The Press.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1857.

CONTENTS OF FIRST PAGE.—The News from Europe and India, (editorial;) Irish Ingenuity; Latest European and Indian News; Reported Battle in Kansas; The Frightful Murder at Westfield, Mass.; Novel Indian Ceremonies at the Indian Bureau; Murder at Port Kennedy; The City; General News, &c.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE KANSAS QUESTION.

Indications on all hands show that Mr. BUCHANAN has not yet determined to be controlled by the motives attributed to him by those who assume that the Washington *Union* speaks for him on the Kansas question. The Lecompton Constitution is not to be, and cannot be, made a test upon Democrats. The recognition of the legality of the legislature convened by Mr. Secretary STANTON, in the assertion that its sittings must be protected—which important fact appears in the letter of instructions from General CASS to Mr. DENVER, (who, it would seem, from late accounts, had *not* superseded Secretary STANTON)—is a fact strongly suggestive of the propriety of STANTON'S course, and the great excitement among the Kansas people. These disclosures, now sufficiently known to be beyond denial, prove, with the silent precision of a mathematical demonstration, the assertion we have made. Mr. BUCHANAN makes no test of the Lecompton Constitution. He may expect Congress to vote upon it, if it comes there with a decent show of hands; but he will not expect this if fraud and force are again proved upon its authors. But, even in this expectation, Mr. BUCHANAN'S recognition of the Legislature convened by Mr. STANTON, and hence its provision for a fair vote on the 5th of January, upon the whole Lecompton Constitution, is a strong evidence of his determination not to close the door upon the voice of the people against that instrument. If the Legislature, which has just provided for this vote, is, as there can be no doubt, a *legal* body, then the election of the 5th of January on the Constitution must be a legal election, and the majority will at last have a legal expression. So, then, whether the contest on the 21st of December has decided to make a fraudulent Constitution, with or without slavery, the action of the 5th of January—for or against that whole Constitution—in which the great body of the people of Kansas will take part, being legal and right, and the most recent and most entire reflex of the public will—their action will be conclusive.

WHAT THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS DEMAND.

An article in the Pittsburgh *Union*, replying to THE PRESS, closes thus:

"We only desire that they shall reason with themselves upon the matter, for we feel assured that it will inevitably satisfy them that the assumption, that a wrong to the Kansas people would be involved in the admission of the State under the Lecompton Constitution, is utterly unwarranted."

There is a short, plain answer to this. *Nobody* pretends that the people of Kansas favor the Lecompton Constitution. On the contrary, it is almost universally conceded, by their foes, that they are overwhelmingly opposed to it. This is, after all, the controlling *fact*. If the majority of the people of Kansas had, in any fair way, declared that the Constitution was agreeable to them, it would then have been no matter of ours, or of any other citizen, to object to their action. But when, by public meetings, by the action of their own legally elected Legislature, recognised as such by Mr. BUCHANAN, they almost unanimously object to this Constitution, and call upon *our* representatives and *theirs* in Congress assembled to reject it, and to give them the fair vote so absolutely promised last year, we would be less than men, and unworthy of the name of Americans, if we did not respond to their appeal.

☞ The West Chester *Jeffersonian* is one of the few papers in this State which regale their readers with abuse of the advocates of the "WILL OF THE MAJORITY" in Kansas. The *Jeffersonian* is hugely in favor of Mr. BUCHANAN'S administration, after having been for years devoted to personal assaults upon that gentleman and his friends. We trust the editor is at least as sincere in his friendship, as he was in his persevering opposition to Mr. B.; and if he is so enamored of making a test against all who do not endorse the Lecompton fraud, why not resign his seat as a member of the Legislature, and let the Democrats of Chester try him upon his own opinions? He would find the rule of the *minority* as hard to bear in Chester as the sturdy Democrats of Kansas say it is there. Or, if he will nail his Lecompton flag to his mast, and keep it flying till next October, he can probably win a re-election by his courage.

A LECOMPTON MEETING AT DETROIT.

The Detroit *Free Press*, one of the sternest and most consistent Democratic journals in the whole North west, gives a most graphic account of a meeting held in that city in favor of the Lecompton frauds:

Efforts were made to stop the meeting before the call had been issued, in which, we understand, all the other Federal office-holders participated, who were joined by many of our most influential and reliable Democrats and devoted friends of Mr. Buchanan's administration. But all to no purpose—O'Flynn had determined to hold the meeting. He had determined, of all the Federal office-holders and of all other Democrats here, to stand out as the President's truest and best friend!

