The Press.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1857.

FIRST PAGE.—"What's in a Name?"—Dr. Mackay's Lyric Poetry—Burke on Economy—Very Late from Utah—Foreign Miscellany—English Copyrights—General News.—FOURTH PAGE.—The Lost Arts.

GOVERNOR PACKER.

This distinguished gentleman arrived in this city last evening, and is a guest at the Washington House, where he will remain during to-day. His health is excellent, and he looks as young and as hearty as ever.

AN OLIVE BRANCH.

The Washington correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* thus ably presents the advantages of the method of adjusting the Kansas difficulties proposed by Senator DOUGLAS:

Senator Douglas and others think that the Lecompton Constitution, if it should even come here, which is very doubtful, cannot possibly receive the sanction of Congress, even after a protracted and irritating discussion. Can any other measure of peace be indicated? There is one which Mr. Douglas will propose for the consideration of the Senate on Monday—to wit, the act which was framed by Mr. Toombs, of Ga., and is known by his name, and which was passed by the Senate, and rejected by the House, prior to the Presidential election.

This act was intended to enable the inhabitants of Kansas to form a Constitution and State Government, preparatory to admission into the Union, and it did not provide for the submission of the Constitution to the ratification of the popular vote.

This omission Mr. Douglas will supply in the bill which he proposes, copying the provision of the Minnesota enabling act.

In favor of this project, it may be urged that *it requires no one to take back anything. The Toombs act received the vote of every Senator who had voted for the Kansas-Nebraska act, and, therefore, it won't be objectionable to them. The Minnesota provision for submitting the Constitution to the people is in conformity with the President's special recommendation in his message. He thinks it important that, hereafter, in all enabling acts, this provision should be specified.*

It is difficult to see what objection can be made to this proposition, especially when it shall become apparent that the Lecompton Constitution cannot be accepted. *It would give peace to Kansas and to the country in ten days.*

THE KANSAS QUESTION.

The Constitution lately framed in Kansas will soon be presented to Congress, with a request that Kansas be admitted into the Federal Union as a sovereign State, with that Constitution as the fundamental law of the new State. Ought Congress to grant or refuse that request?

If the new Constitution embodies and expresses the will of the majority of the *bona fide* residents of that Territory, then the petition should be granted. The question is not and should not be, whether they have made a wise choice, but whether they have made any choice.

Their right is *"to form and regulate their domestic institutions (not institution) in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States."*

At the very most, *only one clause of that Constitution* will express the will of the people of Kansas. And, at the very best, the only *domestic institution* which that Constitution will permit the people to form *is the institution of negro slavery.*

We say this, because the negro slavery clause is the only one of the many clauses contained in it upon which the people are to be permitted to vote.

What the will of the people, as to any other part of that Constitution, is, Congress can only know *after* the people have expressed their views and feelings thereon at the ballot-box. Any other evidence to establish a point so vital would not only be dangerous, but it would make popular sovereignty a delusive fiction.

Suppose every voter in the Territory shall, this month, vote either for or against negro slavery as a domestic institution, what light can that vote possibly throw upon scores of other points equally, if not far more, important?

Why make the fundamental rights of *free white men* subordinate to rights over, or to the rights of a few miserable negroes? Is the chief end of a State Government to hold or not to hold negro slaves?

The submission of one clause to the vote of the people is an admission sufficiently weighty to overcome any reason or reasons which may be assigned against submitting the whole instrument. No matter what reasons may be assigned for not giving those people the privilege, or rather right, to vote upon the whole instrument, the people of the several States can never be made to believe that such withholding is in accordance with the right of the people to form their own domestic institutions.

"It will be said that the people of Kansas were denied the right to vote upon their Constitution, except as to one clause, for the very purpose of driving a majority of them to not vote at all—to thus make it appear that more votes were given for slavery than against; to thus, while keeping the word of promise to the ear, but breaking it to the hope, make Kansas a slave State.

How can the Democratic party avoid conviction upon that charge?

We submit, with great diffidence, but yet with a strong conviction of being correct, that there is but one way, and that is, by postponing the admission of the State until the people thereof shall have adopted, at an election fairly conducted, the whole Constitution which is to guide and govern the new State.

If that be honestly done, the Kansas-Nebraska act will have been fairly carried out, and the Democracy in all the free States will sustain such a course, whether the result makes Kansas a free or a slave State. But, if Kansas be admitted as a slave State, without first giving the people thereof a fair and reasonable opportunity to vote for or against the whole Constitution, the Democratic party in the free States, as at present organized, will vanish like hoar frost before the rising sun.

But we have strong hopes that Kansas will not be brought into the Union until she is let in with a Constitution, the whole of which shall have received in its favor a majority of the votes cast at an election for its adoption or rejection, fairly conducted.

