The Press.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1857.

THE WEEKLY PRESS.

THE WEEKLY PRESS, No. 19, for SATURDAY, December 19, is now out. The present number contains, besides the

GREAT SPEECH OF SENATOR DOUGLAS,

and the ensuing debate between Senators DOUGLAS and BIGLER, a vast amount of valuable reading, among which will be found the following:

EDITORIALS.

THE COURSE OF THE PRESS.
REPORTS OF THE HEADS OF THE DEPARTMENTS.
OUR PRINCIPLES ENDORSED.
FISCAL PROPOSITIONS.
THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.
THE FOUR GOVERNORS OF KANSAS.
A LESSON FROM THE CRISIS.
THE TRUE AMERICAN PRINCIPLE.
THE CREDIT SYSTEM.
WHERE HAS THE SOUTH STOOD?
SOUTHERN DEMOCRACY.
HON. JAMES L. ORR.
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
ELOQUENT LETTER.
BURKE ON ECONOMY.

LITERARY CRITICISM.

THE POETS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
POETICAL WORKS OF REGINALD HEBER.
ABRIDGMENT OF THE DEBATES OF CONGRESS.
THE THOUSAND AND ONE DAYS.
MASON'S LIBRARY OF STANDARD TALES.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.
REPORTS OF THE LAND OFFICE, COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND PENSION BUREAU.
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

TALES.

DORATHEA—By the author of the HUNGARIAN TALES.
THE TWO ENGLISHMEN—By DESMARAIS—(Original.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

GREAT MEN AND THEIR BOOKS—By GRAYBEARD—(Original.)
WIT AND HUMOR.
COLUMN FOR THE YOUNG.
CHARADE—(Original).
CORRECTED BANK NOTE LIST.

NEWS.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE BY TELEGRAPH AND MAILS, FROM WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA, EUROPE, &c.
CRIMES AND CASUALTIES, PERSONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.
VERY LATE FROM UTAH.
IMPORTANT FROM KANSAS.
INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE MORMON EXPEDITION.
A DAUPHIN COUNTY ROMANCE.
A MYSTERIOUS WEDDING—HYMEN IN A HOTEL.
GENERAL NEWS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM WASHINGTON.
THINGS AT ASPINWALL.
CALIFORNIA LETTER.

THE CITY.

MONEY, GRAIN, CORN, CATTLE MARKETS, &c.
WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.
A MEETING OF THE SCOTT LEGION.
THE FACTORIES ON THE SCHUYLKILL.
MILITARY FUNERALS.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SELECTION OF TREES FROM THE NURSERY.
RELATIVE VALUE OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF HAY FOR SHEEP AND YOUNG CATTLE.

THE WEEKLY PRESS is furnished to subscribers at $2 per year, in advance, for the single copy, and to clubs of twenty, when sent to one address, $20, in advance. Single copies for sale at the counter of THE PRESS office, in wrappers, ready for mailing.

Persons sending clubs of twenty or over will please bear in mind that the paper thus ordered cannot be directed to each subscriber, unless the club price of $1.50 per annum is paid, *and paid in advance. This is in* accordance with our published rates, and some of our friends have overlooked it. Our heavy lists compel us to adhere to this rule.

FIRST PAGE.—Monsieur Dupin; THE PRESS and the Southern Democracy; The President's Message; Communications; City Police; Correspondence; The Double Murder in Lancaster; General News; Paris Fashions for December. FOURTH PAGE.—A Visit to Nena Sahib.

THE MAJORITY PRINCIPLE IN THE SOUTH.

It would be an extraordinary and a painful novelty if such a wrong as that which has been perpetrated in Kansas by the Lecompton Constitution did not arouse, in some manly bosoms in the Southern States, the same emotions which stir the hearts of the people of the North. Southern men are our brothers and our co-partners. We employ the glorious diction of Mr. WEBSTER, when, on another occasion, he spoke of the States representing extreme Northern and extreme Southern opinions, when we declare that the North and the South should never be separated by the machinations of sectional leaders: "Shoulder to shoulder they went through the Revolution—hand in hand they stood round the administration of WASHINGTON, and felt his own great arm lean upon them for support. Unkind feeling, if it exist, alienation and distrust, are the growth unnatural to such soils, of false principles since sown."