The meeting *was* held, and such another Democratic meeting has never been held in the city of Detroit. Mr. Cornelius O'Flynn had obviously anticipated that it would be a nice little arrangement of his own. But in it Mr. Cornelius O'Flynn was nowhere. He had the power to disturb its regular proceeding, and that was all, and this power he exerted to the utmost. We have said that seven out of eight, but better judges say nine out of ten, of the whole meeting came there resolved to vote down his propositions in every shape. And they did vote them down. They would not hear them even. His own countrymen came there by hundreds to vote him down, and they did vote him down with a will. They had detected his designs and were there to frustrate them.

We never witnessed such enthusiasm as that which swayed the multitude when the resolutions submitted by Mr. Lothrop (against the fraud in Kansas) were adopted. Hats and umbrellas swung in the air, and for the space of ten minutes cheering—such only as is heard in Democratic mass meetings—was prolonged. These resolutions were the voice of nine-tenths of that vast assemblage. It was an assemblage of popular sovereignty Democrats, every one of whom was a devoted friend of the administration of James Buchanan.

HEAR A PRO-SLAVERY PAPER IN MISSOURI.

The Boonville (*Mo.*) *Observer* of the 16th speaks of Kansas affairs as follows:

"We were anxious that Kansas should be made a slave State, by assisting emigration from the slave States, in going thence, the only legitimate and practicable way in which it could be accomplished. We contributed liberally, as we conceived, to ensure such a result; but we always condemned and lamented the bad management of the pro-slavery party in the Territory, who wasted their resources and injured their reputation in violent efforts to accomplish impossibilities, which, in the sequel, brought defeat upon themselves, rejoicing to their enemies, and reproach upon the cause which they had not the discrimination and patience to successfully advocate.

"At this time, when the slave States have abandoned all rational efforts to make Kansas a slave State, by inhabiting it with a pro-slavery population, absurd attempts to make it such in opposition to the will of a large majority of its people—after the manner of the Lecompton Convention, will only unnecessarily exasperate adverse opinions, making capital for northern and southern fanaticisms, which have a common and despicable enjoyment in whatever tends to distract and divide the country. If it is still possible to make Kansas a slave State, let us take the right and effectual mode of doing so. But if it is impossible, it is folly and madness to irritate the public mind and embarrass the Government about an impossibility. We have no objection to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution, further than the attempt of its authors to carry such a purpose in defiance of the public sentiment of the people of the Territory, is generating a spirit of civil war among its people, and of uneasiness, mortification, and sorrow to every one who places a proper estimate upon the unity and well-being of the confederacy."

DAILY PAPER IN CAMDEN.—Mr. P. J. Gray, it will be seen, announces a new daily evening paper, for the city of Camden, to be "independent in politics, and devoted to the interests of West Jersey." He does not precisely give its name, but promises to spare neither labor nor expense in making it worthy of public patronage. It will be a one cent paper, and its publication will be commenced on the first Monday in January. We believe, with Mr. Gray, that there is room for such a journal, and wish it every success.

PENNSYLVANIA UPON POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.

The Continental Congress, on the 15th May, 1776, adopted a resolution recommending to the respective Assemblies and Conventions of the United Colonies to adopt such government as should, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular, and America in general. In order to carry into effect the resolution of Congress, the Committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia addressed circular letters, enclosing the resolve of Congress, to the committees of the several counties, requesting them to appoint deputies to meet in provincial conference. The county committees complied with the request, and the conference met at Carpenters' Hall, in Philadelphia, on the 18th June, 1776. On the next day it was—

"*Resolved, unanimously*, That it is necessary that a provincial convention be called by this conference, for the express purpose of forming a new Government in this province, *on the authority of the people only.*"

And they appointed Monday, the 8th day of July next, for electing the members of the convention, and directed the persons so chosen to meet in convention at Philadelphia on Monday, the 15th of July next.

This provincial conference adjourned on the 24th of June, having unanimously declared their willingness to concur in a vote of the Congress *declaring the United Colonies free and independent States.*

The convention met on the 15th July and Dr. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN and Colonel GEORGE ROSS, both signers of the Declaration of Independence, were unanimously chosen President and Vice President, and its labors closed on the 28th September by the unanimous adoption of the Constitution framed by it.

This instrument declared all men to have been born equally free and independent, that the people of this State have *the sole, exclusive and inherent right* of governing and regulating the internal police of the same, that all power is originally inherent in, and consequently derived from, the people; that government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single man, family or set of men, who are a part only of that community; and that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible right to reform, alter or abolish government in such manner as shall be by that community judged most conducive to the public weal—*and that all elections ought to be free.*

The last section provided for the election of a council of censors every seven years, two-thirds of whom had power to call a convention, but the articles to be amended and the amendments proposed, and such articles as were proposed to be added or abolished, should be promulgated at least *six months* before the day appointed for the election of such convention; *for the previous consideration of the people*, that they might have an opportunity *of instructing their delegates on the subject.*

The Constitution thus framed, in the midst of war with the mother country, did not please all, and the General Assembly, on the 17th June, 1777, passed a resolution directing the freemen of each township and ward at their elections for inspectors for the ensuing election in October, to choose a respectable freeholder, to be called a Commissioner, whose duty it should be to go the residence of every person entitled to vote for member of Assembly, or take some other opportunity of meeting with them, and ask each and every of the said freemen whether he desires that a Convention should be called. The answer was to be given in writing, put into a box or bag, which was to be kept shut, and to be returned to the Sheriff of the proper county, on or before the 10th November. The Sheriff and Commissioners were to cast up the number of votes, an account of which, under their hands, was to be returned to the next General Assembly, at their first sitting.

