The Press.

PHILADELPHIA: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1857.

CONTENTS OF THIRD PAGE.—A Drama of Real Life; Police Sketch; The Usury Laws; Letters from Aspinwall and New Orleans; Sartor Resartus; The United States steamer Shubrick; General News. FOURTH PAGE.—General Worth.

KANSAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

We see that some papers quote an extract from the letter of the President to Professor STEDMAN, to prove that he (Mr. BUCHANAN) considered the Kansas Convention legally constituted. The extract is as follows:

"In the opinion of the Territorial Legislature of Kansas, the time has arrived for entering the Union; and they accordingly passed a law to elect delegates for the purpose of framing a State Constitution. This law was fair and just in its provisions. It conferred the right of suffrage on every *bonâ fide* inhabitant of the Territory, and, for the purpose of preventing fraud and intrusion of citizens of near or distant States, most properly confined this right to those who had resided therein three months previous to the election. Here was a fair opportunity presented for all qualified resident citizens of the Territory, to whatever organization they might have previously belonged, to participate in the election, and to express their opinions at the ballot-box on the question of slavery. But numbers of lawless men still continue to resist the regular Territorial Government. They refused to be either registered or to vote, and members of the Convention were elected legally and properly without their intervention. The Convention will soon assemble to perform the solemn duty of framing a Constitution for themselves and their posterity; and in the state of incipient rebellion which still exists in Kansas, it is my imperative duty to employ the troops of the United States, should this become necessary, in defending the Convention against violence while framing a Constitution, and in protecting the *bonâ fide* inhabitants qualified to vote under the provisions of this instrument in the free exercise of the right of suffrage, *when it shall be SUBMITTED to them for their approbation or rejection.*"

We agree entirely with the views here expressed, and have never questioned the *legality* of the method by which the Kansas Constitutional Convention was elected. The extract is generally quoted, however, to justify the Convention in *not submitting the Constitution to the people*—a policy which, instead of *endorsing*, it is really, by implication, *condemns*, for Mr. BUCHANAN speaks of his "imperative duty" to protect the people of Kansas in their exercise of the right of suffrage upon this Constitution, "*when it shall be SUBMITTED to them for their approbation or rejection.*" In common with the whole country, he evidently contemplated that it would be thus *submitted*, and one of our principal grounds of objection to it is that this reasonable expectation has not been fulfilled.

Another point in this case is worthy of notice. It is alleged that if the Constitution, as a whole, had been submitted to the people of Kansas, they would have voted it down, without reference to its merits, from motives of hostility to the Convention, and that, *therefore*, the Convention was justified in not submitting it. If the opposite state of feeling had prevailed—if *no doubt* had existed of the endorsement of the Constitution by the people—*such* a condition of public sentiment might, in some degree, have justified neglect or refusal to submit it. But the very existence of a doubt of popular approval, or, still more, the settled belief that a majority of the people *disapproved* of the Constitution, is the very strongest of reasons why it should have been submitted. The idea that a Constitution *must* be made binding upon the people of Kansas, without being submitted to them, *because* they do not approve of it, is one of the most startling propositions that was ever advanced in free country. There is not a State in the Union whose people would not rise up *en masse* in indignant protest against any attempt to impose upon them a Constitution against their views and wishes, *because* they were opposed to it. When Constitutional Conventions assume such a power as this, and not only *defy* public sentiment, but make the existence of a feeling of hostility to particular measures the very reason why those measures are to be fastened upon them, they act like monarchical or despotic—not like republican—bodies.

But it is said that the people of Kansas would have voted down this Constitution, if it had been submitted to them, from *improper motives*; that they would have voted against it, not because they did not approve of its provisions *per se*, but because of their hostility to the Convention which adopted them. Suppose this true: are we to set up the principle that *the motives which influence voters in depositing their ballots are to be canvassed, and that, if certain self-constituted judges consider those motives to be improper, the right of suffrage shall be denied to them?* That right we conceive to be a free one. If bribery is not practised, no man, or set of men, or representative body, has a right to question or institute an inquisition into the motives under which the people vote for this or that man, or this or that measure. If the extension or non-extension of the right of suffrage is to depend upon a conjecture of the probable motives which will influence the people in exercising it, it is worthless, and American institutions are founded upon incorrect principles. The people are the only proper judges of the motives which should govern them in depositing their ballots.

But it is said that if Congress rejects the Calhoun Constitution, or if the people had an opportunity of rejecting it at the polls, and by voting against it would defeat it, the admission of Kansas into the Union will be delayed. This may be true, but it is no justification for lugging her into the Confederacy before her people ask for admission under a Constitution which has received their endorsement at the polls. Suppose Congress refuses to admit her under the present Constitution, no great difficulty will necessarily result, and no great wrong that we are aware of will necessarily ensue from a new Convention being called, a new Constitution being framed, fairly submitted to the people, and, if it receives their endorsement, being presented to Congress in lieu of the present one. This Kansas question has occupied the attention of the American people for a long period, and we are anxious to see it settled, and that speedily. But when it is finally adjusted, we wish it to be done in a proper manner—upon sound principles—in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Kansas Nebraska act, and the platform of the National Democratic party adopted at Cincinnati.