And chief among these false principles is that uttered by the Lecompton Convention. The effort on the part of a few newspapers to dragoon the sentiment which opposes these principles awakens only contempt and scorn; *suggests abuse, recrimination, and retaliation.* This sentiment is deeply embedded in the Northern mind. It is neither answered nor attacked with argument. Those who do not threaten it oppose it with expedients. This *sentiment* is not aggressive. It does not antagonize Mr. BUCHANAN'S Administration. We could name hundreds in this and every community in Pennsylvania, who were among the first to advocate his election to the Presidency—who, in the hour of minority and of defeat, (when his name was the theme of the obloquy of those who now worship it as the symbol of power,) gathered around him like a wall of fire—*and who will be the last to desert him*—but, who are the declared adversaries of the most monstrous dogma, that any portion of our people, and much less the majority, *shall be deprived of their rights under any pretext, or according to any mandate.*

Nor are the people who oppose this most audacious tyranny in Kansas to be put down as, in *any* sense, the adversaries of the South, or as desirous of attacking her peculiar institutions. The issue is not one of slavery and of anti-slavery, unless mad and measureless faction and folly shall make it so. It goes deeper and rises higher. It is an issue of principle—not merely of Constitutions, or of laws, BUT OF EXISTENCE. So far from uniting against it the people of the South, as certain leaders of sections are now trying to do, it should awaken them to its defence as one man. They are interested in its success precisely as we are. The moment the great dogma of "Equal Rights" is discarded, the moment the rule of the majority is denied, the South becomes the victim of the most unrelenting prejudices and passions, and the brave men of the North, who stand by her, are crushed to the earth by an avalanche of unchangeable and insatiate fanaticism.

But if this sentiment is not aggressive, it is not timorous or afraid. It cannot be intimidated. It will not be subdued. It is enduring because it is conscientious. It will succeed because it is disinterested.

We are not surprised, therefore, that such a sentiment should have its due effect, even in that quarter of the Union which is most relied upon to *put it down. The Southern people* are a generous race. They are passionate and hot sometimes; often disposed to domineer, and quick to quarrel; but they possess those other qualities which ever accompany such impulses. They are *averse* to trick, and to wrong. They are too proud to become a party to a confessed fraud; and they do justice to an adversary when they see that he is as sincere, and as proud and as brave as themselves. They have ineffable scorn for the men who go down on their knees to get their votes, and where they cannot agree with an opponent, even if they are ready to fight him, they are glad to respect him.

If the reader will now turn to another part of THE PRESS, he will find two significant articles, from the Richmond *Enquirer* and the Louisville *Democrat*, both strongly confirmatory of these opinions. While we are indifferent, so far as our own case is concerned, to the objections of such prints as *The South* and the Charleston *Mercury*; and while, indeed, our own action was not lightly adopted, and will not be lightly changed, we are gratified that there is a spirit at work in the South against the scandalous precedent attempted to be set up by the Lecompton managers. And we shall not be surprised if the examples we quote are followed in certain quarters in Congress. The boasts of the secession leaders of the South that, at last, they have united their people against the North—that at last the work of sectionalism has commenced—that the Union of these States is rapidly reaching its downfall;—these boasts will not be confirmed. The Kansas case presents no basis for such a conspiracy. It offers no pretext for disunion. The people of the South will never strike hands with the enemies of the Union, under the banner that the majority shall not rule. Such men as PICKENS and MANNING, of South Carolina—as STEVENSON, and POWELL, and BOYD, of Kentucky—as WISE, of Virginia—as WICKLIFFE, of Louisiana—as BROWN, of Mississippi—will never embark in a crusade against the North upon a plea at once so dishonest and so shameless as this.

A word upon the *Enquirer's* comment upon the course of this journal. We deny that we, and those with whom we act, are "obstinately adhering to a principle, the practical application of which has already been obtained in the most important point in dispute." We deny, too, that we are engaged in "fomenting a division in the party." There can be no division where, as in the Northwest, all the Democrats are on one side; there can be no division in Pennsylvania, where the overpowering majority of the Democracy are against this Calhoun Constitution. If it were otherwise our course would be *the same*. We are here not to break, but to fulfil pledges; not to vencer a public crime, but to expose it; not to divide the Democracy, but to save it from a fate worse than death—the doom of consenting to that which it admits to be wrong.

Nor do we agree with the *Enquirer* that the principle we contend for has already been applied, or is about to be applied in Kansas. The best judges on this point are the people of Kansas. They repudiate the insulting boon of the minority. They ask that all their rights shall be confided to themselves. They deny the sovereign power of the Convention, and implore Congress to send back the work of those who assume to be their masters. We tell the Richmond *Enquirer* that the people of Kansas must control. It is their affair, not that of Congress; and the editors of the *Enquirer* and THE PRESS have been all solemnly pledged, before God and man, that they should dispose of it, although the slavery question were "unqualifiedly" entrusted to them—which it is not. Even if the ablest intellects did not differ as to the fact whether the Calhoun Constitution does not, in any event, make Kansas a slave State in the face of the powerful demonstration against slavery in that Territory, we are bound by our pledge. We shall not go behind the record to escape the obligation. We made it in the face of day, and in round terms. We will be true to it. If any other inducement to the fulfilment of this duty were needed, the fact that we are contending for an inflexible principle—that we are struggling against what is sought to be made a fatal precedent—would be enough. Let those who tell us that there is nothing *practical* in this position remember that the Revolution was fought upon a preamble; and that a free people are certain to become slaves the moment *they lose sight of the* principles that called them into being.

