The Press

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1858.

FIRST PAGE.—Across the Frontier; Excerpt from a MS. Tragedy; Cause and Effect; Letter from Erie County; Foreign Miscellanies; A Philadelphia Filibuster in Custody; The Courts; General News; City; Police, &c.
FOURTH PAGE—Debtor and Creditor.

NON-ARRIVAL OF THE ATLANTIC.

The United States mail steamer from Liverpool, on the 23d ult., had not arrived at New York at 12 o'clock last night, when the telegraphic communication was closed.

AN OBSTINATE LEVIATHAN.

It is recorded in that most faithful and truth-like history, "The Vicar of Wakefield," that, once upon a time, the Primrose family, becoming a little vain, sat to an itinerant artist for a family picture, in which each and all of them were curiously grouped. The picture, for the sake of convenience, was painted in the kitchen, being the largest room in the house. When completed, every one admired it; but it was done upon such a stupendous scale that two slight difficulties occurred—there was no room in the vicarage, except the kitchen, large enough to contain the picture; and, even if there had been, no door was sufficiently capacious to admit its egress or entrance. So, good and simple-minded Dr. Primrose paid the painter, and the mammoth picture was allowed to remain in the kitchen as aforesaid, standing up against the wall, a permanent monument of the vaulting ambition which had o'erleaped itself.

It strikes us that, at this very time, the mammoth steamer, originally known as *The Great Eastern*, and lately called *The Leviathan*, is pretty much like the Vicar of Wakefield's family picture. It has been completed at great cost and with much pains; but, do what they may—and they have made numerous costly attempts—they cannot move it into the water. It obstinately insists on remaining on the earth. It reminds one of the naughty child who sat down upon a door-step and vehemently told his nurse, "The more you call me, the more I won't come." On the 16th of December a fifth and final effort was made to launch this intended Monster of the Ocean. The most powerful apparatus was employed, but all of it—hydraulic rams, windlasses, and chains, the strongest ever constructed, perhaps—got broken in regular succession, until all the expensive and enormous apparatus was broken up. [illegible]

All this, too, without moving the great vessel in the least. The report says, simply and but graphically, that though "the most tremendous efforts were made *she remained firm as a mountain*." The same authority adds, "Some idea of the extent to which the pressure was applied may be gathered from the fact that no less than three hydraulic rams, one powerful crab, or windlass, and the doubled chains which drag her towards the river, both at the stem and stern, were all burst and broken. The manner in which each of these gave way showed that the strain they were subjected to was something almost unheard of in the history of mechanics—in fact, the accident which occurred to the windlass, when a side of its massive iron drum rushed which the chain was coiled was crushed in like a nut, was not only, we believe, never known to occur before, but until yesterday such a breakage was considered almost impossible." The vessel has slipped off the one foot in 10 incline into the one in 12, and the reduced gradient exercises a retarding influence. But, adds the *Times*, "the real reason, we fear, will be found in the fact that the iron bars of the cradles and the railway metals of the ways are both considerably rusted, and that this resistance, added to the immense friction always caused by running iron on iron, offers such a bar to the further progress of the vessel as will require half the hydraulic presses in the kingdom to overcome."

The attempt to launch the *Leviathan* has been postponed, *sine die*. Of course, further efforts will be made, for a vessel large enough to convey 10,000 persons across the Atlantic must not be abandoned. Meanwhile, Mr. BRUNEL, the engineer, (son of the contractor of the Thames Tunnel) must feel very uncomfortable. Already the huge bulk of iron, riveted, welded, and braced into the outward and visible appearance of a ship, is contemptuously pointed to and spoken at, as "Brunel's Folly."

In future, we dare say, engineers will make their calculations on surer grounds and with more certain knowledge than have been exercised on this occasion. But, we cannot help thinking, as we read of the remarkable "fix" into which the *Leviathan* is placed, unwieldy and immoveable, of the great Primrose picture, doomed for ever to stand up against the kitchen-wall.

GREAT CORRUPTION FUND.

An extraordinary article appears in the Albany *Atlas and Argus*, of the 1st inst., and will doubtless create considerable sensation. We copy:

MORE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CORRUPTION CASE.—About a month ago we published a letter from Boston, which stated that disclosures connected with the failure of the house of Samuel Lawrence & Co., had revealed the startling fact that some $70,000 to $80,000 had been expended by him, in behalf of the manufacturing corporations for which he was agent, to procure the passage of a new tariff bill during the last Congress. Our correspondent also made some allusions to late Speaker, now Governor Banks, as having been in some capacity connected with the disbursement of these funds. The assertions of our correspondent created some squirming, but were not boldly denied in any quarter. The *Journal*, of this city, it is true, created additional suspicion against Mr. Banks, by the shallow defence which it set up for him, pretending that the discovery of a note given by him to Mr. Lawrence for $700, which he borrowed to build an addition to his house, was the circumstance which had connected his name with the affair.

