The Press.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 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.

☞ For editorial matter and most interesting correspondence, see first page.

THE MILITIA OF THE SEAS.

We might as well at once submit to a call on us to abandon the use of volunteers on land as at sea. A decree by a general Congress of all the States of the world, even if strictly regarded by belligerents, which would never practically be the case, exempting private property from capture on the high seas, would be very far short of an equivalent to us for giving up our most efficient and ready means of aggression on the breaking out of hostilities with a maritime power. There is no other security of neutral rights against belligerents than that of being able and ready to maintain and assert them. Expediency in war overrides faith; honor is too often laid aside and interest only regarded. England, a hundred years ago, in violation of every right of hospitality and derelict to every principle of good faith, seized over three hundred French merchantmen in her own ports before war was declared or hostilities commenced by either party. Was the elder PITT a less honorable man than PALMERSTON? We may safely come to the conclusion that private property on the highseas can never be invested with a higher sanctity, nor carry with it any other safeguard against an enemy, than the ability to defend it. P. stexts will never be wanting to seize it. Actual war must ever institute new rights between belligerents, and must unavoidably set aside all previous treaties that may in any way hamper or restrict the free and full action of either party. It has always been so, and must, from the very nature of things, ever continue to be so. If expediency dictates a watchful consideration of the rights of neutrals on the part of a belligerent, then they may be acknowledged; but the fact of their being regarded will mainly depend upon the fear and probability of the neutral becoming a hostile belligerent. All decidedly friendly Powers will ever be used, and at times even abused, by the belligerent secure of their sympathy. Treaties only fairly and truly specify the relations of nations in a state of peace. The opprobrium attending the violation of certain general principles, but very few in number, will in the main restrain the action of any belligerent.

Expediency, however, dictates such an acquiescence, for generally as much is to be lost as gained by poisoning, assassination, or by the indulgence in similar crimes; yet we all know that the English Government, in 1775, offered thirty thousand pounds sterling reward for the head of CHARLES EDWARD. What we should demand in return for any concession on our part of natural right, is not a barren promise that a state of war would revoke, but some clear and substantial act which would verify itself by being performed in time of peace, and which would in itself tend to promote and preserve peace. It is the provocatives and incentives to war that we must guard against and check. A means, especially a physical power at our control, is in itself a temptation to use it. A Government with a large and disciplined army is seen first to occupy a coveted territory, and then to offer to discuss its claims to it. Another, with a large fleet, strikes a Copenhagen blow, annihilating its unsuspecting victim, and then expresses a jesuitical regret that a true regard to its own defence compelled it to take a step of such apparent harshness towards a weak and neutral power.

Unfortunately, the rights of small Powers have little existence beyond that conferred upon them by the mutual jealousies of their more powerful neighbors; for, when those neighbors once get involved in war, the rights of the small Powers practically cease, being never regarded in such cases by either belligerent. The only equivalent for agreeing to abandon the use of privateers that could be tendered us, and the consideration of which we should for a moment entertain, would be a neutralization of the high seas by a general disarmament and dismantlement of all but a limited number of ships of war by every maritime Power. Our northern lakes are thus neutralized by a treaty with England. The Black sea was similarly neutralized by the same Congress of Paris which desired to make privateering piracy. We only ask for an extension of the major proposition, to accede to the minor; but we want a more real and practical extension than that specified by Mr. MARCY. Let all nations be compelled to improvise their navies after war breaks out, then we need have no fear of being unable to hold our own without resorting to the use of privateers. England, with her thousand armed steamers all ready for action, can, with much complacency, ask us to use nothing to impair or lessen her superiority in case we come to blows; we can, with great imperturbability, reply to her, that we are a peaceable people who have no desire to go to war, and do not busy ourselves with preparations to threaten her integrity; but that she seems to aim to be a standing menace to all the world, or else she is uselessly wasting her means and exhausting the resources she ought to rely upon in a time of need, by maintaining such vast fleets, constantly increased by new armed steamers, when ostensibly at peace with all other maritime Powers of the world. What need has she of a steam-battery at Bermuda? Why should she desire to crowd such unwieldy craft on the coast of Cuba? Certainly not with any view of intercepting the agile slaver. A world Congress could regulate the quota of each nation in the police squadrons required for suppressing piracy, just as the Webster-Ashburton treaty imposes the maintenance of eighty guns on us towards suppressing the African slave trade.

Commerce requires protection. Revenue laws must be enforced. We readily admit the necessity of a marine force being maintained by every commercial and navigating Power, for certain specific purposes, not hostile to the general weal and safety of all nations. We might take our own navy as a safe comparative standard of extent and size. A standing army, besides endangering the liberties of a people, is a standing threat at all neighbors. We do not mean in this sense that small force which it is necessary to maintain to keep up a proper knowledge of the art of war, and to preserve an efficient military organization ready to be expanded to the need of any occasion. We refer to such as are maintained in Europe. Louis IV attached this gnawing cancer to the vitals of the peoples of that continent. England, in her efforts to maintain her abnormal dominancy on the seas, forces all other nations to the maintenance of otherwise unnecessarily large fleets. Unless our proposition for the neutralization of the high seas is acceded to by France and Russia and enforced upon England, then we have no other recourse left than to follow the example of the latter Power, by building war steamers and steam batteries until we have attained a statical condition towards her on the high seas. The crime against humanity in war is not so much the manner in which it is waged as the means by which it is protracted. If our privateers should prey so effectually upon an enemy's commerce as to force him to seek peace, they have attained one of the great aims of honorable and justifiable war. Rulers or peoples, one or the other, must be made to feel a war before it can be ended.

Educational.

MRS. HARRIET BROWN'S school for young ladies, S. W. corner of Tenth and Arch, is commended to public patronage by an array of our first citizens, and will be sustained by a long experience and great capacities for teaching. We beg to call attention to the advertisement in another column.

☞ HON. WILLIAM F. PACKER, the Democratic candidate for Governor, is expected to reach Philadelphia this evening.

Richard Ten Broeck, the owner of Pryor and Prioress, is a native of Albany, and was formerly a messenger boy in the New York Legislature.

THE BOOK TRADE.

The Americans have become the greatest book-producers in the world. More volumes are sold in this country in one year than in Great Britain, with much the same population, in *five*. Where a London publisher issues an edition of 1,000, a Philadelphia, New York, or Boston publisher would print 5,000. In fact, the number of *readers* with us is as twenty to one as compared with the same class in England. Here the mere announcement of a new book by a popular author—nay, the mere announcement of a book with a catching or popular title—will cause a large edition to be *ordered* in advance. They are *more slow* across the water. They wait to see what the *critics say* of it before they invest their money in the purchase. With us, too, almost every book is stereotyped—on the chance of continuous demand for it—whereby the cost of production, on a large sale, is greatly diminished. But a London publisher, afraid of the risk, (though stereotyping adds less than half to the expense,) rarely ventures to put the first edition of a book into *stereotype*. He prints and sells off one edition, and carefully waits to calculate the chances of another being disposed of—often losing a large sale by not being able to supply the demand as rapidly as the demand arises. He goes to press with a second edition, having the delay and extra cost of getting the whole book *re-composed in the* printing-office, and probably, by the time he has the new edition ready, *may find* that some later novelty has supplanted it. An American publisher with his stereotypes, would catch the *market at the* moment the demand arose, and instantly supply it. The *fact is, London publishers*—with the exception of ROUTLEDGE, and one or two go-ahead and cheap re-publishers—are terribly behind-hand in their own business. They do things now much as their fathers did some thirty or forty years ago. Even THOMAS CARLYLE, the author, belongs so much to the old school, that, for over twenty years, he contented himself with selling his works (in editions of 1,000 each) to CHAPMAN & HALL, his publishers, and going to the *expense of having the type re-set* for each reprint! By this lumbering process, the high selling price of his books was kept up, and their sale kept down. It was only a few months ago that he unwillingly consented to have his works produced in a compact form and at a diminished price. And, by *this* process he will obtain more profits from them in one year, than he obtained during all the *years which have elapsed since* they respectively appeared.