THE DECEASE OF ALBERT B. ASHTON, Select Councilman from the Third ward, is noticed elsewhere. The deceased was well and widely known, and his demise will be universally lamented by all who knew the many and manly virtues of his private life, and his usefulness as a public-spirited citizen.

☞ Our distinguished fellow-citizen, EDWIN FORREST, has been absent for some weeks, playing a most brilliant engagement at St. Louis, (Mo.,) and Cleveland, Ohio. He has been welcomed by crowds every night, and has been commended on all sides. We understand that he may be expected in Philadelphia before Christmas.

☞ The *North American* appeared, a few days ago, in a beautiful new suit of type, rendered still more attractive by the fine white paper upon which that journal is now printed. We congratulate Mr. MCMICHAEL on his substantial and highly deserved success.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1857.

If the two Houses go on as they have for the past two days, it is likely that the whole time will be consumed in announcing the decease of late members elected to the present Congress. Mr. Clay, only a few years before his death, strongly objected to this practice of adjournment of Congress on the announcement of the decease of a late member during the recess, at the same time, however, with much earnestness and eloquence, admitting the propriety of the practice in such case where a member has been suddenly taken from their midst during the session, and when intimate relations have been engendered between fellow-members.

Hon. Robert J. Walker will, to-day, resign into the hands of Mr. Buchanan his commission as Governor of Kansas.

The Navy Department received by the last steamer from California letters from Commodore Paulding, enclosing a letter from Captain Chotard, of the Saratoga, in reference to the landing at Punta Arenas of the fillibuster force under General Walker. The facts, as given in these communications, are substantially those already published in the news brought by the Star of the West. Commodore Paulding condemns Captain Chotard for not having prevented the landing of Walker, and I learn that in he Cabinet meeting yesterday, this officer was superseded in his command. The Jamestown has been ordered to Punta Arenas, and the Susquehanna, which arrived from Genoa, Sardinia, at Key West, on the 23th of November, proceeded immediately to San Juan.

The consul of the United States at Punta Arenas writes to the State Department, under date of the 30th of November, six days after Walker's arrival, that the fillibusters were living in houses rented from the Indians at that place; that Walker had formally proclaimed himself President of Nicaragua, and that he was waiting, before pushing into the interior, for reinforcements of men and munitions of war, which he was daily expecting. The register of the Fashion was correct in every particular.

Circular instructions have been sent to the collectors and district attorneys of Galveston, New Orleans, and Mobile, to use every exertion to prevent the departure from either of these ports of men or munitions of war for Walker.

No faith is reposed in the rumor that a vessel had sailed *recently from* New York with *material* aid for this enterprise. Instructions have also been issued from the Navy Department to Commodore Paulding to frustrate Walker's object, which seems now to be to advance up the river Colorado into the interior of Nicaragua.

The U. S. consul at Punta Arenas informs the Department of State that the mass of the people of Nicaragua are opposed to the expedition. This being true, with the other fact that he is hemmed round at Punta Arenas by the naval forces of the United States and England, and that Col. Canty and the Costa Rican force at Castillo Viejo will oppose his advance in that direction, it is hard to believe that the "gray-eyed man of destiny" will, this time, be even partially successful.

The foreign ministers here express their satisfaction that the United States Government has done all that could be fairly asked of it in the execution of its neutrality law of 1818.

The Navy Department has advices that Lieut. T. A. Craven, with the Varina, arrived at Carthegena on the 3d of November, after a passage of eighteen days from Sandy Hook. Officers and crew all well. He had been delayed there until the 20th of November, awaiting the departure of a bonga (native boat) in order to proceed to their destination, for a survey of the Atrato and Turando rivers, and the [illegible] of a ship-canal across the Isthmus of [illegible].

Mr. Cox, of [illegible] in the House to-day of opposi[illegible] Constitution. He rebuked, w[illegible] sarcasm, the juggle by which [illegible]tutional Convention attempted [illegible] great principle that the will of [illegible] rule.

I am permitted [illegible] Mowry, delegate from Arizona, [illegible] the following interesting extract [illegible] letter received by the last overland [illegible] the new Territory of Arizona. [illegible]berg, the writer, is an old resident of [illegible]tory, and a reliable man. He is also a mining engineer of high reputation:

"TUBAC, GADSDEN'S PURCHASE,
"22d October, 1857.

"We have, of late, been seriously annoyed by the Apaches. Nearly all the animals belonging to citizens residing around Fort Buchanan have been driven off by them. They are very impudent, and commit their depredations in broad daylight, talk to the people while they are driving off the animals, and always escape without being molested.

