The Press.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1857.

CONTENTS OF FIRST PAGE.—Peel upon Palmerston; Literary Criticism; The Board of Trade on Banking and Currency; City Police; Severe Fight with the Indians; Extract from Chicago Tribune; The Pennsylvanian Dog Prince; The City; The Courts; General News.

☞ President BUCHANAN yesterday informed the Editor of THE PRESS that he decidedly disapproved of the attack of the Washington *Union* upon this paper, in regard to the Kansas question.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Message of President BUCHANAN will be delivered to the representatives of the different daily papers of this city at noon THIS DAY, or as soon as the telegraph announces that the reading of the Message has commenced at the Capitol.

The Message will be delivered to the representatives of the daily papers by Col. BAKER, Collector of the Port, at his office.

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF VIRGINIA, PENNSYLVANIA, AND KANSAS.

The formation of a Constitution for a free people is their highest and gravest duty. When, in 1789-90, the Constitution of Pennsylvania was framed, the opponents of the Democrats refused to give it to the popular vote, and the result was a great popular uprising. Protests and petitions were sent in against it, and the leaders in the movement making the Convention sovereign were never forgiven. In 1837-38, when the new Convention was called to remodel the old Constitution, eight months' time and half a million of dollars were consumed in order to prepare a fundamental law worthy of the people. The main propositions were, an elective judiciary, and the reduction of the gubernatorial patronage; and yet these questions, far below the vital importance attached to the whole Kansas Constitution, were given to the people, and occasioned great excitement. Had the Convention refused to submit their work to the sovereign constituency, all taking part in the act of exclusion would have gone into private life forever. Some of the members of that body, who disappointed their constituents in this and other respects, have not recovered the confidence of the people to this hour.

The case of Virginia, in 1776, cited by Governor WISE, was a most remarkable one. This was the first Constitution for a State ever framed; and it is not strange that the mode should have been defective. The great statesman of the era of the Revolution, JEFFERSON, always spoke of this Constitution as lacking an essential element—the sanction and authority of the expressed will of the majority. Here are his words, as to this first of Constitutions, written in 1824.

"To our Convention no special authority had been delegated by the people to form a permanent Constitution, over which their successors in legislation should have no power of alteration. They had been elected for the ordinary purposes of legislation only, and at a time when the establishment of a new Government had not been proposed nor contemplated. Although, therefore, they gave to this act the title of a Constitution, yet it could be no more than an act of legislation, subject, as their other acts were, to alteration by their successors. *It has been said, indeed, that the acquiescence of the people has sanctified the want of original power.* But it is a dangerous lesson to say to them, 'Whenever your functionaries exercise unlawful authority over you, if you did not go into moral resistance it will be deemed acquiescence and conformation.' Besides, no authority has yet decided whether the resistance must be instantaneous; when the right to resist ceases; or whether it has yet ceased. *Of the twenty-four States now organized, twenty-three have disapproved our doctrine and example, and have deemed the formal authority of their people a necessary foundation for their Constitution.*"

Well, does the Baltimore *American*, a Southern journal, remark on this latter example:

"Thus much upon the general principle involved. The case of Kansas is surrounded by peculiar circumstances that, beyond mere legal force in every case, render it imperative that no Constitution emanating from the Lecompton Convention should be recognised until it has received the approval of the people of the Territory. That Convention was the creation of a mere minority of the people of the Territory, its members were elected under the restrictive action of oppressive and unconstitutional laws, that kept from the polls a majority of the constituency it pretended to represent. These laws have since lost all their power and become obsolete, without positive repeal, under the load of obloquy heaped upon them; but at the time the Constitutional Convention was elected they were active and effectual, and disfranchised a large majority of the real voters of the Territory. To claim for a body elected under such circumstances, and whom the voice of the people of the Territory has since, upon several occasions, clearly repudiated, the power to form a Constitution and press it into active vitality as the supreme law of the State, without allowing the people any opportunity to record their approval or disapproval of its general provisions, is a stretch of power altogether anti-republican. It may be remarked as a little singular, in this connection, that whilst the Lecompton Convention refused to the people the right to vote against the Constitution, they force all, who vote at all, to vote for it. In providing for the decision of the slavery question the Convention has directed that the ballots shall be endorsed 'Constitution with slavery,' or 'Constitution with no slavery.' Thus, whether the ballot is cast for or against slavery, it is still for the Constitution—a mode of getting an affirmative vote that is worthy the electioneering tactics of Louis Napoleon.

"The arguments in favor of receiving the Lecompton Constitution as the act of the people of Kansas, and admitting the Territory into the Union of States upon that instrument, are based mainly upon expediency. Such a result is pressed as the easiest solution of the difficulty, and the quickest mode of removing the agitating sectional questions, of which the history of the Territory has been so prolific, from the arena of national politics. The argument of expediency is always a dangerous one; in the greater number of cases it fails short of what the ultimate consequence demands, and complicates instead of extinguishing differences of principles, and antagonisms of action. We think it will prove so in this case, and that the State of Kansas, made so under the Lecompton Constitution, will prove the inviting cause to an amount of sectional ill-feeling and excitement, to which its experience, as a Territory, has furnished no parallel."

