstances, would admit, and found that they seldom brought over $1.25 per acre when sold at public sale.

They ascertained that combinations were being formed for the purpose of purchasing these lands at the Government price, and were satisfied that justice could not be done the Government unless they sold at private sale; and after a careful examination of the property they estimated its value at $90,000, which is more than $12 per acre, and five dollars more than the maximum fixed by the Secretary of War.

The question then arose as to the improvements made by Mr. Steele. They could not admit that he was such a settler as would come under the instructions of the War Department, for he admitted that he never had been induced to believe that the pre-emption right would be extended to him, but they could not conceal the fact that he had expended in improvements a large amount of money, and that to give another the right to purchase the reservation would effectually compel him to lose all that he had expended. They, therefore, came to the conclusion that justice required them to give Mr. Steele the refusal at the price they had agreed upon. They accordingly made him the offer. He proposed to give $75,000. They informed him that they would not dispose of it for a less sum than $90,000, at which price he accepted it, and they closed a contract at that price.

They have further to report that they have examined Fort Snelling with reference to its being retained as a military depot, and became satisfied that the time had passed for it to be useful as a military depot or fort. It is so far from the frontier that it is utterly useless as a fort, and to keep it as a military depot would subject the United States to a heavy annual expense, and the Government can have their stores forwarded, if necessary, *through a commission merchant, cheaper than by* keeping this point as a depot. There is but one other military post in Minnesota Territory, which is situated on the Minnesota River above Fort Snelling, and as steamboats run up to that post, it does not appear necessary for a reshipment at Fort Snelling. As instructed, they reserve from sale twenty acres upon which the Catholics have built a church and have a burial ground, and have reserved for the Protestants a burial ground of ten acres. No mention of this was made in the instructions, but they came to the conclusion that the Secretary's attention had not been called to the circumstances. They would recommend that both reservations be conveyed to the respective denominations at $1 25 per acre. This report is signed by Major Eastman and Mr. Hieskell, the agents of the Government.

(Correspondence of the PRESS.)

WASHINGTON, August 15, 1857.

Washington is in the midst of its very dullest month, and the weather has been so extremely warm for the past two or three days that the few people left in town are rarely seen upon the streets. When September arrives, however, we may expect active preparations for the coming session of Congress, which bids fair to be a brief one. In some future letter I shall give an account of the public measures spoken of as those which are to be pressed to an early passage. At present I shall only refer to the accommodations which will probably be provided for the large concourse of people that makes the Federal Metropolis its abiding place during the sittings of Congress. The National Hotel, (which was by far the most commodious and pleasantly situated house of the city,) the United States, the St. Charles, and the Murray House, are closed. There are open at present, with very few guests at each, Brown's, Willard's and Kirkwood's.

It is said that the National Hotel, which as a public house has been ruined by the disease which goes by its name, will be remodelled for a theatre, the only theatre which Washington could boast of having been burned to the ground shortly after Mr. Buchanan's Inauguration. The St. Charles will be reopened in October but for a brief period, the square, a portion of which it occupies, being required for the extension of the Capitol park, which will be a magnificent addition to the new Capitol. The United States, called last winter the International, is refitted and will be opened in the fall. There are several boarding houses, self-styled hotels, which drag on at this time a sickly existence; and for boarding houses, themselves, their name is legion. Mr. Winder, as I stated in my letter once before, offers the site of the UNION BUILDINGS for the erection of a new hotel.

Although it is well known that there is nothing so much wanted as a first-rate hotel, I doubt whether Winder's offer will be accepted.

Commander John M. Berrien has been ordered to the navy yard at Portsmouth, N. H., to relieve Commander Pickering.

The Department yesterday received official information of the death of Surgeon Robert T. Barry of this city.

The following engineers have been ordered to the U. S. steam-frigate Saranac, now at Philadelphia, preparing for sea for the Pacific Squadron: Chief Engineer, Theodore Zeller; 1st Assistant, R. C. Potts; 2d Assistants, H. A. Ramsey and Wm. Hunt; 3d Assistants, N. B. Littig, E. A. C. Duplaine, and W. R. Schley.

