The Press.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1857.

FIRST PAGE—England and India—The Tariff—The Tariff Notion—Foreign Miscellany—Foreign Literature and Art—General News—The Courts. FOURTH PAGE—The Pennsylvania Hospital—Its History.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The *Ariel*, whose news despatches were intercepted off Cape Race by the news yacht, is reported to have left Southampton on the first instant. If so, her news, therefore, would be *one* day later than that brought by the *Arabia*. But her day of sailing was the 6th. Her intelligence is unimportant, except that the London money market was depressed, that cotton and breadstuffs (except wheat) were declining, and that the launch of the Great Eastern mammoth steamer had been a failure. The *Ariel* has brought $400,000 in specie.

LAWLESS EXPEDITIONS AGAINST CUBA AND NICARAGUA.

The papers opposed to the Administration of the General Government comment with some severity upon the alleged neglect of the Federal agents in New Orleans, in permitting General WALKER, of Nicaragua memory, to get out of that port, with his staff and some three hundred men, on board the steamer Fashion; and we perceive that the last New York *Courrier des Etats Unis*, the French journal, says that his escape inflicts an indelible stain upon the President and his advisers. The answer to these accusations is easy enough. Mr. BUCHANAN'S known aversion to the schemes of the fillibusters, and his recent orders to the officers of the Government to prevent the sailing of all such expeditions as that of WALKER, abundantly prove his course of action in the premises. Although we may regret that, through the sympathy or the apathy of the officials at New Orleans, he has been enabled to violate the solemn pledge made in his letter to General CASS of the 7th of November, (in which he expressly denied any purpose to set at defiance our neutrality laws,) yet we conceive that he will be even more unfortunate than in his late campaign, when so many valuable lives were sacrificed to his ambition, his cupidity, or his ignorance. The strong protest against his advertisement for support during his late tour through the United States, the rebuke administered to his schemes by the sensible part of the public journals, North and South, and the indignant letter of Mr. JENKINS, of Georgia, to whom he had dedicated one of his inflammatory appeals, and who repudiated both the man and his doctrines, were admonitions which will, we think, deter volunteers from trusting themselves to his fatal standard, and complete the catastrophe of his career.

It is inconceivable how much mischief just such a man as this General WALKER can work to a good cause. We perceive that he boasts of being encouraged in parts of the South. The wonder is, that the people in that quarter do not look beyond his present designs against Central America, and see how, unless promptly checked, they may (no matter how immediately fruitless) be set up as a precedent, when the Administration shall come to act upon the greater question OF THE PURCHASE OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA. To aid and abet WALKER—to allow him to go unrebuked in his present enterprise—can be most disastrously wielded by any other gang of adventurers who may conceive this the time for a descent upon Cuba, and may suppose that the Government and public opinion will sustain them.

It was doubtless in anticipation of such a contingency that Mr. BUCHANAN took early steps to let his countrymen and the whole world know by his instructions to the officers of the Federal Government at the several leading ports of the Union, that the energies and resources of the whole Administration shall be put forth to prevent all marauding expeditions during his Presidential term.

We have said THE PURCHASE OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA. "To this complexion must it come at last." We know how anxious the Southern States are for this acquisition. And the fact that, in course of time, Cuba must be ours (leaving out of view its importance to the protection of our Atlantic coast, and to the commerce of the whole sea-board) has long ago produced the impression upon the minds of the people of the free States, that this event cannot be resisted, and is only delayed for the opportunity, which, unless lost to us by such an adventurer as this man WALKER, is certain to come at an early day.

The sensitiveness of some of the European Powers on the subject of Cuba has thus far been the chief obstacle to its acquisition by the United States. This feeling has been kept alive by the hair-brained and Quixotic enterprises which have repeatedly failed, to "conquer" it from Spain. Now, the occupation or purchase of Cuba by the United States cannot be of any real interest to either France or England, so long as the settled purpose of our Government is known to be, that when Cuba is yielded by Spain, it must come to the United States, and that any attempt, on the part of any other nation, to deprive us of an island so intensely essential to our protection, and to the interests of our commerce, and to the welfare of our Union, will be resisted to the uttermost. What Mr. BUCHANAN'S purpose may be, we know not. We are certain that public opinion will sustain the peaceful acquisition of Cuba. We believe the President looks to the same end. But we are equally confident that the moment any attempt is made, by *any* European power, to take possession of that island, no matter on what pretext, that attempt will be opposed by the united sentiment of the American people, even to the alternative of war. Let France and England avoid all meddling with this matter of Cuba, and there can be no doubt that the American Government will prevent irresponsible fillibusters, like General WALKER, from controlling it. In this way Spain will be left to act for herself—freed from all those "foreign" influences at her own court which have thus far prevented us from making terms with her; and she will thus be spared the mortification, and alarm, and expenditure, growing out of the expeditions of adventurers and speculators, who use the American name only to disgrace that name before the nations.