Were we asked *why* there are fewer readers in England than in America, we would answer, First, because for one person who can read in "the old country," twenty persons can read among us. Thanks to our generally-diffused and *well-grounded education, almost* every American, male or female, can read. Hence, the immense circulation of our newspapers, as compared with newspapers in other countries. A second reason why we have more readers is very practical—books are very cheap here, very costly abroad. *A book which sells for a* dollar here would cost from five to seven dollars in *London. Here, therefore*, every person *buys* books. In England most people who are not rich only *hire* them. Two-thirds of the first edition of an English book are purchased by the circulating libraries, which hire out the books at remunerating yearly subscriptions, or, to casual customers, at the rate of six to twelve cents a volume. Generally speaking, the run of private book-buyers in England do not *usually* purchase a work which they intend to read only once from curiosity.

What are called "trade sales," among publishers, are held on both sides of the water. In England, a publisher, who has several forthcoming works, invites the leading members of the trade to dinner, (usually at the Albion tavern, in Aldersgate street,) and, after he has duly turtled and iced-punched them, venisoned and champagned them, roast-beefed and ported them, plum-puddinged and madeiraed them, he hands around specimens of his books, and offers them at a certain discount under the trade price, each of his guests ordering or "subscribing" (as it is called) for as many copies as he may require. The copies on hand of previously published books (called "remainders") are disposed of, at the same time, in like manner. Sometimes two or three publishers, not very largely in business, unite in giving the dinner, and, as the way to John Bull's heart is through his stomach, the operation usually succeeds.

With us the matter is much the same, even down to the dinners. The trade sales take place in the spring and autumn of each year, a regular auctioneer officiating, and are as yet limited, we believe, to Philadelphia and New York. In the latter place the next sale will commence on September 8th, and that useful and well-conducted journal, the *New York Publishers' Circular*, informs us that "the catalogue is one of the largest ever issued, and includes the names of most of the principal publishers in the Union; the lots are very liberal, offering favorable opportunities to buyers, and several modifications, as suggested at a meeting held during the spring sale, have been made in the regulations. An especially interesting and novel feature on the approaching occasion will be the public display of specimen volumes, to which a majority of *contributors have consented*. In order that buyers may have abundant time and convenience for ascertaining the particular description of books mentioned in the catalogue, it has been determined, in accordance with a very general desire, to furnish sufficient accommodation in the sales-room to exhibit at least 12,000 volumes, and from present indications this capacity will not be more than sufficient."

It adds: "It will be remembered that specimen volumes must include not only copies of each separate work, but of each separate work in its different bindings." At the New York sale, the *Circular* further tells us, the Philadelphia publishers figure as follows: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co. have entered three hundred and sixty-nine lots, and will exhibit seven hundred different specimen volumes. T. B. PETERSON one hundred lots and six hundred and eighty-four specimens. W. P. HAZARD two hundred and fifty-two and five hundred and twenty-one. E. H. BUTLER & Co., one hundred and ten lots, composed of one hundred and sixty volumes, in fine bindings. JASPER HARDING & SON, a lot of Bibles in seventy-five different styles in 4to, and BLANCHARD & LEA, in whose contributions are as many as one hundred and forty-four volumes of standard medical works. To show the extent of the dealings, we have to say that, at trade prices, the invoice of PHILLIPS, SAMPSON, & Co. amounts to nearly $60,000.

The forty-ninth Philadelphia trade sale, (including books, stationery, paper, blank books, &c.,) will commence on Monday, September 21st, and the mere catalogue fills an 8vo. volume of 884 pages. It includes books offered for sale, to "the trade," by one hundred and one publishers, from various parts of the Union—principally Philadelphia, Boston, and New York—and stationery from thirteen wholesale houses. Making a rapid summary of this catalogue, we perceive that *Philadelphia sends forty contributors to* this sale; New York, thirty-nine; Boston, fourteen; London, (in England,) Hartford, and Salem, three each; Albany, two; while Louisville, (Ky.,) Springfield, Dayton, (Ohio,) New Haven, Baltimore, Hallowell, Williamsburg, Lancaster, Reading, and Knoxville, (Tenn.,) respectively contribute one. The publishers who occupy the most space in the catalogue are the APPLETONS, of New York; PHILLIPS, SAMPSON, & Co., of Boston; J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., LEAVITT & ALLEN, DERBY & JACKSON, HARPERS, and STRINGER, and TOWNSEND, of New York; GOULD & LINCOLN, of Boston; and T. B. PETERSON, W. P. HAZARD, PARRY & McMILLAN, BLANCHARD & LEA, and LINDSAY & BLAKISTON, of this city.

The sale will occupy several days, and the goods disposed of will realize a very considerable amount indeed. When the accounts shall be made up, we may be able to state the results.

MORE OF MRS. CUNNINGHAM!

Mr. BRADFORD, the Surrogate, decided yesterday, at New York, that Mrs. CUNNINGHAM was *not* married to the late HARVEY BURDELL, and that, therefore, his property shall be divided among his blood relations. It would be *curious to inquire how far this decision* has been influenced by Mrs. CUNNINGHAM's recent attempt (with the aid of District Attorney HALL and Dr. UHL) to pass off another woman's child as BURDELL's legitimate heir. A point of law may arise out of the Surrogate's decision, fatal to the charge that Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, in legal phrase, "produced" a child fraudulently to obtain BURDELL's money; for, if she was not BURDELL's widow, the child could not, on any pretence, obtain his property, nor be in a position, under any circumstances whatever, to claim it.

JUDGE WILMOT'S SPEECH.

We have taken some trouble in obtaining a phonographic report taken of the opening speech of Judge WILMOT, the Republican candidate for Governor, delivered last evening at Jayne's Hall, and accordingly spread it before our readers this morning. Regarding it as important that there should be no *concealment in politics*, and *utterly putting out* of sight the idea that the doctrines of our adversaries should be hidden from *the* light of day, we having done by Judge WILMOT what we hope to be able to do *by* all men; that is, letting him speak for *himself*, and after that, holding him strictly to the record. We have said beforehand that the candidate of the Republicans was making a desperate contest; and his speech last evening convinces us that he feels himself that he is makidg a hopeless one. We remember well when he did make a great speech; when his heart was in his *subject*; when he was inspired by the truth; and that was when he upheld the very doctrines of which he is now the busy and the bitter defamer. To find him *now*, with all *his* considerable talents, *waging* war upon a man for his religion, and fighting the shadows of a diseased or dishonest apprehension—for it is a disease or a dishonesty *to tell us that we are in danger of the slave power* in this country—is what we never expected to behold in one who has made a boast of his abhorrence of deception and of falsehood. When he passed out of the ranks of the Democratic party, be it recollected, he did not go out as an Abolitionist, nor as a Whig. There was only one party he was in the habit of assailing more bitterly than the Abolitionists, and these were the very Whigs whose votes he is now so earnestly asking.

In his speech last evening, Judge WILMOT tells us that the Democratic State Committee have sought to evade the discussion of the slave question—indeed, have decided that it shall not be talked about. This is a sorry equivocation. The slave question—the Kansas question—has been discussed, and decided against Mr. WILMOT and his friends. The bleeding wounds of Kansas are not only staunched, but stopped. All the Committee did was to refuse Mr. WILMOT the opportunity of re-opening these wounds, and of re-lighting the elements upon which he expects to ride into power. Even while he was speaking to his partisans at Jayne's Hall, he knew that the next Governor of Pennsylvania, General PACKER, was speaking at York, and taking the bold, broad, Democratic ground, that the majority of the people of Kansas, as well as the majority of the people of this State, should rule!

The "*labor*" portion of Judge WILMOT's argument is a good deal like the story told of the showman who had a wax figure cast of Baron TRENCK, the celebrated prison-breaker, but afterwards made it represent in succession, BOLIVAR, SANTA ANNA, General JACKSON, and finally General TAYLOR. The very same declaration, that this country is controlled by the slaveholders of the South, Mr. WILMOT has made against the iron masters of Pennsylvania, and the manufacturers whom he assailed while advocating the tariff of 1846. Then, the iron masters and manufacturers were the great aristocracy of the land—then they were the barons and bounty-mongers—now it is the slaveholders! The originality of the idea almost *surpasses the eloquence of the orator.*

Judge WILMOT is restive under the name of an Abolitionist. He denies that he desires to disturb the institutions of the South, and defies any man to prove that he is anything but a States-rights man. We answer him out of his own mouth, and in his own speech of last night. We point this community to his abuse, his ridicule of the South, and of its people; and then ask how this calumny and ribaldry compare with the daring assertion that *he is a States-rights man*, and not opposed to the peace of the Union! He is an *agitator*—neither more nor less—and his speech of last evening proves him to be so. GARRISON himself could say as much with as decent an approach to the truth.