The President has issued orders for the withdrawal of certain lands on the Suwanee river, Florida, to be reserved from sale for naval purposes. These are yellow pine lands, and the quantity thus withdrawn is between 20,000 and 25,000 acres.

The superintendent of the U. S. wagon roads to the Pacific this morning received a letter, dated August 4, from the gentleman in charge of the second division of El Paso and Fort Yuma wagon road. He is remaining at Des Arcs, Arkansas, in consequence of the sickness of several members of his party. He expects to be able to leave on the morning of the 4th, and to push on as rapidly as possible. Col. Leach left Des Arcs, as before stated, on the 28th of July, to overtake the advance party, which must by this time have reached Preston.

The President has directed the removal of the land office for the northwestern land district, as provided for by the act of July 8, 1856.

The location heretofore selected—Opiibua—was found unsuitable; and, under the present order of the President, it will be established at Otter-tail city.

The Interior Department has received intelligence to the effect that Col. Nobles left the Sioux Agency, Minnesota, on the 5th inst., to rejoin his party at the head of the Cottonwood river, and intends to push forward to the Missouri river at all hazards.

The Indian Bureau has just received advices from the Upper Platte Indian Agency, dated Raw-Hide Butte, July 6, from which I extract the following:

"A report has reached me within the last week that the Crow tribe has commenced hostilities against the Sioux, and has made a foray with a war party on the Platte, forty miles above this post, and has stolen a large number of horses (fifty-seven, as stated) belonging to whites and Indians. They threaten further outrages.

"I can get no facts or particulars, and have only the Sioux version of the story. No white has come in, nor sent me any account of the affair. It is all a mystery to me; for, in May last, the Crow and Sioux tribes were friendly and well disposed towards each other, and I can get no clue for this sudden outbreak. One thing is certain and pretty evident—the Sioux are alarmed, and are all running away from the Upper Platte.

"Some two hundred lodges of them have passed down below since the report first reached me, and are now on the Platte and 'L'eau-qui-Court.'"

Subdivisional surveys of the public lands in Kansas are progressing with due despatch, returns thereof have reached the General Land Office; among which are townships three, south of ranges eight, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve, east of the sixth principal meridian, situate on the head-water of the great Nemaha river.

Surgeon Robert T. Barry, U. S. N., died in this city on the 14th inst. X. Y.

TELEGRAPHIC.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, August 10.—The statement that Hon. A. D. DODGE, U. S. Minister to Madrid, has resigned, is authoritatively contradicted by letters and papers received this day.

There are at least one thousand visiters at the White Sulphur (Virginia) Springs. Great preparations are making to extend the accommodations at all the Springs for the next season.

The Charleston *Mercury*, just received, makes the following extraordinary exclamation:

"The fate of the Union, in our judgment, is sealed. It must be dissolved. We bow to the necessity, and may mourn the catastrophe, but cannot prevent a certainty as inevitable as the rolling of the seasons. It is only a question of time. We have not done it. When impartial history comes to write its epitaph, it will say: 'Killed by the aggressive injustice of the North, and the ignoble submission of the South!'"

Judge DOUGLAS writes that after his visit to Minnesota and Wisconsin—he is on his way there now—he will visit New York and Washington.

Commodore THOMSON, who relieves Captain TURNER at the Ordnance Office, Philadelphia Navy Yard, is a brother of Senator THOMSON, of New Jersey.

Ex-Governor MANNING, of South Carolina, is a very prominent candidate for Senator in place of Judge Butler, deceased.

From Washington—Naval Changes—The New Russian Tariff.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Chief Engineer Zeller, and Assistant Engineers Potts, Ramsey, Hunt, Littig Duplaine and Schley, have been ordered to the steamer Saranac, now preparing for the Pacific Squadron, at Philadelphia.

Commander Pickering has been detached from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Commander Berrien been appointed his successor.

Official despatches received at the State Department speak in favorable terms of the ameliorating influence of the new Russian tariff, saying that the commencement of the operations affords evidence that the present Emperor entertains views different from his predecessor, and affords hope that other important reforms may follow. Books in all languages, and pictures, are duty free, subject only to the usual censorship. Russian subjects, living in foreign countries, can now travel for five years with a reduction of passport fees.

