The Press.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1858.

FIRST PAGE.—A Lesson from "Punch;" Notices of New Books; Magazines; The City Directory; Correspondence: From Harrisburg—From Delaware—From Greene County. Foreign Miscellaneous News; General News; The Late Conflagration at Chicago; City Police; Philadelphia Markets, &c.

SUBMISSION OF STATE CONSTITUTIONS TO THE PEOPLE.

The opposition to the manifestly only just proposition of submitting the Constitution of Kansas to the people, has led to some discussion as to what has been the usual course adopted in the different States of the Union in respect to their constitutions. The following table is believed to be correct:

STATES WHOSE CONSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE FOR RATIFICATION.

California, Nov. 13	1849	Michigan, Nov. 6	1850
Connecticut, Oct. 5	1818	New Jersey, Aug. 13	1844
Georgia, 1st Mon. Oct.	1839	New York, Nov. 2	1846
Illinois, March 1	1848	N. Carolina, Nov. 9	1835
Indiana, August 4	1851	Ohio, June 17	1851
Iowa, August 3	1846	R Island, Nov. 21-22	1841
Kentucky	1850	Tennessee, March	1835
Louisiana, Nov. 2	1852	Texas, Oct. 13	1855
Maine	1820	Virginia, Oct. 23-4-5	1853
Maryland, June 6	1851	Wisconsin, April	1848
Massachusetts	1780	Missouri, July 19	1820
Alabama	1819	N. Hampshire, Sep.	1792
Arkansas, Jan. 4	1836	Pennsylvania	1838
Delaware, Dec. 2	1831	South Carolina	1790
Florida	1839	Vermont	1850
Mississippi, October	1832		

It appears, therefore, that *thirty-one* States have had their constitutions submitted to the people. If there is any mistake in the above table, it is as to the dates when the States submitted their constitutions to the people.

In New Hampshire, 1851, and in Delaware, 1853, new constitutions were submitted to the people, and rejected. In fact, therefore, their present constitutions, however originated, have been specially accepted by the people. These would make thirty-one popularly ratified constitutions in the Union, deriving their authority solely from the people.

The reformed Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania was submitted to the people in October, of 1838, and was adopted by a decided vote. By that instrument it is provided that any future amendment of the Constitution must first be adopted by two successive Legislatures, and then submitted to a popular vote at a subsequent election; and if this vote approves the amendments, they shall be incorporated with the Constitution. The principle that a majority of the people shall control now contended against by a portion of our countrymen, in the case of Kansas, is the most sacred element of our political system, without which we should be the prey of misrule and anarchy in every State of the Union.

OUR TRADE WITH THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

We stated, a few days ago, that the great bulk of foreign commerce on the part of the Sandwich Islands was from the United States, and that France, which is intriguing to establish a Protectorate there—with a view to ultimate usurpation of sovereignty, as in the Marquesas and the Society Islands—had scarcely any commercial relations there. We now from the latest official returns published at Honolulu, shall show how the case stands.

The declared value of all dutiable produce and manufactures imported by the Sandwich Islands amounts $1,281,951 per annum. Of this, the largest proportion comes from the United States, and is $954,919. The next is China, which sends to the value of $42,056. Then Chili, $38,099. Great Britain is only fourth, at $20,471. Bremen sends $12,220 worth of goods. The Empire of France sends to the value of—thirty dollars a year!

Of the sperm oil exported from the Sandwich Islands, 174,020 gallons are sold to Great Britain, and only 476 gallons to France. Every year 500 American, and only 19 French whalers put into the Sandwich Islands, and 137 American trade thither against *five* French merchant vessels.

It is clear, then, that France has not the shadow of a claim, on the plea of commercial connection, to assume a political protectorate of these Islands, and that the United States are not only their next neighbors, but their most extensive customers.

☞ We will print, at an early day, the polished and powerful speech of Hon. D. E. Sickles, of New York, delivered on Wednesday, against the "Pirate of the Gulf," General Walker.