Northern Democrats can in no other way fulfil their previous expositions of the objects and effects of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. And in no other way can Southern statesmen prove that their previous professions of devotion to the right of the people of the Territories to self-government were sincere.

Eighteen months ago our Southern brethren, as we then understood and now understand them, held the same views we have hereinbefore endeavored to express. For example: On the 2d July, 1856, Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, in the United States Senate, on the bill authorizing the people of Kansas to form a Constitution, etc., said:

"I had again and again avowed my purpose to allow the people of Kansas the right to make their own domestic institutions under the organic law and the Constitution. I stood pledged to that policy as a public man—a pledge which I have again and again, at this session and at previous sessions, reiterated my readiness to redeem.

"I was willing to give down-trodden Kansas, if she be down-trodden, a right to make her own institutions, under the Constitution, according to her own will. This is the principle upon which I supported the Kansas-Nebraska bill. I stood upon it in no fraudulent or double sense, but as an honest man, ready to maintain it in the Senate and before the country, at any and all times.

"I only required one fact to be established: Is the Topeka Constitution the voice of Kansas?

"This is the only question I asked. This is the sole demand I made."

On the 28th June, 1856, in the House of Representatives, on the bill to admit Kansas into the Union, with the Topeka Constitution, Hon. A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, said:

"I am opposed to this bill, because *we have no evidence* that a majority, or anything like a majority, of the people of Kansas are in favor of this pretended Constitution. * * * * * Besides this, Mr. Speaker, the evidence is very strong to my mind, if not conclusive, that this Topeka Constitution does not meet the approval of a majority of the people of Kansas. When it was submitted to a popular vote, only about 1,700 in the whole Territory approved it. Now, sir, I am for no such judgment either way—I am for fair dealing in this matter on both sides.

"I wish for nothing but a fair expression of *the will* of the *bona fide* residents of Kansas upon this subject."

Many laborers in the Democratic ranks, in the canvass of 1856, presented those sentiments of Messrs. Toombs and Stephens, and similar ones from other gentlemen similarly situated, as satisfactory evidences that our Southern brethren did not desire or intend to accomplish anything by the Kansas bill which the people of that Territory, at a fair election, would not freely and fairly sanction.

We then confided in their sincerity; we do so still—and hence, it is confidently expected that they will now speak and act as they spoke and acted then.

LOSSES BY SEA.

The immense amount of capital annually lost to the country, by marine disasters, is far in excess of what would be generally supposed by those whose attention is not turned by their occupations to this subject, and ought to receive the careful consideration of the legislators in the national councils. In other species of mercantile disaster there is always the consolation that what is lost by individuals still remains in the hands of communities; but in losses by sea and fire the damage is general, and though it may be supplied to individuals by insurers, the loss is nevertheless distributed over the nation at large.

The footings of the losses by marine disasters during the present year shows the absolute blotting out of nearly $20,000,000 of capital, which has been made good by the merchants of the Atlantic cities through their insurance companies, who act merely as collectors and distributors of the funds. This great sinking of capital is directly traced to three causes, all of which form proper subjects for congressional legislation.

The first of these is the want of seamanship on the part of the officers and crews of the vessels. Efforts made by individuals to elevate the character of the sailors seem to be powerless, and many heavy losses are annually incurred for want of a system for examination into the qualifications of masters. Congress has passed a law requiring that the machinery of steamboats shall be inspected, in order that their deficiencies shall not be the cause of destruction to human life; and it certainly should take a step further, and require that captains of vessels should be competent for the duties they assume, that the lives of passengers and sailors should not be sacrificed to their incompetency.

The second cause of loss is the insufficient manner in which the vessels built at the present day are constructed. A case in point came under our notice within a few days, where a vessel built for the United States Government, on being hauled up for repairs, was found to have been fastened, not by bolts driven through the sides of the vessel and riveted, but by short bolts, with rivets on the ends, driven through the planking within and without, and but an inch into the timbers. The bolts were not of as much value as so many good spikes, and were certain to draw out in an emergency.

There are hundreds of reasons why vessels should not be allowed to clear from our ports unless they were sufficiently well built to pass a Government inspection. The remaining chief cause of marine disasters is to be found in the small number of men carried in proportion to the size of the vessels. The tonnage has been increased in a ratio out of all proportion to the increase of men. The mode of measurement aids in reducing the effective force required by the existing laws, and this is proved utterly inadequate in large vessels. More work is expected of the sailors than they can perform, and the officers are too apt to resort to brutality to obtain extraordinary exertions; and our merchant service, by driving men of spirit and feeling into other avocations, instead of being, as it once was, a school for sailors which could honor the drafts of the Government to any extent in time of war, has now become a nursery for tyrannical officers and spiritless crews.