The ghost of the Wilmot Proviso is introduced with very poor discretion, as if to furnish another proof of his States-rights sincerity. That Proviso did more to disturb the country, and to alienate the different States, North and South, one from the other, than any measure that ever was introduced in Congress, apart from the geographical party of last year. It was the cause of the loss of thousands of lives in our war with Mexico, by wilfully delaying appropriations for our troops, and it cost the country millions of dollars. It did not give us an inch of free territory—not a rood. Oregon was free by the laws of Nature beforehand, and that Territory would not have been organized when it was if President POLK had not regarded the Proviso as an absurdity, and signed the bill. How many votes will Mr. WILMOT obtain upon such a record?

His rehearsal of this Wilmot-Proviso story, which he has told to Bradford audiences until it has become as familiar as his old free-trade speech, shows the paucity of the *materiel* upon which he trades.

Judge WILMOT's allusion to General CASS is most unfortunate. He was in the Convention which nominated General CASS in 1848, and pledged himself to support him for President. This was *after* the Proviso—and yet, with this pledge in his mouth, he went home to Bradford, and showed his sense of the wrong he was doing by stealthily coming forward for another candidate at the very last hour. This is notorious history.

The assault on the Supreme Court is characteristic. The man giving utterance to this tirade against that high and sacred tribunal has himself been a judge on the bench; and yet, even from that elevated post, has not hesitated to thunder his decrees to his partisans. Now he comes forward, and in this conservative city, in the midst of a population devoted to law and to order, takes issue with the Supreme Court of the land, and deliberately tries to bring it into contempt! What more, after this, could he do to entitle himself to reprobation and contempt? How completely this example harmonizes with the revolutionary courses of those men who have acted with him, and who, only one year ago, sought to pull down the whole fabric of our Union? And this is the man who says he is for the rights of the States! The man who tells you that the judgments of your Supreme Court are not binding or worthy of respect, asks for your votes, and tells you that he is the friend of harmony among the people!

On the Kansas question Judge WILMOT shows his hand openly. He don't want peace there. He is sure there will be no peace. There will be no settlement. Peace in Kansas will be the death of him. Such men as Judge WILMOT only exist upon war and violence, and Governor WALKER must be hung, drawn, and quartered for acting fairly in the election of delegates and in submitting the Constitution to the people. The speaker's silence on the will of the majority in Kansas was significant.

With some remarks about Americanism, he came to a close, and his audience dispersed.

Such is a midnight glance at this somewhat extraordinary speech of the Republican candidate for Governor.

☞ We take pleasure in calling the attention of the manufacturers, artists, &c., of our city to the advertisement of the "Maryland Institute for the promotion of the mechanic arts," to be found in another column of this publication. That excellent institution will open its annual exhibition in the city of Baltimore, in its beautiful and spacious hall, on the 29th September proximo, and will continue for four weeks. Inasmuch as the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia will not hold a fair this year, that of the Maryland Institute will afford our mechanics, &c., a fair field for competition in the display of their useful and beautiful handiwork. We learn that at the exhibition held at Baltimore last year, several gold and silver medals were awarded to the manufacturers of Philadelphia for the surpassing excellence of their productions, and that her fair daughters were also awarded the highest premiums for superior needle-work.

We commend this matter to our industrial population, both because of the benefit which must inure in a compensating way, and of the noble end accomplished in promoting the highest degree of excellence in American productions.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—In a few days, the vocal and instrumental performers of the Promenade Concerts must vacate this temple of the lyric muse, to make way for the Grand Ballet Troupe now *en route* from Europe. With their beautiful representations the forthcoming season of the Academy will be inaugurated.

We recommend the public, while they may, to avail themselves of the few remaining evenings of the Concerts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, August 23, 1857.

The accounts from Nicaragua and Central America, which are floating about in this city, are conflicting in almost every respect; who to acknowledge, or which story to receive as the true one, seems to be the embarrassing question presented to the Administration. Captain Canty makes his appearance on the stage as the organ of Webster and his associates, and with pretensions to the position of representative to this Government from Nicaragua To meet and combat his efforts, are Senor Irissari, the Guatemalian Minister, who very modestly puts himself forward as the Nicaraguan Minister too, and the parties interested in the Old Ship Company. My information just received from Monagua, in the interior of Nicaragua, and where the dictators, Martinez and Jerez, hold their Government, is adverse to the report that Webster and company have had granted to them a charter for a new Ship Company. On the contrary, Martinez and Jerez, over their own names, have published to the world that their grant has been to the Old Ship Company, and to nobody else.

However, it matters not to whom the grant has been given, for civil war begins to threaten. Martinez is the leader of the Leonista, and Jerez of the *Chamorista faction*. Embittered dislikes are growing each day more apparent between them, and already serious difficulties have occurred between their adherents. Chilion, the liberal, increases in popularity, and can, I am credibly informed, muster a force of six hundred men when required.

Martinez and Jerez not only refuse to accede to the wishes of Webster and company, but they also, in order to gain favor with their own followers, reject *the claims set up* by Costa Rica. The latter State has secured nothing for her sacrifices in the war, unless England, by private arrangement, has paid the war debt she incurred; yet if Chilion is joined by Walker, which I prophecy will be the case before the next frost, she will again cause the tocsin of war to resound through the neighboring States of Honduras, Gautemala, and San Salvador, pressed on by British influence, and aided by British gold. *I am no filibuster in theory or practice, and don't* know that I have any sympathy with the institution. Nevertheless, the fact is not to be disguised that a moiety, at least, of the Nicaraguan people, from every account, prefer Walker's, or rather the American rule, to that of general this or that, whether of their own raising or imported from the mongrel population of the adjacent States.

I don't know whether it has ever been stated, but in looking over an old book I learn the fact that the English claim with reference to Honduras has been denied by one of the first English statesmen. Edmund Burke, in his history of the treaty defining the English privileges in Honduras, written at the time and published in the Annual Register of 1762, says: "Spain consented not to disturb the English in their occupation of cutting logwood, and permit them to occupy such buildings as may be necessary to them in this occupation. Great Britain on her side stipulated to destroy the fortifications which had been erected on that bay. By this article the English acquired a solid right in this long-contested trade, but seemed, at the same time, to lose all the means of protecting it. The right we claimed was not a right to the territory, but only a privilege of cutting and taking away this wood *by indulgence*. To have insisted on the right of erecting fortifications would have been making the strongest claim to an absolute, direct, and exclusive dominion over the territory itself, *a point to which I do not find that our most extensive claims have ever been carried.*"

Montgomery Martin, the historian of the British Colonial Possessions, must, I think, so far as authority goes, give place to Burke on this subject.

X. Y.

[For The Press.]

THE POST OFFICE.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 24, 1857.

The act of 30th January, 1857, Pam. Laws, p. 5, grants the consent of the Commonwealth "to the purchase by the United States of America, from the President and Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania, of the lot of ground and banking-house thereon erected, with the appurtenances, situate on the west side of Second street, extending westward to Dock street, bounded on the north by Lodge street, and on the south by Gold street, in the city of Philadelphia, *for the purpose of a post office.*"

If the deed from the bank to the United States complies with this act of Assembly, it must contain the limitation "*for the purpose of a post office,*" and this would seem [illegible] mit the property to such use until the Legislature removes the restriction.

T. D.

A Defaulter Arrested on a Charge of Robbery.

[From the Chicago Democrat, August 20.]

Our readers will recollect the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank of this city, of which Dr. L. D. Boone was president, and Stephen Bronson, Jr., cashier; the directors being composed of some of the most prominent men in our city, such as Hon. James H. Woodworth, late member of Congress from this district, Rice Fay, Esq., produce merchant, and a number of others. The bank did business in the very handsome marble front building on Clark street, which was built by Dr. Boone, next door to the banking house of Messrs. George Smith & Co.