A PAPER CURRENCY.

One of the most common arguments by which a diminution of the paper currency and an enlargement of the specie basis of the country is opposed, is the assertion that there is not enough of gold and silver to furnish a circulating medium. The immense yield of gold by California and Australia has done much to answer this objection, but it is still frequently urged. That it is perfectly fallacious, however, is susceptible of the clearest demonstration. Few have failed to notice the great increase in the use of the precious metals, as articles of ornament or as plate, which has taken place within the last ten or twenty years. Tens of thousands of young men have their gold watches, although the period is not very remote when silver ones were considered rather extravagant than otherwise. Gold breast-pins, rings, ear-rings, and jewelry of various sorts, are in possession of almost every lady. An immense number of families daily use silver spoons, many also silver forks, and quite a large number various articles of silver plate. The total value of gold and silver used in this manner in the United States must be very great. The best statisticians estimate the whole amount of gold and silver in Europe and America in 1831 at $4,500,000,000, to which there has since been added $1,500,000,000, making a total of $6,000,000,000, of which there is used as currency only about $2,400,000,000, leaving $3,600,000,000 to be used as plate, jewelry, &c. We incline to think that the proportion of the precious metals used as currency in this country bears a greater proportion to the total amount than in Europe. But it is plain enough that if the people want a metallic currency there is no material obstacle to prevent them from obtaining it. They have but to will it—to impress their will upon the statutes of their country—and the existence of an active and presistent demand for gold and silver will insure, through the inevitable operation of the laws of trade, a full supply. The boundless resources of our country and the indefatigable energies of the American people are such as to place at their command any production of the world which they desire, to any reasonable extent; and if by resolving to use hereafter mainly hard and real money instead of its mere representative, they establish an active demand and an actual necessity for specie, they will get it just as certainly as they can get anything else in the world. Creation is ransacked now to supply them with all other articles. No other human production is considered beyond their reach, and their stock of gold would just as certainly be increased, not only by retaining the gold product of California, but by importing gold from abroad, as their stock of any other article they may determine to have, and are willing to pay a commanding price for.

A series of able articles has lately appeared in *Hunt's Merchant's Magazine*, written by AMASA WALKER, late Secretary of State of Massachusetts, in which the fallacy of the idea that there is not enough gold and silver to furnish sufficient currency, is clearly shown. He also lays down, and we think clearly demonstrates, the following propositions:

That a paper currency, not based upon an equivalent in specie, is, from its nature, fluctuating both in quantity and quality. That it affords neither a correct standard of value, nor a reliable medium of exchange. That, as a consequence, it is an uncertain and dangerous currency, not to be safely relied upon by mercantile men or the public generally. That it deranges the industry of the country, producing periodical and violent revulsions of trade, and numerous and extensive failures. That it enhances the rate of interest, counteracts the influence of protective duties, and retards the growth of manufactures. That it neither increases the capital of the country nor makes money more plenty. That it does not increase the real wages of labor; and that it has a constant tendency to send specie out of the country.

In support of these views many interesting facts are adduced, and the whole series of articles is well worthy of perusal. The remedy proposed is a of gradual substitution of a metallic or value money currency, by first prohibiting, throughout the entire Union, all bank notes under the value of five dollars, and gradually extending that prohibition successively to all bills under ten, twenty, and twenty-five dollars, and at last to all bills not based upon an equal amount of specie in the banks.

A FEW WORDS AS TO KANSAS.

A highly-esteemed friend, a native of Pennsylvania, and now a citizen of Kansas, says of WALKER's rejection of the frauds: "He did just right. The McGhee fraud elected *me*; but I advised him to reject it."

The step of the Constitutional Convention of Kansas, and the shameless and shameful manner in which that body seeks to defy and to cheat the will of the majority, are shown in the following article from the Chicago *Times*:

THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION.—The Convention assembled in Kansas to frame a State Constitution is in session, and has framed a large portion of an instrument. The committee upon the subject of slavery has reported a provision, which has been adopted by the Convention, though it has yet to be voted on as forming part of the whole. We give the provision entire; it is as follows:

"REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SLAVERY.

"Section 1. The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves without the consent of their owners, or without paying their owners, previous to their emancipation, a full equivalent in money for the slaves so emancipated. They shall have no power to prevent emigrants to the State from bringing with them such persons as are deemed slaves by the laws of any one of the United States, or Territories, so long as any person of the same age or description shall be continued in slavery by the laws of this State; provided that such person or slave be the bona fide property of such emigrant: and provided, also, that laws may be passed to prohibit the introduction into this State of slaves who have committed high crimes in other States or Territories. They shall have power to pass laws to permit the owners of slaves to emancipate them, saving the rights of creditors, and preventing them from becoming a public charge. They shall have power to prevent slaves from being brought into the State as merchandise, and also to oblige the owners of slaves to treat them with humanity, to provide for them necessary food and clothing, to abstain from all injuries to them extending to life and limb; and in case of their neglect or refusal to comply with the direction of such laws, to have such slave or slaves sold for the benefit of the owner or owners.