Every one of these deficiencies is properly within the scope of Congressional action, and every one of them calls for its interference. It is in the merchant service that the country is to find its right arm of defence strengthened in time of need, and it behooves our legislators at once to see to it that when its aid may be wanted, it be not found withered and paralyzed by long neglect and cruel maltreatment.

We have been led into these remarks by the results making themselves apparent among the Marine Insurance Companies of the country. Within a year, several of the best companies in Boston and New York have suspended, and recently, in our city, two of the well-established companies have ceased to take risks, and are endeavoring to effect a liquidation. A third has assessed the whole amount of notes subscribed as guarantee capital, in case the premiums of the business should not suffice to pay its losses; and yesterday the Mercantile Mutual Insurance Company, an institution doing a prudent business for the last eight years, determined to close its doors.

It is becoming a subject of very serious consideration with the merchants of the large cities, what they are to do for insurance if these matters are not checked. Capital will not be readily invested in business which proves itself so hazardous, and the business of merchant vessels cannot afford to pay increased rates of premiums. Under these circumstances, we trust that the attention of Congress will be turned to this subject, and that some means may be devised, not only for the saving of so many millions of dollars to the country, but for the lives of the thousands "who go down to the sea in ships."

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Members of Congress Undecided on the Kansas Question—Enabling Bill—Interview Between Governor Walker and the President—Crowds of Politicians in Washington—Agents sent to Kansas by the Administration, &c., &c.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1857.

Amongst even those Democratic members of Congress known to be in favor of the Lecompton Constitution there is not that decided tone of approbation which is so much desired by the avowed advocates and apologists of that instrument. While members say that, so far as they have learned the facts involved, they support the views taken by the President, that they must not, however, be considered as committed to any such policy as that marked out for them; that they wait for ultimate decision as to which way they shall vote for further developments from Kansas, particularly respecting the election to take place on the 21st of the present month.

The members I have already named in these letters are decided in their opposition to the Convention.

If the telegraphic report is true, then the object sought to be accomplished by the removal of Stanton, and the appointment of General Denver in his place, has been frustrated, for that report has it this morning that the Territorial Legislature of Kansas has repealed the acts of the Convention, and of the previous Legislative Assembly in calling it together, without the necessary authorization of Congress—indeed, in defiance of a refusal by Congress of any such authority. The world, it is said, is governed too much, and it must be admitted by those who acknowledge the truth of this saying that no part of the world suffers more from this evil than Kansas, for she has not only one government, but three, at least, whether good or bad, legal or illegal. Who can doubt, after an investigation of the facts, and with a desire to carry out fairly the principle of popular sovereignty which characterizes the Kansas-Nebraska bill—that peace and good order would reign triumphant in that Territory if the entire Constitution had been submitted for the ratification of, or rejection by, the people? Then not even the duskiest of the Black Republicans, as they are called, could have ground for cavil.

Governor Walker is still confined to his room by illness. Nevertheless, he had yesterday a lengthy interview with Mr. Buchanan. I learn that friendly sentiments were interchanged on various subjects between these distinguished gentlemen, and that neither of them regards the Kansas question as any ground for the disruption of the Democratic party. Mr. Buchanan confesses that, except on this question, he has in the Democrats and Democratic presses who oppose the Lecompton Convention some of the warmest and most able supporters of his Administration.

The officers of the last House of Representatives, subordinate to the clerk, doorkeeper, and postmaster, are being gradually relieved of the cares of their various stations by the appointees of the Democrats recently elected.

Never before during the past seven years have there been in Washington so many distinguished politicians from every section of the country as within the week just closed. They increase in numbers instead of decreasing. The query is, why are they here? Who can answer? Whether they come here to make public sentiment by bringing the views entertained by their people of political issues now before the country or not, I am unable to say.

It is generally believed here that the Administration have sent to Kansas agents instructed to make every effort to have the slavery clause stricken from the Lecompton Constitution. This measure has given offence to the Southern members of Congress, and there is at present symptoms of defection on their part from the Kansas policy of the Administration as it is understood in the present phase of Kansas affairs. They allege that the Administration in this violate the principle for which they contend. Every day, it seems, only develops new complications in this matter; and I hope sincerely, with moderate and conservative men everywhere, that the enabling bill, which Judge Douglas gave notice he would introduce, and which in its provisions is the same known as the "Toombs bill," will pass speedily, and at once settle this vexed question, by an appeal, in accordance with the spirit of our free institutions, to the popular will as fairly expressed. This bill, it is well known, during the last Congress received the vote of every Democrat.

By the last steamer from California, the Commissioner of the General Land Office has received the following:

Plat of the Rancho Roblar de la Miseria, finally confirmed to Daniel Wright *et. al.*, containing 16,887 45-100 acres.