MODERATE VIEWS.

We perceive that a number of Southern Democratic papers, always keenly alive to a violation of fundamental principles, and especially to a disregard of the sovereign rights of the people, are taking that just and logical view of the Kansas question which might be expected from upright and candid minds. The conflict in Kansas, it will be recollected, is one which, decided against the people of that Territory by Congress, may become a precedent when other Territories ask for admission into the Union. This circumstance alone should make us extremely cautious how we countenance and support the attempt of the intriguers and managers of the Calhoun Convention. It is estimated that at least seven new Territories are hereafter to be admitted into the Union, exclusive of Kansas, Minnesota, and Oregon, and it would be a somewhat avenging sequel, if the men who are now demanding that a Convention shall be sovereign and the people subordinate, should find the poisoned cestlice commended to their own lips on a future occasion.

The Southern papers which have spoken sound truths on this subject are the Richmond *Enquirer* and the Lexington (Kentucky) *Statesman*—the latter published at the residence of our distinguished Vice President. The *Enquirer*, of Tuesday, publishes a communication from "A State Rights Democrat," which appears in another part of THE PRESS to-day, vindicating Governor WALKER and the constitutional Democracy of the North in their hostility to the Calhoun Convention, while, in its editorial column of the same date, after manifesting a disposition to abandon its original ground in favor of making the submission of the Constitution of Kansas to the people a *sine qua non*, it expresses the following views:

"Conventions in this country are not sovereign. The people jealously guard their rights, and nothing but grave considerations of the public good under peculiar circumstances can reconcile them to a transgression of authority on the part of those who represent them. It is, doubtless, in view of this sacred sovereignty of the people that some of the Democrats of the North remonstrate against the action of the Lecompton Convention in submitting only a single feature of the organic law of Kansas to be ratified or rejected as the popular will might elect. But while we accord to them this praiseworthy motive, we still think they are jeoparding those things that are infinitely more valuable than the result of a strict enforcement of this principle in this single instance, and in the manner in which it is proposed to accomplish it, could possibly prove. They should be willing to accept the loss of the two evils. They should acquiesce in, or submit to a departure from, the principle of popular sovereignty in its most stringent sense, rather than aid in bringing about a removal of civil strife in Kansas, and increasing the bitterness of the sectional contest between the North and the South.

"We agree with them that the will of the people is not allowed its legitimate exercise. But for the reasons we have already stated, we do not concur with them in the opinion that Congress ought not to admit Kansas into the Union, because the whole Constitution is not to be submitted to the vote of the people.

"Until we have stronger evidence in support of the charges of his enemies, we shall attribute to Gov. Walker the same motives which we believe to influence these Northern Democrats who differ from us in this matter.

"We are afraid there will be angry discussions in Congress on this question. And it may be that it has yet to reach its most exciting and alarming stage. But we have confidence in the wisdom, firmness, and strength of the Administration."

Other Southern journals have expressed even more liberal views; and we notice that an immense meeting has been held at Lecompton, Kansas Territory, composed of pro-slavery men, Democrats, and Republicans, at which the Calhoun Convention and Constitution have been most indignantly repudiated and denounced. It is quite in vain, in the face of such a record as this, to make the successful appeal, that the Kansas question can ever be "settled" on the Calhoun Convention basis.

EUROPEAN NEWS BY "THE BALTIC."

As was expected, the steamer *Baltic*, which left Liverpool on the 25th ult., arrived at New York yesterday, bringing four days' later news. There was no further intelligence from India. Goaded, no doubt, by the almost general taunts of the press, the British Government had elevated Generals HAVELOCK and WILSON, the heroes of Lucknow and Delhi, to the hereditary rank of Baronet. It is true that HAVELOCK has, at present, no more than his "good-service pension" of five shillings a-day to maintain the "dignity" of this rank. But though the British Ministry may abstain from placing him in pecuniary independence, the East India Company (which gave a pension of £5,000 a year to the Marquis of DALHOUSIE, for showing considerable incapacity as Viceroy of India) will probably vote some liberal income to Sir HENRY HAVELOCK, for having manfully and successfully fought for the maintenance of British sway in that vast region.

Although further and even considerable commercial failures are announced as having taken place in London, Liverpool, Hamburg, and Bremen, money was so much easier, that the anticipation of a yet further advance by the Bank of England, on the rates of discount, was rapidly becoming removed. While, in compliance with the recent Government mission, the Bank still adhered to the rate of ten per cent., money was procurable in the Stock Exchange at from five to six per cent.