☞ Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie, of The Press, will deliver his fine lecture on "Irish Characteristics," at Lebanon, Pa., on Monday evening next.

☞ In our Harrisburg letter, to-day, will be found important extracts from the report of the State Treasurer on the revenue and expenditures of the Commonwealth.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Nicaragua Question—Commercial Restricti ons —Gen. Henderson, &c., &c.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7th, 1858.

The large delegations in the House from New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio are a unit in support of the Administration on the General Walker question; and the evidence is palpable to all that the opposition will embrace only the ultra men of the South. General Walker and his friends themselves feel satisfied of this, but they nevertheless continue their efforts to elevate him up to the dignity of a hero.

The commercial intercourse of the United States with some of the Central and South American States, and with some of the Kingdoms in the north of Europe, is fettered with restrictions at variance with the spirit of the age, and particularly with the relations of amity existing between them and ourselves.

The Danish dues treaty has struck off one of these unjust shackles, and Mr. Buchanan, aided by both houses, I am led to believe, will pursue with vigor and promptitude the course so auspiciously begun, in this regard, by his predecessor. We have gone on in prosperity, and our ambition as a commercial nation has become enlarged.

We look now not alone to the trade of this continent, but, beside that, to the rich trade of the East and of the Baltic; we look to supplying Europe by perfecting our more rapid means of transmission, as Europe has heretofore supplied us with the products of the Orient.

Brazil and Paraguay must do away with their onerous exactions, and there are some short-cuts, now being looked after, which will go far to help along the consummation of the wishes of both our Atlantic and Pacific seaboards.

It is stated that General Walker refuses to yield up his command of filibuster movements against Nicaragua, and that unless he does, and a full complement of men and munitions of war are provided, General Henningsen declines to take part in the next expedition for that quarter.

The War Department has not yet fixed upon a plan of operations for next spring of the United States forces, under the command of Col. Johnston.

The Secretary of War and Lieutenant-General Scott are in daily consultation on the subject.

Whatever appropriations may be desired for any contemplated extraordinary duties of our army will be estimated for, and the estimates submitted to the Committee of Ways and Means, to be embraced in the deficiency bill.

The President, I learn, declines committing himself as to his future action on the Kansas question to anybody, stating that that action cannot be fairly determined on until the fullest information has been received of the election returns of the 4th of January, and their character, whether fair or fraudulent.

The recommendations of the message in reference to a hard-money currency have made a deep and favorable impression upon the minds of members, and will, I think, be productive of valuable results. The tariff act of 1857 will undergo a revision; but any material and fundamental change of its provisions during the present feeling on the subject, can hardly be hoped for. A specific duty and a home valuation may be urged upon the importation of iron. Heretofore, Pennsylvania has stood alone in the Union in support of this branch of industry; but, just now, the iron wealth of Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, and other States, (for Minnesota is a State to all intents,) has been developed, and their representatives are urgent in their demands that it shall not be disregarded.

A proposition will be submitted to Congress for the abolition of the existing warehouse system, that goods shall pay duties immediately upon their importation. Of course, I presume that the goods now in bond will be excluded from the effects of any such law.

A reception was given at Secretary Cobb's residence last evening, which was well and fashionably attended.

The subjoined are the main facts set forth in the latest weekly statement of the United States Treasury:

Treasury balance, Dec. 31	$5,014,705 75
Amount of receipts	326,595 88
Drafts returned, paid	636,325 34
Drafts issued	963,537 16
Reduction	$636,971 23

X. Y. Z.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, } January 7, 1858. }

SENATE.

Mr. J. R. HAMMOND, Senator from South Carolina in place of Mr. Butler, deceased, took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. SEWARD, of New York, presented petitions from the citizens of Canandaigua, New York, praying for the adoption of some practical measure by which the people of the North may co-operate with the people of the South in the extinguishment of slavery, by making fair and honorable compensation to the slave owners for the full value of their slaves.

The petition was ordered to be tabled.

On motion of Mr. KING, of New York, a resolution was adopted, requesting the President to furnish, if not incompatible with the public interests, copies of the correspondence and despatches from our Ministers at the Courts of England, France, and other powers, on the subject of the dangers of emigrants, arising from their contracting with irresponsible persons for their inland passage.