The invasion and occupation of the eastern portion of the State by the British, under General HOWE, prevented the execution of this resolve; and on the 28th November, 1778, another resolve was *unanimously* passed directing the people qualified to vote on the 25th March, 1779, to choose judges and inspectors, who should provide two boxes, and on the first Tuesday in April the votes of the freemen should be received, *for and against a convention*, which should be put in one of the boxes; in the other box the votes for members of the convention should be placed. If there was a majority against a convention, no further proceedings were to be had; but, if there was a majority for a convention, then the delegates elected were to meet at Lancaster on the 1st June next. The subjects to be considered were, amongst others, the cardinal defects of a single legislative body and a many-headed and powerless executive.

Upon the petitions of upwards of 13,000 inhabitants of the State, the resolve of 28th November, 1778, was rescinded by the Assembly on the 27th February, 1779, by a vote of 47 to 7.

The council of censors said these resolves were violations of the Constitution, and yet, say they, "we have no difficulty in declaring that, according to the fifth section of the bill of rights, the community have an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish Government in such manner as shall be by the community judged most conducive to the public weal."

A majority of the council of censors at their first session, in 1783, but *not* two-thirds, were in favor of a Convention; but at their second session, in 1784, the majority was against it.

On the 24th March, 1789, resolutions were offered in the Assembly by Mr. LEWIS, an eminent member of the bar, and seconded by GEORGE CLYMER, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a framer of the Constitution of the United States. The first was "That in the opinion of this House, alterations and amendments of the Constitution of this State are immediately necessary."

The second resolution was preceded by a preamble, reciting those parts of the Declaration of Independence relating to the rights of man and the rights of the people to alter or abolish forms of government, "and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness," and also reciting the fifth section of the Bill of Rights of Pennsylvania on the same subject, from which, as well as from the nature of society and the principles of government, "it manifestly appears that *the people* have, at all times *an inherent right* to alter and amend the form of government in such manner as they shall think proper."

"It is therefore further *Resolved*, That it be, and it is hereby, proposed and earnestly *recommended by this House*, in execution of their trust as faithful, honest representatives, and guardians of the people, to the citizens of this Commonwealth, that they take this important subject into their serious consideration. And should they concur with this House (*it being the right of the* PEOPLE ALONE *to determine on this interesting question*) that a convention for the purposes of revising, altering, and amending the Constitution of the State, is necessary, *it is hereby submitted to their decision*, whether it will not be most convenient and proper for them to elect members of convention, of the same numbers and in the like proportions, for the city of Philadelphia and the several counties, with those of their representatives in Assembly, on the day of the next general election, at the places and in the manner prescribed in cases of elections of members of Assembly by the laws of this State."

"That this House, *on the pleasure of the people in the premises being signified at their next sitting*, will necessarily be incurred by the proposed Convention, and will, *if requested*, appoint the time and place for the meeting thereof; and that the Supreme Executive Council be, and they are hereby, requested *to promulgate this recommendation to the good people of this State* in such way and manner as to them shall seem most expedient for the purposes herein intended."

These resolutions were adopted by a vote of more than two-thirds, and on the 16th of September, 1789, at the next sitting of the General Assembly, the committee of the whole made a report, which, after stating that it was the ascertained wish of a large majority of the people that a convention should be called, said "The committee therefore, *in obedience to the wishes of the people*, submit to the House the following resolutions, viz:

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this House, it is expedient and proper for the good people of this Commonwealth, to choose a convention for the purpose of reviewing, and if they see occasion, altering and amending the Constitution of this State; *that in the opinion of this Assembly*, the said convention should consist of the like number of members from the city of Philadelphia, and the several counties in this Commonwealth, as compose this House, and be chosen on the same day and in the same manner by the same persons, at the same places, and under the same regulations, as are directed and appointed by the election laws of this State, save that the returns should be made to the convention so chosen, and that the said convention should meet at Philadelphia, on the fourth Tuesday in November next."

The resolution was carried by a vote of 39 to 17.