The relief given to the great banking-house of GEORGE PEABODY & Co., and to OVEREND, GURNEY, & Co., the extensive discount-house in Lombard street, amounting to £1,000,000 to each establishment, has carried them through, and prevented the failure of numerous smaller firms who did business with them. Gold was rapidly returning to the banks of England and of France, and its export had received such a check that the *Baltic* brought only £9,000, while the *Atlantic*, which left New York on Saturday, took away to Liverpool, about $1,800,000 in gold.

The financial difficulties have extended throughout the great part of Europe. Even Russia and Spain have felt "the Panic," though much more lightly than more commercial countries.

The increase of specie funds by the Bank of England was steadily progressive, and as the discounted bills matured, fresh funds would come in. There was a belief that the Government intended funding Exchequer Bills, of which a large amount is now afloat. The *Morning Star* (a London anti-Ministerial journal) says: "It is felt that the revenue payments at the present moment are not likely to be of the usual satisfactory character, and that the dividend period of January will probably not find the Government in the highest condition of means. It is not impossible that a mixed operation of a loan and funding may be brought under consideration; and such a course would specially suit the convenience of the East India Company, who would thus be placed in a situation to obtain a more readily convertible security than the large amount of Exchequer Bills which they are now known to possess."

The London *Daily News* personally compliments Sir W. GORE OUSELEY, now in Washington, but contends that his special Nicaraguan mission is worse than useless. One assigned reason for this belief is to be found in the following significant and suspicious sentence:

"Neither is it to be doubted that the real object of a large party in the States is to procure exclusive right over the passage between the Atlantic and Pacific; not, indeed, to keep our commerce in time of peace, *but to secure for the United States the great advantages which the power to exclude us in time of war would give them.* This design is obviously promoted by present delay."

The summing-up runs thus: "As a manifestation of our sincere desire to be on the best terms with the United States, every one will approve of this visit of Sir WILLIAM GORE OUSELEY to Washington. But it does not inspire, under all the circumstances of the case, many hopes of securing accord there; and *without co-operation, his going further will*, we are persuaded, *do much more harm than good.*"

The London *Gazette* of Tuesday, November 24, contains the official announcement that a new naval commission had been issued by the Crown—the name of Sir ROBERT PEEL being omitted from the list of the Lords of the Admiralty. This is tantamount to his quitting office, which, we think, he had not formally done before.

AN ELOQUENT LETTER.

We have received the following letter from one of the most gifted and eloquent Democrats in Western Pennsylvania, a gentleman who from boyhood has been the firm and devoted friend of Mr. BUCHANAN, who has served him in State and National Conventions, and whose position in his region is second to none:

DECEMBER 1, 1857.

I take the liberty of thanking you for the manly stand in THE PRESS on the affairs of Kansas, and counsel you to stand firmly by it at all hazards. We have had trouble enough with Kansas already. It is about time it should stop.

I have no more sympathy with the Northern fanaticism of anti-slavery than I ought to have, I believe. But I have not yet become so enamored of the institution of slavery as to sanction the most barefaced and impudent frauds on the popular will, to extend it into Kansas or elsewhere.

If the principle of popular sovereignty means that an intelligent minority is to govern the majority, I have been laboring under a slight delusion. If this great principle is to be used, by a mere fragment of the people of a Territory, to force slavery, or anything else, on the masses of the people of that Territory, all I have to say is, that the Democracy of the great North will soon be reduced to a mere fragment of a party.

The principle of popular sovereignty is sound, in every way. But the practice of it must be honest. As faith without works is dead, a principle, however sound, if not practised, is dead also

The principle is the sovereignty of the majority. If the practice is to be the *subjection* of the majority, the principle is not only dead, but is alive again on the other side. The party that, while professing this principle, sanctions, and maintains as right, a practice under the principle which wholly reverses it and *misapprehends* its application, would not only be despised by all honest men, but would richly deserve to be despised. Such a party, to be honest, should inscribe on its banners and embody in its platform the doctrine of popular subjection instead of sovereignty.

In my humble judgment, the only fair way of settling the troubles in Kansas, is for Congress to reject the Constitution, and order, by an act of Congress, a Convention to frame a Constitution. Then all parties could and would meet on common ground, and vote for delegates, without any sacrifice of party pride. Thus the question could be fairly and honorably settled, according to the usages of the country in almost all such cases. Why such a policy is not adopted by the Administration is what I cannot comprehend. It would be a fair settlement, and no honest man, in Congress or out of Congress, North or South, could raise his voice against it.

I say, then, maintain your position at every hazard. The Democracy will be with you—all honest men will be with you; and if they are not, or were not to be, you would be right at any rate, which, after all, is better than to have all men with you in the wrong.

