The Press.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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.

☞ The outside to-day contains, on the fourth page, the commencement of a new story of deep interest, and on the first page an important editorial article on "Public Salaries," Dramatic Criticism, Correspondence, General News, &c.

ONE OF THE STRONG MEN OF THE TIMES.

The quality in a public man that wins applause and rivets confidence is not the glare of oratory. Rare genius and finished education do not secure lasting popularity. The people are more apt to admire indomitable Will and Courage than the graces of the forum, or the acquisitions of the closet. A rough character, like that of BEN HARDIN, was irresistible; while an intellect, as full of rare powers of thought and expression as THOMAS F. MARSHALL's, impressed nobody permanently. EDWARD EVERETT, the scholar, will captivate and charm, while a mind of rude growth and an exterior of ruder manner are sure to command success. There is something even in despotism of character that fascinates a free people. Mr. CLAY held his friends in subjection not by his great powers as a debater, or as an advocate, or as a Senator, but by his *nerve* and his unchanging fidelity to those he loved. General JACKSON, who was the type of the school of strong men, was a man of austere simplicity, utterly regardless of forms of speech, and often accused of incapacity for statesmanship because he refused to be restrained by rule. But he wielded an influence over his countrymen for thirty years by his daring intrepidity, his inexorable firmness, his iron will, and his enthusiastic devotion to his friends, such as few men that ever lived have asserted. The people admire a cultivated man; but they love the bold and the generous with an affection that no vicissitude can change, and no slander abate. All experience proves this. It is a truth asserted by the past, which should not be forgotten by the future.

One of these men of granite structure and of warm heart now lives in the Jackson State of Tennessee. His name is ANDREW JOHNSON, the late Governor of that State, soon to be a Senator in Congress. We propose in this sketch of Governor JOHNSON no compliment to a friend, but a just portrait of one of the strong men of our day and time. He is what the world would call an impracticable. We know him well when he was in the House of Representatives—a calm, quiet man most of the time, who bore the reputation among his associates of being too radical and too fond of impossible reforms. But when roused, he was impetuous and dogmatic. He was never known to yield a point. He rarely took advice. He seldom or never explained away his options. He rather delighted in alarming the timid with his roll of drastic advances upon established institutions. His land system and his scheme of electing the United States Judges would often make the dry bones quake and tattle. It was predicted that his ultra notions would bury him fathom-deep; and that he would go back to Tennessee, and prey upon a broken heart, till carried to his grave. But any one who gazed into his dark eyes, and perused his pale face, would have seen *there* an unquenchable spirit and an almost fanatic obstinacy, that spoke another language. Let us look into this strange man's history. It is a true story, but full of incident, so rare and so out of the common experience, even in this land of sudden fortunes and rapid greatness, as almost to baffle belief. We hold it up to the YOUNG MEN OF THE WHOLE UNION AS AN EXAMPLE. We ask the boys in our common schools to read it. We ask the fathers and mothers, those who are rearing soldiers and statesmen for the future, to study the example, and to profit by the lesson.

Governor JOHNSON was in early life, and up to the period of his engaging in politics, a practical mechanic, having obtained a knowledge of his trade *before he had acquired the first rudiments of an English education.* During the intervals of relaxation from necessary physical labor he learned the alphabet of his mother tongue, and thus, at the period of matured manhood, began to possess himself of those precedent acquirements necessary to the attainment of knowledge, which others, more favored by fortune and friends, obtain in early youth.

His first entrance upon the stage of political action occurred about twenty years ago, when he was chosen by the people of Greene, the county of his residence, as their representative in the State Legislature. At a subsequent period he was again elected, and served several sessions in this capacity.

The zeal and ability which characterized his legislative career won for him so entirely the confidence and regard of his friends, that he was chosen by the people of his district as their Representative in the Congress of the United States. In this more extended sphere of usefulness he served several terms, constantly, though gradually and surely, winning his way into the confidence of the people.

In 1853, following immediately upon the heels of the Presidential election, when the State had been carried by the Whigs, he received the nomination of the Democratic party for Governor, and entered actively upon the canvass, which in Tennessee always precedes a general election. GUSTAVUS A. HENRY, a descendant of PATRICK HENRY, of revolutionary fame, and ranked by his friends with the most eloquent declaimers in the Union, was his competitor. But the "Eagle Orator," as he was termed by his supporters and admirers, soon discovered that his flowing periods, his graceful manner, and his lofty eloquence, were powerless when brought into contrast with the earnest and impressive elocution, and the powerful and well sustained argument of his adversary. Although Tennessee was at that time a decided Whig State, Governor JOHNSON succeeded in his election by a handsome majority.

