The Press.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1858.

FIRST PAGE.—Italian Opera in the United States; The Murder in Madison County, New York; Sabbath Reading; The Democracy of the Bible; by Graybeard; Religious Intelligence; Harrisburg Correspondence; Letters from California; Trial of Thomas Washington Smith; General News.

FOURTH PAGE.—Weekly Review of Philadelphia Markets.

CONSISTENCY.

This is a word which terrifies a great many honest men. We see it going the rounds of the papers now, like a great apparition. Who is to be frightened by it? Not, certainly, the Democrats, who advocate the principle of the Kansas organic act, and insist that it shall be sternly applied in the ratification of the fundamental law. They stand where they stood in 1854. They have not swerved. Three years made a covenant in 1850, that there should be no further agitation of the slavery question. Congressional intervention and colonization in the affairs of the Territories should cease, and that from its ashes the great, indestructible principle of the popular rule—of the will of the majority—should rise. Four years later this popular principle was brought forward in Congress, and solemnly substituted for the fossil remains of an old act of Congress, called the Missouri Compromise, which was removed from the path of progress, leaving the future clear and unobstructed. It is a little amusing to hear the men who took part in these reforms charged with inconsistency because they now adhere to the principle, and demand its application to the very first case that has arisen since 1854.

An effort is made to justify this accusation of inconsistency, (which, indeed has its *only* appropriate significance when applied to a Democrat who favors the Lecompton frauds,) and demands that Congress treat caution and candidly it, by trying to show that all Democrats who side with Judge Douglas are in collusion with the Republicans. This bold charge is a dangerous witness to sustain a false charge. It proves too much, for how can it be, if the Democrats stand fast to the doctrine that Kansas is to be settled by the people of Kansas, and *if the Republicans affirm this* position, and so give up *their* dogma of Congressional domination over the Territories—how can it be that the Democrats have changed? But enough of this absurdity. When the so-called Know-Nothings of the South join hands with the Democrats of the South to sustain the Lecompton Constitution, we hear no body charging that the latter have gone over to the former. *All* men make common cause in the South when the South is assailed, and we do not see how, when a great truth calls for union elsewhere, that men's motives should not be as correct and as unselfish in one latitude as in another.

For our own part, however, we *hate excuses*; and only say this much to show how easy it is to pierce a transparent and evanescent bubble.

WAGON ROAD TO THE PACIFIC.

News has been received from Lieut. BEALE, who has charge of one of the wagon roads to the Pacific, stating that it was his intention to return over the route he had surveyed, in order to test its practicability during the winter season. He speaks in the highest terms of the country through which he passed, and from the great abundance of wood, water, and grass, it cannot fail to be one of the great highway to California.

Lieutenant BEALE was expected to leave Fort Tejon about the first of January, with an escort of eighty dragoons, as far as the Colorado, after which he would travel to Independence with fifteen picked men, expecting to reach the latter place about the 20th of March. His expedition has been a most successful one, and much credit is due the Lieutenant for the energy and perseverance he has displayed in carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of War.

Since the above was written we have received a report of Lieutenant BEALE'S Expedition from Texas to California. It is full of interest, and will be eagerly read by his numerous friends.

THE NEWS FROM KANSAS.

It seems to be conceded on all hands that our Convention, on the 4th of January—some accounts placing the majority as high as twelve hundred. This vote was given under the law of the Territorial Legislature. Of the other election, that for State officers, called by the Convention, nothing definite has been heard. Only a portion of the opponents of the Convention seem to have voted, and both sides claim to have carried parts of the ticket.

There can be little doubt that the first step of the new Legislature chosen on the 4th will be to call a new Convention to frame a new Constitution, and that this instrument, with the Lecompton fraud, will be before Congress, if not at the same time, at least before the question is formally met.

SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS.

We have great hopes that the proposed statute providing for the election of members of the Legislature from this city, in single districts, will work many good results. It will enable every citizen to know exactly what sort of a candidate he is voting for. It will compel care and caution in the nominating Conventions. It will give more a chance over management. There is no doubt that for a community like this such a law is the best; and we are glad to hear and to believe that there is little doubt of the change being made. It may also lead to other reforms of equal importance.

STATE TREASURER.

Hon. HENRY S. MAGRAW was last evening nominated for re-election as State Treasurer by the Democratic members of the Legislature, in caucus assembled. He was nominated on first ballot. This is a handsome compliment, and it was well deserved. Mr. MAGRAW has for two years past filled the important office of State Treasurer with marked ability, and integrity, and the Legislature have wisely decided to make no change. The election will take place on Monday next.