On motion of Mr. FOOT, of Vermont, a resolution was adopted, calling on the President to communicate all the official despatches and correspondence of Robert McLane and Peter Parker, late Commissioners in China, with the State Department.

On motion of Mr. GWIN, of California, the Committee on Foreign Relations were instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation by law for the compensation of the Minister Plenipotentiary to the Empire of Japan, and for the officers of the United States Government in Japan.

The following message was received from the President, in response to the call for information relative to the recent events in Central America:

To submitting to the Senate the papers for which they have called, I deem it proper to make a few observations. In capturing General Walker and his command after they had landed on the soil of Nicaragua, Commodore Paulding has, in my opinion, committed a grave error. It is quite evident, however, from the communications herewith transmitted, that this was done from pure and patriotic motives, and in the sincere conviction that he was promoting the interests and vindicating the honor of his country.

Transportation to Nicaragua, she has sustained no injury by the act of Commodore Paulding. This has inured to her benefit, and relieved her from a dreaded invasion. She alone would have any right to complain of the violation of her territory, and it is quite certain she will never exercise this right. It does not lie in the mouth of her invaders to complain in her name. She has been rescued by Commodore Paulding from their tyranny. The error of this gallant officer consists in exceeding his instructions and landing his sailors and marines in Nicaragua, whether with or without her consent, for the purpose of making war upon that military force whatever, which he might find in the country, no matter from whence they came. This power certainly did not belong to him. Obedience to the law and conformity to instructions are the best and safest guides for all officers, civil and military, and when they transcend these limits and act upon their own responsibility, evil consequences almost inevitably follow. Under these circumstances, when Marshal Rynders presented himself at the State Department on the 20th ult., with General Walker in custody, the Secretary informed him that the Executive Department of the Government did not recognise Gen. Walker as a prisoner; that it had no directions to give concerning him, and that it is only through the action of the judiciary that he could be lawfully held in custody to answer any charges that might be brought against him. In thus far disapproving the conduct of Commodore Paulding, no inference must be drawn that I am less determined than I have ever been to execute the neutrality laws of the United States. This is my imperative duty, and I shall continue to perform it by all the means which the Constitution and the laws have placed in my power. My opinion of the nature and importance of these laws corresponds entirely with that expressed by Mr. Monroe, in his message to Congress of December 17th, 1819. That wise, prudent and patriotic statesman says it is of the highest importance to our national character, and indispensable to the morality of our citizens, that all violations of our neutrality laws should be prevented. No door should be left open for the cession of our arms—no opportunity afforded to any who may be disposed to take advantage of it to compromise the interest or honor of the nation.

The crime of setting on foot or providing the means for military expeditions, within the United States, to make war against a foreign State with which we are at peace, is one of an aggravated character, and early engaged the attention of Congress. Whether the executive government possesses any or what power under the Constitution, independently of Congress, to prevent or punish this and similar offences against the law of nations, is a subject which engaged the attention of our most eminent statesmen in the time of the Administration of General Washington, and on the occasion of the French Revolution.

The act of Congress of the 5th of June, 1794, fortunately removed all the difficulties of this question which had heretofore existed. The fifth and seventh sections of this act which relate to the present question are the same in substance with the sixth and eighth sections of the act of April, 1818, and have been in force for a period of more than forty years. The military expedition rendered criminal by this act must have its origin in the United States, or be set on foot, in the United States; but the great object of the law was to save foreign States, with whom we were at peace, from the ravages of those lawless expeditions from our shores.

The seventh section alone, therefore, which simply defines the crime and its punishment, would have been inadequate to accomplish the purpose and enforce our international duties. In order to render the law effectual, it was necessary to prevent the carrying on of such expeditions to their consummation before they had succeeded in leaving our shores. This has been done effectually, and in clear and explicit language, in the authority given to the President under the eighth section of the act to employ the land and naval forces of the United States for the purpose of preventing the carrying on of any such expeditions or enterprises from the territories or jurisdiction of the United States against the territories or domain of any foreign prince or State, or of any colony, district, or people, with whom the United States are at peace.