The bank failed in November, 1854, but was resuscitated again under the immediate direction of Mr. Woodworth, who worked faithfully to arrange the business of the institution and pay all its liabilities. It was finally wound up, and did not resume business again.

Stephen Bronson, Jr., was the first cashier of the bank. He had previously been in the banking business with H. A. Tucker, Esq., of this city, and possessed the full confidence of the directors of the new institution into which he went, and, in reality, was intrusted with almost the entire management of the business. Banking men and others, however, with whom Mr. Bronson had dealings, soon detected certain little weaknesses in him which made them cautious in their business transactions with him; and longbefore the denouement of the present affair, they were suspicious that all was not quite right, and guarded themselves accordingly.

How far and to what extent Mr. Bronson "feathered his nest," previous to the present affair, we know not, but soon after the failure of the bank a very large deficit in the accounts was discovered, which it was impossible to account for.

In order to explain how the deficit originated, it is necessary to state, that connected with the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank was the Cherokee Insurance Company of Georgia, which was in reality owned by the bank here, the notes being issued and redeemed at a discount over the counter of the Merchants' and Mechanics'. When the latter bank failed, and after Mr. Bronson had retired from the cashiership and left the concern altogether, it is charged that he took from the safe of the bank notes of the Cherokee Insurance Company to the value of $52,000. The alleged larceny was not discovered until the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank commenced business again, and this large amount of bills began to come home for redemption. This again caused embarrassment to the bank, and no doubt prevented its being successfully resuscitated.

In addition to this amount, Mr. Bronson is reported to have appropriated to his own use a sum of $23,000, in the notes of the Sandy Hill Bank, Maine, another institution, the charter of which he had negotiated the purchase of, and which was owned by the parties who were interested in the Merchants and Mechanics' Bank of this city. This appropriation was not discovered till subsequently to the other, and caused still greater embarrassment to the directors and managers of the Merchants and Mechanics' Bank. In fact, we learn that Mr. Bronson's conduct has proved financially ruinous to one, at least, of the directors of the bank, a gentleman who is truly high-minded and honorable, and who, sooner than that his good name should be tarnished, stripped himself of his property to repair the wrong and injury done to the depositors and other creditors of the bank.

The whole amount of Mr. Bronson's alleged larcenies are thus $75,000. Of this sum he was made to disgorge, some time since, to the amount of $41,000, still leaving $34,000 of which he retains possession.

Since his operations with the bank, Mr Bronson went into the hardware business in this city, but gave it up shortly after the discovery of his transactions with the bank. He afterwards retired to Minnesota, where he has been carrying on the lumber business on the Mississippi river, opposite St. Paul, where he has an extensive saw mill in full operation. He was arrested at that place a few days since, by Officer Williams, of Messrs. Bradley & Co.'s detective police, and taken across to Wisconsin. *There he attempted to elude his* captors by employing a lawyer to get out a writ of habeas corpus. This would not work, however, as the document upon which he was arrested was a requisition from Governor Bissell, of this State, on a charge of grand larceny. The officer threatened to place the irons upon him, when he said if he was taken like a gentleman he would go along quietly.

Bronson was a member of good standing of one of the leading churches in this city, and of the same denomination as most of the directors of the bank; yet it did not appear to influence him in the least in his career of trickery and fraud. He is a wily fellow, and it is said that on his way down the Mississippi he showed it in his method of playing cards with parties on board. It was impossible to get on the weather side of him. He was up to all the tricks and changes of the game, and could cheat the eye-teeth out of the Mississippi boys.

Mr. Bronson arrived in the city on Wednesday evening, in charge of Mr. Williams. He was to have been examined before Justice Milliken yesterday, but the examination did not take place.

[From the Wheeling (Va.) Intelligencer, 22d inst.]

Three Men Killed by Lightning—Suicide for Love.

We learn from a gentleman just arrived from Marshall county, that on Monday last the barn of Mr. Wm. Henry, on Fish Creek Hills, near Belton, was struck by lightning. Three men were killed, and the barn and its contents totally destroyed. The men were engaged in threshing with a machine inside the barn when the electric fluid struck the cylinder of the thresher. John Neely and Joseph Young were instantly killed. *There were* some half dozen persons in the barn at the time, among them Mr. Henry himself, whose injuries by the shock have since resulted in his death. This unlooked-for accident, which deprives the community of three of its best citizens, has cast a gloom over the whole neighborhood.

We are reliably informed that on Monday last a young girl, named Earlwine, whose father resides on Fish Creek Hills, in Marshall county, committed suicide by hanging. The cause of this carrying out of a desperate resolve is disappointment in love. She obtained permission to go to a clearing near her father's house to gather bark for kindling wood, and was observed to take a rope with her. She remained out longer than was her custom, and search being instituted, the unfortunate was found suspended to a limb of a tree, lifeless. Miss Earlwine was about *eighteen years of age. The* superstitious people in the neighborhood would not allow her to be buried in the church-yard, and her remains were appropriately interred at the cross roads, in accordance with a heathenish custom and an obsolete law.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 1857.

WM. F. PHILLIPS, Esq., has not yet been removed from the Sixth Auditorship. The change will take place in a few days, I have no question, and some gentleman from Virginia, probably Dr. TATE, will be appointed to the vacancy.

There has been exhibited, for some time past, considerable insubordination in the bureau of the Sixth Auditor, and when the succession is inaugurated, I am *inclined to believe there will be many removals*. It is certain that the Secretary of the Treasury is determined to quench the spirit of insubordination which has so often manifested itself there, by the removal of all, if necessary, down even to the messengers and laborers. It behooves the parties interested, then, to look carefully to the record they are making.

Judge BLACK left town for Berkeley Springs on Saturday *evening last*, with the *intention of remaining there* for a week. Secretary THOMPSON has gone to New York. MOSES KELLY, Esq., chief clerk, is acting Secretary. Many members of Congress just elected have, within the last day or two, called upon the President to congratulate him on the general approval his Administration meets with in the South and Southwest.

The Secretary of the Interior presented the following case to the Attorney General: A person filing a caveat and paying $20, demands, in one case, the return of $10, and in others, on paying an additional $10, making $30 in the whole, and without doing any other act, demands a return of $20. The question is, Whether the Commissioner of Patents is authorized to refund the amount claimed in either case. Judge BLACK recapitulates the points of his decision in these words:

1. The payment of a duty upon a patent or caveat to the credit of the Treasury is not a pledge or deposit of the money, but an absolute and unconditional payment.
2. If the patentee or caveator afterwards demands the money to be repaid to him, he must show that his demand for it is founded in some law, within whose terms he can bring his case distinctly and clearly.
3. There is but one provision in the act of July 4th, 1836, authorizing a duty once paid to be refunded, and that provision is found in the third sentence of the 7th section.
4. That sentence authorizes twenty dollars to be returned, not to a caveator, nor to one who has made "an incomplete application," but to a person who has made an application, which is perfect enough to be examined, and which, in point of fact, has been examined and rejected.
5. It follows that a party who merely files a caveat, paying the legal duty of twenty dollars, cannot withdraw the caveat and demand a return of ten dollars.

Some time since agent JOHN MONTGOMERY drove encroaching whites from the Kaw half-breed lands in Kansas. Several squatters' houses were burned. Indictments for arson were sued out against him in 1855, and now on review of the case the Attorney-General directs that a *nolle prosequi* be entered.

GEO. W. L. KIDWELL, of Virginia, has been appointed to a first-class clerkship in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, vice CHAS. F. M. KIDWELL, deceased.

Mr. Meek, of Pennsylvania, declines the appointment of superintendent of Indian affairs in Utah.

The remaining portion of the Choctaw orphan trust lands are to be offered for sale to the highest bidder. Sealed proposals are to be received by the land officers in Mississippi till the first of November.

The Attorney General has ordered a *nolle prosequi* in the case of the agent Montgomery, who removed squatters from the Indian coast lands, and destroyed their habitations in Kansas.

The Southern mail brings no New Orleans papers. The papers received from intermediate points furnish no news of importance.

[SPECIAL.]

Hon. W. F. Packer at York.