"Sec. 2. In the prosecution of slaves for crimes of higher grade than petit larceny, the Legislature shall have no power to deprive them of an impartial trial by a petit jury.

"Sec. 3. Any person who shall maliciously dismember or deprive a slave of life shall suffer such punishment as would be inflicted in case the like offence had been committed on a free white person, and on the like proof, except in case of insurrection of such slave

"HUGH M. MOORE, Chairman."

As there seems to be no doubt of this provision becoming a part of the Constitution; and as there is a majority of the Convention in favor of submitting the Constitution to the people for ratification or rejection, we think there can be but little doubt as to the fate of such Constitution before the people. The provision, as it is reported, recognises slavery as existing legally and in fact in Kansas; it provides that the Legislature shall not emancipate those slaves now there, or which may hereafter be brought to the Territory, without compensation to the owners. These are trifling matters compared with the next provision, which prohibits the Legislature from passing any law for the prevention of the introduction of slaves by emigrants to the Territory, except

This amounts to a perpetual invitation and protection to the introduction of slavery into Kansas. It is virtually an establishment of slavery as an institution of the State, not to be disturbed by any legislative act. We regard such a proposition as fatal to the Constitution. The people of Kansas have recently, in a most emphatic manner, decided that they are in favor of the exclusion of slavery from Kansas. It is idle for the Convention to disregard that decision; they cannot hope that the people of Kansas will accept from such a Convention a Constitution making slavery a perpetual institution over which the people through the Legislature can never exercise any control. We say the fate of that Constitution is already sealed; the people of Kansas are in favor—in the proportion of three to one—of a free State; they want a Constitution making Kansas a free State, and they will vote down any Constitution which does not clearly establish their expressed will.

Regarding the Constitution, as prepared by this Convention, as beyond all possibility of adoption, the question is, What will be done next? Kansas has a population justifying an admission into the Union; she has been disturbed for years by the agitation of the question which can only be settled by her admission into the Union. A Convention to frame a Constitution was called, but the people refused to participate in the election of delegates; and a handful of voters elected the handful of men who compose the present Convention. The free-State men, had they resorted to the polls, could have elected a Convention which would have carried out the wishes of the people, and to-day Kansas might have a Constitution forever disposing of the slavery question. That failure to vote in June last has caused a year's delay. What is to be done?

We suppose that upon the meeting of Congress an act will be introduced—an act in the very words of the Minnesota act—authorizing a Convention to form a State Constitution. If that act be passed at once, as it should be, Kansas may be a State on the first of May next. If no such act be passed by Congress, or should be delayed, the present Legislature will provide for a Convention. At all events, a Constitution such as will be acceptable to the people will be prepared and ratified by the people, and will be presented to Congress early in the spring. Upon that Constitution thus ratified and approved by the people, Kansas will be admitted. The Democratic party stands pledged to admit Kansas without questioning her decision on the slavery question. That decision must be made by the people, and once perfectly made, that decision must be regarded as final.

These men throughout the Union who have so long and earnestly desired the admission of Kansas as a free State must now see the consequences of the mad career of Lane and his associates. The refusal to vote at the election of delegates has postponed the admission of Kansas, and endangered her freedom. Had these men voted then, as they did in October, the State of Kansas would now be prepared for admission with a free-State Constitution, and a Democratic party in power pledged to her admission. She has now to commence where she did in June last, and elect a Convention in 1857, that might have been elected in 1856.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

Despite the "hard times,"—on which Dickens has novelized, and Park Benjamin poetized,—there was no lack of public amusements during the past week. Madame Lola Montez gave three lectures, all of which were extremely well attended. Their merit as compositions was considerable; their subject-matter agreeable and even instructive; and, above all, her manner of delivery attractive, from its simplicity and naturalness. She is the best lecturer, in point of clear and musical articulation, we have ever heard. Her costume also, so plainly rich, (a white *gros de Naples* dress, made high to the neck, with collar and sleeves of Lin erick lace,) was attractive, was very beautiful, realizing the untranslatable "*simplex munditiis*" of Horace. She will probably give one more lecture here, at the end of the week, and, in the mean time, will lecture at Trenton (this evening), Reading, Lancaster, and Harrisburg. After that she proceeds to Baltimore, from which place she goes to Washington. So much personal interest is involved in her lectures, that they are of a kind to be popular any where. The educated and intellectual particularly appreciate, because they can best understand them.