I do not quite understand the course of the Pittsburgh *Union*, if it can be said to have any course; for it does not seem to be either for or against the Constitution, or its submission, rejection, or adoption. But no matter about the *Union*. Your course is, and will be, fully endorsed by the Democracy here.

Pardon me for troubling you with such a long letter. I think the subject a grave one, and think you may be pleased to know that your course on this question is highly satisfactory to your friends, and somewhat mortifying to your enemies; and allow me to observe, in conclusion, that your paper is everything that your friends could wish.

THE LEMMON SLAVE CASE.

In the New York Supreme Court yesterday, (a full bench sitting,) was delivered the judgment on this case, to the effect that a slaveholder cannot carry his slaves through the State of New York, on a journey to any other part of the Union. This affirms the decision of Judge PAINE, that the slaves should be free. Judge ROOSEVELT dissented.

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE has been nominated for the Canadian Parliament by the Irish citizens of Montreal, who claim one member from that city, on the strength of the fact that they number one-third of the population.

SALE OF STOCKS, MORTGAGE AND REAL ESTATE this evening, at the Exchange. See THOMAS & SONS' advertisements, and pamphlet catalogue.

☞ The catalogue comprises, also, a large list of real estate at private sale.

THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS ON THE KANSAS QUESTION.

[From the Bloomsburg (Pa.) Record.]

THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION.—The bold, manly, and independent course of the Philadelphia *Press* on the Kansas Constitution question, merits the approbation of every member of the Democratic party, in all sections of the Union, who entertains an honest respect for truth and fair dealing. The attempt of the late Convention to impose upon the people of that troubled Territory a Constitution, without submitting it as an entirety to a direct popular vote, if successful, is in manifest violation of the letter and spirit of the Kansas-Nebraska bill; subversive of the true principles of republican institutions, and fatal to popular sovereignty. Any attempt from any quarter to justify by specious, plausible, and sophistic reasoning, the course of this Convention, will be met by the scorn and contempt of every honest and honorable man. If the integrity of the Democratic party is worth preserving, party leaders must understand that the masses have honest convictions of right and duty, and will not long submit to imposition.

[From the Monroe (Pa.) Democrat.]

KANSAS CONSTITUTION.—The Kansas Constitutional Convention has finished its labors and adjourned. We have purposely, thus far, refrained from noticing its proceedings, because we did not wish to raise our voice for or against its action before we had some tangible assurance what it was to result in. Now, however, it becomes us to speak, and we mean to speak plainly. * * *

It bears upon its face the impress of trick and fraud, and should bring down upon the heads of its authors the scorn and contempt of every lover of honesty and straight-forward dealing throughout the land.

Congress—and we hope the Pennsylvania delegation in that body will see to it—should at once, upon the presentation of this packed instrument, reject it by a unanimous vote. That body should consider that if the new Constitution is not worthy of being submitted to the judgment of the freemen of Kansas, it is clearly not a fit instrument for their government; and they should provide for the forming of such a Constitution as would suffer nothing from public scrutiny, and public opinion as expressed through the ballot-box. We hope that enough honest men will be found in the next Congress to redeem the pledge of the Democratic party, that Kansas shall come into the Union with such institutions as a majority of her *bona fide* citizens shall determine upon. This, as outsiders, the people of the several States have a right to demand, and this Congress should yield to them.

[From a communication in the St. Louis (Mo.) Republican, (Pro-Slavery.]

There is one view of the Kansas Convention and its proceedings, which, though often alluded to, has not been as distinctly stated and as seriously dwelt upon as its importance deserves. The Constitution is not submitted to the people, to be adopted or rejected as they may choose. That, perhaps, is not necessary to its legal validity, but is contrary to the declared policy of Gov. Walker and President Buchanan, and is very undemocratic. There are many precedents (and Missouri furnishes one of them) for the course pursued, which, in their simplicity, thought they were appointed for the very purpose of making Constitutions, and accordingly did make them and put them in force, without asking the sanction of a popular vote at home, and without suspecting that Congress claimed the power, which is now boldly claimed, to pass upon such Constitutions, in whole or in part, and affirm or disaffirm them, according to its own notions of republicanism, for the time being. The Kansas Convention has chosen neither of the two courses heretofore pursued. It does not put the Constitution in force by its own authority, and it does not submit it to the people, to be accepted or rejected by them. Moreover, it does not leave the question of slavery open to be simply and fairly voted upon and decided by the people, as was lately done in Oregon. But it devises a cunning plan to compel every man to vote *for* the Constitution, denying him the opportunity to vote *against* it; and all this under the pretence of submitting the question of slavery to the people.

By the schedule of the Constitution, the people are required, before voting, to swear to support the Constitution if adopted, and then every man of them is required to vote for it. The form of voting is prescribed, and this is the form: "*For the Constitution* with slavery," or "*For the Constitution* without slavery." And thus, however the people may choose to vote upon the question of slavery, the schedule positively requires them to vote unanimously for the Constitution.