AN APOLOGY FOR THE CALHOUN KANSAS CONSTITUTION.

We find in an exchange which zealously advocates the Kansas Constitution a statement that a number of the members of the Convention that framed that instrument allege that one of the reasons why it was not submitted entire was, that they had not time to prepare it fully, and transmit it to all parts of the Territory for the inspection of the people. This is one of the most absurd apologies yet made for the action of that Convention. The time fixed for the election is the 21st of December. More than a month, therefore, was allowed to prepare and transmit the document, and after it was finally adopted, we know of no good reason why an intelligent school-boy could not have made a copy of it in a few days, at most, and after being printed, it could have been disseminated as speedily as the intelligence of the day fixed for holding the election. If the Convention had not time to transmit the Constitution by the 21st of December, why did it not postpone the election until it could have been transmitted? But, waiving these objections, and admitting that the whole Constitution could not be transmitted in time for submission to the inspection of the people, and that the time of the election could not be postponed, what are we to think of the arrangement by which the people are compelled to vote, if they vote at all on the slavery question, *for a Constitution which they are to have no opportunity of seeing?* The apology places this matter in a worse attitude than it previously occupied, and if true, only adds to the enormity of the action of the Convention. The idea that, to express their sentiments on the slavery question, the people of Kansas must vote for and swear to support, if adopted, a Constitution without seeing its provisions, is one of the most revolting political outrages ever inflicted upon a free people.

THE CENTRAL AMERICA CATASTROPHE.—The committee appointed to examine as to the cause of this disaster have reported at some length—their conclusions being, in brief, that negligence and want of proper organization of the crew, together with the independence of the several departments of each other, were at the bottom of the calamity. There appears to have been no material defect in the vessel or machinery—the leakage being ascribed to other causes. The deck-pumps were not in working order, and those connected with the donkey-engine were in a questionable condition.

POST-OFFICE MATTERS.

What the Postmaster of Philadelphia proposes to commence on this date is decidedly a boon to the community. The establishment of four sub-offices, in addition to the two already in Kensington and Richmond, with the collection and rapid delivery of letters five times a day, is what *the public* have long desired. The price of each city letter, for postage and delivery, will be two cents, which is the London charge—with this difference, that the mere *postage* is two cents there, with nothing to pay for the delivery. With us, the post-office is made to compete with a private individual, who has almost monopolized the delivery of the local letters, by combining rapidity and cheapness. Who will pay two cents to the post-office, when a letter is forwarded by Blood's Despatch for one cent?

Postal Reform is a subject about which much is occasionally written, and very little done. In England, when ROWLAND HILL'S *Penny Postage* was introduced, the general expectation was that, for many years, the expenses would so far exceed the receipts as to leave a loss to the public. The British Legislature, even on this view, were content; better, it was said, have uniform cheap postage even with a loss to the revenue, than not supply that necessary boon. The whole correspondence of the United Kingdom increased so much that it now is more than six times what it was in 1839, the last year of the higher postage rates. Last year, the net revenue was over six million dollars, as against eight millions from the same source in 1839. In this country, the Post Office does not yet pay its own expenses, which are $10,407,808, while the revenue is $7,620,822. But it is not *necessary* that there should be a profit. Letter-writing is a great means of extending civilization, and also of giving a legitimate impetus to trade, commerce, and manufactures. Indirectly, therefore, the Post Office contributes largely to the National Revenue.

In England there are two principles acted upon in Post Office affairs—first to carry letters cheaper than any private speculation can effect, and, secondly, to make the two cents postage-stamp cover all expenses of delivery. That is, a postage-stamp once put on a letter conveys it to the hands of the party to whom it is addressed, wherever he resides, without the slightest additional charge for delivery. Here, a three-cent stamp will convey a letter from New Orleans to Boston, but there is an extra charge of two cents for having it taken from the Post Office to even the next house. The three-cent stamp ought to cover not only the conveyance by mail, but the delivery by the letter-carriers. With us, where almost every one can read and write, the number of letters sent by mail in a year is only 131,000,000. In England, where, with much the same population, scarcely one half the people can read and write, about 600,000,000 letters are sent by mail every year. We *ought* to have a higher average—even allowing for a great many letters sent through lower priced private offices.

The number of letter-carriers now to be employed in this city will have to be increased. In England there is quite an army of them. London, with a population of almost 2,600,000, has 1,385 letter-carriers; Liverpool has 82 to 875,000 population; Manchester, 123 to 816,000; Glasgow, 134 to 329,097, and Dublin, 109 to 258,361 inhabitants. Even so small a city as Bath, with 54,240 population, has 47 letter-carriers.