Madame Frezzolini made her first appearance in Philadelphia last week. She also made—*a dead failure*. In her case it really was the old Turkish cry, "In the name of the Prophet—*figs!*" This failure, however, will be useful as a lesson against over-puffing. More than two years ago, Mr. Ullman, when introducing a new prima donna to New York, took some credit to himself, in public advertisements, that he had *not* engaged Madame Frezzolini, whose voice was worn out. Two years more wear and tear certainly could not *improve* that voice. Yet it was passed off on the New Yorkers as something super-excellent! A fictitious biography, in which various romantic adventures were related, was published in one of the leading daily journals, and it was declared (delicately!) that she was a "virgin wife," beautiful as an angel and amiable as a seraph! The New York public, literally taken in by these and other representations, applauded her to the echo at first, but gradually cooled. Then commenced the concert-giving expedient.

The Philadelphia public, who had been accustomed to a very charming vocalist, in the person of Madame Gazzaniga, were informed, by preliminary puff-notices that Frezzolini was young and beautiful; that she had been greatly admired by the late Emperor of Russia; that he, with other potentates, had presented her with a vast quantity of almost priceless jewels; that she was a great favorite at the Court of France; that she was on intimate terms with the Princess Mathilde (Demidoff, by marriage;) and that she really would appear in the identical dress which she wore when last she sung before the Emperor Napoleon. She came—she was seen—and she did *not* conquer. We pass by the bad taste of ostentatiously emptying the contents of her jewel box upon her person. Her diamonds flashed—her notes did not. She failed, most ostentatiously, in nearly every solo, and may thank the efficient co-operation of Madame Strakosch for getting pretty well through the duets. Yet her quality of voice (a high soprano) originally was good, of its kind—but it has broken down, as such voices do. It is sheer folly to point to her European success, during the last twelve years, and sneer at the Philadelphians for not endorsing it. We can only judge as to personal beauty, by what we see; and as to vocal ability, by what we hear. Our eyes inform us that Madame Frezzolini can only resemble a middle-aged angel, and our ears tell us that her voice has fallen into imperfection. We judge by fact and not by tradition—by what *is* and not by what *has been*. In doing so we may form part of an unsolicitated audience, but we judge accurately nevertheless. Frezzolini's voice, whatever it may have been when she was a young woman, is good now only in the middle register. It is harsh and shrill in the upper, and rough and husky in the *lower*, notes. Her execution, which was said to be perfection, wanted ease and smoothness—the exertion was too apparent. To Madame Patti Strakosch, the real attraction, we pay a fair compliment in saying that she sang better than Madame Frezzolini. The performances of Thalberg were admirable, and Mr. Klotzer, on the violoncello, made a favorable impression. Mr. Vieuxtemps, who was advertised for both concerts, was indisposed—to attend. He was to have played at New York on Saturday evening, so that his indisposition could not have been *very* great.

At the Academy of Music the last nights of Mr. Charles Mathews' performance were not very successful. He is one of the best actors on the English stage, though various causes have united to make him less successful here than he was in New York and Boston.

Mr. Richings had a fuller attendance on Saturday evening, at his benefit, than could have been anticipated from—the pressure of the times. His personal claims are very considerable. He presented a capital bill.

At the Arch street Theatre, (which did *not* close, as threatened, on Saturday,) pretty fair business has been done during the week, and we suspect that this would improve if Mr. Wheatley were himself to perform more frequently. This evening he will play *Laertes* to Mr. Davenport's *Hamlet*, which is not doing justice to himself. In his own line he should more frequently appear. Mr. Davenport's benefit is fixed for Friday evening, when Mr. D. will make his first appearance as *Richelieu*, with Mrs. D. as *Julie de Mortimer*.

At the Walnut street Theatre this evening, Mr. Chanfrau, who continues popular, will produce, for the first time here, a play called "Mose in California." This piece was very taking at New York among the class known, more familiarly than classically, as "the b'hoys." We dare say it will draw crowded houses here.

The rival houses of York and Lancaster were not more diametrically opposed, than, among ourselves, are the houses of Sanford and Buckley—the same, yet with a difference. Sanford has a very fine (Ethiopian) Opera-house in Eleventh street, above Chestnut. The Buckleys, who have a beautiful theatrical band-box in New York, (built on the site once occupied by the private residence of John Jacob Astor) are playing at the National Theatre, in Walnut street. At Sanford's—beside some beautiful dancing by the Sanford children, and an amusing theatrical performance—there is a ludicrous burlesque on "The Old Folks Concert," in which the whole body of singers appear in ancient costume.

At Buckleys, where capital burlesques on "Lucrezia Borgia" and the "Trovatore" were played, during the past week, "Somnambulist" will be made fun of this evening, with a concert, and other performances. The Buckleys are "an institution" in New York, and are fast becoming so in this city. Miss Iliffert, the *prima donna* of the troupe, is an admirable comic actress as well as a good singer. The Buckleys have not yet played to even a middling house.