For these reasons, had Commodore Paulding intercepted the steamer Fashion, with General Walker and his command on board, at any period before they entered the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, and conducted them back to Mobile, he would have proved himself from carrying on the expedition, and have been not only a justifiable but a praiseworthy act. The crime will be consummated whenever the armed force is set on foot by our laws. It violates the principles of Christianity, morality, and humanity held sacred by all the civilized nations of the world, more or less so should be passed upon this officer, what shall be done with the chief offender, who has been brought back.

Nothing has been done toward bringing him to trial for the offence for which he stands indicted, and if the President is defied to his teeth by Walker, in his last letter, in which he states that, "no matter who may interfere, at home or abroad, he is determined to proceed in the prosecution of his design. If the honorable Senators insisted upon it, he was quite willing that censure should be passed upon Commodore Paulding; but he must ask them, in justice, to mete out some punishment for this greater crime. Suppose the Government should punish Paulding, and leave the others go unpunished, what is the lesson which will be learned from this affair? It is that you may go out of the jurisdiction of the United States, and levy war against any nation with whom we are at peace, provided you can only escape the vigilance of the police on land.

And if you shall be arrested after you commence your acts, although the State shall be grateful for the protection which it receives, still the officer who makes the arrest shall be punished, and you shall not be apprehended. To be consistent they should go further, and propose to restore General Walker to the place from which he was taken; and, if there is a right to invade Nicaragua, it will equally right to invade New Granada or Brazil, or any other South American State. Why should we punish the Pawnees or Apaches for committing depredations upon our citizens, and claim that our citizens shall go abroad with impunity, and commit depredations upon the people of other States? If gentlemen think the principle is right, let them introduce a bill to repeal the neutrality laws

JEFF. DAVIS. To what principle does the Senator allude?

Mr. SEWARD. It is this: that the crime is altogether in the offender's being caught. If he can escape from the United States and reach the country against which the war is to be made, then the act is innocent and right.

Mr. DAVIS. Nobody on this side of the chamber asserts such a principle as that.

Mr. SEWARD called the attention of the Senator to what had been said by his colleague (Mr. Brown,) that General Walker had violated no law; but the President, on the other hand, thought he had not only violated the law of the land, but had also violated the higher law. (Laughter.)

Mr. DAVIS replied that it was the sacred privilege of an American citizen to bear arms; and, whenever he chose to leave his own country and go to Nicaragua, to sustain or assist them when he was engaged in a struggle for liberty, he had a right to do so.

Mr. TOOMBS, of Georgia, thought the message contained grave and important errors, and entered his dissent from them. The President dared not to defend, while he endeavored to palliate this outrage to an American Senate. After examining some of the grounds upon which that palliation was attempted, he said the President assumed a question now before the legal tribunals of the country. He had assumed that the neutrality laws had been violated, and that it was his business to enforce them. Mr. TOOMBS denied that there was any proof that such was the case. But he admitted, for the sake of argument, that this was true. What right has the President to use the army and navy all over the earth? This was a usurpation of the authority, not only in derogation of the law, but in derogation of his oath of office. He must get the authority of the law to use any extra-territorial jurisdiction whatever. He could command no popular respect as a vindicator of the laws of the country unless he himself shall obey the laws. But in this case the law has been violated for the purpose of vindicating another. He said Governor Kossuth was invited into the Senate chamber to show himself years ago. That gentleman was driven from power by Austria and Russia, and came here after "material aid" to replace himself.

That was just the case of Walker; and while he was glorified the other was vilified. As to the letter of Commodore Paulding, the worse brutality of that correspondence, it must be admitted by every human being, totally unfitted him, not only to be commandor of a ship, but even to be its cabin boy.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, understood it would be a cause of war by Nicaragua against this country, if an expedition be unlawfully set on foot within our jurisdiction against her. The President was as much bound to maintain the faith of treaties as any law of the country.