The most critical, as well as the most important period of his political career, regarded in reference to its results, was in his great canvass for Governor in 1855, in opposition to the American party. His competitor, in this heated contest, was the Hon. M. P. GENTRY, a gentleman of great personal popularity, and distinguished at home and abroad as one of the most eminent statesmen in Tennessee. The contest began soon after the meteoric advent of the new party, and in the flush of its first unparalleled successes. In Tennessee, as elsewhere, many members of the Democratic party, without reflection, and apparently without a motive, contributed their numbers to swell the exultant ranks of the "Order." Never did any man engage in the accomplishment of a task, apparently so hopeless, with more zeal, or a stronger determination, or a more iron will, than Governor JOHNSON in his grapple with this great adversary. Regardless of the advice of timid friends, who urged him to deal more tenderly and more gently with this madness of the hour, he followed up his first attack by well-directed blows, which fell thicker and faster as the canvass progressed, until the entire State was aroused to a pitch of the highest excitement. All other questions of difference were forgotten, or kept in abeyance, or merged into this one great absorbing issue, "Shall JOHNSON succeed or go down?"

It is related that at one period of this canvass he was waited upon by a number of his political friends, and urged, as he valued his success, to abate somewhat the severity of his strictures, and to relax in his uncompromising hostility to the Order. JOHNSON was inexorable. "But," said one of the party, "there are conclusive reasons for the adoption of the policy we suggest, of the nature of which you are uninformed, but with which I am familiar. To be candid with you," he continued, "*one-half the Democratic party here belong to the Order, and I am one of the number!*" "Then you are no longer Democrats," promptly responded the Governor, "and the very reasons of the Democratic party of which you have communicated to me the first intelligence, make it only my more imperative duty, by exhibiting the injustice of Americanism, *to secure accessions to our ranks to supply the places of those who have deserted us.*"

The result of that struggle is well known to the country. Many Democrats, under the influence of false pretences, and in ignorance of the real purposes of its leaders, who had been inveigled into the Order, abandoned it at once, and re-united themselves with their old friends. Thousands of patriotic old Whigs, of standing and influence, refused to follow their leaders into the meshes of the new party, and contributed materially to swell the number of Governor JOHNSON's supporters, and in the end he was for the second time returned as Governor by a triumphant majority.

As a debater, either in the halls of Congress or before the people, Gov. JOHNSON has few equals. His manner is earnest, impressive, and engaging, conveying to the listener a conviction of his sincerity. His arguments are strongly presented, and enforced with so much clearness that the dullest intellect cannot fail to comprehend his purpose. His sympathies are all with the people—they know it, and hence the secret of his great popularity. They regard him as an exponent of their feelings, and a champion of their rights. One of his chief characteristics, as a politician, is his firm and unflinching devotion to his principles. Superadded to this, he possesses those estimable qualities so rarely to be found among politicians, of undoubted *frankness* and entire *reliability*. Friends and foes know, at all times and under all circumstances, precisely where to place him.

His indomitable firmness of character often displays itself. An apt illustration of this characteristic is to be found in his deportment under the heavy misfortune which befel him in February last. He was returning home from Washington, whither he had gone in his official capacity in obedience to an act of the Legislature, proposing, upon certain conditions, to transfer to the United States Government the title to the ownership of the Hermitage, the well-known home of General JACKSON. The train of the Georgia railroad, in which he was a passenger, met with an obstruction upon the track, and the car in which Gov. JOHNSON was seated was precipitated over an embankment nearly thirty feet high. He escaped with his life, but, unfortunately, his right arm was terribly crushed, and in that condition he travelled to Nashville, a distance of several hundred miles, before surgeons were called to prescribe for the injury. During this period of torture, the casual observer would scarcely have discovered from his outward manner, that anything serious had occurred. On his arrival at Nashville the most skilful and distinguished surgeons were called in, and the usual means adopted to replace the fractured bones in their original position. After many weeks of almost constant suffering, the acute pain began to subside, but it was discovered that in consequence of the swollen condition of the arm when it was reset, or the compound nature of the fracture, the disevered bones had not been properly joined together; the inevitable result must be, if no remedy could be applied, the entire loss of the use of his arm. The surgeons were again called in consultation. The result of their deliberations, as announced, was that the chances were decidedly against the restoration of the arm; the only possible means of accomplishing this more than doubtful result would be in effect to break the arm anew—restore the original injury, and again make the effort to replace the crushed bones into their natural and original position. Governor JOHNSON, contrary to their almost positive advice, did not hesitate promptly to adopt the only means which offered the slightest hope. His arm was rebroken, the newly-formed ligatures were torn asunder—through hours of torture, he submitted calmly, determinedly, hopefully, to the terrible infliction. Another period of weeks of unrelieved bodily pain was the necessary consequence, another interval of partial relief followed, and another critical examination proved that nothing had been accomplished! The arm was still hopelessly disabled. Again the surgeons were called together, and again the Governor proposed to undergo any bodily infliction which might promise even a partial restoration; but this time the injury was pronounced to be irremediable, and the surgeons peremptorily declined to renew efforts which only gave pain to the sufferer, without affording any prospect of accomplishing the desired result.