The bare statement of the case is *shocking to sense and decency*. If the Convention had thought fit to enact a Constitution and put it in operation without appealing to the popular will at all, perhaps it had power to do so, however undemocratic the course might be; but under the pretence of submitting the question of slavery to the people, *to require every man to vote for the Constitution, and to swear beforehand to support it*, is a disgusting compound of oppression and folly, the equal of which can hardly be found outside of Kansas—*oppression in compelling men to vote for what they may despise or abhor, or renounce their right of suffrage; and folly, in supposing that they could enable the few to subjugate and rule the many, by such a despicable trick.* That is not the way to govern people in this country, and will no more be submitted to *than would the prescription of a poison-doctor who required his patient to take his arsenic with bread and butter or without it.*

[From the Detroit Free Press.]

The real question now is, will Congress countenance the cheat practised by the Convention? Will Congress bounce received stolen property, and restore the abstracted treasure to the rightful owners?

In all the Territories except Kansas and Nebraska Congress has, from the very first, exercised the power of disapproving any and all laws of the Territorial Legislatures.

It was not a regular, but an irregular proceeding when the Legislature of Kansas authorized the Lecompton Convention, which Congress may ratify or reject as it shall see fit. Such was the view of the Administration, expressed through the Washington *Union*, in July last, as follows:

"This movement of the Territorial authorities to form a Constitution is not in the regular way, in pursuance of an enabling and authorizing act of Congress, but on the mere motion of the Territorial Legislature itself. Nay, it has been begun and carried on in the teeth of a refusal by Congress to pass such an act. This irregularity is not fatal. There are other cases in which it was overlooked. But it can be waived only in consideration of the fact *that the people have expressed their will in unmistakable language.* If the expense with the legal forms of proceedings we must have the substance."

We are as anxious as any Democrat can be that this Kansas imbroglio should be speedily settled. It is a disturbing and harassing element. But it is far better that it should remain open for the next five years, or ten years, than that it should be settled at the sacrifice of the great cardinal principle of the Democratic party—POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY—THE RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. This principle was not asserted in the Kansas-Nebraska bill for Kansas alone. It was asserted for all future Territories. If it is abandoned now, we brought into ridicule, where shall we be upon the slavery question? How shall the question be treated when it shall rise elsewhere?

[From the Chicago Times, Dec. 5.]

KANSAS CONSTITUTION.—We have received copies of this instrument. Independent of the slavery question, it is perhaps, a very good one, but of that the people of Kansas have the right to judge. The slavery clause gives the Legislature power to provide for emancipating (by compensation to the owners) all slaves; but denies the power to prevent the introduction of more slaves. A vote "*for the Constitution with slavery*" is a vote to establish and forever maintain the institution, with the power in the Legislature of emancipation. A vote "*for the Constitution with no slavery*" is a vote to recognise the existence of slavery now there, to keep those slaves who are now in the Territory, and their natural increase, slaves during their lives, and is a vote to "*strike out*" the power of the Legislature to emancipate. The Constitution "without slavery" means that slavery in the Territory shall be confined to those slaves now there, and their increase from generation to generation, with no power on the part of the Legislature to emancipate by compensation, or in any other way. The Constitution with slavery allows more slaves to be brought to Kansas, but gives the Legislature power to provide for their emancipation.

We confess our inability to decide which of these two alternatives is the more "pro-slavery." We incline to the opinion that the "Constitution with no slavery" is the more "pro-slavery."

[From the Louisville Democrat.]

In the present case, the reason for not admitting Kansas has nothing to do with the sort of institutions the State may adopt. It is the manner of the application that is to be considered; and it is perfectly extravagant to maintain that Congress has not full discretion upon such a point. It was never before held that Congress should admit a State, when the people were opposed to such admission. This is a point upon which Congress has never ventured, and which the country will never sanction. That body has disregarded all precedents in the admission of a State when the voice of the people of a Territory was for admission. That point settled, no form has been deemed essential. Now, when the voice of the people is, or was, for a State against admission, no formalities can cure such a defect in the substance of the application. But really it seems to us too plain a case for argument. Congress did, in the case of Wisconsin, exercise the discretion to refuse the admission in a much stronger case than this. Congress had itself provided for a Convention in that State. It had been held, and a Constitution formed; *but it had not been submitted to the people.* Congress sent the whole work back for popular ratification, and in so doing acted wisely and constitutionally.

MATTERS AND THINGS IN NEW YORK.

[From the New York papers of last evening.]

POINTER HOUSE FIGHT—MAN SHOT.—Last night, at midnight, some ten or twelve of the "Atlantic Blues" entered the porter-house kept by Michael Barry, calling for something to drink. After they had been served, the discovery was made that the joint capital of the party amounted to one shilling, which, being deemed by the Boniface of the establishment insufficient, a fight ensued, when the keeper of the house seized a double-barreled gun, and shot one of the party—a man named John S. Kelly—the whole charge entering his side about midway down. He lies now in the hospital at the point of death. Barry was arrested.