"*Resolved*, That, as the opinion of this House, a Convention being chosen and met, it would be expedient, just and reasonable, that the Convention *should publish their amendments and alterations for the consideration of the people, and adjourn at least four months previous to ratification.*"

This resolution was adopted with but one dissenting voice; another resolution provided for the expenses of the election and Convention, and it was "*Ordered*, That 7,000 copies in English, and 3,000 copies in the German language, of the foregoing resolutions, be printed, and distributed for the information of the citizens of the State."

The people elected the delegates to the convention at the October election, and they met on the 24th November, 1789, and continued in session until the 26th February, 1790, when, having agreed upon a form of constitution, a motion was made by Mr. WILSON, seconded by Mr. FINDLEY, that the following question be taken, viz: "Shall the constitution as agreed to in convention be published for the consideration of the good people of Pennsylvania."

The names of the members being called over, it appeared that the question was unanimously determined in the affirmative.

The convention having provided for the publication of the constitution and their minutes, then adjourned to Monday, August 9, 1790.

Having interchanged views with their constituents, several amendments were made to the draft at their second session, and when completed, on the 2d of September, 1790, "on the question, Will the convention ratify the same as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?" *there was but one dissenting voice.*

This, fellow-citizens, is the plain unvarnished history of the two first Constitutions of Pennsylvania, showing the entire control exercised by the people over their form of Government, and the absolute submission by their representatives to the will of the people, whenever and however expressed; and their recognition of the great fact that the act of forming a Constitution must emanate from the people, and be carried out by the people.

If any Democrat can find in this simple narrative of facts, a warrant for the Lecompton fraud, we shall turn him to the history of the present century, when every proposition for a convention was first submitted to the people, and the Constitution framed by their public servants appointed and employed by them, was submitted to their masters and constituents for ratification or rejection, and without any oath to support the instrument upon which they were voting.

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.

This bill being under consideration in Congress on Tuesday last, and Mr. SEWARD, of Georgia, having moved an amendment authorizing the issue of Treasury notes of the denomination of fifty dollars, Hon. HENRY M. PHILLIPS, of this city, opposed the motion in the few pertinent remarks, which we extract from the *Globe*. The five minute rule necessarily limited Mr. PHILLIPS in his observations on the bill, and prevented him from discussing its general merits. This is one of the subjects upon which Mr. PHILLIPS has bestowed great attention, and he needs but an opportunity to fulfill the just expectations formed of his talents and influence.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Chairman, if I understand the amendment proposed, it is to insert "fifty" instead of "one hundred." I am opposed to the amendment, though I am in favor of the alteration of the section. I am in favor of so altering it that the sums for which these Treasury notes shall be issued shall be fixed by law, and not left to the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury; not that I doubt that an wise use will be made of that discretion, but because I think that such an alteration will be the means of saving the Secretary of the Treasury from much annoyance, and at the same time make these treasury notes much more valuable for all the proper purposes for which they ought to be issued. I propose, sir, to move, at the proper time, that these notes shall be issued in a sum of $100, $500, and $1,000. The bill itself provides that they shall not be issued in sums of less than $100; but it does not prohibit their issue in fractional sums over $100. If they can have any valuable effect upon the community, though they may not be legitimately issued for that direct purpose, let us put them into a shape by which that effect may be realized.

I take this occasion to say, Mr. Chairman, because I think it is germane to the subject, that these Treasury notes, in my judgment, are the very things which ought to be issued. The President of the United States, in his annual message, commends to the attention of Congress the report of the Secretary of the Treasury which recommends them; and my colleague, (Mr. Ritchie,) in stating that the President did not recommend them while they were recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury, has fallen into a mistake; not intentionally, of course. His view, as I understand it, is that the President, in the body of his message, speaks of a loan, and, with respect to Treasury notes, merely indorses the action of the Secretary of the Treasury. If my colleague will look further he will see that the President in his message speaks of a temporary loan in case the exigency of the public service should require it; and certainly he will admit that in commending the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury to the notice of Congress, the President intends to refer to what he had stated previously—that, whenever the exigency of the public service requires that which he has called a temporary loan, it shall be realized in this manner.

But why should this loan be made? Why should these Treasury notes be issued? My colleague from Pennsylvania [Mr. Grow] tells this House that it had better begin to retrench. Does he recollect that every dollar now asked for is asked for to pay the debts of a Congress in which he was one of a majority? Does he not know that the appropriations to be made by this Congress will be made at a late period, and for the fiscal year to commence in July next? Does the gentleman forget that an appropriation bill, demanded by the real wants of the country, the Army appropriation bill, was, during the last Congress, three times rejected? Why is it, Mr. Chairman, that this side of the House is reproached with advocating measures of extravagant appropriation, when we only ask for means to replenish the Treasury in order that debts contracted by the gentleman and his friends may be paid. We do not say to the creditor of the Government that he must accept these notes; but the bill very wisely provides that unless he chooses to accept them he need not do so.