Fortunately for himself and the country, the serious calamity which forever deprived him of the use of an arm left him in possession of life and health, and the active exercise of the superior intellectual faculties with which nature has endowed him. He is still the same indomitable, uncompromising, self-willed, though patriotic ANDREW JOHNSON, still ready, still able, to advance the cause of the Truth, and now, as ever before, the sincere, the earnest, the devoted upholder of the rights of the people. It requires no prophet to foretell, that with such antecedents, and such qualities and endowments, he cannot fail, in the new and exalted sphere to which he will soon be called, to increase his reputation in proportion to the wider scope which will be given for the display of his peculiar personal qualities and his high intellectual endowments. Such is a brief sketch of one of the strong men of the times.

OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.

The fine weather is recalling tourists to their cool homesteads, so welcome after all the sacrifices of "the season" at the fashionable resorts. It is also attracting to Philadelphia large numbers of visiters and purchasers from other States. Our streets begin to be thronged with gay and happy crowds. The indications of a revival in trade are apparent on all hands. The hotels are filling up; Market, Second, Third, and Fourth streets resound with drays and the clink of hammers closing boxes up; the theatres are opening their doors, and promising novelties without end; MARSHALL gives us the ballet; WHEATLEY the legitimate drama; BURTON the comedy. These, with a healthy climate, clean streets, and lovely weather, make the promise of the autumn unusually auspicious.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN MINNESOTA.

One of the prominent questions under discussion by the Constitutional Convention in Minnesota is "Universal Suffrage"—shall there be distinctions of color? The St. Paul *Times* urges the Republicans to permit no such anomaly in the new Constitution as a distinction in rights grounded only upon a difference of color. It says:

"Don't give it up! It was this eternal truckling, and pandering, and fawning—this mean, servile complaisance, this locking arms with sin and hobnobing with Satan, this striving to out-Herod and out-Devil our opponents in the commission of stupendous political crimes, that killed the old Whig party. It gave up the ghost at the right time, in the right place. It died when there was nothing in it that deserved to live. If Republican delegates intend to kill the Republican party in Minnesota quick, let them take the same road that Benton and Clay, Choate and Webster and Winthrop did, yield every principle that the Republican party has got, bow to villany in every form, and, in a word, make the Republican party and the Republican platform just like the Democratic, so as to catch their votes, and it will be done!"

At this rate Minnesota will not long remain a State of doubtful politics. There is no party feeling about negro suffrage. The protest against it is that practical prejudice, call it what you may, inherent in every white man's bosom, and it cannot be refined away.

PROGRESSING.

The magnificent scheme of Dudley Mann, and half a dozen Southern conventions, to run a line of steamers from Chesapeake Bay to Milford Haven, in Wales, is making astounding progress, that will be a caution to Vanderbilt and Collins, and other small-fry steamboat men of the North. The Old Point Convention subscribed eight thousand dollars. A New York merchant (who is he?) has promised to take a share. It will only take seven million dollars to complete the enterprise, and eight thousand two hundred dollars has already been subscribed. Only six million, nine hundred and ninety-one thousand, eight hundred dollars is required to secure the commercial independence of the South! Let the North tremble!—*Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle.*

This is the material that enters so largely into the staple abuse of the South, and produces counter-irritations and insults. Any true friend of the Union is a friend of the South, and will rejoice as sincerely over the success of such a scheme as that of Colonel MANN, as if it originated in the latitude of New York or Philadelphia. In the days of the Revolution *the North never trembled save when the South despaired.*

☞ THE JOURNEYMEN PRINTERS' EXCURSION, which was postponed from the 15th of August, comes off on Saturday next, and promises to be a *recherche* affair. The steamboat Whilldin will leave Chestnut street wharf at half-past two o'clock, and will proceed to Florence Heights, one of the most romantic places on the Delaware. We wish them a good time.

THE FORMATION OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.—No. 2.