THE CANALS CLOSED.—The canals are closed for the season. At Amsterdam, on Friday, six horses could not start a boat on account of the ice, and along the valley of the Mohawk the canal is blocked by ice. The snow which fell the same night has so clogged the gates that it is impossible to lock a boat. There can be no doubt now of an entire suspension of canal navigation in this State.

THE ERIE RAILROAD TROUBLES.—The policemen sent up to Piermont, on Friday afternoon, to protect the Erie Railroad freight depot, returned to this city about nine o'clock on Sunday evening, their services being no longer required. The revolted men all returned peaceably to work on Saturday, and no further disturbances is expected.

The Evansville, Indiana, *Journal* of the 30th ult., learns from passengers by the steamer Dove, that a terrible tragedy occurred at Caseyville, Ky., on Friday night. A man by the name of Hall, who parted from his wife not long since, and who killed a man a few weeks ago in an encounter, met Dr. Taylor in the street, and shot him, and, as the doctor fled, pursued him into a store, and there stabbed him twice in the breast, and finished the diabolical deed by cutting his throat and severing the jugular vein. Hall then escaped to his own house, barricaded the doors, armed himself, and defied the authorities to take him. At the last accounts, he was besieged in his house by the citizens, no one having courage to attempt to take the desperate villain. Both of the two terrible homicides committed by Hall were prompted by the fell passion of jealousy.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

MR. FITZPATRICK CHOSEN PRESIDENT PRO TEM. OF THE SENATE.

Organization of the House.

JAMES L. ORR ELECTED SPEAKER.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, December 7, 1857.—The weather to-day is charming, and the opening of Congress has attracted dense crowds in the galleries of both Houses, and other parts of the Capitol.

The greetings between the members and their friends serve to render the scene pleasantly exciting.

SENATE.

On the roll being called fifty Senators answered to their names. The Senate was called to order by the Secretary, who read a letter from Mr. Breckinridge, Vice President, stating that he would not be able to reach Washington at the commencement of the session.

On motion of Mr. Benjamin, a resolution was adopted that the oath required by the Constitution be administered by Mr. Bright, the oldest member present.

Messrs. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, and Clark, of New Hampshire, new members, were sworn in and took their seats.

The Senate proceeded to ballot for President *pro tem.* of the Senate, when Mr. Fitzpatrick was chosen, and being conducted to his seat, returned his acknowledgments for the honor conferred.

The usual resolutions were adopted for the appointment of committees to inform the House and the President of the United States that the Senate was organized and ready for the transaction of business.

The Senate then went into executive session and confirmed the nomination, by the President, of George W. Bowman, editor of the Bedford *Gazette*, as Superintendent of Public Printing.

After the executive session, the Senate adjourned without transacting any further business.

HOUSE.

Two hundred and twenty-one members answered to the call of the House.

A quorum of members being thus ascertained to be present, the House proceeded to the election of the Speaker.

Mr. Orr was nominated by Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, and Mr. Grow, by Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts.

On the ballot the vote stood as follows:

Mr. Orr	128
Mr. Grow	84
Scattering	13

The announcement of the result was greeted with applause.

The clerk appointed Messrs. Stephens and Banks, as a committee to conduct Mr. Orr to the chair. The oath of office was administered by Mr. Giddings.

On assuming the chair, Mr. Orr expressed his thanks for the honor conferred upon him. The delicate and responsible duties of the chair, he said, would be comparatively light, if he should be able to rely on the co-operation of the members in despatching business, and in upholding the dignity of the House. He promised to administer the rules, which may be adopted, with firmness and impartiality. The great business confided to them by the people admonished them to cultivate a patriotism as expansive as the Confederacy itself. He cherished the hope that the public business would be transacted so as to promote the interests and happiness of the entire people, and the Constitution would be maintained in its integrity, and that their legislation would quicken the greatness and glory of our common country.

The members were then sworn in, advancing in delegations for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. Clingman, the rules of the last House were adopted, till otherwise ordered, with a proviso to the 25th rule, viz: that whenever any committee shall have occupied the morning hour for two days, it shall not be in order for such committee to report further, until the other committees shall have been called in turn. Mr. C. alluded to the fact that the Committee on Public Lands had for several sessions monopolized the morning hour, compelling the other committees to rely on the courtesy of the House to make reports.

Mr. Allen, of Illinois, was elected Clerk of the House, receiving the same number of votes as Mr. Orr received for Speaker.

Mr. Glossbrenner was elected Sergeant at-Arms, and Mr. Hackney Door-keeper.

Mr. Cluskey was declared Postmaster by resolution.