Plat of the Rancho del Agua Caliente, finally confirmed to Tulgencio Higuera, containing 2,563 87-100 acres. This rancho is next to the San José Mission.

Plat of the Milpitas Rancho, finally confirmed to the heirs of José Maria Alviso, containing 4,807 72-100 acres.

Plat of the Rancho San Lorenzo, finally confirmed to Barbara Soto. *et al*, containing 6,451 67-100 acres.

Plat of part of the Rancho San Gregorio, finally confirmed to Salvador Castro, containing 15,733 54-100 acres. And

Plat of the same Rancho, finally confirmed to Maria Concepcion Valencia de Rodriguez, containing 13,273 23-100 acres.

Also, plats of the sub-divison of township 17, south range, 41 east; township 17, south range, 42 east; township 18, south range, 39 east; township 18, south range, 40 east; township 18, south range, 42 east; township 19, south range, 39 east; township 19, south range, 40 east; township 19, south range, 41 east, (Mount Diablo meridian); township 19, south range, 42 east; township 19, south range, 43 east; township 20, south range, 40 east; township 20, south range, 41 east; township 20, south range, 42 east; township 20, south range, 43 east; township 20, south range, 44 east; township 21, south range, 43 east; township 21, south range, 44 east; township 22, south range, 43 east; township 22, south range, 44 east; township 23, south range, 43 east; township 23, south range, 44 east, township 24, south range, 43 east.

And also plats of the subdivision of township 1, north range, 28 east; township 1, north range, 31 east; township 1, north range, 30 east; township 2, north range, 29 east. Mount Diable meridian.

The General Land Office is in receipt of the following surveys from the Territory of Oregon, viz:

Township 34, south of ranges 2 and 3 west; townships 35, 37, and 38, south of range 3 west; townships 38 and 39, south of range 5 west; and township 37, south of range 6 west. Willamette meridian.

Banks, of Virginia, works hard to secure, tomorrow, an endorsement for printer for the Senate by the Democratic caucus. He is backed by the Virginia delegation.

Wm. A. Street has been promoted to a third-class ($1,600 per annum) clerkship in the Pension Office, to take effect December 1, 1857.

J. H. Peabody has been promoted to a second-class ($1,400 per annum) clerkship in the same office, taking effect on the same date.

Thos. J. Semmes, formerly of this city, has been confirmed by the Senate as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, vice F. H. Clack, removed.

The caucus of all parties in the Senate have agreed to constitute the committees as follows:

Foreign Relations—Messrs. Mason, Douglas, Slidell, Polk, Crittenden, Seward, and Foot.

Finance—Messrs. Hunter, Pearce, Gwin, Bright, Briggs, Fessenden, and Cameron.

Commerce—Messrs. Clay, Benjamin, Bigler, Toombs, Reid, Allen, and Hamlin.

Military Affairs—Messrs. Davis, Fitzpatrick, Johnson, Iverson, Broderick, Wilson, and King.

Naval Affairs—Messrs. Mallory, Thomson of N. J., Slidell, Allen, Hammond, Bell of Tenn, and Hale.

Judiciary—Messrs. Bayard, Toombs, Pugh, Benjamin, Green, Collamer, and Trumbull.

Post Offices and Post Roads—Messrs. Yulee, Bigler, Gwin, Fitch, Henderson, Collamor, and Dixon.

Public Lands—Messrs. Stuart, Johnson, Pugh, R. W. Johnson, Broderick, Foster, and Harlan.

Private Land Claims—Messrs. Benjamin, Bigge, Thompson of Kentucky, Kennedy, and Durkee.

Indian Affairs—Messrs Sebastian, Brown, Reid, Fitch, Bell of Tennessee, Houston, and Doolittle.

Pensions—Messrs. Jones, Thomson of New Jersey, Clay, Bates, Thompson of Kentucky, Foster, and King.

Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. Evans, Bates, Crittenden, Wilson, and Durkee.

Claims—Messrs. Iverson, Mallory, Polk, Bell of New Hampshire, and Simmons.

District of Columbia—Messrs. Brown, Mason, Johnson of Tennessee, Henderson, Kennedy, Hamlin, and Chandler.

Patents and the Patent Office—Messrs. Reid, Evans, Yulee, Simmons, and Trumbull.

On Public Buildings and Grounds—Messrs Bright, Hunter, Davis, Douglas, and Hale.

Territories—Messrs. Douglas, Jones, Sebastian, Fitzpatrick, Green, Sumner, and Wade.

Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Wright, Bigler, and Harlan.

Audit and Control of Contingent Expenses—Messrs. Evans, Wright, and Dixon.

Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Jones, Brown, and Doolittle.