The repeated efforts of Congress to obtain, by its requests from the several States, the powers necessary to levy imposts and to regulate commerce failed. They served, however, to awaken attention to other methods of gaining the same end. So early as 1782 the Legislature of New York adopted a series of resolutions, which proposed to "Congress to recommend, and to each State to adopt, the measure of assembling a general convention of the States, specially authorized to revise and amend the Confederation." But this suggestion does not seem to have been met with any general degree of favor at that time. A somewhat similar proposition was adopted by the House of Delegates of Virginia, in 1785; and in January, 1786, Virginia appointed eight commissioners to meet representatives from other States to examine the commercial propositions which had been suggested, and to report to the several States such an act as, when adopted, would give Congress the desired powers. This led to the convention which assembled at Annapolis, September 11, 1786. It was composed of two commissioners from New York, three from New Jersey, one from Pennsylvania, three from Delaware, and three from Virginia. Commissioners had also been appointed to this convention by the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina, but none of them were in attendance. Connecticut, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia, had appointed no commissioners. The powers of all the commissioners in attendance were confined to action upon commercial regulations, except those from New Jersey, who were also authorized to consider how far a uniform system in "*other matters* might be necessary to the common interest and permanent harmony of the several States." The Annapolis Convention seems to have been very deeply impressed by this suggestion of New Jersey; for in the address in which they recommended that a new convention of all the States should be held at Philadelphia in May, 1787, the commissioners "submit an opinion, that the idea of extending the powers of their deputies to other objects than those of commerce, which has been adopted by the State of New Jersey, was an improvement on the original plan, and will deserve to be incorporated into that of a future convention." The action of the Annapolis Convention was favorably considered by Congress, and in February, 1787, that body adopted a resolution endorsing the recommendation for the assemblage of a Constitutional Convention at the time fixed. All the States except Rhode Island complied with the recommendation. The convention met at Philadelphia as proposed on the 14th of May, 1787, and on the 17th of September, 1787, agreed to the Constitution, and transmitted it to Congress. The latter body ordered it to be transmitted to the several Legislatures for submission to a convention of delegates to be chosen by each State. It was ratified by the several States in the following order: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island. New Hampshire, the ninth State, ratified it June 21, 1788. Rhode Island did not ratify it until May 29, 1790. While the Constitution thus formed was an acknowledged improvement upon the old Articles of Confederation, it was still regarded as imperfect. A number of the States, in ratifying it, expressed a desire that further restrictive clauses should be added to prevent misconstruction and abuse of its powers. To accomplish this end, the very first Congress proposed the first ten of the amendments to it. They were ratified by enough States to make them valid by June, 1790. Congress also proposed, in 1794, the eleventh, and in 1803, the twelfth amendment, and they being ratified, completed the Constitution.

The time fixed for the commencement of operations under the new Constitution of the United States was March 4, 1789. But, singular to relate, it was not until April 6, that the Senate was enabled to secure the attendance of a quorum of its members, nor until April 1, that a quorum appeared in the House of Representatives. On the sixth of April the electoral votes were opened and counted. George Washington was elected President unanimously. John Adams was elected Vice President, by having more votes than any other candidate, but he did not receive a majority of the whole number polled, the Constitution not having originally required this for the Vice President. Washington was not inaugurated until April 30, 1789.

This short resume of the movements connected with the formation of the Federal Constitution, and the commencement of governmental operations under its provisions, strikingly exhibits the degree of caution and consideration which marked the movements of the founders of this nation. The Constitution evidently grew up out of the necessities of the American people; and those who were then intrusted with the management of public affairs preferred that it should do so, rather than that a crude and ill-considered system should be forced upon them. There was no indecent haste exhibited—no immature and rash expedients resorted to. And it is undoubtedly to the prudence and patriotism which marked their conduct that we are indebted for the wonderful success that has crowned their labors.

When we contrast the spirit which animated them with the reckless manner in which other Constitution-makers have discharged similar duties, we are forcibly reminded how rashly "fools rush in where angels fear to tread," and cease to wonder at the confusion and disaster which have attended the Babel-work of the latter. The Constitutions of France, the Spanish American States, and various European nations have been counted by dozens. Hastily and inconsiderately framed, they took no deep root in the soil of the countries for which they were formed, and the first storms that arose blew them away. Framed to suit rather the fancies of political philosophers than to meet the urgent wants of the people, the latter felt no special interest in systems of which they know little, and for which they cared less, and hence had no great motive to cherish and defend. It is therefore not strange that they have been about as short in duration as they were hasty in construction—as premature in their death as they were precocious in their birth.

The mushroom Topeka Constitution, and the stormy proceedings of the double-headed Minnesota Constitutional Convention, as well as other manifestations in various sections of the country, remind us that the method pursued in following the Federal Constitution deserves much more consideration than it receives even from American citizens, and that in this "fast" age we are too apt to ignore that spirit of calm and careful consideration, and of studious inquiry into the real wants of the people which conferred upon the nation its admirable frame-work of Government, and thus achieved such wonderful results for the freedom, happiness, and welfare of its inhabitants.

Newspaper Impersonality.