"The other day they came within eight hundred yards of the fort, and looked down upon it.

"In order to bring them to terms, the Government ought to enlist one thousand Pimos and Papagos to accompany the military. Indians are the only persons who can successfully traverse these mountains and hunt up their hiding places. If this is not done, they will surely break up our settlement here. Forts ought to be established in the very heart of the Apache country, in the places fit, and used by them for cultivation. If this is done, we will soon bring them to terms.

"Until now, our mining establishments have not been molested by them, and we are going on in high glee.

"This is undoubtedly the richest silver-mining country in the world. If the United States will make just and liberal laws for us; give us protection; remove those trifling and unprofitable custom-houses on the frontier, at least for five or six years; procure us a transit through Sonora to Guaymas, and hasten along the railroad to California, this will indeed be a prosperous country, and will astonish the world with its production of silver and copper."

"But, with such terrible obstacles as those mentioned above, and the great length of transit to transport goods over the roads which we have to take at present, progress only is possible for such as find mines of the extraordinary and incredible richness of the *Heinzelman* vein. If the present promises of few of these mines are realized, by working them on a scale commensurate with their extent and richness, I have no doubt but that they will equal in production the whole silver exports of Mexico.

"I think an appropriation ought to be made to sink Artesian wells through the Papagos country, between San Xavier and the lower Gila. This route cuts off about one hundred miles from the best route *via* the Pimos village. It is laid down on my map as a railroad route, now at the office of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

"The country consists of a succession of plains and isolated mountain ridges, none of which need to be crossed. In fact, it is a dead level to Fort Yuma, and, as a consequence, no grading is necessary. There is scarcity of water, but the soil in general is excellent, and grass abounds all along the line, while the mountains teem with minerals of the richest description. The oxides and the sulphurets of copper are the most beautiful and richest in the world. Silver undoubtedly exists of equal richness.

"All the foothills contain gold, but I hardly think it will be extracted by the whites, as the localities are devoid of water, and they are probably not rich enough to pay without sluicing on an extensive scale.

"I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant, HERMAN EHRENBERG.

"To Lieut. S. MOWRY, U. S. A.,
"Delegate elect from Arizona,
"Washington, D. C." X. Y.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

At Arch Street Theatre, last night, the new five-act play, called "Beatrice; or, the False and the True," had as brilliant, and, what is more, as deserved a success as we ever recollect to have witnessed. This drama is the production of Mr. Oliver Leland, who is nephew, we believe, of Mr. C. Leland, of the *Evening Bulletin*. The plot, which, at first, promised to be involved, was well constructed, and the *denouement* is artistically worked out. The dialogue is well written, and marked with a good deal of individuality. Sometimes it is impassioned, sometimes it gives the conversation of ordinary life, sometimes it is sharply satirical. We noticed only one offence against good taste, which occurred when *Lord Lansmere*, in relating a story, is made to give a nineteen-syllabled name to a German Baron, which made "the gods" laugh, but might have been profitably left out.

In writing this play Mr. Leland seems to have had Bulwer's "My Novel" in his mind. *Count de Peschiera, Beatrice di Negra*, and *Lord Lansmere*, are all in Bulwer's story, in which the two former are brother and sister, while *Lord Lansmere*, who is a sort of Dimby in the book, has a good deal to say in the drama. Here the Count and *Beatrice* are in a plot together. At the close, in the novel, *Beatrice*, who had been affianced to Frank Hazeldon, finally declines marrying him, having given her love to *Leonard Avenel*; in the play, she refuses to wed *Lord Lansmere*, declaring that her heart was given to Lord Walter Courtenay. In fact, then, save three names, and that the Count and Beatrice are Italians, the play owes next to nothing to Bulwer's book. This we say, because Mr. Leland is fully entitled to the credit—and a rare one it is, in this translation era—of entire originality. We shall not attempt, (writing as we do at midnight,) to give a complete analysis of the plot. Suffice it to say that *Beatrice di Negra* (Mrs. E. L. Davenport) is an Italian adventuress, whose previous antecedents have been worse than doubtful. Five years before the time of the play, she has caused the death of one of her lovers, and her guilt is known to *Lord Walter Courtenay* and *Count de Peschiera*, who has also been *her lover, and is now accessory to her design* of inducing the *Earl of Lansmere* to marry her. The only person she really does love is *Lord Walter*, who, when the action commences, is on the eve of marriage with *Clara Bellenden*, grandniece of *Lord Lansmere*, a stiff old English statesman, fond of imagining that, even at his advanced age, such a lovely and accomplished woman as *Beatrice* could marry him for himself alone.