We should be glad to see the United States Post Office able to compete in celerity and lowness of postage with any private "despatch" speculation. While it charges exactly double price for local or "drop" letters, no one need wonder that the cheaper letter-senders nearly monopolize the business.

THE STARTING POINT.

The issue involved in the discussion between the opponents and the apologists of the minority Calhoun Constitution is that "the majority should rule." The whole conflict is upon this principle, and nothing else. And what could be more important? What should unite in its support more heartily the Democrats of every State? The sterling Democracy of Rockingham county, Virginia, at a moment when an attempt was made by a few persons in that State to make the Kansas Constitution superior to the Kansas people, rose *en masse*, and on the 19th of last October, unanimously adopted the following resolutions, which were afterwards sustained by the Richmond *Enquirer* and substantially by Governor WISE. We have not heard whether the Rockingham Democrats, Governor WISE, and the Richmond *Enquirer* have abandoned these noble declarations. Whether they have or have not, however, we approved their sentiments at the time they were uttered, and have seen no reason for deserting them since. And we have a strong suspicion that we shall not do so hereafter:

"*Resolved*, That we, the Democracy of Rockingham, in reviewing the policy of the Administration of James Buchanan, as far as the same has been developed, find everything to admire, and nothing to condemn.

"*Resolved*, That the principles contained in the Kansas-Nebraska act are but the sentiments and principles of the Union State rights Democracy; they have the right to prevail.

"*Resolved*, That we recognise the right of the people of a Territory, in forming a Constitution for admission into the Union, to establish such local policy as to them may seem right and proper; and they, the citizens of such Territory, in accordance with the spirit of the Kansas-Nebraska act, have alone the right of rejection or adoption of the organic law intended for their own government.

"*Resolved*, That Congress, under the Constitution, has no power over the question involved in a Constitution thus made and endorsed by the people, other than to see that it is republican in character.

"*Resolved, That Kansas, in forming her Constitution, ought to submit the same to the bona fide inhabitants thereof for adoption or rejection, and the failure to do so is in violation of the spirit and letter of the act creating her Territorial Government, and ought to be returned by Congress to the residents of Kansas for endorsement.*

"*Resolved*, That we believe the people to be the source of all power, and the representative but the reflex of their will, and at all times amenable to them for his actions.

"*Resolved, That while we admire the talents, and appreciate the distinguished services of our* Senator, R. M. T. Hunter, duty to ourselves and the National Administration prompts us, a part of his constituency, to know whether he endorses the foregoing resolutions.

A SOUND LETTER FROM GOV. WALKER.

A number of citizens of Lawrence, Kansas, had heard, or feared, that Gov. WALKER and Secretary STANTON would suffer from personal violence at Lecompton, and sent them an invitation to make Lawrence their home. They replied as follows:

LECOMPTON, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 1857.

GENTLEMEN: We have received your communication of this date, inviting us to remove to the city of Lawrence, and offering your protection against personal violence, which you suppose has been threatened by certain persons in Lecompton. It is quite true, gentlemen, that the evening succeeding our reception of the Oxford returns, a small meeting, here, of fifteen or twenty persons, denounced our course, in connection with the administration of the affairs of Kansas, but no threats of personal violence were made, so far as we have learned, and we entertain no apprehension of that nature. Even if such menaces had been made, our official duty requires our presence now at Lecompton, and no hazard of personal consequences would deter us from remaining here. While, therefore, we must decline your invitation to remove to Lawrence, we tender you our sincere thanks for your hospitalities so kindly proffered.

We thank you also, gentlemen, for the approbation you have been pleased to express of our course in regard to the extraordinary returns (as they are called) from Oxford. From our first inspection of *that document, we never doubted or hesitated as to its rejection.* But besides the intrinsic evidence on the face of the paper itself, we deemed it a duty, by a visit to that precinct, to ascertain the facts, which are set forth in our proclamation of the 10th inst. From the period of our entrance into this Territory, it has been our determination, so far as within our power, to enable the people of Kansas, in the true meaning of the organic law, to control their own government; and to this policy we shall continue steadfastly to adhere. Influenced by these considerations, we have rejected the spurious and illegal returns from Mcghee county, as well as from Oxford.

Accept, gentlemen, most sincere assurance of the respectful consideration of your fellow-citizens,

R. J. WALKER.
FRED. P. STANTON.

To Messrs. Lane, Brown, Realf, and upward of one hundred citizens.

☞ We would call attention to the sale of the rich library of the late ROBERT F. WALSH, to take place on this and to-morrow evenings, at the auction store of Messrs. MOSES THOMAS & SON. Those who recollect the finely stored book shelves of Mr. WALSH will know that an opportunity is now offered for obtaining, at auction prices, some of the finest works in the English language, most of which are of the last London editions. It is rare that a chance of this kind presents itself.