The New York *Mirror* has a judicious article upon the proper method of conducting a newspaper. We extract the following paragraph as embodying a just estimate of public opinion respecting the matter:

"The paper, which is the mere mouth-piece of an individual, the reflex of the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies of a single man, is always liable to make itself unpopular or ludicrous, and can never be a power in the community. So long as the names of the publishers are known, the public has every necessary guarantee of the responsibility of their prints. Who writes this or that article is a matter which does not concern the public, and for which they care nothing. Nor do they trouble themselves much about editorial quarrels and bickerings, except to laugh indiscriminately, as a crowd does over a street fight. A newspaper of influence and ability is an institution, not a personality, and its expressed opinions are the aggregate opinions of a number of men acting with unanimity, with common motive, and with a fixed purpose. Louis Napoleon crippled the French press effectively, when he compelled every newspaper article to be signed by the name of its writer; and the *London Times* would lose half its vigor and influence were the same rule to be adopted in England."

☞ The Cincinnati *Daily Enquirer* has passed into the hands of J. J. FARAN and WASHINGTON MCLEAN, ESQRS., men of great enterprise and energy. The name of J. J. FARAN, Esq., is announced as editor. His ability, integrity and experience, at the head of so important a newspaper as the *Enquirer*, are greatly needed in the present condition of Ohio politics. Mr. FARAN is a sincere and honest man, and will greatly increase the influence of that journal.

☞ The settlement of the dispute between the two Conventions in Minnesota is good news. It was a disgraceful quarrel to both parties.

MR. GREELEY AND KANSAS.

[From Monday's New York Tribune.]

The Philadelphia *Press*, Col. Forney's new paper, gives the following evidence that the game of making Kansas a slave State, by fraud and violence is to be pushed to an immediate consummation:

IMPORTANT DESPATCH FROM WASHINGTON.

[*Special for The Press.*]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—The prospect of a fair election for delegates to the September Convention in Kansas increases.

The work of the Convention will, it is said, be quickly done. It will probably be submitted to the people on the day that a Legislature is elected, and the chances are that the Constitution will be in Washington, with a member of Congress and two Senators to back it, by the 1st of December.

It is supposed that the Constitution, like that of New York and Pennsylvania, will be *silent* as to slavery.

This programme will prevent an attack on Governor Walker's nomination in the Senate. He can resign, and may come as a Senator from the new State.

Rest assured, there is some hope that this plan will be carried out. SOLIVAIRE.

The election "for delegates to the September Convention in Kansas" was had *two months* ago, and a pro-slavery body returned by a total poll of less than fifteen hundred votes. This election was held under a bogus registry, which excluded the great bulk of the free-State men from voting.

The Constitution has of course been already concocted in some pro-slavery conclave, and the Convention will merely go through the form of adopting it. They doubtless know a good deal more about its features in Washington than in Kansas.

"A Constitution *silent* as to slavery," framed by a Convention elected under border-ruffian authority, will be a pro-slavery Constitution; slavery is already in Kansas, so far as usurpation bogus law can plant it there, and a Convention springing from the bogus authority does not need to legalize slavery there—to say nothing is to leave slavery legalized and established. No intelligent person can honestly dispute this.

Shall a Constitution so framed by a Convention chosen by less than a tenth of the people, and representing but one-fourth of the number, be imposed on Kansas by Federal authority and bayonets? This is the precise issue now tendered. What say the free States?

Our correspondent fell into the error, doubtless, of supposing that the June election was for members of a new Legislature, as many have supposed, and not for delegates to the September Convention to frame a State Constitution.

It is not a practical question as to the election of the delegates. They were legally elected according to law; and their acts are recognised, because they are the only regularly chosen delegates under the forms of the organic act. *The whole people of the Territory will decide whether their work is right or wrong.*

The *Tribune's* assumption that the Constitution "has already been adopted in some pro-slavery conclave," is ridiculous. Doubtless the Charleston *Mercury* thinks that instrument "has already been adopted in some free-State conclave." The one story would be as absurd as the other.

"A Constitution silent as to slavery,' framed by a Convention elected under border-ruffian rule, will be a pro-slavery Constitution."

Another bald assumption. Most of the Constitutions in the free States "are *silent* as to slavery." Nobody fears slavery in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, because their Constitutions do not prohibit slavery.

But our correspondent might have gone further on this subject of slavery in the Constitution of Kansas. He might have said, that while the Constitution of Kansas, will, in all probability, be silent as to slavery, *a separate vote will be taken, on the day that the Constitution is submitted to the people, on the proposition, shall slavery exist in the new State of Kansas or not?*

This was the ground taken in June, when the delegates to the Convention were elected—most of the candidates pledging themselves to this effect from the hustings; so that if slavery be in Kansas now, and there is a majority of actual residents and duly qualified voters against it, it will be removed; it will be excluded. And if the majority is the other way, slavery will be recognized and retained. What can be fairer than this?

The next paragraph of MR. GREELEY's article is in almost exact harmony with MR. KEITT and the few extremists who back him. The one wants the Constitution rejected by the free-State settlers because the Administration intervenes to secure a vote upon it, or, in other words, to "impose it on Kansas"; the others demand its rejection because Governor WALKER has "intervened" to secure a fair vote; and while the *Tribune* says that Mr. BUCHANAN is bound to make it a slave State with his bayonets, MR. KEITT and Company assert that Governor WALKER is pledged to make it a free State, aided by the squatter sovereigns!