I shall take the opportunity again of saying a few words on this subject, unless by doing so I shall embarrass the action of the committee on this bill. I prefer that the amount of these Treasury notes shall be fixed, and for that reason I shall vote against the amendment of the gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. Seward.]

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

A pantomime called "Harlequin Shoemaker and the Tailor of Kensington," which was first acted at SANFORD'S, on Christmas day, deserves particular notice, as the best thing of the sort produced in Philadelphia for many years. In addition to Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloon, and Clown, (by Master Sanford, Mademoiselle Poline, Mr. Sanford, and Mr. Gardner,) there is an Indian wizard, personated by a gentleman who rejoices in the remarkably seasonable name of Cool White. As the name denotes, this is a local piece. It is full of fun and frolic, with a great many new and clever tricks and transformations. It follows Sanford's drawing-room concert, which is also extremely good.

The revival of the show-drama founded on Bulwer's "Last Days of Pompeii," (brought out at ARCH-STREET THEATRE on Christmas Day,) is remarkably gorgeous, as respects effects and scenery. This piece, which too often has depended on mere show, is admirably played here. The cast includes (among other members of "the great star company,") Mr. Wheatley, Mrs. and Mr. E. L. Davenport, Mrs. Thayer, and Miss Emma Taylor. The house has been crowded since it was played, and it really is one of the most attractive features of our holiday amusement. Of course, it will be repeated every night, as long as it *draws*.

At the Walnut Street Theatre, (where Mrs. Bowers also has "a great Star Company,") the new melodrama, called "The King of the Mist," has been unequivocally successful. Miss C. Richings plays the leading female character, cleverly, but coldly. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Conway are now attached to the company here, and will be a decided acquisition. Mr. Conway is one of the best actors in this country, and his wife (Mrs. Bowers' sister,) is as promising an actress as we can name. This evening they appear together in the (adapted from the French) piece of "The Marble Heart." The leading cast will include *Raphael Duchatelet*, Mr. Conway; *Ferdinand Volage*, Mrs. Conway; *Chataumargeaux*, Mr. Richings; *Mademoiselle Marco*, Mrs. Bowers; *Clementine*, Miss C. Jefferson; and *Marie* (with songs) Miss Richings. A popular and celebrated spectacle, with new scenery and dresses, is underlined here.

"The Rag-Picker of Paris," and the ballet-pantomime of "Santa Claus" are the announced attractions at the NATIONAL THEATRE. "The Poor of New York (another adaptation "from the French,") is underlined here.

The Ronzani ballet *troupe*, the best ever imported into this country, concluded their performances at the Academy of Music, on Saturday evening.

Coroner's Inquests.—Coroner Fenner yesterday held an inquest on the body of Peter Durkins, aged 58, who fell overboard and was drowned at Mead alley wharf.

Also, on the body of Richard Connelly, who was found dead in bed at the Almshouse, at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. Cause unknown.

Also, on the body of Mary Levy, who was found dead in bed in a cellar back of No. 21 Beach street. The deceased was 39 years of age. A verdict of death from want and exposure was rendered.

Also, on the body of Sarah Cluskey, colored, about 50 years of age, who was suffocated to death by gas from a furnace, at No. 26 Green's court. A verdict was rendered in accordance with the facts.

Death of Isaac W. Moore.—This gentleman, who was well known in the city as a prominent member of the Democratic party, and a representative in the Legislature for two successive terms, died suddenly on Saturday morning in his office in Walnut street, near Fifth.

Another Stabbing Case.—Joseph Marley was admitted to the Pennsylvania Hospital yesterday, having received a stab in the left side during an altercation at a house of ill-fame in Pine alley, at a late hour on Saturday night.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, 1857.