THOMAS & SONS' SALES—Morning and Evening. Furniture at 10 o'clock, at No. 1017 Walnut street. Valuable and Elegant Library this evening at the Auction Rooms.

Stocks, Acceptances, Real Estate, &c., at the Exchange *this evening—a large sale. See* advertisements and pamphlet catalogues of the three sales.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

MADLLE PARODI'S CONCERT.—Last night, at Concert Hall, Madlle Parodi gave a concert, which was very well attended. Of all the concert-vocalists who have visited us of late years, Parodi may claim precedence as an established favorite. She has fairly won this distinction, not only by her admirable singing, but by the propriety of her *conduct and the excellence of her character.* She looked extremely well last night, and was dressed with her usual good taste. With the exception of a diamond bracelet and brooch, she had no ornaments—presenting a marked contrast to Madame Frezzolini, who seemed to think it better to *shine* than *sing*, and looked as if the contents of a jeweller's show-case had been sprinkled over her person.

There was no lack of *encores* last night—a few persons, who persevere in making a noise, are allowed to worry singers and performers into repeating what they have sung or played. Sometimes, (as happened largely last night,) instead of *repetition* there is *substitution*, another piece being given instead of that which was called for! This *encore* system should not be permitted. It is not *fair to get from singers more than they have* contracted to give, and it too much prolongs the time occupied by the concert proper.

Parodi was in fine voice. That beautiful air "Come Bello," from Lucrezia Borgia, was never more exquisitely sang. It was encored. Mr. Vieuxtemps played, as usual, with wondrous skill—his fantasia from "Norma," on one string, was a curiosity of instrumentation. Signor Rocco, who was the first performer, gave one of his own amusing *buffo* pieces, with great humor and effect.

Miss Milner and Mr. Perring appeared in this city, on this occasion, for the first time. They are English singers, brought over by the Directors of the Academy of New York, it is announced "for the production of English Operas and Grand Oratorio." Yet, Miss Milner, who was to prove herself a good *English* singer, was down on the programme for *one* English piece only, with an Italian duet with Mr. Perring, and "Qui la voce" from the Puritani! She gave "With Verdure Clad" with good effect—a careful and rather cold rendition of that solemn piece of music.

Encored, she substituted a ballad, the words of which, from some defect of articulation, we were unable to understand—but they seemed to be Scotch. The duet with Mr. Perring was encored. But we really should have left the Hall, with the impression that Miss Milner was an inferior Italian singer, were it not for her beautiful execution of "Qui la voce" from the "Puritani." Her ornamentation was splendid—indeed, she made the air one of the gems of the concert. It was encored, but instead of repeating it, she gave an English song in lieu.

Miss Milner is a thoroughly-instructed singer, but scarcely equal to Louisa Pyne in execution, and far below her in expression. Miss M. reminds us of Miss Birch, the English singer—though she is both younger and better looking than that lady—and indeed belongs to the same school. In *English* opera, it is probable that she may make "a hit"—provided that she can not with spirit as well as sing with skill and sweetness.

Mr. Perring is a very good English tenor—young and well-looking. He seemed a little frightened, but sang with judgment, as well as with skill. Wallace's pretty air, "There is a Flower that Bloometh," we have seldom heard done more justice to. Mr. Perring has certainly achieved a success here.

This evening, Madlle. Parodi will give her second and last concert, and the programme is full of rich promise, including the celebrated French song of liberty, "La Marseillaise." Mr. Vieuxtemps, Miss Milner, Mr. Perring, Signors Rocco and Perzighi will also perform.

MR. WHEATLEY'S BENEFIT.—This evening, Mr. Wheatley, lessee of the Arch Street Theatre, comes *before the public* with performances for his own benefit. He deserves a great house, and he *must* have it. The play will be "London Assurance," Mr. Wheatley and Mr. Davenport as *Charles Courtley* and *Dazzle*; with Mrs. Davenport as *Lady Gay Spanker*, and Mrs. Bowers as *Grace Harkaway*. The melo-drama of "Madelaine" will also be played.

At Walnut Street Theatre, "The Enchantress" fills the house every night. The Equestrian Company at the National are also doing well, and a new pantomime is in preparation. The Buckleys have full houses, at Jayne's new Hall, where their Ethiopian Concert is followed by the burlesque opera of "Sonnambula."

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Kansas Question—Aspirants for Office Under the House of Representatives—General Walker, &c.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH FOR THE PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30th, 1857.—The Kansas question excites more attention now than any other. The different positions assumed by the press and politicians are freely canvassed. When it is said that the President and his Cabinet have the proceedings of the recently-assembled Constitutional Convention in the adoption of the schedule, which creates the main point of controversy, the inquiry naturally arises, where or by whom have they published that to be their position?