Our information was from such a source that we have had no doubt of the substantial truth of the allegation, that some $80,000 had been expended at Washington, as a corruption fund to procure favorable legislation for manufacturing interests, and we have been expecting further developments in some authentic form. The curtain has now been lifted a little. A despatch from Boston, giving the proceedings of the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Middlesex Mills, says that a committee of investigation previously appointed reported—

That Lawrence, Stone & Co. paid $87,000 to secure the passage of the tariff of 1857, of which $8000 was disbursed by the New York house for printing, editorial service, &c., but no satisfactory explanation has yet been afforded of the application of the balance.

Eight thousand dollars was expended in New York for "printing, editorial service, &c." Who were the recipients of this $8,000? Was the distinguished Protectionist, Horace Greeley, who, in another well-known case, was the agent for distributing lobby funds in a manner which he has refused to disclose, the recipient of any part of this $8,000? Let us have a full disclosure.

But the whole sum used was $87,000, of which only $8,000 was expended in New York, and the report for Boston of "no satisfactory explanation has yet been afforded of the application of the balance." This little balance was $79,000. What has become of it? Where was it expended? Doubtless at Washington. Who pocketed it? Had Speaker Banks anything to do with it, and if so, what were his relations to the money? What members of Congress shared in the distribution of the funds?

It is pretty certain that the investigation committee of the last Congress, did not ferret out all the corruption that has festered in and about the capitol. Matteson, Gilbert & Co. were not the only members who should have been exposed. If they would consent to turn informers, there would be a terrible fluttering among many who now assume the garb of honesty. There must be an investigation of this great $80,000 corruption case. The facts should be dragged to the light. Let us know how many patriots, who were shrieking for freedom in Kansas, were at the same time holding their hands behind them to receive bribes for their votes on important measures of legislation.

The fact that so large a sum of money should have been contributed by a single house to secure the passage of the tariff of 1857 is well calculated to produce intense excitement in Congress and the country. How much other houses contributed remains to be seen.

It will not be forgotten that in the struggle on the tariff question alluded to, the interests of Pennsylvania were postponed or subordinated to promote the interests of New England. We cannot but express the hope that the parties to this scandalous transaction may be thoroughly exposed. Had Mr. GUTHRIE's reasonable compromise on that question been carried, it would have given great satisfaction to Pennsylvania, but it seems that the manufacturers of New England had taken care in advance to promote their own ends, no matter at whatever sacrifice.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Misses Heron give their concert at Musical Fund Hall, this evening, assisted by Madlle Marie Garnaud, the pianiste, and several artists and amateurs. Mr. C. H. Thunder will preside at the piano. This promises, in all respects, to be a brilliant entertainment.

A concert is to take place, on Thursday, at Musical Fund Hall, for the benefit of the Northern Home for Friendless Children. The performers will be Miss Juliana May, Signor Tiberini, Mr. Rudolphsen, Mr. Harry Sanderson, (the pianist,) and the Germania Orchestra.

NATIONAL COMPARISONS.

During the past year a severe storm has passed over the commercial world. It is interesting to examine how the several great trading nations meet such a storm.

And first as to the United States. Our Government takes care of itself, reposing no faith in any thing but hard money; paid out people, with a wretched paper-currency; take care of themselves, without help or support from the Government, during the storm. But the storm is now over; the bankrupts have either gone down or else are sure to go to pieces on the ground swell which has followed the storm, and which will prevail until the next turn of the tide; and now the Government, being out of money for its own uses, puts out treasury notes, which will keep down the banks' deposits and so prevent inflation of currency again until said treasury notes are paid off. Of course, that cannot be until business shall have revived, and the importation of goods shall have become profitable enough to yield twenty millions of duties beyond the Government's expenses.

Then as to England. The capital of her National Bank is mainly in Government debt, under the several denominations of consols, dead weight, &c. When a pressure, such as that of 1847 or 1857, comes upon the bank, she must, of course, either suspend payment, or else sell precipitately a number of millions sterling of the national debt. We do not know whether it is competent in law for the bank to make such a sale of Government debt, for the sake of avoiding suspension of cash payments; but it is certain that the present ministry, or any future ministry, will invariably direct the bank to suspend, rather than to make such a sale. For the alternative to suspension is utter destruction for a time to the credit of the Government, with a probability of an immediately ensuing popular outbreak. Imagine, gentle reader, for a moment, the consternation which not only all England but all Europe, would feel if the National Bank of England should sell consols, dead weight, &c., by millions, right and left, to get gold. Public securities would, in less than twenty-four hours, be at war-prices. Let us, therefore, not waste time hereafter upon the debates in the British Parliament on the allowableness of ministerial promises to the bank of indemnity for suspension. The bank gets her charter on condition of lending nearly all her capital to the Government.