YORK, Aug. 24.—Gen. Packer, the Democratic candidate for Governor, spoke here this evening to an immense audience, at the usual Democratic county meeting. He was in fine health and spirits, looked exceedingly well, and spoke with great ability. Hundreds of men who voted for Fremont last year will rally to the standard of the three P.'s—"Packer, Pennsylvania, and Peace."

FURTHER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL of the CITY OF WASHINGTON.

IMPROVEMENT IN SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH STOCK.

PROPOSED VISIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA TO FRANCE.

MURDOCH, THE TRAGEDIAN, A PASSENGER.

NEW YORK, August 24.

The screw steamship City of Washington, Captain Petrie, arrived at this port at five o'clock this afternoon, with Liverpool advices to the 12th inst.

Her dates are no later than the Anglo-Saxon's, but further intelligence is furnished.

The City of Washington brings one hundred and twenty-five passengers, including Murdoch, the tragedian.

The papers furnished for the press were received too late to be sent South by the evening trains.

Nothing further in reference to the submarine cable expedition is furnished. The shares of stock had improved from £120 discount to £30.

It was announced that Queen Victoria will probably visit the French camp at Chalons.

The steamers City of Manchester, of the Liverpool and New York and Philadelphia Steamship Company's line, (2,109 tons burden,) and the Queen of the South, of the European and American Steam Shipping Company's line, (3,220 tons,) together with the clipper Lightning, have been chartered to convey troops to India.

Definite intelligence of a rupture between Sardinia and Naples was expected at London.

Letters received from Oporto state there will be little or no wine produced this season, and prices had advanced considerably.

The "Tournament" won the Sussex county race, which took place on the 11th inst., at Lewes. The American horses, Lecomte and Prioress, who were announced as competitors, did not run.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH STAR.

Possibility of a 10,000,000 Loan.--The Close of Parliament.--Prioress Fourth in the Sussex County Race.

NEW YORK, August 24.—The mail steamer North Star, from Southampton, with London papers of the 12th inst., arrived here to-night.

It was thought probable at London that the session of Parliament would close on the 23d inst.

The American horse Prioress ran for the Sussex county Cup, at the race which took place at Lewes on the 11th, and came in fourth.

The London *Times'* City Article of the 12th says: "Funds show an increasing heaviness. The possibility of a loan of £10,000,000 sterling being required to be raised by the Home Government for the East India Company was the chief apprehension which weighed on the stock and money markets. The question, however, is not so imminent as to cause a serious depression for the moment."

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

The North Star passed the steamer Harmonia off Scilly.

FROM MINNESOTA.

The Constitutional Convention--Application of "Lynch Law"--The Crops.

ST. PAUL, August 21, via DUBUQUE, 24th.—The Constitutional Convention progresses slowly. Some points of difference have been harmonized, while upon others more prominent, such as the apportionment, universal suffrage, etc., it is thought the delegates will fail to agree.

The Republican members are in favor of but one Constitution, while the Democrats are bent on the submission of both, as best subserving the interests of the people. The Convention will probably agree to-day upon the submission of both.

Three half-breeds, who killed a German near Gull Lake, last week, were forcibly taken from the sheriff, near Little Falls, and hanged to a tree.

The crops of Minnesota, notwithstanding the grasshoppers, were never in a better condition than during the present year.

Suspension of the Ohio Life and Trust Co.

NEW YORK, August 24.—The Ohio Life and Trust Company has suspended. Various rumors are in circulation, and great excitement prevails among those interested.

The National Agricultural Fair.

LOUISVILLE, August 24.—The arrangements for the National Agricultural Fair, which is to be held at this place next week, are nearly complete.

Contributions of stock and implements are arriving from all sections of the country.

Hon. Franklin Pierce, John C. Breckinridge, John A. King, and Robert C. Wickliffe, Lord Napier, and others, have accepted invitations to be present.

Health of New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, August 26.—The health of the city continues good. Only ninety-seven deaths occurred during the past week.

The Submarine Telegraph Fleet.

WASHINGTON, August 24.—The following message has been received from John Kendall, esq., superintendent of the Southern line:

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 24.

The announcement of the arrival of the Submarine Telegraph Fleet may be sent gratuitously to all stations on the Magnetic Telegraph (Morse's) Line.

Failure of a Rochester (N. Y.) Banking House.

ROCHESTER, New York, August 24.—Messrs. Brewster & Co., private bankers, have failed, owing to advances made to the firm of Ely & Co., which failed some days since. Their liabilities are not large.

Marine Intelligence.

The City of Washington reports having passed, on the 20th inst., lat. 47 deg. lon. 51 deg., ship Forest Queen, bound West. On the 23d, lat. 40 deg. lon. 63 degrees, steamer Fulton, from New York, for Havre, and at the same time the ship Ashburton, from Liverpool, for New York.

Markets.

NEW ORLEANS, August 24.—Cotton. Sales of 550 bales to-day at 15@15⅛c. for middling. Flour continues with a declining tendency; prices $5 87@$6. Red and mixed Wheat quoted at $1. Mixed Corn at 80c. Oats dull at 48c. Mess Pork buoyant at $25 50.

Gas Explosions—Davy's Lamp.—We recommended recently, upon the authority of a scientific gentleman of Baltimore, the use of Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp in all confined places of leakage of common inflammable gas. We are told, however, that the only "Safety Lamps" now made are for the use of miners, &c., and are too heavy and expensive for ordinary use.

The "safety" of Sir Humphry's lamp consists merely in the envelopement of the flame in a gauze wire cap of some two to three inches in diameter. These could be made and applied to the common house lamp, we apprehend, at very little cost. Will not some of our enterprising lamp-makers or gas-fitters get them up? The general use of gas, and the frequent accidents that arise from its explosions, require that safety lamps should be kept wherever it is used, and that they should be used wherever gas escapes.

[For the Press.]

Political Notices.

As the time has nearly arrived when our political meetings are to be held, the delegates in each precinct of the respective wards should have notices published of the meetings to be held on Monday, August 31st, at 7½ o'clock, to elect Judges and Inspectors, who are to conduct the elections to be held on Monday, September 7th, at 7½ o'clock. The rules require that public notice should be given of the time and place of meeting.

SPEECH OF JUDGE WILMOT.

The Wilmot Proviso—Slavery—Southern Aristocracy—Outrages in Kansas—Americanism and all things pertaining thereto, except the latter, discussed fully.

Jayne's Hall was well filled last night by those curious to learn the views of Mr. WILMOT, the Republican candidate for Governor, on the political topics of the day. Beck's band was in attendance, and enlivened the proceedings with several beautiful airs. At precisely 8 o'clock the HON. DAVID WILMOT, a stout, portly gentleman, dressed in black, with a *travelling shawl thrown carelessly* over his arm, was led up the main aisle of the hall by GEORGE RUSH SMITH, a well-known Harrisburg statesman, and Louis Blanche, a well-known Harrisburg *letter writer*, all appearing happy in each other's company The meeting was organized by the appointment of Alex. H. Freeman, Esq., *chairman*, with a large number of assistants as vice-presidents.

Mr. Wilmot was introduced by ex-Mayor Gilpin, and spoke as follows:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: I appear before you to-night, conscious that I shall not be able to meet the expectations of this large and intelligent audience, and I therefore invoke your indulgence and your kindest charity in the unpremeditated remarks which I shall make. In the first place, there should be a full understanding between us as to the relations we bear towards each other. I am a *stranger before you* I *have not* the honor of knowing one in a thousand of your population. It would be impertinent, therefore, in me to appeal to you for your votes. I have no claims whatever upon you. I have been placed before you by a portion of the people of the State as the representative of a principle, and those who have placed me in that position regard that principle as of vital importance to the well-being of our common country. If, upon a careful examination of the principle involved, and of which I stand as the representative, *it* shall be found that that principle is essential to the preservation of public liberty—to the individual well-being and happiness of the American people—then I have a right to invoke your most earnest aid in behalf of that principle and the candidate who stands before you. It, in short, you see in the principle which is put forth and is represented by myself, that which is vital to your own interests—a principle upon which the repose and highest interests of yourselves and your children depend—then in standing by me you stand by yourselves, and it is in this view alone that I appear *before you*. I invoke no man's suffrage unless he believes in his heart that by supporting me he supports his own highest interests.