At Thomeuf's Varieties (Fifth and Chestnut streets) Messrs. Magilton & Dunbar, the gymnasts, continue to perform during the present week.

Lola Montez in her New Sphere—Her Lecture on Saturday Evening.

This widely known woman has now delivered four lectures in Philadelphia, and to apply the usual test in such cases—the audiences—she has made a decided "hit" of it. To use a military expression, she has carried our city by storm. This lecturing *fete* of hers is certainly the most praiseworthy lauriel that gems the chaplet of her heroism. Of the fact that she is a heroine there can be no mistake, although but few would probably willingly endorse the character of all her conquests.

Of her course and adventures in European countries, the writer of this—who has never been there—has no comments to offer, except that they are doubtless invested with such a tissue of extravagant romance that their truth or untruth can at best be but subjects of vague speculation. But be her antecedents what they may, her success in her new sphere must be regarded as a triumph, and that triumph a practical assertion of the *supremacy of mind*. If the eccentricity of marked mental characters be indicative of genius, she is certainly entitled to that distinction. To compare her with this, that, or the other one of her sex would be simply to place supposed similarities in a position to discover their contrast, for no such similarity exists. The style of her entire being seems to be peculiar to herself.

That her lectures have had the effect of vindicating her former self in this community, can hardly be denied; for certainly the number and respectability of her repeated audiences would hardly be tortured into anything else than a voluntary tribute to merit of some sort; and if the almost unanimous commendation of her hearers of the style and the matter of these lectures may be taken as a just criterion, their success is not the proudest need not be ashamed of. That much of her present success is attributable to the notoriety which preceded her to this country may well be admitted; yet, at the same time, it must also be admitted, that if curiosity has contributed to the popularity of these lecture-board performances, surprise and agreeable disappointment have been no less their result.

In coming more directly to the merit of these lectures, it may not be detracting any from the merits of their author to say that their telling success is quite as much due to the remarkable manner of the fair lecturer as to the *quality* of the matter.

In this respect, Lola Montez furnishes no unworthy theme for the student of human nature. Without going into any philosophical disquisition upon the peculiarities of her mental and physical constitution, however, it may be stated (and what the most casual observer cannot have overlooked) that there is a *density* and *compactness* indicated in her appearance which few persons possess. Her temperament is so strictly of the *mental* that as to banish at a glance every idea of grossness. Her brain is massive for one of her size, and prodigiously developed in the region of what is phrenologically denominated the *observing, knowing, and intelledge-seeking* organs, giving a sharp prominence to her brow, that even overshadows her full, intellectual eye.

But, then, there is such a mastery of soul, that seems to beam from every portion of her face. Indeed, her power of expressing thought and emotion through the medium of her facial lineaments is most extraordinary; adding to this, the silvery sweetness of her liquid voice, and an exquisite correctness of articulation that lends a more enchantment to language itself, and we have some clue to the capabilities of Lola Montez being attractive in a lecture, no matter what may be her theme.

Her lecture on "Beautiful Women," which she repeated at Musical Fund Hall on Saturday evening to a full house, is probably her finest effort, the theme is one to which she has probably devoted more attention, practically, than to any other.

Her introduction to this lecture was brilliant, entertaining, and we may say instructive, and her comments upon the standards of beauty in various countries all over the world gave us a fine illustration of her cosmopolitan proclivities and the uses she made of her eyes and wits in her extensive travels. Her chaste and artistic comments upon the various celebrated beauties of Europe, and which have already been noticed in THE PRESS, were certainly entertaining.

But it was not in her fine lingual portraits of the Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Blessington, the Empress Eugenie, or this, that, or other celebrated beauty, that the chief merit of her lecture consisted, as we conceive, but rather in that noble sentiment, that seemed to permeate the whole lecture, that the only true and enduring beauty of woman was to be found in those accomplishments that adorn the mind and heart. Her recipe for the preservation of physical beauty—temperance, exercise, and cleanliness—were sensible, and it is to be hoped will, to some extent, be the means of superseding the artificial cosmetics now so generally in use.

There was nothing in the lecture particularly calculated to enlighten her lady auditors in the art of making good wives and mothers, nor did this properly come within the scope of her proposed theme. It is not likely, either, that she will ever make these particular departments of female excellence her subject, as she herself would probably admit that her own resemblance to any such domestic model is no more striking than is the resemblance between a gentle, wooing dove and the restless humming-bird, which on constant wing seeks its nectar in a thousand flowers.

But she has only just commenced the lecturing chapter of her eventful life, and it is not for us to conjecture of so eccentric a female genius as hers, what may yet be the achievements of her future

GRAYBEARD.

Senatorial Fraternity.

Hon. William H. Seward was at the Tremont yesterday, where a large number of gentlemen called upon him. Senator Douglas, who is stopping at the Tremont, also paid his respects, and the railroad convention, in session in the adjoining parlor, invited the two Senators to visit them.