The *Union* is publishing letters from "distinguished sources in the West," to show that the Lecompton swindle has supporters in that region. It makes but a poor showing even in this stale trickery. The letters published are few, and their commendation of the Calhoun usurpation faint and feeble. They manifest the presence in that great and unconquerably Democratic section, of an irresistible hostility to the whole scheme, of involving the Democratic party and the Democratic Administration in the shame, disgrace, and ruin which any connection with this flagrant fraud must bring upon them. A miserably small squad of politicians and office holders—fortunately for this country, a feeble and weak clique in those great Democratic beehives, the bold, free, and untrammelled new States—constitute the whole force of the Lecomptonites; on the other side, the array of Democratic strength and numbers is without parallel. Never before did the Northwest move with such majesty of power, union, and enthusiasm as in its opposition to this great wrong and treason. The petty quibbles, in justification of the treason cannot shake the sturdy minds and hearts of the founders of our Western empire, from their devotion to the great principle which lies at the very foundation of that progress and greatness that have so astonished the world. Against the few letters from placemen and political managers published by the *Union*, Judge Douglas can array not less than eight hundred letters per day from the purest sources of popular opinion, which are poured in upon him from every quarter, endorsing and applauding his course. It will show the strength and sincerity of the feeling in this behalf that many of his correspondents hold Federal offices. Not a few of these letters are from the South, a great many from the interior of counties of New York and Pennsylvania, but most of them are from the great West. You are right in saying that the South is far from being a unit in favor of the Lecompton iniquity. The Southern people are not always *represented* by their political agents. The habit in that section is to indulge their representative in sectional ultraism, on the principle that it is well to be even overzealous in a good cause. Hence the strong, defiant language, the menaces of secession, the violent demonstration and great tenacity for abstractions, which constitute the burden of the speeches of their public men. But when it comes to acting and voting, the people set aside these fiery gentlemen and declare for themselves their conservatism, their devotion to the Union, to justice, and fair dealing. So they did in the compromise agitation of 1850, when nearly every prominent fire-eater went overboard, and secession, which had been so loudly preached by their representatives, was so emphatically repudiated by the people. And yet, after the struggle had passed and the issue had been decided, the very leaders in this movement, which had been so signally defeated, were again restored to favor. Their excesses and errors had leaned to their side, and so their generous constituents determined to continue them as representatives of the ultraism which is always proclaimed, but never, when it conflicts with the love of the Union and good faith practised by the South. I think it not improbable that on this Lecompton issue there is the *same* contrariety between the people and the politicians in the South, as there was in the Compromise struggle of 1850. With some familiarity with the Southern people, I think I am safe in asserting, that if Northern Democrats had not taken the initiative in favor of the Lecompton usurpation, it would have had few real and sincere supporters in the South. "But," as a Southern Senator said, "when our Northern friends volunteer this concession, with what grace can we refuse it, and thereby expose them undefended to the fury of their own people." Such a declaration speaks better for the generosity of the South than for the manhood of the North.

The news from Kansas is very alarming. It adds greatly to the burden and anxiety which oppress our patriotic President. One of the impressions which has exercised the largest control over his views, is the idea that the opposition to the Lecompton Convention originated with and is chiefly kept up by the Topeka insurgents, under the lead of Lane, Robinson, and others. His love of law and order, his invincible conservatism and hate of all violent, disorderly, and unconstitutional proceedings, have naturally aroused that old Jackson energy which is a characteristic of the President, as his friends well know. In all his conversations, he evinces the influence of this feeling. Almost every man who has been to Kansas, or who has conversed with reliable persons recently from there, tells a different story. I have just seen and conversed with a Maryland gentleman, the very last arrival from the Territory, and from him I learn that some of the strongest opponents of the Lecompton Constitution are Southern gentlemen, the advocates of slavery, who would vote for the introduction or continuance of slavery in the Territory, but who abhor and denounce the gross swindle and breach of faith that have linked the name of Lecompton with infamy.

But if the President will not change his course, one thing is certain—he utterly condemns and repudiates the attempt of certain of his so-called friends to make non-concurrence with his policy on this one subject a ground of expulsion from the Democratic ranks, and to brand as deserters and traitors, those who will not support the abandonment of the pledge and principles of the party by the support of the Calhoun Constitution.

Let the rule be carried out, and to what results will it lead? Senators Pugh and Davis in the Senate, and several members of the Democratic party in the House, opposed the issue of treasury notes, as virtually initiating a paper currency and National Bank—but I have not heard from Senator Fitch that they were to be insulted by having their names associated with those of Aaron Burr and Martin Van Buren, or that their defection had created any new gaps in the Democratic phalanx, as Senator Slidell insists had been done by the opposition of Douglas, Stuart, &c., to the Lecompton fraud. Again: General Quitman and a majority of the Southern members will oppose the views of the President on two subjects of great importance which occupy prominent places in the message, to wit: "The Pacific Railroad and the Neutrality Laws." Are these gentlemen to be expelled? But why dwell on these ebullitions of the hour—when you and I are so well satisfied to bide the events of the next eight or ten days, with so strong an assurance that even grave Senators will soon have an occasion to lament their precipitancy and their lack of charity, and to realize, in a moderate degree at least, the painful reverse, so energetically described by the Poet—

"The arbiter of others' fate, a suppliant for his own."

X.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1857.