All that she was permitted to keep active was enough to make a decent specie reserve for her discount department. The issue department is part and parcel of the Government; the securities taken for issues being either Government debt or bullion only. The bullion will always take care of the notes issued (of like amount always) against it; but the Government debt *is carried, and must be carried*, on the notes which the bank issues upon said debt; *and it would never do to sell the securities and pay the notes at the expense of the public tranquillity.*

A great deal of twaddle of a highly profound appearance is published at such times as those in the English papers, in the shape of essays on the Constitution of the National Bank. It is very well for the writers, as Englishmen, to blink the fact that the bank is, during a commercial crisis, mainly a convenient instrument for the necessary work of sustaining the national credit; but it is natural for us Americans *to view things as they are*, and to wish that letting commercial affairs *take their own course, without the interference of Governments, were as safe in the fatherland as it is in our own.*

Then, as to France. It is passing strange that people of clear heads should now speak, or for some years past should have spoken, of the Bank of France *as a specie-paying institution*. Does not everybody know that ever since LOUIS NAPOLEON made his military demonstration on Sebastopol the Bank of France has been buying gold at a premium, relatively to the notes of the said bank? and is not a bank virtually in suspension whenever her promises to pay are of less value than gold?

It is true there has been no run at any time on the bank, or open suspension by her. How can there be such a tumult in Paris, with its enormous police and their more numerous army, ready to suppress all popular excitement about gold, or any other thing which, in the Emperor's judgment, costs more than it comes to? Therefore, the French dare not and do not trouble themselves about the ability of the bank to pay specie on her domestic indebtedness. The Emperor has determined that they must consider the bank good for that. His only care is to purchase at the least possible premium, through ROTHSCHILD'S, or some other eminent banking house, enough gold to keep the bank alive *in the eyes of Europe, outside of France.* In other words, he is satisfied, provided he can keep the bank clear of discredit in the great circle of foreign trade. To do that has been hard work since that very barren and most costly war with Russia, which was hardly begun before it was found to be so great a burden on the productive industry of France as to require an immediate virtual suspension of payments by the bank *by means of artificial purchases of gold.*

We thus see that if commercial affairs, during a brief period and on great occasions, are regulated for public safety in England, much more are they, at all times, regulated in France, where the Emperor has controlled the currency movements for years past.

Let us thankfully acknowledge our own exemption from the necessity of any direct governmental interference with commerce. We often complain of the evils of our unregulated currency; but, after all, it is a great thing to be so strong as not to need a physician. The vigor of Young America carries her through a financial fit. Old England is somewhat apoplectic, and must be watched and carefully treated at her periods of plethora, or rather of commercial syncope. As for France, she is always under treatment, and always must be under treatment, so long as one twelfth part of her male population is soldiery.

LACKAWANNA AND BLOOMSBURG RAILROAD.

You permitted me to announce through your columns, a few days ago, the completion of the above road, and the commencement of a freight and passenger business through its entire length. I took occasion then to assure the bondholders that their January coupons would be paid, and it affords me great pleasure now to call their attention to the following notice from the New York *Tribune* of Saturday:

"The interest due on the first of January on the mortgage bonds of the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad Company will be paid at the Mercantile Bank of this city. Notwithstanding the hard times, the work on this road has steadily progressed to completion, and regular trains commenced running its entire length (fifty-seven miles) on the 21st of December, connecting at Scranton, Pa., with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, and at Rupert with the Catawissa, Williamsport and Erie Railroad."

This road thus far has been a complete success. Its President, Wm C. Reynold, the Treasurer, Payne Patteboue, and the Superintendent, F. S. Sevenworth; are all men of peculiar qualifications for the places they hold, and to their energy, skill, and perseverance, seconded by the co-operation of the directors, are the stock and bondholders indebted for a first-class railroad, completed in adverse times like these, without suspending the accruing interest on its loan for an hour.

I desire to rivet public attention to this fact, for its shows that railroads, though the fashion is to decry them, may be so built as to merit public confidence. W.

Attempted Escape of a Convicted Murderer.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

FREEHOLD, N. J., Jan. 4, 1858.

Donnelly (who is sentenced to be hung on the 8th inst., for the murder of Moses at the Sea View House, N. J., on the 18th of August last) made his escape from the jail last evening, about 10 o'clock, by picking the lock of his cell door, and the lock of the door leading to the jail yard, and then scaling the wall. The watchman came on duty but a few minutes after, and immediately discovered the escape, and gave the alarm. He was pursued by parties in different directions, and was captured on the main road, within a short distance from Middletown Point. A boat was seen standing on and off, on the coast, which was no doubt waiting for him. The prisoner says the arrangements for his escape were perfected at considerable expense, and would not have failed but for the failure of one of his friends to have a carriage and horse ready for him on the outside of the jail.