We are told by a portion of the people—indeed, by the dominant party, through their leading men—that we have no right to discuss this question of slavery. In the *pronunciamiento* put forth recently by the committee of the self-styled *Democratic party, assigning reasons* why their candidate should not meet me in discussion, they declared that it was improper for the people of Pennsylvania to listen to a discussion of this question, and assumed the right to dictate what the people should hear and what they should not hear. They assumed this great function, and, for aught I know, they may assume hereafter the right of selecting for you the books you shall read. I maintain there is no question that is not open for discussion in this country, and that it is impossible to close discussion on this question of slavery. They might as well attempt to arrest the sun it its course. By the law of nature, every man, so long as he is free, will resist wrong and aggression. We read of a vain and presumptuous prince who ordered his creatures to carry him upon the sea shore and there commanded the tides to recede and go back from his august person, and this committee might as well try to do the same as to stop thought and discussion upon a question which so nearly affects the interests of the American people as this question of slavery. It is no abstract question. It is not merely a question of right and wrong—a question of morals, although it lays at the very foundation of morals and public virtue—it *is* a question of most practical interest. It comes home to the business and bosoms of every man in this country. Such is the character of the question of slavery as presented to-day in our Government. Why, it is a question of political power, and is not that a practical question for the American people? It is a question as to who shall control the Government of this Republic, and shape its policy. Shall this great interest of slavery control it? Shall it be controlled by a few hundred thousand men who chance to be the owners of this species of property? or shall it be controlled by millions of freemen? That is the question! I think it is a practical question, and that it comes home to you and your children. Indeed, it comes nearer than I have yet shown. It is a question between two conflicting systems of labor—whether labor shall maintain an honorable position in this country, or whether it shall sink into degradation and dishonor. Is there any morbid, sickly sentimentality about such a question? It is a question of civilization or of barbarism—whether the glorious standard which surrounds us shall be carried onward over the fertile fields of our territories, or whether that civilization shall stop, and a species of barbarism take possession of the lands—whether civilization, founded upon principles of right and justice, and public order, in which the mild and wholesome law is made the arbitrator of men's right, shall prevail, or whether that civilization, in which the bowie-knife and the revolvers are the arbitrators, shall turn the rights of men, and settle controversies and disputes—whether great national questions are to be discussed and decided in your halls of Congress upon principles of reason and right—whether the bludgeon is to determine them there. I proceed to discuss this question, then, as a practical home question. Permit me here, fellow-citizens, to repel the slanderous assaults that are continually made upon me through the columns of a venal, subsidized press; for I tell you the slave *power poisons* all the channels of public opinion, and the press of the self-styled Democracy (they have no claim to the name) abandoned every principle that characterized its early history, and gave it position and recognition in this country, and is under the pay of the Administration for defending the cause of slave labor, and resisting the cause of free white labor—that press is continually seeking to cast odium upon me by representing me as one wedded to theories and abstract ideas of an impracticable character, which, if they could be carried out, would be subversive of our institutions. They say that I am a ranting Abolitionist; that I desire to make war upon the institutions of the land; that I seek to overturn the institutions established in our sister States. Now, I pronounce this a gross and unfounded slander upon my character and principles. I defy any man to point to *any act in my life, or any declaration that I ever* made—and I have talked much upon this question—for there is a respectable sized volume of my printed speeches and letters on the slavery question, which, under the most violent construction, will warrant such a charge. I am a State-rights man—one of the old Jeffersonian school—upon that question. I hold that we have no power under the Constitution to meddle with the question of slavery in the States. I hold that slavery rests entirely upon local State laws, and that we have no more right, by any action of ours in Congress, to affect the institutions of slavery in Virginia than the Virginians have to affect the institutions of Pennsylvania. It is a different question when we come to slavery in the Territories. We have as good a right to be heard there as they have. We have a common property in our common *inheritance*, and are to be governed by the general Legislature or Congress of the Union, and in that body we have a right to have our voice heard in determining the character of the government which should be imposed upon them. At the risk of appearing egotistical, indulge me in a brief history of this thing known as the Wilmot Proviso. I desire to present it to you as a full and perfect explanation of my position on the question of *slavery*, and also *for the purpose of showing* you the shameful departure from principle which has characterized the action of the Democratic party within the last eight or ten years. They are the most shameful and profligate abandonment, of principle that ever characterized a party under Heaven. You will recollect that, in 1846, we were engaged in a war with Mexico. The President sent a message to Congress asking that body to put at his disposal *two millions of dollars to enable him to negotiate* a peace with Mexico. It was apparent, from the prostrate and conquered condition of Mexico, that it was not for the purpose of purchasing a humiliating peace with her, but that the money was wanted as the first instalment in the acquisition of territory. Upon consultation with friends in Congress, who mostly belonged to the party of which I was then a member, I determined when the bill came up, which, *by the by*, was on the last day of the session, to offer an amendment, providing as a fundamental condition to the use of the money appropriated, that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude should ever exist upon territory acquired in virtue of the appropriation. That has now grown into treason, do you understand? and to-day I would be afraid, if I attempted this, that I would be tried upon a *charge of treason, because when you come* to constructive treason you can make treason out of *almost anything. They did so* in Lancaster and Kansas, and they would do so in Philadelphia to-day, for the same cause, if they had the power to do it. How do you suppose this nefarious proposition *was* met by your representatives in Congress? Why, every man from the free States, with the exception of two, Douglas and McClernand, of Illinois, voted *for it*. The slave power had not then contrived and was not threatening destruction to every public man who stood in the way of its demands. On the day of the final adjournment, and half an hour before that time, the proposition was taken up in the Senate, and John Davis, of Massachusetts, took the floor, and desiring perhaps to defeat the appropriation and embarrass the Administration who had got into the war, and might, as he thought, *get out of it the best* way they could; he talked until the hour of adjournment, so *that no vote could be taken*. But I have the authority of General Cass for saying, that if he had permitted a vote to be taken, the amendment would have received the vote of every northern Senator, together with the votes ofthe Senators from Delaware, and I know this, that General Cass, in the Senate chamber, and in pointed terms, rebuked Mr. Davis for the course he had pursued, telling him that he had been instrumental in the defeat of one of the most important measures ever brought before Congress; and he declared to me that it was ground from which no northern man could recede, and no man ought if he could. See how this Simon Pure Democrat was entrapped. In 1847 this question was considerably agitated throughout the country, so much so, that Pennsylvania felt called upon through her Legislature to pronounce her voice upon it, and in a series of *resolutions* instructed her Senators and requested her members of Congress to stand by the Wilmot Proviso. Every man in the House, on a full vote of over ninety, voted for it, and in the Senate it would have been passed unanimously had not Senator Bigler requested the *yeas* and *nays*, in order that he might put himself upon the record in favor of the Proviso. About this time the slave interests combined, and *threatened destruction* to every public man who favored this principle. In 1848 a President was to be elected, and General Cass was a prominent candidate for *the nomination*. It was a great campaign. On one side was the South, declaring that she would support no man who was in favor of this principle; and on the other was the North, who demanded an endorsement of it as a test of orthodoxy. It was in this emergency that General Cass sat down and read the Constitution again, and hit upon the fortunate dodge, in his Nicholson letter, of the doctrine of squatter sovereignty, which, I affirm, had never before been heard of in this country. This doctrine, which originated in the necessities of a Presidential candidate, has now become the great constitutional law of the country. Permit me to say here, that this doctrine of squatter sovereignty never did receive the endorsement of the Democracy of the South. I defy any of the leaders of the Northern Democracy to find such an endorsement. It was *denounced* the very moment it came into Congress by the leading men of the South as a humbug. They said, if we are to be legislated out of the Territories, let it be done decently; let Congress do it. We have a precedent for that; but the idea that the *Territories, acquired* from Mexico, are to be held by the Mexicans, Indians, and a mongrel race, and we voted out of them, under this doctrine of popular sovereignty, is more than we bargained for.