Congress adjourned yesterday for the Christmas holidays. It was a timely adjournment. Great events will occur before their next meeting, which may solve questions as full of embarrassment as any that have engaged the minds of our representatives for many years past. By the 4th of January, the doubters and waiters will be deprived of all further excuse for dodging the great issue which has already been made on a question, in relation to which it would have involved a gross reproach and libel, six months ago, to have suspected any Democrat to be undecided. And yet, what can happen, what turn can take place in the affairs of Kansas, that will not justify the course so manfully pursued by Governor Walker, by Senators Douglas, Stewart, Broderick? One of three results must have happened on the 21st, any of which would render the position of these gallant Democrats impregnable. Probably no election was held on account of the violent opposition of the people in Kansas; this would prove the wisdom and prudence of Governor, Walker, and Senator Douglas, in opposing the submission of an instrument so repugnant to the great mass of the people. But if by the employment of the United States troops an election is held against the will of the people, the returns will be miserably meagre, and either *for* or *against* slavery. If the former, there is no Northern man who has stood by this Lecompton swindle, as a fair expression of the will of the people, who will not be covered with shame and confusion.

In the last alternation, of the adoption of the Lecompton Constitution *without slavery*, look out for breakers from the South. Governor Brown, of Mississippi, the first Southern Senator who has spoken on this subject, declared yesterday that he would vote for the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution, *without slavery*, provided the election on the 21st *was a fair one*. The Gov. gave great emphasis to his *proviso*. It is a very safe one. It gives him a large margin. As there never has been an election in Kansas which was regarded a *fair one*, (since that of October 5th,) it is not very probable that the Governor will be without an excuse for voting against the admission without slavery. The rumors in circulation which have been eagerly caught up by the jealous and far from satisfied Southerners, of interference by Federal officials, to *sugar* the bitter Lecompton pill, with the *anti-slavery* proviso, the recent complaints of Georgia and Missisippi of Gov. Walker's alleged intervention by declaring the unsuitableness of the country for slavery, will afford Southern representatives very plausible pretexts—if not good excuses for rejecting the decision in favor of the Lecompton instrument, *without slavery*.

How, then, will those Democrats who have from the commencement, on the very threshold of the controversy, declared themselves in favor of the right, of justice, of self-government, and true popular sovereignty stand by the side of the trimmers and waiters, and the open and declared enemies of the great principle which constitutes the very core, the germ and life of the Kansas bill? Their position is taken; it is in any event a secure and safe one; it is all plain sailing for them in the future; but for the others there are awful breakers ahead, and dark tempests gathering in the horizon. We are not surprised, therefore, at the contented, self-reliant, and assured air of Senator Douglas, in his last speech, in reply to Fitch, in which he declared that in sixty days he should have the warm approval and gratitude of those who now looked so frowningly and menacingly upon him. Instead of being turned out of the National Democracy, they would be prepared to vote him a medal for his fidelity to its principles. This idea of ruling or reading the intrepid Illinoisan out of the party of which he has been for so many years so gallant and faithful a chief, is exceedingly rich! *Apropos*, it was not a bad thing Senator Wade, of Ohio, said when congratulated by some flippant Congressman on the accession of Douglas to the Black Republican ranks (though the Senator's assumption was quite gratuitous and baseless). "No, sir! Douglas won't come over to us. He may, in a stress of weather, put into our harbor, to refurnish and get more ammunition, but he will sail out again and open upon us with renewed violence. He is only skirmishing with his own party now to keep his hand in for the more serious combat with us." As political movements, looking to individual advancement, I regard the course of Douglas, Stewart, Broderick, and Cox as eminently wise and sagacious. They have met promptly an issue which is unavoidable. They have not chosen to wait on events when a great principle was assailed.

Great regret is expressed by the friends of the gallant young Senator from Ohio, that he did not place himself at the side of Douglas in the beginning of the fight. It is, however, confidently believed that he will at an early day resume his position in the front ranks of the Democratic champions of self-government and popular sovereignty. Senator Stewart, in an able and statesmanlike speech, has evinced no less sagacity than fidelity.

One of the allusions in the letter of Gen. Cass to Gov. Walker may provoke further correspondence, which will add to the complications of this affair. It is the denial that the President over instructed Governor Walker to insist upon the submission of the Constitution to the people.

But a truce to politics. The gay streets remind me that we are on the eve of that blessed holiday, devoted to domestic and social pleasure, from which all secular and political cares and thoughts should be banished. The day is beautiful, the skies clear and cloudless, the air cool and bracing, without being raw or boisterous. The sidewalks are crowded with anxious mamas and papas in pursuit of knick-knacks for the dear little ones, whose gladsome prattle is now the sweetest of all music. All betokens a gay and happy Christmas. Most of our Congressmen remain at the Capitol, as since the meeting of the body they have had little leisure to make and return visits, to write up their correspondence, and attend to the little matters outside of legislation entrusted to them by their constituents. R.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

From Washington.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH FOR THE PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, December 27.—The proposals for furnishing the paper required for the public printing for the year ending December 1, 1858, was opened by the Superintendent of Public Printing on Tuesday last, and the contracts were yesterday awarded as follows:

Class No. 1.—S. J. Megargee, Philadelphia.
Class No. 2.—Curtis & Brother.
Class No. 3.—J. H. Hall, New York.
Class No. 4.—G. H. Levis, Philadelphia.
Class No. 5.—J. H. Hall New York.
Class No 6.—Tileston & Hollingsworth, Boston.
Class No. 7.—Wm. Flitcraft, Philadelphia.
Class No. 8.—J. T. Crowell, New Jersey.