Senator Douglas, in a few brief remarks to the Convention, passed a glowing tribute to the distinguished Senator from New York, whom he had ever found aiding and assisting in every measure calculated to benefit the West, and, except in politics, more often acting with him in the United States Senate than otherwise.

Senator Seward spoke briefly. He thanked the members of the Convention for the compliment of their invitation, and spoke of the importance of railroads and of the objects which have brought the Convention together.—*Chicago Journal.*

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

English Movements and the Monroe Doctrine—Central American Affairs—Walker's Invasion another Complication of the Difficulties in that Quarter—Fractional Rates of Postage.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15th, 1857.

It is stated with much boldness that none of the grants or contracts made by Costa Rica, respecting the Transit route, are sanctioned by Great Britain, and that Lord Napier has advised the Government of that State not to make any grants or concessions, pending the arrival in Central America, of Sir William Gore Ouseley, who is expected immediately in Washington. If all this assumption by Great Britain be recognised and acquiesced in by the United States, what then becomes of our boasted Monroe Doctrine? Shall England now openly, as she has too long covertly, guide the destinies of our neighboring Republics, that her interests may be elevated and our own depressed?

I am confident that no questions have more attention from the Administration than those in controversy between the United States and England with respect to Central America. There has already been too much by-play, too much diplomacy, and too little honesty on the side of England, and it must be confessed, an entire want of decided and effective action on the part of our own Government. Mr. Buchanan is certainly familiar with the subject in all its bearings, and now that he holds power here it is not at all improbable that he will begin anew with the negotiations, and at once take firm American ground.

The organized invasion of Nicaragua by Walker embarrasses the Administration. The officials of the Government in the section from which Walker's force sailed are no doubt deserving of censure for permitting his escape. If they had been only ordinarily vigilant, they could have stayed this fillibuster movement. They had been fully empowered in the premises. Orders of a comprehensive and pointed character were transmitted to them by Mr. Buchanan at an early day, having in view the amplest performance of our treaty stipulations. Their violation is, I have no doubt, a great annoyance to him and to his Cabinet.

Effort will be made to intercept the expedition, and the hope now is that it may be successful.

War threatened between Costa Rica on one side and Nicaragua, San Salvador, and Honduras on the other. Walker then stopped in. Query—What will be the next change in the kaleidoscope of political affairs in that quarter? Will another alliance be formed of all these States against the invader, leaving domestic questions for subsequent determination, or will one of the more ambitious join him for mutual acquisition of territory? Time, I think, can alone answer.

The postmaster at Hartford, Connecticut, has addressed the Postmaster General, calling attention to the anomalous condition of the rates of postage on regular newspapers and periodicals; the table of regulations showing nineteen fractional rates, and *every rate* being fractional on the list of newspapers and periodicals not exceeding 1½ oz. in weight, circulated in the States where published; thus presenting the singular discrepancy of a number of rates of postage requiring the payment of sums unknown to our currency; Government at the same time demanding fractional postage and repudiating fractional coins. It is found absolutely impossible for the subscriber to pay, or the postmaster to receive, the exact sum required by the Government; and it is suggested that a tariff of specific rates, discarding all fractions, would be in correspondence with our currency, and would require no impossibilities on the part of those who have postage to pay.

X. Y.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Freshet in the Susquehanna—The Military Convention—Commissioners to Investigate the Condition of the Bank of Pennsylvania—That Amendment to the Constitution.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, Nov. 12, 1857.

For the past thirty-six hours the Susquehanna at this point has risen with great rapidity, and attained, at the present time of writing, an unusual depth. This is the second freshet this fall, yet all without carrying one foot of lumber to market. Last season nearly fifty millions of boards, shingles, and timber, passed Harrisburg for a market in the Chesapeake and Delaware; this season, not one foot. Could we have any better illustration of the tightness of the money market?

The Military Convention, which was to have come off here on Monday last, proved to be a complete failure, not one representative of those who are said to be "sudden and quick in quarrel" being present, save and except General J. Sidney Jones, of Delaware, and he is only a "carpet warrior." One cannot help deploring the decay of the ancient military spirit—that cheap defence of nations—which used to animate our countrymen in days gone by, when, if no better implement offered, the patriot thirsting for glory would appear upon parade armed with a cornstalk, and march to the stirring music of the kettle-drum.

You have the Pyrrhic *dance* as yet,
Where is the Pyrrhic *phalanx* gone?

Governor Pollock has appointed Judge James T. Hale, of Bedford, Hon. Eli Slifer, of Union county, and Hon. Jacob C. Bomberger, of Harrisburg, commissioners to examine the condition of the Bank of Pennsylvania, agreeably to the provisions of the act of Assembly of the 13th October, 1857. Their commissions will date from Tuesday, the 17th, inst.