The announcement of *Lord Walter's* intended marriage so much excites *Beatrice* that she insinuates a charge against *Clara Bellenden* of having had a midnight interview with a certain Charles Beverley, who never appears. This accusation, founded on fact, causes *Lord Walter's* father to forbid the marriage. But *Lord Walter* has strong faith in the innocence of his betrothed, and, partly by the aid of *Peschiera*, who abandons his complicity with *Beatrice*, and partly by *Clara's* own account of the circumstance which had been the groundwork of the slander, and partly by a little eavesdropping by *a sonbrette*, the young lady's fair fame is cleared. *Beatrice*, who had persuaded *Lord Lansmere* into an offer of marriage, endeavors to stop the very first, to wed *Lord Walter*, but his remembrance of the death of his friend, caused by her means, though not by her hand, coupled with his love for *Clara*, saves him from her seduction. Finally, *Lord Walter* is wedded to *Clara*, who never learns that suspicion had cast its shadow across her character, and *Beatrice*, who is proved to be a very abandoned woman, retires in an agony of rage, remorse, and grief. The True triumphs and the False is defeated and exposed.

This drama was handsomely, even richly, put upon the stage. It will be the better of some judicious pruning; and we may remark that not once, during the whole performance, was any actress or *actor at fault for a word. Mr. Fredericks, who* played the part of an old, garrulous gardener, made a great deal of the only scene in which he appears; but we fear that even this must be somewhat cut down.

The last point is—how was this play acted? The reply is—admirably. Mrs. Davenport, who has a great deal to do and say, never played with more ease in the pure comedy, nor with more force in the earnest, impassioned scenes. The audience were with her all through, taking every point she made. Then there was Miss Emma Taylor, whom we have accustomed to look upon as merely a beautiful and well-dressed woman, who astonished and delighted the audience by the grace, spirit, and ease with which she played the part of *Clara Bellenden*. Except that she looked a little older than "sweet sixteen," *the most iron-hearted critic could not take* the slightest exception to her performance. At the close of the fourth Act, where she explains the mystery of her midnight interview with a gentleman, she was called before the curtain, and was led on by Mr. Wheatley, amid great applause. Both Mrs. Davenport and Miss Taylor were very charmingly dressed.

Mr. Davenport, as *Peschiera*, had a capital part, and made much of it. It is an intriguing, sardonic, worldly, satirical man of fashion, not without some better impulses, who finally becomes an honest man. Most of the sharp sayings in the play are spoken by him, and he *pointed* them adroitly enough.

Mr. Wheatley, as the lover, never performed more to our taste. Yet the part of *Lord Walter* is not quite in his line. However, that mysterious element called Genius, assisted by tact and talent, can conquer beyond its own dominion. Mr. W. reserved himself, in the earlier scenes, and came out very advantageously as the drama proceeded.

Lord Lansmere, a sort of cast-iron Englishman, with a metallic voice, was done ample justice to by Mr. Dolman. The very peculiarities, of figure and voice, which prevent him being a leading general actor, assisted him so much in this part, that no other member of the company could have done so much with it.

The principal performers were called out, at the fall of the curtain, after which, with an expression of thanks on the part of the author for its reception, Mr. Wheatley, amid great applause, announced the repetition of "*Beatrice*," on this evening.

Dr. Charles Mackay's first lecture will be delivered, this evening, at Concert Hall.

Miss Juliana May's Concert will be given tomorrow evening, at Musical Fund Hall. There is a good deal of curiosity to see and hear her, and a very crowded house may be anticipated. She will be assisted by Signor Tiberini, Herr Rudolphson, and Mr. H. Sanderson, the Philadelphia pianist. Miss May is engaged to give concerts in New York.

The Ronzani troupe will give *two* new ballets at the Academy of Music this evening. A grand spectacle, called "The Golden Horse," is in preparation here, by Signor Domenico Ronzani.

Buckley's Serenaders play for the last time this season, on Saturday. They return to their own beautiful theatre at New York. To-morrow evening, a farewell testimonial benefit, which is sure to be a bumper, will be given at Jayne's Hall, where he performs, to Mr. R. Bishop Buckley, an accomplished musician, a good dramatic performer, and an excellent vocalist.

On Tuesday evening, Madame Angri and Mr. *Vieuxtemps, with the assistance of several distin*guished vocalists, will give a Concert at Musical Fund Hall.

Improvement in Manufacturing Operations.—The condition of the factories in the Twenty-first ward *is represented to be improving. One of the* largest (Campbell's) will commence full operations on the first Monday in the new year, and even now is doing as much as possible under the circumstances.

In the Twenty-second ward (Germantown) prospects look brighter. The stoppage of the various hosiery establishments, in the early part of the troubled financial season, was the means of throwing many more people out of work than was generally supposed. Many families in that ward derive quite a respectable revenue from sewing the hosiery by hand, after it leaves the factory. These, of course, found their occupation gone. Work is now quite lively.