[The New York *Express* of last night says: "At the special request of Donnelly, Gov. Newell, of N. J., has changed the day of his execution from the 8th to the 14th of January, the longest period under the Constitution of New Jersey to which it could be delayed by the action of the Governor."] ED.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.

The steamship *Niagara*, from Liverpool via Halifax, arrived at East Boston about 5 o'clock on Sunday evening.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Short Session—Kansas Question—Filibuster Excitement—Treasury Notes, &c.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1858.

Members of both Houses have returned to the city, and the determination seems to be general that the business of the session shall be promptly disposed of. The compensation of members is not now so much *per diem*, but so much *per annum*, and the result will be, as it is clearly seen upon all hands, that the present, commonly known as the long session, instead of extending through July and sometimes August, as heretofore, will close in May.

A rumor is rife amongst the supporters of the Lecompton Constitution that the Administration will sustain, in Congress, the immediate admission of Kansas, as a State, into the Union under that instrument, in accordance with the election returns of the 21st of December. I have reason to believe that there is not a word of truth in this rumor. Mr. Buchanan will not take ground in the present phase of the question until the full returns of the election of the 4th of January are received in an official form. The probability is strong at this time that there will be a speedy fulfilment of the prophecy of Judge Douglas, and that the Administration will stand by "the uniform rule" of the will of the majority, as fairly expressed, by giving its great influence to the passage of an enabling bill similar to the Toombs bill and the Minnesota enabling bill.

It is stated that the recent instructions of the President to Commodore Paulding were sent out with the consent of Señor Yrissari, the minister of Nicaragua; and that the party in the pending difficulty which has the right to complain of the action of United States officers in arresting General Walker and his men at Punta Arenas does not complain, but, on the contrary, desired and now approves of the conduct of that officer. This being so, the question reaches a sudden adjustment, greatly to the satisfaction of fair-dealing men; I am sure, of all sections of the country.

To-day resolutions were passed in the House of Representatives calling upon the President for all the facts connected with the late expedition of General Walker.

An effort is being made to distribute the clerkships under the Government to the various States, according to population.

The Secretary of the Treasury has fixed three per cent. as the rate of interest for the first $6,000,000 of treasury notes lately authorized by law. These notes will be issued within ten days.

The rank of lieutenant-general in the United States army was created for the purpose of rewarding eminent services, like those of General Scott, in that branch of the public service, and to establish a similar rank in the navy, with a view to afford some palpable evidence of the national regard for the eminent services of Commodore Stewart. Mr. Phillips tried to introduce in the House, this morning, the following resolution:

"*A Resolution authorizing the President of the United States to confer the title of Captain-in-Chief for eminent services.*

"That the grade of Captain-in-Chief be, and the same is hereby, established in the navy of the United States, in order that when in the opinion of the President and Senate, it shall be deemed proper to acknowledge eminent service of any officer in the navy, the grade of Captain-in-Chief may be specially conferred to take rank from the date of his commission, and the said Captain-in-Chief shall receive as a full compensation, and in lieu of all pay and rations, the sum of five thousand dollars per annum: *Provided, however*, That when the said grade of Captain-in-Chief shall have once been filled and have become vacant, this joint resolution shall thereafter expire and be of no effect."

Many remonstrances were presented in both branches of citizens of Philadelphia against the occupation of the Pennsylvania Bank Building for the uses of the Post Office, and in favor of the Custom House for that purpose. X. Y.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1858.

It is confidently stated here that Governor Denver declares, in the most frank and undisguised manner, that Governor Walker and Secretary Stanton had pursued the wisest course in their management of the affairs of the Territory. It is a very remarkable fact, that whilst these late officials are so severely handled out of the country, and here, a thousand miles away from the scene of their labors, all persons of every party in Kansas, or who come from there, unite in commendations of Walker and Stanton's course, as the only just, wise, and politic one in the circumstances of the Territory.

By-the-bye, there is a prospect of Mr. Clingman being sent to the Senate. The death of Judge Porter, of the U. S. District Court, has created a vacancy for which the delegates from North Carolina have unanimously recommended Senator Biggs. He will probably be appointed and Clingman will receive from Governor Bragg the commission for the vacancy, with a prospect of being elected by the Legislature at the next session, together with Bragg, there being two vacancies to fill in case Biggs receives the appointment of judge.