Mr. Wilmot continued in this strain for some time, and then came to the Dred Scott decision, upon which he expressed the following singular views:

"The third dodge to get rid of the Proviso was to declare it unconstitutional, which they only *discovered some three* or four years after, and which it took the Supreme Court several years more to ascertain, and which they only lately expressed in the Dred Scott case. This decision was what you might have expected—it was the legitimate fruits of the triumph of the slave power in the late election. Why, all history proves, that whenever an unsound principle is recognised and upheld in politics, the judiciary will adopt and sustain it; and I would risk my life on it that if I held the power of this Government for five years, I would make the Supreme Court reverse its decision and give judgment the other way. Understand me; I bow to the decision of the court, and say, as a citizen, let Dred Scott go back to slavery, but no tribunal under Heaven can control my conscience or judgment."

Mr. Wilmot, after enlarging considerably upon the probability of the Supreme Court reversing their decision in the Dred Scott case, at some future day, because all courts, particularly those of Pennsylvania, were in the habit of doing so, proceeded to discuss slavery in connection with white labor, and show that it humiliated and degraded it. From this he passed to Kansas, and charged the Democratic press throughout the country with concealing the real state of affairs there. The condition of affairs in Kansas was much worse than had been represented. The Missourians, armed and accoutred, had crossed over into Kansas, and at the point of the bowie knife and mouth of the *revolver had set* the laws at defiance, robbed the settlers of their rights, plundered them of their property, and violated their wives and daughters. It was now *said that quiet* was restored in Kansas, that the disorders had been corrected, and that under Governor Walker's fair expression of the popular will would be had. He knew better. The apportionment bill had been framed by the Legislature under the control of the pro-slavery men, and nine towns containing a majority of the population, and all free State men, had been assigned three representatives, whilst fourteen counties containing the pro-slavery population and the minority, had been allowed twenty-nine representatives. Was this fair and right?

Mr. Wilmot's remarks on Americanism were astonishingly short and incomprehensible. His qualifications were so numerous that his position on that question could hardly be understood after his explanation. He said that the letter he wrote to the Altoona Committee on the subject of Americanism had been *carefully considered*, and he was willing to stand upon the principles and views there laid down. He believed every word he had there uttered was true, and that every principle therein avowed was sound. He did not wish to be misunderstood. He would *not raise the arm of an intolerant proscription* against any portion of the people. He would never judge of a man's virtue and morality by the *accident of his birth*; he would as soon measure a man's character by his foot But he wished to say that he felt, and felt it powerfully, that there was a malign *foreign influence at work* in this country, and, with the help of his God and his party, he would counteract it.

Mr. Wilmot after this relapsed into his Abolition *tirades, and continued until he was obliged to close* to take the 11 o'clock train for the West. The *hall was nearly empty when he concluded, and a* faint cheer was given as he left the building, by the few who staid behind.

THE CITY.

The Philadelphia Post Office—Where shall it be Located?—From all the indications of public opinion in regard to the proper location of the new Post Office in this city, which have fallen under our notice, we are led to believe that if the question was put to vote, whether the Post Office should be located at the Pennsylvania Bank building, or at some point further west, a decided *majority would pronounce against the former site.* Various other localities are proposed; but not being the advocates of any interest, we do not desire to single out any particular one of them for special commendation. It is now stated that the operations commenced upon the bank property have been suspended by order of the Government, so that the whole question is an open one The advocates of a removal of the Post Office to the *Custom House* building have recently obtained from the well-known architects, Messrs. N. LeBrun and G. Runge, an opinion decidedly favorable to the practicability of adapting the latter to Post Office purposes, accompanied by plans, drawings, estimates, &c. The proposition is to remove the roof and all the interior above the first floor, and to convert the interior into a grand hall. The six columns which now adorn the northern and southern end of the exterior are to be used to support a gallery at each end of the interior. A glazed partition, ten feet high, being a passage on each side of at least eleven feet, is to be erected in the centre of the hall. This is to be perforated with windows for the delivery and reception of letters, and for all other transactions with the public. This would leave an area of five thousand square feet inside of the enclosure. It is proposed to cover the building with a light roof on the "Polonceau principle," with a skylight running from end to end; to remove the platforms on the exterior, and to construct stairways to enter the building inside the edifice from the pavements on the sides; to so arrange the basement that mail wagons could be driven into it from one side, entering from Liberty street, and out of it upon the other, returning to the same street, and thus avoiding Chestnut street. *It is asserted that re-fitting the* Custom House in this manner would cost much less than making the necessary alterations in the Pennsylvania Bank building.

The Firemen's Parade.—The firemen of the city yesterday made an imposing procession—one of the most respectable we have ever seen. As all our readers are aware, the object of the procession was to indulge in a little creditable display, and at the same time inaugurate a very handsome monument recently erected in their lot in Odd Fellows' Cemetery, by the Northern Liberty Hose Company. *The day proved delightfully auspicious*, and the firemen assembled in all the strength which our readers might suppose from reading the programme and the list of participating companies in our issue of yesterday morning.

The line formed, according to previous arrangement, upon Arch street, and as they marched along the prescribed route attracted attentive observation. They were all attired in citizen's dress; many of the companies, however, wore the uniform costume of black coat, pants, hat and cravat, relieved by plain white Marseilles vest and white silk gloves. The different companies were designated by badges worn by their members. Some of these were in good taste; others very much the reverse. The Northern Liberty Company, for instance, wore pieces of black satin ribbon, a foot long and two inches wide, having the name of the company upon it in gold letters. The Hibernias wore a black silk badge over their hats, upon the front of which was printed the name of their company, while the number of each man was displayed in the rear. The Southwark Company displayed the same *affair, excepting that their hat badges were made of* light purple silk. The Vigilant Company made an admirable appearance—the members wearing white hats, while affixed to the left lappel of each coat was a silver bullion button, from which depended two handsome tassels of the same material. Other companies displayed, for the first time, their new badges, which, by the way, all the fire rowdies, who feel inclined, will immediately copy, as there is no law against copying unauthorized insignia. The Hand-in-Hand, Assistance, Diligent, and other companies also made a fine display. There was very little show in the way of banners, but a fine variety of brass bands lent a sufficiently inspiriting influence to the occasion.

The procession, which occupied about fifteen minutes in passing a given point, arrived at the cemetery at about half-past four o'clock, where all united in admiring the beautiful shaft of sculptured marble which will stand a silent sentinel over those of the company who may be laid there to await the morning of the Resurrection.

After the discoursing of some choice music, Mr. Charles M. Neal delivered a very acceptable oration. That it *exactly suited the tastes* and fancies of his hearers was abundantly proven by the hearty applause which greeted his every point. Indeed, Mr. N. so highly gilded the avocation of the fireman, and paid so glowing a tribute to his manliness and self-sacrificing spirit, that we shall never again pass even an old fire-bucket without remembering his eulogium and lifting our hat.

At the close of the oration the gratified hearers again formed into line, and retired with the same decorum which had marked their approach. They disbanded, according to the programme published yesterday, at Franklin square, blessing their stars that Providence had vouchsafed them so propitious a sky. It will be remembered, by way of contrast, that Franklin Lodge, which arranged an affair of the same nature at the same cemetery, was three times disappointed by heavy rains. Our firemen remembered this fact and felicitated themselves accordingly.

From the handsome display made yesterday we can draw an inference us to what will be the grand parade in October next, when not only the Philadelphia department, but those from distant quarters will participate with us; and we feel confident that a very fine affair will be the result. We never were more convinced that the fire department of *this city is the best in the country than we were* when following in the wake of yesterday's procession. There are a few innovations needed, however. One of these is a badge, to be created by act of Legislature, like the seal of the city or the seal of any of our courts, a badge to counterfeit which shall be a penal offence, and which would be the means of preventing the rowdies who run to every fire, from being identified with the respectable members of the department who hold them in abhorrence. We yet hope to see the plan adopted, but even with its imperfections in organization, and its inability to protect itself from imposition, we pronounce the fire department of Philadelphia as by far the best in the Union.

Poisoning Case.—A great excitement prevailed in the Nineteenth Ward yesterday, in consequence of a family named Wishardt exhibiting symptoms of having been poisoned. The family reside in Front street above Montgomery. On Saturday, they purchased, at a neighboring grocery store, some articles, among which were sugar and cheese. On Sunday, Mr. W., his wife, and three children, were taken very ill and exhibited unmistakeable evidences of having been poisoned. It was at first attributed to the cheese, but from the fact that one of the children who were ill had not partaken of the cheese, it was concluded that the poison was in the sugar of which all had eaten.