In the Twenty-fourth ward, Kershaw's, Blundin's, and several other large cotton factories are in active operation. The only one now stopped is Warren's paper mill, at Maylandsville.

We have omitted to mention that the Messrs. Campbell, of Manayunk, last week gave $50 to the Ward Relief Society, and that Mr. Mitchell also gave 150 tons of coal.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH FOR THE PRESS]

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Governor Walker today sent in his letter of resignation as Governor of *Kansas. It is on file in the State Department.* He goes fully into his reasons for this step, and presents an overwhelming array of arguments, data, and facts against the Calhoun Convention. [It will shortly appear in THE PRESS.]

NON-ARRIVAL of Steamers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16—10 o'clock P. M.—The steamship North Star, from Liverpool, has not yet been signalled from Sandy Hook.

HALIFAX, Dec. 16—10 o'clock P. M.—No tidings yet of the expected steamship Canada. Her dates will be a week later. The weather is clear and calm.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, December 16, 1857.

SENATE.

A resolution was adopted to proceed to the election of printer for the Senate to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. GWIN of California, a resolution was adopted calling on the President for all correspondence between the Departments and the present Governor of Kansas, together with all the orders and instructions which have been issued to said officer.

A list of Standing Committees was submitted by Mr. ALLEN. [The names we published yesterday, in the letter of our Washington correspondent.—ED. PRESS.]

Mr. HAMLIN, of Maine, regarded the list of committees as unjust, disproportionate, and sectional. He thought it high time, when the slave power has seized on the judiciary, and the Supreme Court undertook to decide questions not legitimately before it, that great care should be taken as to the manner in which the committees of the Senate were constituted, so as to shape the legislation of the country properly. Mr. Doolittle (Wis.) objected to the arrangement of the committees, referring especially to the wants of the great northwestern section of the United States, and the importance of the commerce and navigation of that section of the country.

Mr. CHANDLER (Mich.) read an extract from the *Daily Globe*, announcing that a caucus of the members of the Senate, of all parties, had agreed to a certain list of committees. He was informed that a caucus of the Democratic members only was held, at which a list of committees was made out, leaving certain blanks to be filled by the Republican members; some of whom saw fit to fill these blanks under protest. No such general caucus as announced was held, and no assent was ever given by the Republican members of the Senate to such a formation of committees as therein announced.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, said that he should vote for the list, because it had been agreed upon by a regular Democratic caucus, but he concurred with these Senators who had expressed their opinions that the committees were not fairly formed. He had said so at the proper place and time, and felt bound to repeat it while placing his name on record in favor of the list.

Mr. STUART, of Michigan, said he had declined serving on the Committee of Commerce. As that committee had been alluded to, he thought it proper to make this statement.

Mr. BAYARD, of Delaware, vindicated the propriety of the formation of the committees. He said it was proper that the dominant party should always retain the ascendancy on all the important committees in their own hands.

Mr. GWIN (California) alluded to the manner in which the Republicans arranged the committees in the House of Representatives, when they had the power, as being in an eminent degree both sectional and unjust. They could not now with good grace find fault, for they always exercised their power with an iron hand whenever they had the opportunity.

Mr. WILSON (Massachusetts) denied that at the last Congress the Republicans had been unjust to the Democrats in the formation of the House committees.

Mr. GWIN (California) said he did not refer particularly to the last Congress, but to the general practice of that party for many years past.

Mr. WILSON contended that the Democratic party and the pro-slavery party of this country were one and the same thing, and indulged in some bright visions of the time when the Republicans shall gain the ascendancy.

The list was then agreed to—yeas 30, nays 19.

Mr. GREEN, of Missouri, then proceeded to speak on Kansas affairs. The speech of the Senator from Illinois, (Mr. Douglas,) he said, took him by surprise, not only as to its matter, but its manner of argument; and it was well calculated to prejudice the question really pending before the people of Kansas. He wished to counteract, so far as might be in his power, the impression which had been made by that speech. The real issue at present is, whether Kansas, when her Constitution shall be presented, ought to be admitted into the Union; or ought the consideration of what the *Senator from Illinois has called "a fundamental* error" of the President to be regarded as sufficient cause for keeping Kansas out of the Union, and keeping up the agitation of this most unfortunate question? The question is not whether we approve or do not approve all the individual parts of the Lecompton Constitution, viz: as to its provisions *with reference to banking, taxation, etc. These* are matters with which we have nothing to do, but which are to be left to the people themselves to regulate. The only question for Congress to consider is, does the Constitution embody a republican form of Government? Has anybody ever disputed that proposition, and contended to the contrary? *Certainly the Senator from Illinois had not done* so. There seems to be a want of clear understanding as to the relation which the Federal Government sustains towards a Territory. The inhabitants of Kansas are people, and "what enabling act?" is required to impart to them the power to propose a change in their form of government? Is an enabling act requisite to give them more political rights or more inalienable rights?