Mr. Florence, of Pennsylvania, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill for the entire suppression of all bank notes as currency, or of bank notes of a less denomination than a hundred dollars as a circulating medium in the District of Columbia.

The House then adjourned.

Washington Affairs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Colonel Richardson, of Illinois, has been formally tendered the Governorship of Nebraska.

The entire *Globe* and a supplement, issued today, were occupied with an exposition of the alleged frauds in the purchase of books during the last Congress. The publication has produced much sensation, particularly about the Capitol.

In the Court of Claims to-day, Judges Scarburg and Blackford delivered an opinion adverse to the claimants of the brig General Armstrong. Judge Gilchrist dissented.

Immediately after the House adjourned, hundreds of men and boys crowded upon the new Doorkeeper, clamoring for situations. The Postmaster was assailed in a similar manner, and the Clerk is overwhelmed with applicants for appointments.

The Republicans, at a caucus held this morning, nominated George M. Weston, editor of "*The Republic*," as their candidate for Printer.

The Democratic Caucus

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—At the Democratic Caucus held this evening, one hundred and eight members of the House were in attendance.

Mr. Faulkner made a statement to the effect that, wishing to become fully acquainted with the facts in connection with the remarks made in the former Caucus, by Mr. Clements, affecting Mr. Wendell's character, he wrote a letter to Mr. Clements, who replied that a corrupt proposition had been made to him in behalf of Mr. Wendell.

Mr. Wendell, in his letter, (the subject having been referred to him,) emphatically denied that any proposition of the nature stated had been made with his knowledge or authority, and that it must have been by some one too lazy to work, too proud to steal, and ashamed to beg. The above correspondence was submitted by Mr. Faulkner.

Mr. Clements said that when the proposition was made, he referred the individual to the act of Congress prescribing penalties against persons making approaches to members of Congress for corrupt purposes. The man was in his power, but for the sake of his family he would not expose him.

The correspondence having been read, a vote on the nomination for printer ensued.

Mr. Houston withdrew the name of Mr. Banks, and proposed that of Mr. Steadman, who received 60 votes from Southern and Western members.

Mr. Wendell received only 31 votes.

Messrs. Faulkner and Hopkins voted for Mr. Harris, of the *Union*.

Some of the members refused to vote, and trouble is apprehended at the vote in the House to-morrow.

The United States Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, December 7.—The Supreme Court met to-day, with a full bench, with the exception of Judge Curtis, resigned. The cases numbered 28, 29, 38, 101, 5, 30, and 43, in which the United States is plaintiff, *vs* several parties in California, appealing from the decisions of the District Court of that State, were dismissed.

The docket will be called to-morrow.

The Southern Mail.

WASHINGTON, December 7.—The Southern mail furnishes papers from Charleston as late as due.

The steamer Wenaha, of Savannah, was totally wrecked on St. John's bar, on the 3d inst. The crew and passengers, and part of the cargo, were saved.

The ship Mary C. Porter, before reported, had been brought to the wharf, and an effort will be made to get the water out of her.

Gen. Walker's Steamer Fashion.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7.—Considerable anxiety is felt among Gen. Walker's friends at the non-arrival here of the steamer Fashion, which took out Walker's troops and was to return immediately.

A portion of the Texas regiment arrived here yesterday, and immediately proceeded to Mobile.

The Lemmon Slave Case.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The Lemmon slave case was decided by the Supreme Court to-day, affirming the decision of Judge Paine, and declaring the slaves free.

Markets.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 7.—Flour is declining; sales to-day 130 bbls, from the wharf, at $4.50 for superfine, and 250 bbls, from the store, at $4.50 for superfine, $4.75 for extra, and $5 for family. Wheat closed inactive at 95a98c for red to prime. White corn 45c on arrival. Whiskey, raw, quotes at 18c; rectified at 20c. There is nothing doing in provisions.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 7—Noon.—Flour dull and nominal at $4. Hogs are rather better. Drovers are operating largely. Packers are doing little. Whiskey unchanged. Provisions do.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6.—Cotton—Sales to-day 8,500 bales; market unchanged. Sugar firm at 4½a5½c. Flour steady at $5.12. Red Wheat $1.10. Lard dull at 14c; of 6,000 bags of Rio Coffee to-day at 9c. The other markets are unchanged.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7.—Cotton—Sales of 4,000 bales at 10½c for middling, with a turn in favor of buyers. Most of the sales were effected previous to the publication of the steamer's news. Sugar declined ¼c, at 4½a5½c. Molasses declined 1a2c; sales at 19a22½c. Lard in kegs 12½c. Other markets unchanged.

The Virginia Legislature.

RICHMOND, Dec. 7.—The Legislature of this State organized. Most of the former officers were re-elected. The Governor sent in four messages, unprecedentedly long, and largely devoted to banks and the banking question generally.