Printing—Messrs. Johnson, Fitzpatrick, and Fessenden.

Library—Messrs. Pearce, Bayard, and Hammond. X. Y.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Ronzani ballet troupe, certainly the best we have ever had in this country, continue their very attractive performances at the Academy of Music. This evening, they give the second and third acts of "Biricchino di Parigi," (Le Gamin le Paris,) with a new comic piece, the scene in Italy, called "Alloggio Militare." The farce of "Box and Cox" comes between the ballets.

At the Arch Street Theatre, this evening, Mr. Leland's new play, "Beatrice," will be performed for the first time. A new piece, founded on an American novel, and a Christmas piece, are underlined here.

The Buckley's, who conclude their season here on Saturday, will repeat the "Trovatore" to-night and to-morrow. On Friday, a complimentary benefit to R. Bishop Buckley will be given, including a Concert, and the burlesques on "Lucia" and the "Trovatorel," with a host of other performances.

Dr. Mackay's first Lecture on the National Ballad poetry of England, Ireland, and Scotland comes off, to-morrow evening, at Concert Hall, and ought to attract a very large, literary, and appreciative audience.

Miss May, who is now at the Girard House, gives a Concert at Musical Fund Hall, on Friday. She will be assisted by Signor Tiberini, the tenor, Herr Rudolphson, the baritone, and Mr. H. Sanderson, the pianist, who will then make his first public appearance in this, his native city.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THINGS AT ASPINWALL.

The successful Landing of Gen. Walker under the Guns of the United States ship Saratoga—The importance and assumption of the "President" of Nicaragua—The Captain of the Fashion a true Yankee.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

ASPINWALL, N. G., Dec. 2, 1857.

The harbor of Aspinwall was unusually stirring to-day. After several days of perfect calm in the commercial circles, the day was ushered in by the arrival of H. B. M. ship Brunswick, 80 guns, and quite a fleet of sail. Later in the day the Star of the West made her appearance, bringing the news of General Walker's departure from the United States. This item gave, to some, immense satisfaction; to others (and by far the major portion of our "*Yankee village*") mortification and chagrin.

This information had scarcely been digested, before the Naval Mail steamer Tee arrived from San Juan del Norte, astounding us all with the information that the "gray-eyed man of destiny" had actually arrived at San Juan, and that the Fashion had landed at Soot's wharf her cargo of filibusters in broad daylight, and under the guns of the Saratoga, before any one divined the object of her visit. Walker is now encamped in Puenta Arenas, waiting for accessions.

Wonder upon wonder! In comes the Fashion. This vessel, after discharging her graceless cargo, comes quietly here to coal ship. When the boarding officer of the United States steam frigate Wabash made his appearance, the captain of the Fashion was a true Yankee, and answered the questions put to him in a very innocent manner: "Had cleared from Mobile." "Had an assorted cargo." "Had carried some hundred and eighty passengers to San Juan." "Couldn't tell whether they were very *disorganized* whilst aboard his craft." "Walker might have been on board," &c. He finally came out with the whole story, and said that many were already fever-stricken, and talked of going aboard the United States vessel there. Some were still insane from wounds received in Walker's previous campaign.

A gentleman from San Juan informed me that several United States officers landed near his encampment, whereupon he stated, in his nasal drawl, that he had a couple of hundred boys, and he guessed they would have to take to their boats, as he did not allow any one to land without his pass. So, you see, this president without a republic, this general without an army, has begun with as much grandeur with his Falstaffian train as if he had sat down in the city of the Cæsars.

The United States steam frigate Wabash, 40 guns and six hundred seamen and marines, goes to sea to-morrow; and by the next steamer you may expect to hear that Walker is ingloriously wishing he had never fallen across this steam leviathan of Uncle Sam's. In the meantime the Fashion remains in this harbor, in "durance vile."

The health of the Isthmus is good. The dry season has fairly set in. Perhaps some of your readers may not know the difference between the rainy and wet seasons? Such being the case, I will give them the distinction: During the rainy season it rains all the time; during the wet it is all the time raining! Ever yours,

RAIN.

[From the New York papers of last evening.]

ARRIVAL OF LAMAR.—The brig E. Drummond, Captain Chapman, arrived at this port this morning, from Aspinwall, and has on board a flock of forty-two Lamas, consigned to James Fisher & Son. These animals are Alpaccas, and were brought from the Cordilloras to Guayaquil, thence shipped to Panama, and by railroad to Aspinwall. There were originally taken on board the E. Drummond seventy-one, but owing to heavy weather on the passage twenty-nine of them died. The E. Drummond put into Key West on the 4th instant, where the animals were much recruited. She sailed from thence on the 5th, and brought her live freight to this port in good order.