That would be a solecism and a contradiction. From these considerations it could be argued that Congress would have no right to refuse to admit Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton Constitution. The people of Kansas never proposed a form of State Government without the consent of Congress. The Convention was held in subordination to the Territorial Government. If admitted into the Union, the State Government will take the place of the Territorial Government, and not without. If any attempt were made to subvert the present Government, and set up another in opposition to the Federal authority, we could subjugate it. But it is not proposed to interfere with the Territorial Government until the consent of Congress has been received. There are eight States now in the Union which formed a Constitution without "enabling acts," for the admission of two of which the Senator from Illinois, himself, had voted. The States of Florida and California had no enabling act previous to their admission. If the Senator from Illinois could vote for the admission of those States, there can be no reason why he cannot vote for the admission of Kansas. The assent of Congress may be given at any time. The organic act declares that the people of Kansas shall be perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way. The way they, the people, chose, was to leave it to the action of a Convention, which body was under no obligation to submit the Constitution, or any part of it, to the popular vote. It chose, however, to submit the slavery question (which was really the great point before the Convention,) as a matter of policy and prudence, and not from any legal compulsion, whatever. Mr. G. was of the opinion that the submission of the question of slavery, alone was better calculated to get the real will and judgment of the people, than if the whole Constitution was submitted. It has been also said, Mr. G. continued, *that the people of Kansas were deceived, and that* positive pledges and promises to submit the Constitution had been made, and violated. That was a matter about which there had been a great deal of controversy; and there was no positive evidence of this description, he did not think proper to dwell upon it. In conclusion, he urged the importance *of deciding the question speedily, so as to put an* end to the constant agitation which had so long embittered the feelings of the different sections of the Union. He thought the Lecompton Constitution met the approbation of a majority of the people of Kansas, and if any of its provisions were obnoxious to them, they would have the power of modifying or changing them at any time.

Mr. DOOLITTLE replied: He was gratified at the tone and spirit in which the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Green) had discussed the question. But as that Senator seemed to have misapprehended his position as laid down in the speech delivered by him the other day, he would state, for the information of one or *two points, in order that the Senate* and the country might see what his position really was.

Firstly: He did regard it as a fatal objection that there was no "enabling act" in advance.

Secondly. He did not take the position that it was a fatal objection that the Constitution was not *submitted to the people before it was sent to Con*gress for acceptance.

The position he did assume was, that *one regular* mode of proceeding is by an "enabling act;" but if the Territorial Legislature proceeds to call a Convention, without having the consent of Congress to do so, that is irregular; not so irregular, however, that it *necessarily follows that all the pro*ceedings of the body are vitiated. A Convention, or any other body of men may send a petition to Congress for a change in the form of their Government, and Congress is at liberty to accept or reject the petition as it pleases. The Lecompton Convention was not an unlawful body, and might send a petition to Congress; but it was not a Convention authorized to establish or institute a Government for itself. He conceded that many new States had been admitted into the Union without an "enabling act" being first passed by Congress. But in this case the schedule provided that the Constitution should be submitted to the people of Kansas *for their approval* or disapproval. No Constitution could be considered as republican in its form which did not embody the will of the people who are to be governed by it, and was not framed by their action. The next question was, what is the best mode of ascertaining that will. He agreed with the President, *that the best mode was to refer* it to the people themselves, for their acceptance or rejection, by a fair vote. He could not admit that a Constitution, forced upon the people against their will, was a republican Constitution. It is no use to say it is a good Constitution; Congress has no right to cram "good things" down their throats against their will. *The question is, whether* the people shall be permitted to form their own Constitution? The Senator from Missouri has urged the importance of terminating this controversy. Now, he (Douglas) would do anything that was right—anything that was just, in order to terminate it. He would sacrifice everything, but his principle and the honor of his country, to close this unhappy agitation. But how are we to do it? It must be done upon the principles of eternal justice and truth, or it will not stay closed. Congress must terminate it upon the principles of self-government, or the people will not have a republican system of Government. No system of patching-up and trickery will settle this question. Instead of establishing peace, such a course would excite a new controversy. It would be necessary to increase the army, and use the military power of the Government, if the majority were to be subjected to the oppression of the minority. He trusted there would be no outbreak, that no violence would be used; but he feared that such would be the result, if the majority of the people of Kansas were to be coerced into submission to the will of the minority. The Senator from Missouri had said that the people could change the Constitution immediately after Kansas became a State. But he (Douglas) argued, on the other hand, that it could not be changed, by the provisions of the Constitution itself, until the year 1864; and could only be changed then by a Constitution, to be called by two thirds of the members of the Legislature. It is a principle of law that when a Constitution provides for its being charged at a particular time, and a particular manner, it excludes all other times and all *other modes. Any Court in Christendom would* thus construe it, and the only mode of changing the Constitution would be by a revolution. This scheme, therefore, is a scheme of war, and leads directly to war. And he said if I should vote to admit Kansas into the Union, under the "Lecompton Constitution," I should feel obliged in consequence to *increase the army*, and enforce it at the point of the bayonet. Hence he besought Senators to pause before they committed themselves to such a fatal error. This was not to be regarded as an "Administration" measure. Every man on the floor of the Senate was at perfect liberty to vote for or against it, without surrendering his *party ties. The adoption of the measure would* not only rend asunder the Democratic party, but would endanger the peace and perpetuity of the Union.