But it is not within the theory of our Government to fit out expeditions to catch half a dozen, or a dozen, or one or two hundred men who may choose to leave the United States and land upon their shores. In this respect he thought we were making great departure from the principles which heretofore guided the conduct of our Government. If it be the pleasure of Congress to give the President police powers over the high seas, and authorize him to use the army and navy as a constabulary force, let it be done by the passage of a law with that view.

Mr. MASON doubted the expediency of discussing the subject without more mature deliberation. The President was, by the Constitution, at the head of the army and navy, and the laws of the land direct how these are to be used. He contented himself with the remark that it was clearly incumbent on the President to see that the neutrality laws were faithfully executed.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, of Kentucky, referred to the President's admission that Commodore Paulding had committed a grave error. According to his own premises such a conclusion was altogether illogical, and the conduct of Paulding was as conformable to the law as if he had received express instructions to do what he did.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, regarded it as little singular that while the President disapproved of the arrest of General Walker, he, at the same time, excused that act. The arrest of Walker was in violation of the law; for if Com. Paulding had a right to make the arrest, his conduct is not only excused but applauded. If he had no legal right to do that act, then the President owes it to the people and the country to condemn it. If Walker was guilty of any violation of the law, and had been arrested and brought back to our shores as a fugitive from justice, why is he not put into the clutches of the law? Why was he brought to New York, placed in the hands of the United States marshal, and then brought here and delivered to the Executive, and then set at liberty? Where is he not out on bail to Louisiana by the same authority, that arrested him, and there put upon his trial on this charge of violating the law?

This was a farce being played before the American people, which was disreputable to all engaged in it. There had been trumped up this charge against Walker when they knew there had been no violation of the law. If they believe he has violated the law, they have been guilty of a dereliction of duty in not punishing him for it. The letting out of an expedition, blustering all over the high seas, under the pretence of putting down filibustering. He had opposed the Clayton and Bulwer treaty because he did not wish to bind this country to do that which it might be necessary for its safety to do—that is to say, to annex these territories. Nothing but half the distance to California, and on a direct road.

Mr. PEARCE, of Maryland, thought the debate premature. Nothing had been read but the message of the President. They did not know what light the instructions might throw upon the subject, to enable the conduct of Walker, from Mobile, was a flagrant violation of the laws of the United States, and the President did nothing but his duty in authorizing the naval forces to prevent that expedition from attacking people with whom we are at peace. He believed it due to the character of the nation that such steps as that should be taken to put down these marauding expeditions, which bring disgrace on the country.

No question was taken on the reference of the message,

Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the sale of Fort Snelling consists of Messrs. Burnett, Morris of Illinois, Murroll, Faulkner, and Pettit.

The House being the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, it was agreed that when the House adjourn to-day, it be till Monday next.

The House then went into committee on the President's annual message.

Mr. THAYER, of Massachusetts, maintained that if the people will, they can send all American-ize Central America; but it should not, however, be done in a way that would tarnish the national honor by violating treaty stipulations and the laws of the United States, but in accordance with the highest principles of human and divine. He expressed regret that Mr. Haskin yesterday had declared himself in favor of "grand larceny." A meaner thing cannot be said of it than to call it by its own name. He was grieved that any party should be in favor of stealing "grand" or "petty larceny." It was not only disgraceful, but utterly contemptible. The only proper way to Americanize Central America was by an organized emigration. This might have been done within the last three years if there had been no neutrality laws, and without Executive interference. To wantonly set other neutrality laws, so plain that every man knows what he is right or wrong. The South, owing to its sparse population, cannot afford to spare its citizens, but the North, in consequence of a superabundant population, must have an outlet to go somewhere. Something must be opened to the descendants of the Pilgrims. (Laughter.) They were now crammed in between the Atlantic Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. A better time than this could not be desired for Americanizing Central America. Under the pressure of financial pressure, Europe will send to our shores during the present year not less than half a million of men who, together with the quarter million of the surplus people of the North, must go somewhere. These are the men who