The truth is, the apparition that frights the souls of these fearful adversaries (now such good friends) is the prospect of *the final settlement of the slavery question by the operation of the majority rule.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Steamships Niagara, Agamemnon, and Susquehanna.—Telegraph Cable, &c.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, September 1, 1857.

From the subjoined extract of a letter to the Navy Department, dated at sea, August 13th, 1857, it will be seen that the Niagara has proved herself a faster goer than either the Susquehanna or Agamemnon:

"We had something of a race to-day, and a good deal of excitement for awhile. The Agamemnon and Niagara have each large feaders or guards over their propellers; she has a load of about 1500 tons, and we a load of about 1150. Both load and guard were not much of an assistance in a race; besides, I was a little afraid of the Agamemnon, as every one declares in England that she can steam eleven and twelve knots easy; and I thought certainly the Susquehanna would lead us badly in the trim in which we were. So, with all these reasons, I managed to keep a little back the entire afternoon. This morning at 9 o'clock the Susquehanna was about two miles ahead, and we were just abeam of the Agamemnon. Capt. Sands signalized, 'I am going to Plymouth,' as much as to say, 'Can't wait for such slow coaches,' I asked Capt. Hudson to try and let us go to Plymouth also. Each ship's smoke-pipes told the story of hard firing at once. The sea was smooth and the wind light after us; smoke just up and down when at full speed; at 5 P. M. the positions were nearly as follows: The Agamemnon was more than half down astern. We could just see her smoke. The Susquehanna was about seven or eight miles astern. As Capt. Hudson wanted to keep company with the Agamemnon, we stopped and waited for her."

The Niagara's speed in the contest was on an average twelve knots an hour. This is a great achievement on the part of the Niagara, for I believe that the Agamemnon is held to be the fastest steamer in the English service, and the Susquehanna has held all along an enviable reputation for speed in the American navy.

Capt. Hudson, writing to the Navy Department from Plymouth, England, under date of Aug. 14th, 1857, has the honor to report the arrival of the steam frigate Niagara at that port, and the mortification to announce officially the breaking of the telegraph cable, on the use of too heavy a pressure upon the brake attached to the paying-out machinery, after 334 miles of it had been run out—some at a depth of 2,050 fathoms, or a little more than two and a quarter miles. He has every reason to believe, from his experience so far in wire-laying, that under ordinary circumstances of weather and of machinery adapted to the aim in view—that aboard requiring improvement—that a telegraphic cable can be laid in safety over the plateau of the Atlantic ocean.

At the time the cable parted, August 11th, 345 o'clock, A. M., the ship was going at a speed of four knots an hour. She had been running all night at a rate of three to four knots. There was "a motion from a moderate head sea, and the company's chief engineer and men attending their brakes to lessen the expenditure of cable," the cable suddenly parted—an accident, says the Captain, "which made all hands of us through the day like a household or family that had lost their dearest friend, for the officers and men had become deeply interested in the success of the enterprise." Mr. Field left the ship soon after the occurrence of the accident, in H. M. steam brig Cyclops, for Valentia Bay, Ireland, requesting that the Niagara, Susquehanna, and Agamemnon should proceed to this place, after making certain experiments with the wire and machinery in deep water. The Leopard proceeded at once to Spithead. Whether the company intend to supply additional cable and make another trial during the present season, or to defer it to next summer, Captain Hudson is not advised. If the latter course be pursued, the remaining wire will have to be taken out of the ship and *retarred* to save it from rust, and he will require further instructions from the Department. X. Y.

WASHINGTON, August 31, 1857.

One half of the iron required in the construction of a lighthouse was sent to the desired place under orders of the proper authorities, and remained on the beach a little below high-water mark for a period of nearly six months without exhibiting any appearance of erosion. The other half, after a like exposure for only a few weeks, oxidized and so much corroded as to need filing and scraping to make the parts fit. This iron was from New Jersey, but from different mines in that State. With this fact, and others of a similar character, before it, and looking to the national importance of the subject, the Treasury Department has issued the following circular:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Aug. 31, 1857.

"SIR: This department has been furnished with undoubted evidence that there is a great difference between iron from different mines in the United States in the degree and rapidity with which they become oxydised. Congress, during the last session, appropriated the sum of $2,500 to test the different irons in this country in that particular. If these experiments shall establish the important fact that irons do not differ entirely or nearly proof against the corrosion of oxygen, it will multiply the uses of such iron to a very considerable extent for purposes to which it is now applied, and give it the preference over other irons for many purposes for which iron is now used.