The President was a frank man, and he did not believe the President would ask his party to do that to which he was unwilling to commit himself *on paper. He did not believe that the President* would ask Senators to run their necks into the halter of disunion or civil war before he was ready to take the lead and point out the way. Then let us restore peace to the country by ignoring these irregular conventions at Lecompton and Topeka, authorize the people to go forward and form a Con*stitution and State Government for themselves.* That, he believed, would restore quiet in ninety days.

Mr. GREEN responded, denying that the people of Kansas would be compelled to retain the present Constitution till 1861, and argued that the Convention could be called at any time to make such *changes as the majority of the people might desire.*

The further consideration of the subject was then postponed until Monday next.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The members of the House met in their new Hall this morning.

A communication was received from the clergymen of Washington, tendering their services to open the daily sessions with prayer.

Amid much confusion, the members proceeded to select their seats by lottery.

Mr. JONES (Pennsylvania), from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill for the pay*ment of invalid and other pensions.*

Memorials were presented from Messrs. Brooks and Whyte, of Baltimore, contesting the seats of Messrs. Davis and Harris. Referred to the Committee on Elections.

The Printing Committee reported a resolution for the printing of 20,000 extra copies of the Pre*sident's message and accompanying documents.*

Mr. COX, of Ohio, said he heartily concurred with the views of the message in almost every sentence except that part relative to Kansas. In his judgment, contrary to the opinion of the President, there will be no peace if Kansas be admitted under the Lecompton Constitution. Expediency, not a dangerous doctrine when brought in contact with principle. There can be no peace when the rights of the people are jeoparded. He did not agree with the old theologians that in order to be saved we must be damned. (Laughter). His pledge to his constituents was to stand on the doctrine of submission of the entire Constitution to the people. *This is of the highest* concern, and essential to self-government. It has its foundation in the Cincinnati platform; in the President's Inaugural; in Governor Walker's acceptance; in the President's letter to the Connecticut clergymen; in the instructions he sent to Governor Walker, and in his annual message. *All came here as recorded evi*dence to show that pledges had been given to the people of Kansas that they should have the whole Constitution submitted to them. He would ask the House why the traitorous Catilinarian conspiracy should therefore attempt to subjugate the people's will to their own. Having given these *pledges, it would be a breach of faith, and a* gross dereliction of duty, to disregard them. The movement as Lecompton was made in attempt to carry out the slavery principle, and by pretended submission to force the Constitution on an unwilling people, for in any event it could not be rejected. This sort of juggle would not do. *The right of self-government was higher and dearer* than all the Cabinets and Presidents. There was no power, according to Jefferson and President Buchanan, for the Territorial Legislature to call into being a Convention to supersede the Territorial Government without the consent of the people, and the Constitution would be putrescent *and should never be dragged into Congress for* grave deliberation. It would be a Congressional intervention in their domestic affairs.

The people of the Northwest cared not what would be the result as to the domestic institutions of Kansas. He would vote for her admission as a slave State, if the will of the people be made clearly *to appear. He referred to what he characterized* as a fraud in the apportionment of representatives, and mentioned in this connection the name of the Oxford precinct. The Constitution was not republican in form; it prohibited alteration until 1864. If any change is effected before, it must be by a civil war—for blood must ever track the steps *of wrong. He earnestly protested against the* Constitution, because it was against the principle of self-government. It must be submitted entire to the approval of the whole people. In conclusion, he gave notice of his intention to submit a proposition to take the popular vote on the subject.

Mr. HUGHES (of Indiana) rose to explain. He *prized and regret that the gentleman had chosen* this occasion to precipitate such a debate on the House. There are those who believe that the Administration is in trouble and that clouds are gathering around the Democratic party. He therefore humbly conceived that the friends of the Administration, and members of the Democratic party, *should not be the first to sound the alarm. There* was no question before them as to whether Kansas should be admitted as a free or as a slave State. Hence, the time and occasion for the attack made against the gentleman. It was unexpected, for he believed that we had no Presidential candidates in this body. Allusion was made to a distinguished *Senator's position, but it might be well, perhaps, for* that Senator to look well to his laurels. He understood Mr. C