NEBRASKA ASKS A FAIR CHANCE FOR KANSAS.

The following resolutions were adopted by the House of Representatives of the Territory of Nebraska, on the 29th of December, by a vote of thirty to three. It will pass the other branch by an equally large vote:

Whereas, The Lecompton Constitutional Convention of Kansas has failed to submit the Constitution which they framed for the sanction or rejection of the citizens of that Territory, in conformity to the spirit and letter of the act organizing the Territory, and in contravention of the cherished doctrine of popular sovereignty, which, after a convulsive and angry struggle, protracted during three years, has but just been firmly established in the minds and in the hearts of the American people—a doctrine especially dear to us as citizens of a sister Territory, "trimmed at birth" with Kansas, conferring upon us, as it does, all of the political rights which we enjoy; and *whereas* it is understood that the framers of that Constitution and the violators of this great doctrine intend presenting Kansas at the door of the Union for admission into the sisterhood of States during the present session of Congress; and *whereas* we fear that the establishment of such a precedent might have an important and deleterious bearing upon the character of our own domestic institutions, giving to a few the power of determining the nature of the Government under which all are to live, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we deprecate this ruthless violation of the principles of the act which created us a people and which guaranteed to us the right to regulate our domestic institutions in our own way, thus conferring upon us the right to exercise that high prerogative which distinguishes the American freeman from the subject of despotic powers.

Resolved, That we deprecate the action of this Convention in failing to submit their work to a vote of the people as violative not only of the spirit and letter of the Nebraska-Kansas act, but as a wilful trampling under foot of the solemn pledges which were freely made all over the Union during that mighty struggle which resulted in placing the present Administration into power; and in the triumphant vindication of the truth, justice and safety of the principles upon which that great battle was fought.

Resolved, That we gratefully do, as do those distinguished statesmen, Stephen A. Douglas, W. A. Richardson, and others, defenders and champions of the popular sovereignty idea, for their bold and determined defence of the principles of the Nebraska-Kansas act; and that we regard their present position on that subject as entirely consistent with their masterly efforts during the past three years for the establishment of their favorite theory of popular government.

Wm. A. Porter, Speaker, having resigned the position of City Solicitor, the City Councils have elected W. L. Hirst, Esq., one of our most experienced lawyers, to fill the vacancy thus created.

THE INDIANA RESOLUTIONS.

The following passage-at-arms, not reported by telegraph, took place in the Senate, on Wednesday last:

THE KANSAS QUESTION AND THE RESOLUTIONS OF INDIANA.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., Mr. Fitch, of Indiana, having asked and received the privilege of the floor, for the purpose of making an explanation, which he described as partly personal and partly political, proceeded to discuss the history and purport of the resolutions explain the construction put upon them by Democratic Convention of the State of Indiana. These resolutions, he argued, were meant to be an endorsement of the policy marked out by the Administration with reference to Kansas—a policy which he, as an Indiana Senator, had determined to sustain, but which he would not do in opposition to the known and declared wishes of his political friends in that State. The resolution adopted by that Convention in its adjourned session, and which appeared to be confirmatory of the President's Kansas policy, was so only because of an inaccuracy in the telegraphic despatch—How that inaccuracy arose, he would not pause to inquire.

The resolution, after re-affirming and defining the doctrine of the Kansas-Nebraska act, proceeds, to say, "and hereafter no Territory should be admitted into the Union as a State without a fair acquiescence of the people being first had in the expression of the will of the people by the application upon the Constitution accompanying the application for admission." Instead of hereafter the telegraphic despatch had substituted therefore, thus materially altering the sense; for the Convention, in using the word hereafter, had intended to enjoin upon the people the very doctrine of President Buchanan, who, in his message, had expressed his approval of this principle of popular submission with reference to all future Territories, while admitting none the less the acceptance of the Lecompton Constitution without such preliminary ratification, which unfortunately had not been provided for in the Kansas-Nebraska act. Such being the terms of the resolution, Mr. F. said that it contained an approval of the President's policy, and not of that expressed by a distinguished Senator in opposition to that policy; and he read an extract from a printed letter written to him by a member of the Democratic Convention in corroboration of the language and purport of the resolution as he had explained it.

Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, thought the whole explanation of Mr. Fitch entirely out of order. It was disagreeable to him to listen to such details respecting a party convention with whose proceedings the Senate had no concern.