"The very large extent to which this material is superseding the use of wood and stone in the public buildings, erecting at a cost of many millions of dollars annually, under this department, renders it of the greatest importance to know what irons resist, for the longest period, the action of oxygen. It is hoped that the great interest the iron masters have in the result of this experiment will be considered a sufficient apology for requesting samples of their iron and the ores from which they are made.

"I have, therefore, to request that you will forward to this department, by mail or express, two or three small samples of iron and a sample of ore from each of the mines worked by you; the samples of iron not to exceed a quarter of a pound each, and the ore not to exceed a half pound in weight. I would also request information on the following points, viz: The extent of the ore deposit—facilities of mining ore—its distance from furnace, and distance of furnace from market, and mode of transportation thence—the fuel used—relative cost of charcoal, coke, crude bituminous and anthracite iron—kind of flux and its cost, &c.—the capacity of the establishment and the amount of iron produced during the last year, and what it would be capable of producing under a ready sale and remunerating prices—any peculiarity of the iron produced—whether there are rolling mills in the vicinity, and what descriptions of iron they roll—to what purposes most of the products of your furnaces are applied, and what description of iron the establishment mostly produces—when did your works first go into operation—what has been the annual production, and what the ruling prices each year since your works were first started. You will please give the State and county in which your iron mine is situated, and the distance your fuel is transported. As it is the intention of the Department to furnish you with the result of the experiments, you will please name the post office through which to address you. If you know of any one in your neighborhood interested in the iron business, who does not receive a copy of this letter, if you will forward his address one will be sent to him. You will realize the value of the information which it is sought to be obtained by this circular, when you reflect upon the growing importance of the iron interest of the country—a fact attributable, in no small degree, to the introduction of iron as a substitute for other materials in our public buildings.

"The policy of affording encouragement to this great interest, by promoting its production and increasing its consumption, has been commenced by the Government, and I am desirous of obtaining all the information which can be had on the subject, with a view to its further encouragement.

"This circular will be addressed to persons not immediately connected with iron establishments, as it is believed that there will be not only a willingness, but an anxiety on the part of every one to advance the object which the Department has in view.

"I am desirous of obtaining the information asked for at the earliest practicable moment.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"HOWELL COBB,
"Secretary of the Treasury."

The data which may be collected in response to this circular will be collated and published for general information.

The production of iron in the United States has of late enlisted the attention of large classes of our citizens in every section. The time is not distant when Pennsylvania alone represented the iron interests of the United States. Now we have iron in market from the rich iron fields and mountains of Michigan, Missouri, and Minnesota. The consumption of iron is very large. We see iron houses, iron bridges, iron steamers, iron sailing vessels with iron rigging—indeed, countless are the uses of this metal. The Government encourages this consumption. It provides, in items of appropriation, for light houses, custom houses, post offices, court houses, &c., that these structures shall be built with iron floors, roofs, ties, sills, and doors.

Yet, with ore enough in the bowels of our land to supply the wants of the world, our iron masters cannot successfully, it seems, compete with foreign manufacturers. Most of the railroad companies of the United States purchase the iron rail they use in foreign markets, because there they can get it cheaper, although it is in nine cases out of ten of the poorest quality.

To remedy this admitted evil various plans have been suggested. Numbers of such plans will be presented for the action of Congress. Duff Green, Esq., as spokesman of a committee, issues a circular addressed to all persons interested in the manufacture of iron and in railroads, to aid them as delegates to a convention to be held in January next, or by such suggestions as they may desire to make. He observes that—

"As our railroad system has absorbed, and must of necessity continue to absorb, so much of our capital and labor, and as the purchase of foreign iron with railroad bonds must subject us more and more to the financial policy of the Bank of England; and as it is now well understood that the policy of that bank is to regulate the exchanges so as to make London the heart of the financial world and as she can under our present system recruit her stock of bullion by exporting our specie at less cost than she can obtain it elsewhere; and as the purchase of English iron with our railroad bonds increases the power of the Bank of England over our currency, it is apparent that an organization by which American iron can be supplied to our railroad companies at less cost than is now paid for foreign iron would greatly promote our financial independence and greatly promote the general welfare of this country."

The plan proposed is one which has already been before the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads of the House of Representatives during the session of the thirty-second Congress. It embraces "an organization, under acts of incorporation, in all the States from which they can be obtained, with sufficient capital, to be invested in railroad bonds and other good securities; that it shall be the duty of this association to act as trustee and agent for railroad companies in the sale of their securities, and, from the proceeds of such sales and their own capital, to furnish funds to aid in the manufacture of iron for railroads; that there shall be a *fixed* duty upon iron sufficient to protect the capital invested in its manufacture and the currency from the contingencies, affecting the price of foreign iron, produced by the financial policy of the Bank of England; that the laws regulating mail contracts be so modified as to authorize contracts with railroad companies for the permanent use of their road; and that, instead of payments on contracts as now made, there be delivered to such companies coupon bonds, chargeable on the revenues of the Department, redeemable at the pleasure of the Government, and bearing an interest at the rate of two and a half per cent; for a sum, the interest upon which, at five per cent., would be equal to the payments made for such service under the present system; that the whole proceeds of the public lands be transferred to the Post Office fund, and that, whenever the funds of the Department and the surplus in the sub-treasury, beyond a sum to be fixed by law, will permit, it shall be the duty of the proper agent of the Government to purchase up, *at par*, such of these coupon bonds as may have been deposited, under the laws of any of the States, as a basis for bank issues—in the order of the registry of such bonds at the Treasury by the banks making such deposit."