Massachusetts Election.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., December 7th.—Anson Phelps was re-elected Mayor of this city to-day.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., December 7th.—G. H. Dunbar, Republican, was re-elected Mayor of this city by ten plurality, over Harland, the "citizens" candidate. The latter carried a majority in Councils.

LAWRENCE, Dec. 7.—John R. Rollins has been chosen Mayor of this city.

The Middlesex Mills.

BOSTON, Dec. 7.—A committee has been appointed to investigate the affairs of the Middlesex Mills Company, and to determine whether work is to be resumed. The committee is to report within thirty days.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

A letter has been received by the Secretary of War from E. F. Beale, superintendent of the wagon road from Fort Defiance to the Colorado river, dated 27th of December, one hundred miles east of the Colorado river, in which he says:

"I have the honor to report my arrival at this place, a creek flowing north into the Colorado. The last two days have been spent in constant explorations of the country in advance, towards the Great Colorado river, in order that I might know on what to depend when I left this place, as the country has been represented as barren of grass and water.

"Up to this point the road has been, beyond all comparison, over the easiest unbroken country for the same distance I have ever seen; and should it prove of a more difficult character from this point to the State line of California, it will even then be a thousand times better one than any I know of; offering, as it does, abundance of water and grass throughout, and passing through the finest forests of pine timber possible to conceive.

"I sent Mr. Thorburn to-day on an exploring expedition in advance, and shall myself start on another line to-morrow.

"I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of that noble brute, the camel; and I confidently look forward to the day when it will be found in general use in all parts of the country. The idea that their feet would break down in travelling our rocky grounds is an exploded absurdity.

"In all the explorations over the roughest possible volcanic rocks, they have been with us, patiently carrying water, of which they never drank a drop, and corn, of which they never tasted a grain. On the expedition from which I returned yesterday, they were four days without water, and apparently without feeling the want of it.

"I sent back to-day part of my escort, having no further need of it. My animals are all in good condition, and the men in excellent health.

"The next despatch you will receive from me will announce my arrival in California, and also the fact of my starting back on my return.

"I repeat, that up to this point, the road, considering its length, and the fact that it is unbroken, is the best in all points in the world, and that it will prove, in spite of all opposition to the contrary, the great thoroughfare to California. It cannot fail in this, for it is nearly two hundred miles shorter than any other, and the region around abounds with grass, wood, and water, besides being very fertile in all parts."

Mr. Holbrook, the special agent of the Post Office Department who arrested Tuckerman, the mail robber, reports the recovery of over four hundred letters for foreign ports, which have not been violated, and which were forwarded by the steamer of Saturday, 5th instant, from New York for Liverpool.

These letters were mailed at New Orleans on the 7th ultimo, and left New York for Boston on the night of Sunday, the 15th. Some of the contents of letters from San Francisco and other places in California.

Dr. Jacob Forney, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Territory of Utah, has written a letter to the Indian Bureau, dated Fort Laramie, October 26, 1857, in which he states that the troops would leave there on the evening of that day, and that he and his family would leave on the morrow. He says that they met no hostile Indians between Fort Laramie and Fort Kearney. A report had reached him that a portion of the Utah Indians are Mormons, and that Brigham Young boasts that he has several Indian tribes in his service, and ready to take up arms against the United States. The Doctor says that, in the course of a few weeks, he will know the truth of this report.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP BALTIC.

CONSOLS 89¼ a 90¼.

The United States mail steamship Baltic, Capt. Comstock, from Liverpool, at about noon of the afternoon of Wednesday, the 25th of November, arrived at New York yesterday. She brings seventy passengers, and £45,000 in specie.

The Jason, from New York *via* Queenstown, arrived at Southampton on the morning of the 22d.

The screw steamship Anglo-Saxon left Liverpool for Portland, at noon, on the 25th of November.

The steamship City of Baltimore, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 25th ult.

The steamship Persia arrived out on the 21st ult.

The political intelligence by the Baltic is unimportant.

The political news furnished by the Baltic is of an unimportant character.

Consols closed at 89¼a90¼. An easier feeling prevailed in commercial circles.

Further failures were announced, including the following houses:

Alberg & Creamer, Hamburg, liabilities £1,000,000.

Carr, Joslin, & Co., London, liabilities £300,000.

Hormann, Sillem, & Co., London, liabilities large.

Alexander Hintz & Co, London, liabilities large.

Pemistores & Marshall, provisions, Liverpool.

Also, several Hamburg and Bremen houses.

The banks of England and France are both gaining bullion rapidly.

No later advices are furnished from India. Generals Havelock and Wilson had both been baronetted.

The pressure on the Bank of England was gradually diminishing, and there were signs of a relapse of the recent panic.

M. Fould, the French Minister of State, was on a visit to London, it was believed in reference to financial affairs and the question of the Principalities.

A meeting of Paris distillers was held to memorialize Government to raise an import du