Mr. BUCHANAN is noted as a man of caution, and one who never takes ground, unless after an impartial and full consideration of all the facts involved; and this being granted, the conclusion is inevitable against the truth of any report of that character, for the reason, that, as the Constitution which was framed by that Convention is still a secret, nobody can assert with certainty that even the slavery question is submitted as a negative vote of the people of Kansas. Such an assertion cannot be made with truth until all of the provisions of the Constitution are spread before the public for their investigation.

I have every reason to believe that the President, in his message, will not support the Convention to the extent it is rumored he will. With a statement of the facts, so far as they have come to his knowledge, he will do nothing more than express it as his opinion, based upon these facts—not the entire facts—that the question of slavery, which is taken to be the principal issue amongst the people of Kansas, has been submitted to a vote of the people. Whether the entire Constitution ought to be given to the ratification or rejection of *that people may not be touched at all.*

Even those who favor the Convention and its action do not for a moment deny that, as a matter of policy, it were best to submit the entire instrument. If that were done, there would then be no room for cavil; the principle of popular sovereignty would be carried out fairly, in spirit as well as in letter.

A warm contest is going on between Col. ALLEN, of Illinois, and Mr. ROBINSON, of Indiana, for the clerkship. More effort is made to secure this position than any other, not excepting the speakership.

The aspirants for the positions of speaker, clerk, postmaster, and door-keeper are all here. As the members arrive they are caught and talked to. The tactics seem to be, on the part of the members, to evade a committal, by expressing a desire to look round, *see the candidates, and learn which of them* can best harmonize the Democratic party.

A rumor is rife this morning, that there will be discord and division in caucus which will meet, as is usual, on Saturday evening next; but I think it is unfounded. Half a quorum has not arrived, and until a quorum is here it is difficult to premise what will be done.

The Central American question is yet more complicated by the reported declaration of war by Nicaragua, and the tenacity with which Costa Rica pursues her aggressions upon her neighbor. It is alleged that Gen. WALKER has been invited into Nicaragua, by certain of its citizens who know full well that this would be the termination of the difficulty between these States.

It is evident, without this fact, that no turn *of affairs there could better subserve filibusterism*, whether by WALKER, or KINNEY, or any other. There is now presented a wider field for the diplomatic talents of Mr. OUSELEY.

Mr. BELLY, who is reported to be on his way to Central America, as the special agent of France, it seems, on the contrary, is destined for another post, far distant, in another quarter of the globe.

Our Government does not evince the anxiety which was expected, to join England in another Clayton-Bulwer convention; and what next Mr. OUSELEY will do is a mystery to himself, which can only be cleared up by the instructions he awaits from Downing street.

Bela H. Colgrove, of New York, has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, agent for the Indians in that State.

The Court of Claims resumed its session to-day; an adverse decision was delivered in the case of the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

The employees of the Government, in the various departments are being paid off in silver, principally in silver half-dollar pieces. Those who wish gold have their wish only partially gratified, because of the extreme scarcity of gold in the Treasury vaults. Riggs & Co., and other banking-houses, refuse, I understand, to take silver in payment for notes which they hold. X. Y.

Movements of Ex-President Pierce and Lady.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 30.—Ex-President Pierce and lady left here this afternoon in the Norfolk boat, to embark on the steamer Powhatan for Madeira. The ex-President was escorted to the boat by the City Guards.

Mr. Pierce received great attention from Baltimoreans. There was an immense throng at the Norfolk depot, and on his arrival there he was warmly cheered. He rode in an open carriage, accompanied by Mayor Swann.

The Opera at New York.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The new operatic season at the Academy commenced this evening, with the most flattering auspices. Carl Formes, the celebrated basso, made his debut in *Robert le Diable*, before an audience that has never been equalled here for numbers and brilliancy.

United States Senator from South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 30.—Ex-Governor Hammond was to-day elected by the State Legislature, to fill the seat in the United States Senate, made vacant by the death of Mr. Butler.

FROM HAVANA.

Arrival of the Quaker City at New York.

$13,000 IN SPECIE.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The Steamship Quaker City from Havana, on the evening of the 25th, arrived here this evening.

The health of the city was perfect.

The stock of sugars amounted to 142,000 boxes. Prices ruled slightly lower, and quotations nominal.

Exchange in New York at sight quoted at 6 per cent premium.

The Quaker City brings $13,000 in specie.

The New York Canals.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—Despatches from the West report the continuance of mild weather, with rain, having the effect of breaking up the ice in the canals. There is a strong belief that the navigation of the canals will be resumed to-day, and that all the produce afloat will be got through to tide-water.

The Steamer Adriatic Spoken.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The new steamship Adriatic, which left this port on Monday last, was spoken the next day, at 2 o'clock P. M., in lat. 40 55, long. 68 25.

The Weather.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The weather is thick with a warm mist. Reports from the West leave no doubt but canal navigation will be resumed tomorrow.