The Fat Cattle Show of the American Institute opened this (Tuesday) morning, at 9 o'clock, at the Crystal Palace. The number of animals on view is very small, though the beasts are of superior make and quality. The managers, however, state that they are receiving stock continually, and no doubt the exhibition will possess extraordinary attractions. Nearly all the articles lately exhibited in the fair are still in the Palace, and the steam machinery, particularly, gives no little gratification to the curious visitors.

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 19, 1857.

The reception of the first copy of the *first* paper ever issued in Philadelphia, and intended exclusively for circulation in California and Oregon, has been the source of much pleasure to Pennsylvanians, who are scattered through every city, valley, mountain, town, and mining gulch of California. We have always considered it a singular fact that while New York, Boston, New Orleans, and St. Louis sent out by every mail their steamer papers, no one could be found with sufficient energy to compile the news and intelligence of the Keystone State in a condensed summary, suited to the tastes of readers on the Pacific coast. California possesses more of a reading population than any State in the Union in proportion to the number of its inhabitants. In every little mining cabin under the lofty pines of the Sierras, in every canvas-tent in its sequestered ravines, and in every dwelling of the sun-browned *ranchero*, the "silent messengers" from eastern homes are found in surprising numbers. In Sacramento, with a population of about 20,000, five daily and six weekly newspapers are published, and in San Francisco more than double that number. In Marysville, the population of which cannot exceed 8,000, three daily papers are published.

Politically, there are no events of importance. John B. Weller, Governor elect, will be inaugurated on the first of January, on which occasion a number of military companies will visit the city. He will probably appoint Ferris Forman, of this city, Secretary of State, and John Nugent, of the San Francisco *Herald*, Controller, in place of Mandeville, who was elected, but has received a Federal appointment. The capitol building is being renovated preparatory to the meeting of the Legislature.

The trial of Dr. Bates, late State Treasurer, on the $121,000 defalcation charge, will probably be postponed until the meeting of the Legislature, when, it is believed, that a compromise can be effected. Both Bates and Rowe, the latter committed for failing to testify, are still in the prison brig. The latter was up before the grand jury a few days since, but failed to answer in a satisfactory manner and was recommitted for contempt. He has been imprisoned for five or six months. The prosecution has been conducted with an ability and independence seldom evidenced in California.

Last night, a German woman, residing in this city, was murdered by a German cook who had become enamored of her, and whose advances she had rejected. She kept a drinking saloon, and whilst playing on the piano, he came up, placed his arm around her neck, and, without saying a word, stabbed her to the heart. She died in about an hour. This morning he gave himself up to Sheriff Manlove, having been secreted during the night.

J. P. Addams, the Yankee comedian, is playing a rather successful engagement at the Forrest Theatre in this city. Last week, Miss Emma Stanley gave a series of entertainments, and on Monday next Mrs. Hayne, after a profitable tour through the mountains, will once more delight us with her classic and refined personations.

I have already made my letter longer and more uninteresting than I intended, and must close abruptly, as the mail leaves in a few minutes.

Yours, SIGC.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH FOR THE PRESS.]

Dreadful Murder of Two Women.

LANCASTER, Dec. 15.—A double murder was perpetrated this morning, about ten o'clock, five miles northwest of this city. The names of the victims are Mrs. Garber and Mrs. Ream, and the supposed murderers are two negroes, who have been arrested and are now in prison, awaiting the coroner's investigation.

Non-Arrival of the Steamer Canada.

HALIFAX, Dec. 15, 9 o'clock P. M.—There are no signs of the steamer Canada, which sailed from Liverpool on the 2d instant. She is hardly due.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, December 15, 1857.

SENATE.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, announced, in appropriate terms, the decease of his late colleague, Senator Bell, who died during the recess of Congress.

Messrs FESSENDEN, of Maine, and SEWARD, of New York, also delivered eulogies, and, after the adoption of the customary resolutions of respect, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The testimony in the election contest from the Third Congressional District of Ohio, and in relation to the seat of F. Ferguson, Delegate from the Territory of Nobraska, was referred to the Committee on Elections.

The resolutions of respect to the memory of Senator Bell, of New Hampshire, adopted by the Senate, were received.

Mr. TAPPAN, of New Hampshire, delivered an eloquent eulogy.

Messrs. COLFAX, of Indiana, and WASHBURNE, of Maine, severally paid tributes to the memory of their late friend, and, after the adoption of the usual resolutions, the House adjourned till to-morrow.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Governor Walker will, according to the assertions of his most intimate friends, soon withdraw altogether from the Governorship of Kansas, and will, in tendering his resignation to the President, state his reasons for this course; designing, however, not to use any language which may have a tendency to disturb their present friendly personal relations.