Senator Shields, of Minnesota, arrived in town yesterday, looking as young, sturdy, and vigorous as when, ten years ago, he embarked for the "big wars," in which he played so gallant a part. Senator Rice is on his way. These gentlemen are devoted friends of Judge Douglas, and will go with him on the Kansas question. Judge Douglas, returned last night, in excellent spirits, greatly confirmed in his conviction that the people of the North, including four-fifths of the Democracy, are all with him on the issue which a few rash and reckless partisans have endeavored to inflame into a permanent and serious feud in the party.

The accounts from the West continue to indicate a universality of opposition to the Lecompton swindle in that location. Kentucky, too, sends up such demonstrances against the scheme as may well cause the representatives of that gallant State to pause before identifying themselves with the extremists of the dinnion faction.

James B. Clay, the son of the gallant Harry of the West, who represents the largest slaveholding district in Kentucky, openly declares his determination to require full proofs that the Lecompton Convention expresses the will of the people, and counsels his colleagues not to commit themselves against an enabling act. John W. Stevenson, of the Covington district, one of the ablest, most solid and reliable men in Congress, "a chip of the old block," being the only son of the long time distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives, Andrew Stevenson, is a warm friend of Douglas, though he does not concur in all his opinions on this subject of Kansas.

During the holidays a great many elegant dinners have been given by members of Congress and public officials. Yesterday was particularly marked by two splendid entertainments, one by Hon. James B. Clay, to a company composed principally of Kentuckians, at which Col. Benton and his two daughters, and daughter-in-law, who is a sister of Mrs. Clay, the Vice-President, and several other notabilities, were present. Hon. George Pendleton, of Ohio, who married a daughter of Francis R. Key, the author of "The Star Spangled Banner," also entertained the Democratic delegation from his State, and other prominent Ohioans in the city. Senator Pugh, Ex-Controller and Ex-Governor Medill, Hon. Mr. Parrott, of Kansas, Mr. Atkinson, and the whole Democratic delegation from the State, were present. The peculiarity of this entertainment was that the wines used were exclusively of the native vintage, including some half a dozen different brands and descriptions.

Apropos of wines, I tasted yesterday some specimens of the sparkling California sent to the Hon. Mr. Scott, one of the Representatives from our Pacific Eldorado, which is decidedly superior to any wine ever produced in this country, and quite equal to the best imported article. It has not the cloying sweetness of the Cincinnati wine, is softer, and leaves none of that acidity which constitutes so great an objection to the Longworth brand, in the preparation of which too much candy or sugar is used to promote fermentation, and subdue the sharpness of the Catawba juice. I learn that the grape is very prolific in California, and obtains a richer and mellower flavor in that fine dry climate than in any other part of the continent. It is destined to be a very important and profitable culture. To promote the cultivation of grape and the manufacture of wine, it has been proposed to appropriate a small sum, to be placed at the disposal of the Secretary of the Interior, to defray the expenses of some competent person or persons in an inquiry into the culture of grape in the wine growing countries of the old world, and the various modes of making wine. The great success of this business in Ohio has demonstrated that our land and labor cannot be more profitably employed than in the production of wine, whilst the beneficial effects upon the habits and morals of our people from the general introduction of light wines as a popular beverage, instead of the poisonous and maddening alcoholic drinks so commonly used, and so prolific of crime, vice, and misery, must be evident to all reflecting persons.

Messrs. Majors and Russell have again obtained the contract for transporting the supplies for the army in Utah. X.

THE SALE OF FINE ENGRAVINGS, in elegant gilt frames, will be continued this morning, at *Mr. Robinson's*, 910 *Chesnut street*. The best of the collection are yet to be sold.

STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE, this evening, at the Exchange. See Thomas & Sons' catalogues and advertisements of the above sales.

Moss's Diaries.—Our almost neighbors, Moss, Brother & Co., (of 16 South Fourth street,) have sent us a set of their Diaries for 1858, variously adapted for the use of lawyers, merchants, business-men in general, and private families. Even the very smallest has a space reserved for each day in the year, for memoranda, and for cash account.

Personal.—Col. G. W. Lane, of Baltimore, arrived, yesterday evening, at the American Hotel, and will remain until Thursday. He imported six splendid entire horses from Russia, to improve the stock in this country, and they may be seen at the stables of the William Penn Hotel, Market street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, this forenoon.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Meeting of the General Assembly—The kind of Men sent Hitherto—Candidates—Change in the Representation of Cumberland—A Vacancy—Notaries.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, January 4, 1858.

To-morrow is the day for the meeting of the General Assembly, and already a numerous company has taken possession of the hotels and other places of public resort. These are in good part composed of Senators and Representatives; but there is besides a cloud of outsiders come on to represent themselves for the positions in the two houses. There was much caucusing, canvassing, trading, and other of the concomitants of politics in the bar-rooms yesterday, with what result cannot be known until to-night, when the Democratic caucus of the House meets, or Tuesday morning, when does that of the Senate.