The President has made the following appointments:

John A. Parker, jr., of Nebraska, Register of the Land Office at Omaha City, Nebraska Territory.

Charles W. Porter, of Missouri, Register of the Land Office at Plattsburg, Missouri.

John S. Houston, of Missouri, Receiver of the Land Office at Plattsburg, Missouri.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHT.
LATER FROM NICARAGUA.
General Walker a Passenger on Parole.

General Walker and 150 Men Captured by Commodore Paulding of the Frigate Wabash.

Two Millions in Gold from California.

NEW YORK, December 27—10 o'clock P. M.—The Steamship Northern Light has just arrived with California dates to the 5th instant.

The Northern Light brings two millions in gold from California.

Among the passengers is General Walker, who, with one hundred and fifty of his men, were captured by Commodore Paulding, of the United States frigate Wabash. The General is on parole. The men were placed on board the United States sloop-of-war Saratoga, to be conveyed to Norfolk. The lake and river steamers, which Walker had been handed over to Messrs. Janison & Morgan. These steamers had been captured by General Walker, but were re-taken by an expedition from the Wabash.

Fort Castillo had also been captured by General Walker, and a party of fifty Americans, under Col. Anderson, still hold possession of it, as well as the river San Juan. Anderson has a full supply of provisions for three months, with six-pounder artillery and an abundance of ammunition.

Captain Engle, of the Wabash, is a passenger on board the Northern Light, and is a bearer of despatches to Washington.

The river steamer C. Morgan, seized by Commodore Paulding, was put in charge of the American consul at Greytown.

The expedition that captured Gen. Walker and his men consisted of 350 men landed from the frigate Wabash.

Heavy rains had commenced falling in California, reviving trade and imparting new vigor to mining operations.

Six hundred Chinese have left San Francisco in vessels bound to China ports.

The San Francisco markets were quiet, but money was active and in demand.

Martinez has been elected President of Nicaragua, and he is making active preparations for an energetic war on Costa Rica. He has sent a force of four hundred men against Col. Anderson for the purpose of recapturing Fort Castillo.

The revolutionists in Bolivia have been successful.

The Chincha Islands are in the power of Vivanco.

The ship Andalusia, of Baltimore, is reported ashore in Callao bay, but will be got off.

FROM KANSAS.

Passage of an Act over Gov. Stanton's Veto—Reception of the President's Message.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 26.—The *Gazette* has advices from Kansas to the 17th. The Legislature had passed "An Act repealing an Act, entitled an Act to provide for taking a census, and election for delegates to a Convention," over the veto of Gov. Stanton.

In the House, the vote stood 29 to 1; in the Senate, the vote for it was unanimous.

A rumor that both Messrs. Walker and Stanton have been removed by the President, was received from Lexington on the 17th, and had been generally credited at Lecompton through the day. It has caused little excitement, almost every one saying, "Just as I expected."

The *Gazette's* correspondent adds:—The President's message was not received at Lecompton until to-night. Governor Stanton immediately had that portion of it relating to Kansas affairs printed and circulated in the Legislature. During a recess of the House, a meeting was organized, and it was read aloud.

Favorable News from the Utah Expedition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The Secretary of War this afternoon received a telegraphic despatch from Lieutenant General Scott, dated New York, in which General Scott says he has received good news from the Utah expedition. Colonels Johnston and Smith's commands and the trains were up with Colonel Alexander, and the whole body were marching upon Fort Bridger, which was only sixteen miles off on November 7. The troops were in high spirits. There was just snow enough on the ground to protect the grass from fire.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The War Department this morning received despatches confirmatory of previous advices, that all the troops of the Utah expedition were concentrated near Fort Bridger, in comparatively comfortable quarters. The reported adverse to the 5th Infantry from the Mormons is untrue, and the vacant lands heretofore withdrawn from sale or entry, lying outside of six miles on each side of the lands granted to Iowa in 1856, for railroad purposes, having been released, they will be restored to private entry at the several Land Offices in that State, on the 15th of February next.

Wreck of the Brig Golden Age.

BALTIMORE, December 27.—By an arrival from St. Thomas a report has been received that the schooner Rolndeer, arrived there from Baltimore, fell in with the wreck of the brig Golden Age, of Halifax, on the 21st of November, in lat. 23.25, long. 61.23, and took off J. Nickerson, the sole survivor who had been on the wreck twelve days.

Fire at Marion, Alabama.

AUGUSTA, Dec 27.—The Selma papers announce a destructive fire at Marion, Alabama