I was surprised to see in THE PRESS of the 11th inst., a rather tart criticism, in a communication, on that paragraph in a late article of mine which referred to the recently elected Judges of the Supreme Court; and more so, inasmuch as there was no intention in the aforementioned letter to reflect either on the provision in the Constitution making the judiciary elective, or on "the Author of the Amendment." That amendment is so loosely worded, has been productive of so much inconvenience and uncertainty, that the repeated passage of explanatory acts of Legislature and unlitteral constructions of the Supreme court to make it operate at all—that I am not astonished the "author" should feel sensitive when reference is made to any of its shortcomings, but not a little amazed that he should boast of its paternity. Let us consider a few of them.

1. If a judge dies or resigns less than three months before a general election, the Governor is compelled to issue to the appointee two commissions—one bearing date from the time of his appointment until the following first Monday in December, and the other for one year from the latter point of time. This was the case with the Hon. Henry D. Maxwell, who was nominated to fill the vacancy in the third judicial district, caused by the death of Judge McCartney on the 15th of July, 1856.

2. According to "the Author of the Amendment," there is no chief justice this year, for six days, and a similar interregnum is likely to occur again as often as the terms of the chief justices expire. Judge Lewis was sworn in on the first Monday of December, (the 1st,) 1851, to serve for six years, which would expire with the first of December, 1857, although the first Monday of December does not come this year until the seventh day of the month. Judge Woodward's decision in Pittsburgh, a few days ago, by which he added one week to Judge Lewis's term of office, by departing, as he expressly says he is compelled to, from the literal meaning of the amendment.

3. The evident intention of this amendment was to have a Supreme Judge elected triennially and have each member of the court in turn serve as Chief Justice, by which experience would at least be secured to that officer. But all this is defeated—to use the words of Hon. James M. Porter—by "the slovenly wording." It is not to be supposed, either, that after the year 1851 it was intended the whole bench should be chosen at a single election. Yet this is a contingency that may, nay *must* arrive. This year we have elected two upon one day, and six years have only elapsed under the new order of things; and the date of the expiration of none of their commissions is three years apart. Judge Black was Chief Justice three years, Lewis three years, Lowrie will be for six years, Woodward for four years, Knox for one year, and it depends upon chance whether Thompson or Strong is for the last four years of their terms. It is easy to imagine the time when all their commissions will expire simultaneously—when the five grave men elect will meet in a room and toss up a penny to decide who will be Chief Justice not for *three*, but for *fifteen* years.

It is true that when the terms of any two or more judges expire on the same day, they can decide among themselves who will preside *for their entire terms*. I plead guilty, therefore, of having written rather loosely in my letter of the 4th, inst., for I did not expect to be criticised by "The Author of the Amendment." But I submit whether my language is as "slovenly" as that amendment to the Constitution; and I am sure it will not require a decision of the Supreme Court and two acts of Assembly to make sense out of it. M.

IRELAND.

From a letter, post-marked "Dublin, November 3, 1857," we take the following extract, not doubting but every word is strictly true, as it is written by an honest, truth-loving farmer: "I am tired in my present situation, and unless some of you, my children, come home and assist me, I will not hold the farm much longer, for when I pay servants and get my work all done, and rent and all losses attending the land, it is too much for me to hold on. I desire very much to hear from you, my children, what you all advise me to do. Perhaps you have forgotten old Ireland, and never intend to visit it more. Indeed, it is not much wonder you would not, for Ireland is not much richer than ever it was, as we have had a very dry summer and light corn [wheat] crops, and a blight on our potato crop. Our young men are taken off to fill the ranks of the army, and our beef, bacon, and butter taken away to support them; so we are left with the refuse of the boys for servants, and the refuse of the crops for provisions, and this makes wages very high, and servants hard to maintain."

STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE TO-MORROW EVENING.—See THOMAS & SONS' advertisements and pamphlet catalogues.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

STEAMER ARIEL OFF CAPE RACE.

Her News received at St. John's per the "Associated Press" Yacht.

Resignation of the Belgian Ministry.

The Launch of the Great Eastern a Failure.

NOTHING LATER FROM INDIA.

$400,000 IN SPECIE.

Consols 89¼@89¾ for Money—90¼ for Account.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Nov. 14—Evening.—The United States mail steamship Ariel, which left Southampton on the first instant, passed off Cape Race last night.

The news yacht of the Associated Press, which was stationed ten miles due south of the Cape, received the news parcel prepared for the press, and brought it direct to this station—by this means anticipating the arrival of the steamer at New York by some days.

Owing to an interruption of the wires on the New York and Newfoundland line, the transmission of the news has been delayed.

Her advices are four days later than those furnished by the steamer Arabia at New York.

The Ariel has on board $400,000 in specie, consigned to the United States.