The Southern Mail—Louisiana Crops—Marine Disaster at Key West, etc.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—The Southern mail furnishes few Orleans papers to the 9th inst.

A letter to the *Picayune* from Plaquemine states that the sugar cane is growing rapidly on the plantations in that vicinity, and that it is expected that a new crop of sugar will be in the market by the middle of October, three weeks earlier than usual. The corn crop was larger than ever before, and the rice crop abundant. Harvest would commence in two weeks.

The Baton Rouge *Advocate* reports the cotton crop in that vicinity as seriously affected by the rain. It confirms the forward state of the sugar crop.

The *Caddo Gazette* says the cotton crop promises a fair turn out.

The Key West correspondent of the Charleston *Courier* reports the barque Pacific was fitted on the 20th ult. Two-thirds of her cargo was damaged, but brought the last arrival at the Marshal's sales. The schooner Americus, Waters, from New York, had put into that port on the 1st inst., with her crew in a mutinous state. They were replaced by the crew of the Pacific.

The North Carolina Election.

HALIFAX, N. C., Aug. 15.—The sheriff has just arrived from Raleigh with official returns, showing Shaw's majority in the recent election was 38 votes.

Fire at Point Levi, opposite Quebec.

QUEBEC, Aug. 15.—An incendiary last night fired some wooden buildings on Point Levi, opposite this city, and twenty of them were destroyed.

Fatal Explosion of a Powder Magazine.

HALIFAX, August 14.—The Merchants' powder magazine, containing the whole stock of powder in Halifax, exploded with a terrific concussion shortly after midnight last night. One man was killed and fifteen others were seriously injured. Five houses were demolished, and several damaged.

The Government magazine and the barracks were much shattered, and nearly all the windows in the northern part of the city were broken. The magazine is supposed to have been fired by an incendiary. For hours the excitement was intense. Many persons had been thrown from their beds, and others, bewildered, rushed into the streets for safety, believing an earthquake had occurred.

Further Depredations by the Cheyenne Indians.

ST LOUIS, August 15.—Advices from Fort Kearney state that a party of nineteen drovers in charge of upwards of 1800 cattle, destined to the Utah expedition, were attacked when twenty-seven miles above the Fort, on the 18th inst., by 150 Cheyenne Indians.

All the cattle and twenty mules ran off. One of the drovers was killed, and another severely wounded. Nine of the Indians were slain.

Col. Sumner had started in pursuit of the Indians.

Explosion of the Baltimore Gas Works.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 16.—An explosion occurred at the Gas Works this afternoon, the roof of the purifying house being blown off. Two men were knocked down, but none were killed.

Fatal Accident.

ALBANY, August 15.—A fatal accident occurred on the Albany and Northern Railroad, near West Troy, this morning. The axle of an engine broke, upsetting the locomotive, and the engineer and fireman are supposed to have been killed. The particulars of the accident have not yet been received.

Sailing of the Baltic.

NEW YORK, August 16.—The steamer Baltic sailed this afternoon, with 63 passengers and $840,000 in specie.

Non-Arrival of the Columbia.

NEW YORK, August 16—8 o'clock P. M.—There are as yet no signs of the Collins mail steamship Columbia, now about due, with foreign advices to the 5th inst., four days later than those furnished by the Canada.

Markets.

NEW ORLEANS, August 14.—Cotton—Market closed firm; sales of 100 bales to-day. The sales of the week amounted to 5,500 bales, and the receipts to 240 bales. The receipts of cotton thus far at this port less than last year, amount to 230,500, and at all Southern ports of 578,000 bales.

Flour is very dull. Wheat steady at $1 25 ⅌ bushel. Corn is quoted at 85c. Oats steady at 45c. Mess Pork unsteady; quoted at $24. Coffee—Sales of Rio at 11¼@12c.; the sales of the week are 8,500 bags; stock in port, 99,000 bags. The other markets are unchanged.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 15.—*Cotton—The market* generally is dull.