I state these facts without any opinion on my part of the practicability or propriety of this, or any other measure; still hoping, however, that the interest already excited may not die out, but continue until this important question has been thoroughly sifted. It remains for those concerned in the manufacture of iron to consult their own interest by ready and complete responses to the circulars, both of the Treasury Department and of the committee of which Mr. Green is the chairman. When all the ground of investigation and analysis has been explored, then may we arrive at a safe decision. Until then we grope in the dark.

X. Y.

STATE POLITICS.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.—An extra from the Columbia *Democrat*, of the 31st ult., informs us that the Columbia County Democratic Convention met on that day, at Bloomsburg, and nominated the following ticket:

For Congress—John McKrynolds.
For Legislature—Peter Ent, (both subject to the Conferee Convention.)

The county officers nominated were as follows:

Prothonotary—Jacob Eyerly. Register and Recorder—Daniel Lee. Commissioner—Elias Dieterich. Treasurer—James McNinah and Auditor—John R. Yohe.

THE MISSOURI ELECTION.—The official vote gives STEWART, Dem., 334 majority over ROLLINS, American.

[For the Press.]

JOHN RANDOLPH, OF ROANOKE, ON THE CHOICE OF A WIFE.—Rely upon it that to love a woman as a mistress, although a delicious delirium, an intoxication far surpassing champagne, is altogether unessential, nay pernicious, in the choice of a wife, which a man ought to set about in his sober senses, choosing her as Mrs. Primrose did her wedding gown, for qualities that wear well. I am well persuaded that few love-matches are happy ones. One thing at least is true, that if matrimony has its cares celibacy has no pleasures. A Newton or a mere scholar may find employment in study; a man of literary taste can receive in books a powerful auxiliary; but a man must have a bosom friend and children around him to cherish and support the dreariness of old age. Do you remember A——V——? He could neither read nor think; any wife, even a scolding one, would have been a blessing to that poor man. After all, *suitability* is the true foundation for marriage. If the parties be suited to one another, if age, situation in life, (a man indeed may descend when all else is fitting,) temper and constitution, these are the ingredients of a happy marriage, or at least a convenient one—which is all that people of experience expect.

FREDERIKA BREMER says: The life of a bachelor is as a good breakfast, a tolerable dinner, but a wretched supper.

A FALSE FRIEND is like a shadow upon a dial; it appears in clear weather but vanishes as soon as that is cloudy.

WRITING, like ore, should be valued not by its bulk but by its riches.

ENVY is like a sore eye, inflamed by everything brilliant or dazzling.

THE OLD AGE of a literary person is the evening of a fine day.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

Cabinet Meeting—The Rumored Removals—The New Sloop-of-War—Re-Assembling of the Naval Courts of Inquiry—Appointments and Resignations—General Denver and the Indians—The Consulate to Liverpool.

WASHINGTON, September 1.—There was a brief meeting of the Cabinet yesterday in the forenoon, on foreign affairs; what conclusion was reached is not known out of the mystic circle of constitutional advisers. It is certain that nothing definite was done with reference to the rumored removals in the Interior, Treasury, and other Departments. I presume now, unless something is done at the regular Cabinet council to-day, that there will be no further removals of chief officers or heads of bureaus until the commencement of the next quarter, on the 1st of October.

Owing to the continued absence of Commander HARTSTEIN and Captain PENDERGRAST, it is unlikely that the Board appointed to examine the proposals for the construction of the new sloop-of-war will organize for business before to-morrow.

On Monday next the three Naval Courts of Inquiry re-assemble after their recess, to dispose of the remaining forty or fifty cases on their dockets. It is expected that they will have submitted their reports on all the cases presented for their investigation previous to the meeting of Congress. Where their duty ends, under the law of January 16th, 1857, that of the President and Senate of the United States begins.

WM. WICKES, of Lowistown, Pennsylvania, has been appointed to a first-class ($1200) clerkship in the Post Office Department.

Lieutenant THOMAS M. CROSSAN, ordered to the Merrimac, has resigned his commission in the Navy.

JAMES M. PARKS, of Alabama, has been appointed to a first-class clerkship in the Pension Office.

Gen. DENVER was in St. Louis on Wednesday last,