The launch of the monster steamer, the Great Eastern, had proven a failure.

The Belgian Ministry had resigned.

The King of Prussia's health continued to improve

The Ariel brings nothing later from India than furnished by the Arabia.

LONDON MONEY MARKET, Nov. 4.—Consols close at 89¼@89¾ for money, and 90¼ for account. French threes at 66a90f. The money market is depressed.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET, Nov. 4.—Cotton continues dull, with a declining tendency on all qualities. The sales for three days amount to 15,500 bales.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.—The market for Wheat has an advancing tendency.

Corn closed dull, and all qualities had suffered a slight decline.

Richardson, Spence & Co.'s and others circulars report Flour dull but steady. Wheat buoyant, with an advance of 2d in fine qualities, while inferior qualities were almost unsaleably; red quoted at 6s 8da7s 8d; white at 7s 3da8s 3d. Mixed and white Corn quoted at 40a41s, a decline of 6da8s.

Biggand, Athya, & Co.'s Circular reports Flour dull and 6das lower.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.—Pork closed dull; Lard heavy at 68s.; Tallow nominally quoted at 4s. 3d.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—The Rice market closed firm.

MANCHESTER MARKETS.—The advices from Manchester continued of an unfavorable character.

The Leeds and Huddersfield markets are dull.

The steamer Niagara arrived out on the 1st inst., bringing American dates to the 21st ult.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

By the Steamer Granada, from Havana, at New Orleans.

THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

THEIR PENALTIES REVOKED.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.

Banishment of European Residents from Ningpo.

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS.

ONE HUNDRED PERSONS SLAIN BY THE INDIANS, &c., &c.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 15—9 o'clock P. M.—The steamer Granada's mails have just been received.

The Granada has been detained at quarantine since her arrival, on account of the yellow fever contagion.

The steamer St. Louis, which sailed from Havana on the 10th instant, takes forward over a million of dollars.

CALIFORNIA.

The news from California is unimportant.

The mining operations continued of an encouraging character.

The Vigilance Committee have revoked the penalties attached to their sentence of banishment.

FROM THE PLAINS.

An arrival from the Plains brings the information that between the 10th and 12th of September, a train consisting of a hundred persons had been attacked by the Indians, and all had been slain with the exception of a few children, who were sold to the Mormons. It was generally believed that the Mormons were at the bottom of the affair.

CHINA.

An arrival from China states that all the European residents at Ningpo were banished on the 4th of August.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

The San Francisco markets were generally quiet, and there are no important changes to note.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

No arrival from Atlantic ports reported.

Special Methodist Conference—The Slavery Question.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 14.—A special convention of delegates from the various annual conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church, North and West, has been in session here for several days.

No important action was taken until yesterday, when the following preamble and resolution, reported by a committee, were adopted, viz:

WHEREAS, We have received satisfactory information that an entire freedom of discussion on the subject of slavery cannot be enjoyed in Lynchburg; *And whereas*, We do not feel under obligations to meet our Southern brethren upon other ground than terms of equality: Therefore—

Resolved, That it is inexpedient, as well as unnecessary, for the representatives of the North and West to attend the General Conference to be held at Lynchburg, with a view to secure a redress of grievances which we suffer.

At the afternoon session a memorial was drawn up, addressed to the General Conference, which, among other things, says: "It is our earnest desire to perpetuate a union with the General Association, but we must, in Christian frankness, state that insuperable impediments prevent the continuance of that union; that the traffic with slaves, and the voluntary holding of slaves, conflicts with the rights of humanity, and we regard it as our bounden duty, as ministers and members of the church, to oppose the said practice, and have determined that the word 'white' shall be struck from our constitution."

The memorial was adopted. The Convention will probably adjourn to-day.

From Kansas.

ST. LOUIS, November 14.—The Lecompton correspondent of the *Republican* says the Constitutional Convention adjourned on the 7th inst. A Provisional Government, with General Calhoun as Governor, was formed, to go into operation immediately. The Convention passed a separate clause, sanctioning slavery, which, as stated by the correspondent alluded to, will be the only section submitted to the people. It is thought to be the design to get the Constitution accepted by Congress, prior to the assembling of the Territorial Legislature. Governor Walker had been appealed to to convene an extra session of the Legislature to meet the contingency. The apportionment of the State provides for forty-five Representatives and fifteen Senators.

The Missouri Legislature.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 14.—The bill to legalise a tax to sustain the credit of the State was defeated in the House yesterday by a majority of 30 votes.

Election of U. S. Senators from Texas.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 14.—The Legislature of Texas has elected Hon. Thos. J. Rusk and Hon. W. Hemphill to the United States Senate, in place of General Thomas J. Rusk, deceased, and General Samuel Houston, whose term expires in 1859.

Explosion of a Steam-Tug—Eight Persons Killed.

DETROIT, Nov. 14.—The