Mail Robber Arrested.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Nov. 30.—W. T. Tuckerman, who was formerly treasurer of the Eastern Railroad Company, was arrested at New Haven last night, on the charge of mail robbery. He confesses his guilt.

BOSTON, Nov. 30.—The evidence against Mr. Tuckerman is conclusive. He acknowledges having $800 worth of stolen postage stamps. Five hundred dollars in notes, on the Lee Bank of Massachusetts, were found on him.

The Philadelphia mail to Boston being missed, with others, the railroad superintendents on the New York and Boston route, the postmasters and Special Agent Holbrook, have been on the alert *for several weeks past, to catch the robber.* The amount of the robberies is supposed to be large.

Mr. Tuckerman will be examined at New Haven to-morrow.

The Free-State Party of Kansas.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 30.—The Delegate Convention of the Free-State party of Kansas has been called *to meet at Lawrence on the 2d of December*, to take into consideration the present political position of the Territory, and determine the course to be pursued relative to the submission of the Constitution prepared.

Burning of a Steamer on the Missouri River.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 30.—The steamer New Lucy was burned on Wednesday last, while lying ice-bound, *at De Witt, on the Missouri river. No lives were* lost. The loss by the burning of the boat amounted to $18,000, on which there is an insurance of $12,000.

The United States Steamer Fulton.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 28.—The Central American advices received per the Daniel Webster state that the United States steamer Fulton is at Boca del Torro, *watching for Gen. Walker.*

The State Officers of Maryland.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 30.—Governor Ligon has issued commissions to all the recently elected officers of the State.

Death of Capt. Geddis, U. S. N.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 30.—Capt. Geddis, of the Unites States Navy, died to-night.

Markets.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 30.—Flour is quoted at 12½c lower. Wheat is from 3c to 5c cheaper. Corn and Whiskey are unchanged. Exchange on New York is quoted at ¾a5 per cent. premium.

MOBILE, Nov. 28.—Cotton declined ⅛c to day.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 28.—Cotton closed dull and declined ⅛c irregular. Sales to-day 5,500 bales, at 11⅝a12c for middlings; a decline of ⅛c. Flour market active; sales at $5 25. Mess Pork quoted at $18. The market is bare. Gunny bags 11½a12c. The weather has been very wet and warm.

SAVANNAH, Nov. 30.—Cotton depressed at 11½a11¾.

AUGUSTA, Nov. 30.—Cotton market is slightly easier.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE, N. E. CORNER OF NINTH AND WALNUT STREETS.—"The Enchantress."

WHEATLEY'S ARCH STREET THEATRE, ARCH STREET, ABOVE SIXTH.—"London Assurance"—"Madelaine, or, The Foundling of Paris."

NATIONAL THEATRE, WALNUT STREET, NEAR EIGHTH.—"Equestrian Performances."

JAYNE'S NEW HALL, CHESTNUT STREET, BELOW SEVENTH.—Buckley's Opera Troupe.

SANFORD'S OPERA HOUSE, ELEVENTH STREET, ABOVE CHESTNUT.—Ethiopian Life Illustrated, concluding with a Vaudeville Entertainment.

CONCERT HALL, CHESTNUT ST., ABOVE TWELFTH.—Concert.

The Board of Trade.—An adjourned meeting was held by the Board last night, to continue the discussion of the proposed schemes for the remodeling of our State currency.

Mr. Milliken offered the following:

Resolved, That the meeting go into Committee of the Whole (the Vice-President in the chair) on the subject of banks and currency. Agreed to.

It was then moved that in discussing the matter, speeches be restricted to ten minutes' time for each speaker. Agreed to.

Mr. Thomas Kimber, Jr., presented the following propositions for consideration:

First. Banking is a business, dependent for its success upon the kind influences upon the principles and the ability with which it is conducted. Therefore is involved the character, and should be involved the personal responsibility, of those who conduct it. The public will then have the guarantee of the directors and stockholders in their dealings with the banks.

Second. If the directors and stockholders are personally liable, they ought to possess a power co-extensive with their liability. Every share of stock should be entitled to a vote; and the stockholders should not arbitrarily have the right to say who should be their directors, but how long they shall serve, and what shall be their power. No one need then complain of his *pro rata* and individual responsibility, since his influence would then be co-extensive with his liability; and women and minors, having no power of representation, should not be placed in a position of danger. Banking not being an investment, but a delicate and precarious business, is no proper place for trust funds.

It being clearly recognised that the credit of a banking institution depends upon the character and capital of the stockholders who compose it, no guarantee is needed for the depositor or direct dealer with the bank, beyond his knowledge of the parties who compose it. If he neglects to inform himself of these, and suffers the fault is his own; the State is not bound to indemnify him.