The Democratic party has twenty-one out of thirty-three Senators, and sixty-nine Representatives out of one hundred.

It is a common thing, by the way, to hear men talk of the General Assembly as though it represented only the rabble; that instead of electing our rising young men and matured talent, we send only the intellectual poverty of the State. The opposite is the case. Scarcely a man who has ever reached any exalted position in the nation from Pennsylvania but has at one time or other been a member of the State Legislature. It is the stepping stone to higher honors, a station on the road to eminence. Seven Cabinet Secretaries have served here, commencing with Albert Gallatin, and ending with William M. Meredith; nearly all the United States Senators, every Governor but McKean, Shunk, and Pollock, and others distinguished in the different walks of life without number. To particularize I might mention James Buchanan, Horace Binney, John Bannister Gibson, Thomas Sergeant, George Shurswood, John K. Kane, John M. Read, Josiah Randall, Henry M. Watts, William B. Reed Jas. Thompson, John C. Knox, Moulton C. Rogers, John Sergeant, Richard Coulter, S. W. Roberts, Walter Forward, and many more.

The contest for Speaker of the Senate is between Welsh, of York; Brower, of Franklin, and Cresswell, of Blair; in the House between A. B. Longaker, of Montgomery; Geo. N. Smith, of Cambria, and Steuben Jenkins, of Luzerne. For the other offices the names are legion.

The representation of several counties is changed by the last apportionment bill, *e. g.*: York, Cumberland, Bucks, Berks, and Lancaster each *loses*, whilst Philadelphia *gains* two, and Schuylkill, Butler, and Luzerne each *gain* one member. Philadelphia is cut down to four Senators by the Constitution prohibiting any one county having more than four. If she was represented in the upper House according to population and wealth, she would have six Senators; and why this should not be the case is not very apparent to the believers in the maxim that "taxation and representation are inseparable."

The ancient military spirit of the Commonwealth is by no means extinct if the militia laws are about obsolete. Upwards of twenty-five companies have signified their intention to be present at the inauguration of Governor Packer—seven of them hailing from Philadelphia, and all under the command of Major General William M. Keim, of Reading.

One member of the House has died since the October election—Mr. J. B. Backhouse, of Allegheny. The proper steps will be taken on the second or third day after the meeting of the Legislature, so that an election to fill this vacancy will probably take place on the fourth Tuesday of January.

Governor Pollock is about filling a batch of notaryships, which are soon to become vacant. Among those already commissioned are C. McClearry and John A. Hiestand, of Lancaster; Dr. Saml. Smith, of Pittsburgh, and S. B. Lauffer, Esq., of Allegheny City. Yours, M.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, January 4, 1858.

SENATE.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, introduced a joint resolution to define the authority of the President under the act to amend the act to promote the efficiency of the navy," in respect to the dropped and retired naval officers, and gave notice of his intention to call it up.

Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, gave notice of his intention to introduce the French Spoliation Bill.

On motion of Mr. FITZPATRICK, of Alabama, a resolution was adopted requesting the President, as far as may be compatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate the correspondence, instructions, and orders to the United States naval forces on the coast of Central America, connected with the arrest of William Walker and his associates at or near the port of San Juan, in Nicaragua; also, to transmit such further information as he may possess relative to that event.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to provide for the admission of the Territory of Kansas into the Union. The bill was referred to the Committee on Territories. Mr. Pugh stated that he offered the bill as a compromise, and explained that it provides for the admission of Kansas into the Union, under the Lecompton Constitution, with the same boundaries as defined by the bill passed by the last Congress. It also requires that the seventh article of that Constitution, relative to slavery, shall be submitted to the direct vote of the qualified electors, on the seventh of April next, and that the returns of this election shall be made to the Governor of the Territory, instead of to the President of the Lecompton Convention; the election to be conducted in obedience to the laws in force on the seventh of November last. The bill also provides that the Constitution shall not be so construed as to limit or impair the right of the people, at any time, to call a Convention for the purpose of altering, amending, or abolishing their form of government, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States. That section of the Constitution in reference to public lands to be rejected. Mr. Pugh stated that he would avail himself of an early opportunity to explain the provisions of the bill more in detail.

Mr. PIERRE, of Louisiana, submitted a resolution providing for the printing, for the use of the Senate, of twenty thousand copies of the opinions of the Judges of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, commenced a speech, advocating the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton Constitution; but he had not proceeded far, when he was seized with a vertigo, and was obliged to yield the floor, expressing the hope that he would be able to proceed with his remarks to-morrow.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker submitted a letter from N. P. Banks to the effect that he has forwarded to the Governor of Massachusetts his resignation as a member from the Sixth Congressional District of that State.