It is also rumored that a portion of the family of the grocer who sold the sugar, and some members of another family, had also suffered from the same cause. Mr. Wishardt's family were not considered yet out of danger yesterday morning. We learned last evening that six families were poisoned in this neighborhood during Saturday.

Young Men's Christian Association.—The monthly stated meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held last evening, at 8 o'clock, in the lecture-room of the Central Presbyterian Church, at the southeast corner of Eighth and Cherry streets. The attendance of members was quite large. In the absence of George H. Stuart, President of the Association, Mr. James Graham was called to the chair, who opened the proceedings by reading a portion of the twentieth chapter of Proverbs. An impressive prayer was then made by Mr. D. S. Steinmetz; after which a brief but very able and interesting essay on "The Duty of Personal Effort in the Salvation of Souls," was read by Mr. Myers, one of the members. This essay elicited a very animated discussion, which was participated in by a majority of those present. The reports from the committees on employment, &c., exhibited the amount of good work performed in obtaining situations for young men, strangers in the city, and providing them with suitable places of worship. After the transaction of some unimportant business, the meeting adjourned.

More Visiters.—In addition to those previously referred to by us, we learn that the Junior and Rainbow Fire Companies, of Reading, Pa., are diligently employed in making preparations to join in the Firemen's Parade in Philadelphia in October next. Our city will, no doubt, be visited by a very large number of fire companies from abroad on this occasion.

Teachers' National Association.—To-morrow *the meeting* of the Teachers of the United States will be held at the Controller's Room, Sixth and Adelphi streets, for the purpose of organizing a National Teachers' Association.

Board of Directors of the Fire Department.—A meeting of this body was held last evening, at the room in North street, above Fifth, but no business of any public importance was transacted.

Found Dead.—About noon yesterday Mr. Potter was found dead in a chair, in Fourth street, above Brown. The cause of his death is not known. Coroner Delavan was telegraphed for to hold an inquest.

Union County Legislative Convention.—This body met yesterday afternoon at the County Court House, John S. Painter, President, in the Chair. Thirty-five delegates were present.

The nominations were then read, when the following were added:

Oliver I. Search, Jos. R. Naglee, Abraham English, D. H. Styer.

The following were withdrawn:

Joseph R. Lyndall, Robert Pierce, Albert F. Hopple, Andrew Drummond, A. M. K. Story, John M. Riley, John Baker, William H. Geyer, John F. Preston, Charles E. Graeff, Charles F. Jones, Frederick Emhardt, Samuel D. Sidebottom.

Mr. George Moore moved that a committee of five be appointed to apportion the county into legislative districts. The motion was amended to seven, and agreed to. The following was the committee: Thomas Dickson, Joseph Shantz, B. F. Taylor, Wm. H. Kemble, Hiram Corster, Charles Read, and Erastus Poulson.

On motion, the Convention took a recess of ten minutes.

The committee on apportionment reported as follows:

First, Second, Third and Fourth Wards, three members; Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards, three members; Fifteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Wards, two members; Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Wards, two members; Nineteenth, Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, three members.

The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

Mr. Erastus Poulson moved that the Convention take a recess of ten minutes, during which time the delegates representing the different districts retire and recommend the candidates for whom they want the Convention to vote. This gave rise to a debate, which was participated in by several delegates.

A delegate offered an amendment that the Convention proceed to select a candidate for the First, Second, Third and Fourth Wards, which was also debated for some time. The amendment was agreed to, and the motion as amended adopted.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for candidates for the First District, composing First, Second, Third, and Fourth Wards. Messrs. Erastus Poulson and James Work were appointed tellers. The following was the result of the vote:

H. L. Smith	31	J. D. Bayne	2
O. I. Search	29	A. Siddons	9
T. H. Waram	20	J. R. Naglee	3
C. H. Hill	18	J. R. Orr	10

H. F. Mansfield, 1.

Messrs. H. L. Smith and O. I. Search having received a majority of the votes cast, were declared the nominees.

The Convention then proceeded to another ballot, as follows:

Waram	23	Hill	17

Thomas H. Waram was declared the nominee. At this point the delegates from the Second Ward withdrew from the Convention in a body.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a candidate for the Second district, composed of the Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards—the delegates from the Eleventh voting first. The following was the result:

Abraham English	24	Wm. W. Taylor	4
David H. Styer	28	Dr. B. Malone	2
David W. Sellers	29	Jonathan Bullock	6
Lewis M. Green	10	L. R. Fletcher	1
Nathan Spering	1	Robert Bethell	1
Chas. M. Wagner	2	Henry Simpson	1

Messrs. English, Styer, and Sellers having received a majority of the votes, were declared the nominees.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to ballot for two candidates to represent the Third District, composed of the Fifteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty-fourth wards. The ballot resulted as follows:

Geo. F. Gordon	29	Wm. M. Clayton	2
H. W. Graeff	36	Cyrus C. Moore	1

John S. Allison, 6

Messrs. Gordon and Graeff were declared the nominees.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for candidates for the Fourth District, composed of the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Wards, as follows:

George Reed	21	T. S. Chandler	1
W. M. Middleton	2	C. A. Allegood	22
J. T. Finletter	17	Robert Pierce	1

A. Green, 6.

Messrs. Reed and Allegood were declared the nominees.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to ballot for three candidates for the Fifth District, composed of the Nineteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twenty-third Wards.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot with the following result:

Jer. E. Eldridge	33	James Taggart	1
Chas. F. Abbott	29	M. Johnson	2
G. Gibson	26	G. R. Fox	18
John Baker	1	J. F. Preston	1
Saml. D. Sidebottom	1		

Messrs. Eldridge, Abbott, and Gibson were declared the nominees. On motion, the nominations of the Convention were made unanimous.

A vote of thanks was then returned to the officers; after which the Convention adjourned, to meet at the call of the President.

Attempted Suicide.—Yesterday afternoon an unknown white man, who was arrested by Officer Clark, while laboring under a fit of mania-a-potu, made a very desperate attempt at suicide at the Central Police Station. He tore up several bank notes, and threw a very valuable watch away. He made a very ugly gash in his throat with a razor, and suffered considerably from the loss of blood. He was removed to the Blockley Almshouse, where he remains in a very prostrate condition.

Fires in July.—The whole number of fires of all kinds—including not only the largest, but those of the most trivial character—which occurred in the consolidated city of Philadelphia during the month of July, 1857, was fifty-seven. The total amount of loss by the burning of these properties was $17,330; insurance, $11,825; clear loss, $5,505.

The Explosion at Halifax.

The Acadian *Recorder* gives some particulars of the recent explosion of the Merchants' Powder Magazine at Halifax:

All along Water and Granville streets the effects of the explosion were visible in shattered buildings.

The force with which stones were driven against the stores near the water's edge actually started the bungs from the hogsheads. The Naval Hospital is considerably injured. Strange to say, one of the largest stones which reached Mr. Benton's house was driven through the trunk of one of the large trees north of the premises.

A fine new building near the Magazine wharf, intended for a steam-mill, was completely swept away, as also a wharf in connection. The Stokes' property and one adjoining—scarcely a brick standing. Mr. Kaye's property—windows broken, house terribly shaken, and interior greatly damaged. Messrs. Williams & Starr's mills and wharf property injured, extent unknown—machinery disarranged, &c. The houses up the hill to Alderman Jenning's, and all in the neighborhood, more or less shaken. The officers' quarters sustained a complete riddling. There is not a whole sash or window in that fine building. A stone weighing nearly three hundred weight was driven through the roof, and carried away several feet of the woodwork inside. Immense stones were imbedded in the earth.

The Admiralty fell in for a considerable share of damage. The old pile rocked like a cradle. Several houses in Brunswick and Gottingen streets had a good shaking. The residence of J. H. Anderson met a similar fate. One of the ceilings in the house of W. Murdock, Esq., was thrown down by the concussion. Her Majesty's ships *Indus* and *Pyramus*, and the shipping in port, were very sensibly moved by the shock. It is quite possible the Cunard steamer, which left a short time before, will bear the tidings to England, of having experienced the shock of an earthquake off Nova Scotia.

Mr. Nelson Sutton, a well-known lumber merchant of Columbia, Pa., died of dysentery on Friday last.