Judge Douglas's bill, although similar in its details to that of Mr. Toombs, contains an additional clause, that the Constitution, when formed by the Convention, will be submitted entire to the people of Kansas.

Senator Gwin has received a large number of letters from California, in which the writers express an intense desire to be mustered in the service of the United States against the Mormons, who, it is mentioned, have emissaries throughout that State, meditating most serious mischief.

Some of the Senators are preparing speeches on the Kansas question.

United States Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Nos. 4 and 5.—Before reported Argument continued by Messrs. Cushing and Cutting for the defence.

Dreadful Steamboat Disaster—Fifteen to Twenty Lives Lost.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 14.—The steamboat Colonel Edwards was destroyed by fire on Red River, on Saturday morning. The vessel and cargo are a total loss. She had on board over 1,000 bales of cotton and many cattle. Fifteen or twenty persons perished.

Pennsylvanian Bank paper refused by the Cincinnati Banks.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 15.—The banks of this city have thrown out all Pennsylvanian bank paper, including that of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and a one and a half per cent. discount is charged on such paper. The rates of exchange are unaltered. Money continues tight, and in demand at two per cent. per month.

Minnesota United States Senators.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—The statement, derived from private messages received at Washington, relative to the election of Messrs. Shields and Steel as United Senators from Minnesota, is without foundation, as up to the latest dates from that Territory no election had taken place.

The Peruvian Llamas.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The brig E. Drummond had arrived at Aspinwall, bringing forty-two Peruvian Llamas. Seventy-one were originally shipped, but twenty-nine died on the passage.

Return of Explorers—The Pawnee Indians.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 14.—The St. Joseph *Journal* announces the arrival of Lieut. Warren and Dr. Hayden, of the Geological Survey, who were sent to explore the region between Dacotah city and the headwaters of the Running Water.

Also, the arrival of Major Denniston, Indian agent, with ten chiefs and six braves of the Pawnee tribe, *en route* for Washington, to ratify the treaty recently made.

Fire at Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 15.—The stock of the clothing store of Messrs. Hyman, Brothers, & Co., on Main street, was destroyed by fire last evening, causing a loss of $20,000. The building was damaged to the extent of $2,000. The loss on the stock was covered by insurance.

Markets.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—Flour flat. Wheat 3a5c better. Brokers are giving 4¢ per cent. for New York Exchange, and selling at 5 per cent. premium.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 15.—Flour is dull at $4.25 for superfine from the wharf, and $4 50 from store, and $4.62a$4 75 for extra. Wheat is dull at 82c for red. Barley, 55c; corn, 40c. There is nothing doing in provisions. Whiskey has declined to 17c.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 14.—Cotton—Sales to-day 10,000 bales. The news by the steamer Europa caused a decline of ⅛ on Middlings. The finer qualities also declined. Middling quoted at 10a 10¼. 14,500 bales of Cotton were received at this port to-day. Molasses quoted at 20c. Mess Pork is dull, and, owing to the large receipts, the market is unsettled. The price asked is $16, but buyers demand a reduction. Hams quote at 10a10½c. Coffee—Sales of 5,500 bags of Rio at 8¼a8½c. Freights have slightly declined; on Cotton, to Liverpool, 7-16a ½d; to Havre, ⅛. Exchanges are nominal and unchanged.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 15.—Cotton.—Sales to-day 20,000 bales; receipts, 7,000; middling quoted at 10c. Receipts at all southern ports thus far, less than last year, 371,500 bales; stock in port 241,000 bales. Pork is very dull at $14. Lard, in kegs, 10a11c. Freight on Cotton to Liverpool ¼a7-16; to Havre ⅛. Exchanges on London 10¼a10⅝. On New York 102¼a103.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 15.—Flour is very dull; sales unimportant. Whiskey quotes at 16c, and steady. Hogs are in better supply, 8,000 having been received within the last twenty-four hours, and they are held firmly at $5.50a$5 60. Buyers are cautious, and holders sanguine. Provisions continue firm at yesterday's prices.

Mr. Martin Rickert, a native of Germany, died recently at the North Mountain House, above Clearspring, Washington county, Md., at the advanced age of 106 years and 11 months. He came to America at the close of the revolutionary war, and cast his first vote for Washington. The Hagerstown *Mail* says he was accustomed, when one hundred years of age, to walk to Clearspring, a distance of four and a half miles, without extra exertion.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, BROAD AND LOCUST STREETS.—"Il Birichino di Parigi"—"Alloggio Militare"—"Box and Cox."

WHEATLEY'S ARCH STREET THEATRE, ARCH STREET, ABOVE SIXTH.—"Beatrice; or, the False and True"—"The Spectre Bridegroom."

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

JANE'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 laughable afterpiece.

MILITARY MATTERS.