Mr. CLINGMAN, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a resolution that the President be requested, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interests, to communicate all information in his possession relative to the seizure of Gen. William Walker and his followers in Nicaragua, together with such instructions given to naval officers and other officers, pertaining to the subject.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, said he should like the gentleman to modify his resolution, so as to call for all information respecting the fitting out of the expedition in this country by Walker.

Mr. CLINGMAN replied that he would modify the resolution if he had the power, but it being a report from a committee he could not do so.

The resolution was received under a suspension of the rules by a vote of yeas 117, nays 47.

After some debate, the resolution was passed.

Mr. CLINGMAN said that a moment's reflection would convince gentlemen that the resolution should be adopted. It was sufficiently broad to cover the entire ground, and the President would be likely to inform the House what this man Walker had been doing. This was a matter of great importance, which the House could not overlook. It involved three considerations to bring it to their notice.

In the first place, the rights of Walker and his followers who had been seized. Whether they were criminal or not is another question. *Secondly*—the rights of Nicaragua, or the people who now owns the territory invaded. *Thirdly*, and of more importance, which did not depend on either the two points preceding; it appeared that one of our naval officers, whether or not by the authority of the President, had marched with a body of men into a foreign territory, and brought away Gen. Walker and his one or two hundred men by force. It must strike every one that this was an act of war.

Suppose Walker was a bad man, this did not justify an invasion of Nicaragua for his arrest. Suppose Nicaragua did not object to this invasion of her soil by a foreign army for that purpose, this did not justify Commodore Paulding. If a civil war or rebellion was in progress there, and our officers suppressed it, the triumphant army would not complain. He had no doubt that, if in the revolution at Paris, the American troops had interfered in behalf of Louis Philippe, the latter would not have complained of America.

Mr. RITCHIE, of Pennsylvania, interposing, said the act of Commodore Paulding was justifiable on the ground that General Walker was a fugitive from criminal law, and the officers being despatched after him, had a right to arrest him anywhere.

Mr. CLINGMAN, resuming, remarked that he did not concur with his friend. If a fugitive go into Canada, we would have a right to make the demand of a foreign Government for his restoration. But if we invaded that territory, the gentleman from Pennsylvania could see that it would involve us in much trouble, and would present a very serious question. Congress may authorize an interference in the affairs of a foreign country; but as Congess is the war-making power; our officers have no right to invade a foreign country without authority. If we justify the invasion of Central America by Commodore Paulding, what may not Great Britain do? If we land forces there and interfere with the affairs of that country, Great Britain can do the same. If this be not a violation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, what is? The Government of the United States is bound to disavow the act of Com. Paulding. Were we to leave our naval officers the discretion to commit acts of this description? The President himself cannot do it, and certainly not his subordinates.

Mr. WARREN, of Arkansas, objected to the discussion of the merits of the question, on a mere resolution calling for information. While he was prepared to vote on the resolution, he was not ready to commit himself on the question till properly advised of all the facts.

Mr. CLINGMAN said he had no doubt that the House will get the information quite speedily, perhaps to-morrow.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, said it was the right of the House to be informed of all the facts relative to the fitting out of the expedition in this country by General Walker, and all the information respecting his capture and return.

Voices. "That's right—let's have it all."

Mr. FAULKNER, of Virginia, moved an amendment to the resolution calling on the President to communicate all the facts or information which rendered it probable that William Walker was engaged last summer and autumn, within the limits of the United States, in fitting out a military expedition against the people and territory of Nicaragua. Also, copies of all orders, letters, and instructions addressed to the various officers of the Government, relative thereto, together with such other measures adopted to arrest said military enterprise and enforce the neutrality laws, embracing the instructions, if any, to Commodore Paulding for the arrest of Walker, and showing how it had been approved or disavowed by the Government.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, of New York, would have the inquiry made to include all the circumstances bearing on this important question. It was essential to know what was Walker's position in regard to the laws of the United States when he left our shores, by what authority he assumed to act, and whether his authority was an assumption against the laws of the United States. This was as important as his attitude in relation to the Government itself.

Mr. SAVAGE, of Tennessee, said the House was not in a condition at present to discuss the question with justice to the country, the Administration and our great interests involved in Central America, interests such as no other nation has there. Without being a partisan of Walker, he would say the cause of which Walker seemed to be the representative, whether worthy or unworthy, deserved candid consideration. It was a policy which looked to interests great and deep as the foundations of this Government. As to the Clayton and Bulwer treaty it was infamous. He could not find language sufficiently strong to express his detestation of it. The treaty was as stupendous a fraud as ever disgraced the country.