But the bill-holder, having no opportunity of such personal knowledge, is entitled to protection from the State, which, for all time, has been held to be the guardian of the coin and circulation of the country. Otherwise trade is trammeled, values rendered uncertain or arbitrary, and public confidence destroyed.

Therefore, the State should guaranty, or stipulate for guarantees to the circulation; and in no legislation may an idea be effected, but by a deposit of adequate securities with the Government, which should then stamp the notes as approved.

That, subject to the above regulations, there should be no more restriction upon the business of banking than upon any other business. No overissue could then take place, for it is sustained by the property represented. The principles of trade would regulate competition in the banks.

John M. Kennedy stated that he had written out a proposition, but had left it at home. He then wrote and submitted the following:

A convertible paper currency being an issue for private interests, by authority of law, it is due to the public that it should be as perfectly protected as to its safety, uniformity, and stability, as may be consistent with the creation and uses thereof.

The public in its uses thereof may be divided into two classes of creditors—one, involuntary creditors, or those who must of necessity receive, hold and dispose of bank issues; the other, those who as depositors or as users of large notes voluntarily agree to be creditors of the banks issuing notes.

It is submitted that the duty of the law, in providing special security, is limited to those involuntarily bank creditors; that depositors, and those holding its large issues, should be left to exercise the same intelligent care required in all other transactions involving the relationship of debtor and creditor.

If this principle is sound, then I suggest as a provision of law—

1st. That those bank issues, supposed to embrace *the necessity of public uses which might perhaps* be stated to be notes of $20 or less, should be collaterally secured by State securities.

2d. That all notes so secured be receivable at par in payment of debts due at bank. This would give security to that part of the paper currency constituting in a great measure the volume of currency in and through which the general aggregate products of industrial labors are valued and adjusted throughout this State.

3d. That banks be authorized to issue large notes, payable on some limited specified notice of demand or redemption, and also to stipulate with depositors for the right to a similar notice of demand of payment.

This would, in a great measure, avoid the consequences resulting from uncalled-for panics, while it would enable the banks to carefully criticise the actual condition of any impeached bank before determining the necessity of aid thereto.

Mr. Henry Carey Baird submitted as follows:

To the Members of the Philadelphia Board of Trade:

GENTLEMEN: Your association having placed before the business community certain plans, designed, as it would appear, to remedy the evils under which the country is now prostrated, the writer feels that he is not transcending the bounds of propriety in addressing to you the following remarks:

Having taken in hand the business affairs of the nation, *and proposing, as it is quite apparent you intend, to press the application of a cure*; he would, in the most respectful manner, beg you to satisfy yourselves, before acting in this important matter, that you have found the true cause of the disorder. The case you have before you may be very aptly compared with that of a *desperately* sick man. The seat of the disease will be found to be about the region of the heart, and it is much to be feared that you will direct your attention to the legs or the arms, and that you propose to lop either of these off. Rest assured that this will but increase the helplessness of the patient.

To come more directly to the point, it must, in all frankness, be acknowledged that in the published proceedings, not one resolution, remark, or even word, is to be found which touches in the most remote manner upon the real cause of our financial troubles, and it therefore follows, as a consequence, that the remedies proposed are not only utterly valueless in the present emergency, but it is certain that some of them, if attempted, will aggravate these evils. Thus will be removed from the public some of the few remaining means they possess of struggling through this great revulsion.

By a more thorough examination it will be ascertained, to the satisfaction of any intelligent, unprejudiced mind, that the banks, like many of the people, are the innocent victims of a system over which they have had no manner of control. In this entire question there is involved a principle in political economy, of great magnitude—no *other than a simple*, but beautiful law of nature, which the policy of the American Government has violated for eleven years past; and here, but here alone, may we find the disturbing cause, which has induced you to believe that our banking system needs those radical measures of reform which you are about to recommend.

That law, which forms the basis of the only system of political economy ever constructed, which merits the name of a science, is to be found in the provision of nature, *that the consumer shall be allowed to take his place by the side of the producer!* Most unhappily for the country, the question growing out of this fixed and unalterable law has time and again been made an issue, not only between political parties, but between geographical sections of the Republic. It has been thought by the writer—how justly he knows not—but, for this reason, it may have been deemed an improper subject for discussion before so "conservative" a body as the merchants of Philadelphia. Conservative or not, however, it is a principle which, sooner or later, they will be called upon, not only to discuss, in all its length and breadth, but it will be an alternative which will be presented to them for acceptance, if they desire to preserve any portion of that fabric which we now see falling about us with such sad and desolating effects!

The year 1837 found this country in the same state of bankruptcy and wide-spread ruin, and it can be traced with unerring *certainty to precisely* the same causes. In that condition it was allowed to remain until 1842, when, on the 30th of August of that year, was inaugurated a different policy, in the act of Congress, known as "The Tariff of 1842." Under the wise provisions of this legislation every interest recovered in a manner almost miraculous.