[For The Press.]

In your paper of yesterday, under the head of "Military Matters," allusion was made to the contemplated revival of the Junior Artillerists and their resumption of "their *old position*," concluding with hoping "soon to see them once more in the Artillery Regiment."

You also announce the fact of the revival of the National Greys, and of the effort made at the last session of the Legislature to reinstate them in their former rank, regretting by implication, if not in terms, that the attempt failed.

That these two companies may be resuscitated is unquestionable by the desire of all connected with the volunteers of the First Brigade; but that it should be effected to the injury of every organized company in it, is surely neither just nor desirable, for companies take rank in line according to the date of their organization, and this matter of *rank* is one of which they are justly proud and tenacious. Those now existing in the brigade have struggled on without encouragement from, and almost in opposition to, public opinion, have maintained efficiently their organization, and have answered promptly all the requirements made of them by law and otherwise; and now to supplant them in rank by legislative galvanism of defunct bodies, would be neither just nor politic; for what inducement would members of a company have to sacrifice time and means to maintain their organization, if they know that they may be outranked in this way, or that they may quietly subside for the time, and years afterwards be restored to their old position? The Junior Artillerists and the National Greys were both disbanded by the Brigade Inspector in 1853.

In the matter of the National Greys, the effort made at the last session of the Legislature was not only to reinstate the company with its original organization, but to fill up the break in the commissions of its officers; and the opposition that it met with is not to be wondered at, but approved of. That the effort was made is in itself a sufficient indication of the sensitive feeling of companies and officers on the subject of rank; and it was a matter of surprise that so old a soldier as it is *contemplated* captain should endeavor to inflict this injury upon his brother soldiers. In his case it was the more flagrant if, as your article states, his company was to be attached to the Artillery Battalion, for it had never been attached to that regiment.

You are in error, I think, in regard to "*one* (the *italics* are yours) of the Grey companies" petitioning against the bill of the National Greys. There was no petition sent, as I am aware, by *any* of them, as the matter was so quietly introduced into the Legislature, and discovered at so late a day as to prevent any company action. That some few individuals did (and you yourself will, on reflection, confess justly) take steps to oppose it is true, but the question was so plain, and the injustice attempted so palpable, that it needed but a plain statement of facts to prevent it.

That the two companies spoken of may succeed in their re-organization, and be attached to the Artillery Battalion, is the earnest wish of all at present connected with it, but not at the sacrifice of *esprit du corps* and all military etiquette, of which they have already a striking example in a corps attached to the Battalion—the Philadelphia Greys, formerly commanded by General Cadwalader, which was disbanded and resuscitated within a few years; but they never endeavored nor desired to claim their old rank, although they had better grounds for it than either of the two companies alluded to, for their disorganization was caused by their officers, (Captain Cadwalader, Lieutenant Vance, Sergeant Brown,) and many of their members entering the United States service during the recent war with Mexico.

DECEMBER 15, 1857.

Special Meeting of Common Council.—A special meeting of Common Council was held yesterday afternon, in accordance with the following call:

John Miller, Esq., President of the Common Council of the city of Philadelphia.

The undersigned, members of Common Council, request you to call a special meeting of the said Council, to be held on Tuesday next, the 15th day of December, 1857, at 5 o'clock P. M., at the Chamber, for the purpose of considering reports from committees, and resolutions to authorize the paving of Trentieth and Twenty-second streets, in the Fifteenth ward, and for other purposes, and the ordinances and resolutions on the president's table.

December 11, 1857.

Charles F. Iseminger, John M. Melloy, Andrew Miller, J. F. Mascher, Andrew J. Holman, John B. Makins, James Hutchinson, C. P. Duffy, Peter Hall, Joseph P. Fitler, Thomas Wilmer, William C. Henszey, Thomas Jones.

John D. Miles, Clerk of Common Council,

Please call a meeting of the Common Council, in accordance with the foregoing requisition.

JOHN MILLER, President

At fifteen minutes after three o'clock only a quorum of members was present. Mr. Andrew Miller moved that the Chamber proceed to the consideration of the resolutions to authorize the paving east Washington lane, in the Twenty-second ward. Agreed to.

Mr. Stevenson opposed the passage of the resolutions at some length and with much spirit. He considered it a disgrace on the part of the Municipal Government to contract a new street while it had old, but honest ones hanging about its neck, and crippling its every energy. He referred to the non-payment of city warrants, and alluded, in some feeling remarks, to the vast amount of suffering which this refusal on the part of the City Treasurer would be sure always to result in. Numerous cases had come under his own immediate notice, where poor men, who had by hard toil acquired the right to prompt payment for their services, had been turned from the office of the City Treasurer, with the consolatory advice, "Go to a broker and get your warr