HUMPHREY MARSHALL, of Kentucky, offered an amendment to Mr. Faulkner's amendment, calling on the President further to communicate whether our Government, prior to the arrest of Walker, had undertaken or by treaty arrangement with the existing Government of Nicaragua, the peaceable enjoyment of the Transit route between the Caribbean sea and the Pacific ocean, or otherwise assume the protectorate of the said route, with the army of the United States, if necessary. Mr. Marshall said his intention was to ascertain to what extent this Government had assumed the protectorate, which might induce it to shield an officer who had violated the law.

The original resolution, as amended by Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Marshall, was then passed.

Mr. KELSEY, of New York, offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the President to inform the House whether the Government of Nicaragua has made any complaint on account of Com. Paulding's seizure of Walker and his followers.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE introduced a bill to establish a collector of the districts of the United States, designating the ports of entry and delivery in the same, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts, submitted a resolution, which was passed, proposing to alter the admeasurement of American vessels.

Mr. KEITT, of South Carolina, introduced a bill to organize a regiment of mounted volunteers for the Texan frontier.

On motion of Mr. COBB, of Alabama, a resolution was adopted, instructing the Committee on Territories to report at its opinion, whether or not the organic act of Utah ought to be repealed, and that Territory attached to an adjoining Territory.

Mr. QUITMAN, of Mississippi, asked leave to introduce a bill to repeal certain sections of the neutrality laws.

Mr. GROW, of Pennsylvania, objected.

Mr. ZOLLICOFFER, of Tennessee, introduced a bill providing for the establishment of a branch of the Military Academy at the Hermitage, Tennessee.

On motion of Mr. SMITH, of Illinois, a committee of five was ordered to be appointed, to investigate all the facts connected with the late sale at Fort Snelling, with power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. BLAIR, of Missouri, introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, authorizing the contractors for carrying the mails from the Mississippi river to San Francisco, under the act of March last, to adopt any route they may choose.

Mr. GREENWOOD, of Arkansas, introduced a bill to repeal the act establishing the Court of Claims. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, introduced a bill to punish the practice of polygamy in the Territory of the United States, and for other purposes. He moved its reference to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, wished to know whether the bill applied to the District of Columbia?

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, replied, Certainly, it applies to all Territories. [Laughter]

Mr. READY, of Tennessee, thought that as the bill provides penalties or fines, it ought to be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KEITT thought the proper reference would be to the Committee on Naval Affairs. [Laughter]

Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, acquiesced in this suggestion.

Mr. GROW remarked, that as this was a "domestic" institution, the Committee on Territories should be entrusted with its consideration. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

All the States and Territories were called in succession, when a large number of bills and resolutions were introduced and appropriately referred. Adjourned.

Affairs at Harrisburg—Approaching Session of the Legislature.

HARRISBURG, January 4.—The Legislature will assemble to-morrow, and a large number of members having already arrived, there will no doubt be a quorum present of both houses. The first business in order will be the election of Speakers, and the Democrats will hold their caucuses this evening, or to-morrow morning before the hour of meeting.

The applicants for the various offices in the gift of the two houses are very numerous, and boring is progressing extensively. As there are Democratic majorities in both branches, the operations are confined to that party.

The candidates for Speaker of the Senate are as follows: Messrs. Welsh, of York, Crosswell, of Blair, Brower, of Franklin, Schell, of Bedford, and Wright, of Philadelphia.

For Speaker of the House, the prominent candidates are: Messrs G. N. Smith, of Cambria, J. Smith, of Wyoming, Neill, of Franklin, Longaker, of Montgomery, and Lukens, of Columbia.

The candidates for Clerk of the Senate are Thos. C. McDowell, of Blair, Wm. H. Miller, of Harrisburg, and Thos. W. Duffield, of Philadelphia. George W. Hamersley, the present incumbent, will be supported by the Republicans.

Capt. J. Ziegler, the present Clerk of the House, has no opposition. The candidates for the other offices are legion.

The Governor's Message will be ready for delivery on Wednesday, at noon.

SECOND DESPATCH.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 4.—*Evening.*—Both parties of the House of Representatives held a caucus this evening.

The Democrats nominated Hon. A. B. Longaker, of Montgomery county, as Speaker, on the first ballot, which stood:

A. B. Longaker	58
Geo. N. Smith, of Cambria	9

Capt. Jacob Ziegler was renominated as Clerk, unanimously.

The Republicans nominated Hon. Thomas Struthers as Speaker. No nomination for Clerk was made, and it is probable that the name of Mr. Ziegler will be unanimous—a handsome compliment, which that gentleman's ability as an officer and courtesy as a gentleman eminently merit.

The Senate caucus will be held to-morrow morning.

Washington Affairs.

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