On the 3d of July, 1846, this measure was abandoned, and under the auspices of Mr. Robert J. Walker, was passed an act now known in history as "The Tariff of 1846," which will be remembered longer than any other law which has been enacted by Congress since the adoption of the Constitution, from the injury which it has been instrumental in producing—to be estimated, in an industrial and financial point of view, in *thousands of millions of dollars.*

In addition to this, it is responsible for an amount of demoralization which cannot be computed, but which has lowered us in the estimation of the civilized world, and made our name almost synonymous with rapacity and crime.

England, it is well known, aims to be the *workshop of the world*, and not only does she insist upon being the manufacturer for the world, but the trodden and oppressed Ireland and India, but she strives to perform the same office for every other country, even to their destruction.

In Great Britain we find the land concentrated in the hands of a few great men, and as a necessary consequence the masses are degraded, enslaved, and kept in a continual state of pauperism. Wherever the first of these conditions is, the other must be; escape from them is impossible. Following in the train, and, indeed, a part of this unnatural system, is *cheap labor*; upon which, according to the admission even of the London Times, depends the very salvation and existence of the English manufacturer. With the result of this cheap labor, with the goods manufactured out of the very life's blood of poor degraded human nature, England vociferously cries for admission into every market of the world, there *force apart the producer and the consumer*, who, in violation of nature's law, instead of being permitted to make their exchanges close to their own homes, are are obliged to go to Liverpool, Birmingham, and Manchester, in doing which they are forced to use expensive machinery which would otherwise be unnecessary.

Whenever a man, or a community of men, are placed *in the position that he or they must go to* market, no one but themselves pays the price of going there. Build up a vigorous home market, and that expense is saved. Every day that we have allowed the producer and the consumer to be forced apart, and thus increased our dependence upon England, in order to exchange our raw products for manufactured articles, her demands upon us for gold have been multiplied, and with these demands has our helplessness become more and more apparent, until at the present moment we are reduced to the necessity of employing an irredeemable paper currency. From this necessity we shall not be soon relieved.

An examination of the masterly "Report of the Committee of Ways and Means on the proposed reduction of the tariff of duties," August 11, 1850, will demonstrate to you that it is to the banking system which requires regulation, but that that system is entirely dependent upon the sound policy of the Government. The committee in that report show by a survey of the financial history of our country from 1816 to 1850, that every inflation of paper currency can be traced to low tariffs. After going over the facts in the case, they draw the following conclusions: "Now, if we never have incontinent expansions of paper currency, prices and foreign imports, except under low tariff, and if those expansions are always in the ratio of the declines below the point of protection to our home industry, it follows as a certainty that the tariff—not the currency—is the cause of the mischievous alternations which we endured.

"Your committee are contented to rest this point upon the facts which sustain it, and are not concerned to attempt an explanation of their operation.

"In all questions of this nature a fair and legitimate grouping of the facts is the safest arrangement of them; and it is clear, beyond a question or cavil, that the order and dependency here given them is the natural, the true, and the *necessary array* for all the purposes of this inquiry."

With the highest respect, I beg to submit the foregoing to your calm consideration.

Your ob't serv't,
HENRY CAREY BAIRD.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 30, 1857.

The debate was commenced by Mr. Kennedy, who considerably exceeded the allotted ten minutes in elaborating an expression of his views as above set forth.

Mr. Jones, of Delaware county, editor of the *Jeffer*, requested permission to speak. He stated that he acted as chairman of the great meeting of merchants in this city in '37, who met to consider means of relief and the amelioration of the currency. He compared our condition to that of a very rich man whose constitution was undermined. He made a very singular speech, the tenor of which can be guessed from the concluding remark, which was, that he, the speaker, was a greater man than Socrates, for Socrates had his *nose broken, not long after his marriage*, while," said he, "I have reached the age of forty-five, and have got an unimagined cutwater to precede me through the world."

Mr. Thomas Kimber, Jr., spoke in explanation of his views, as conveyed through the medium of his written proposition. He was listened to with marked interest and attention.

Mr. Wm. D. Lewis said that the banks should be limited in the amount of their loans, and presented an array of statistics in support of this. With this restriction, he said there would be no danger either of expansions or of panics. At present the law restricts them to ninety-one times the amount of their capital, but that is equivalent to no law at all.

Mr. Lewis then offered the following, accompanied with a preamble: "Resolved, that the bill granted would be referred to a committee, as he considered that course necessary to impart shape to the subject:

That it shall not be lawful for any bank in this Commonwealth to hold at any time investments of all kinds, except specie, to an amount exceeding 15 per cent. beyond their *existing* capital stock. $90,000; support of night schools, $22,647; printing and petty expenses, $6,991.

For employment of additional teachers, $3,000; for rent of additional buildings, $2,000; for ground rents, $9,000; for fuel, $18,000; for water rents, $