Mr. Douglas remarked that he should not have claimed the courtesy of the Senate in the matter, if he had not been referred to by Mr. Fitch in connection with the resolution. The verbal inaccuracy cited had doubtless arisen in its transmission through the telegraph offices, where such mistakes were of daily occurrence. That the resolution, however, in its corrected form, could not be made to sustain the construction put upon it by Mr. Fitch, was capable, he thought, of an easy demonstration. An examination of its language would show how impossible it was to reconcile such an interpretation with the former clause of the resolution, in which the Democracy of Indiana declare that they are in favor of the great doctrine of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and that by a practical application of that doctrine the people of a State or Territory are vested with the right to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, thus conferring upon it the right to exercise that high prerogative which distinguishes the American freeman from the subject of despotic powers. *Resolved*, That we deprecate the action of this Convention in failing to submit their work to a vote of the people as violative not only of the spirit and letter of the Nebraska-Kansas act, but as a wilful trampling under foot of the solemn pledges which were freely made all over the Union during that mighty struggle which resulted in placing the present Administration into power; and in the triumphant vindication of the truth, justice and safety of the principles upon which that great battle was fought.

Resolved, That we gratefully do, as do those distinguished statesmen, Stephen A. Douglas, W. A. Richardson, and others, defenders and champions of the popular sovereignty idea, for their bold and determined defence of the principles of the Nebraska-Kansas act; and that we regard their present position on that subject as entirely consistent with their masterly efforts during the past three years for the establishment of their favorite theory of popular government.

Mr. Douglas said that the proposition for the addition to the army of five new regiments, two dragoon, two mounted riflemen, and one infantry, does not meet with the approval that it was expected it would. It is alleged that the war against the Mormons cannot be protracted; that, as very little trouble can be expected from the Indians within our limits, seeing that they are hemmed in upon nearly all sides; that difficulties with other nations are improbable, and that if collisions there is no necessity for a permanent addition to the standing military force of the United States. A volunteer force to act with the regular force under Colonel Johnston is favored because of its better adaptability to the service required, and because when the occasion which called it forth has ceased to exist, it can be at once disbanded. I am of the opinion that the new regiments will be raised, but it will be done after debate and a struggle.

In expectation that this will be done, applications for commissions have been sent into the War Department in number enough not only to supply the complement of officers, but also to fill out the ranks of the regiments.

X. Y.

LEBANON VALLEY RAILROAD.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

LEBANON, January 12, 1858.

EDITOR PRESS: On Monday next our railroad will be opened through to Harrisburg. This important improvement has been nearly four years in course of construction, and has been built in the most durable manner. Your citizens can leave the city on Monday morning at half-past seven o'clock, and arrive in Harrisburg at half-past twelve. The fare will be $1.25. A new route like this must attract travel, and we hope to see it liberally patronized by the Philadelphians.

A correspondent of *The Press* to-day speaks of there being a move on foot, on the part of the stockholders on the line of this road, to effect a repeal of the act which provides for the consolidation of this road with the Reading road. In this your correspondent is in gross error. There are no stockholders moving in such a direction that we can discover. On Monday last the election was held in Reading to determine that question, so far as the stockholders of this road are concerned. It appeared that there were between four and five thousand ballots cast for consolidation, while there were but two hundred and twenty-two shares, held by two individuals, cast against it. One of these only held twenty-two shares, which have since been *seized by the United States marshal*, so that really only one *bona-fide* stockholder uttered an objection at the ballot-box (the proper place to be heard) thereto. On the other hand, the borough of Lebanon voted its stock, $50,000, in favor thereof, and I am assured that the people of Reading are, almost to a man, in favor of it.

We all understand our own interests, and know that this measure is vital to the success of the road. Without it, the road becomes bankrupt in thirty days, the stock held along the line will be sunk, and hundreds of honest laboring people will lose their all. Why, then, will the Legislature agitate this question, at the bidding of persons no way concerned in our welfare?

This is a great matter to Philadelphia, and we have a right to look for sympathy and support from the press of that city. The question of the constitutionality of the consolidation act is before the courts, and we beg the members of the Legislature to leave it there.

A CITIZEN.

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

TRENTON, Jan. 14, 1858.

The resolutions which are made the order of the day for *to-day* in our Legislature have just been postponed until "this day three weeks," by a small majority.

The postponement was based upon the fact that the recent information from Kansas rendered their passage, *at this time*, unnecessary, as they would probably lead to an amicable adjustment by Congress of the Kansas difficulty at an early day. However, the resolutions hang like the sword of Damocles, ready to fall upon them *if necessity may require it*. Their moral effect remains the same as if they had been passed, and we only hope that Congress, meanwhile, may harmonize the party in its action. It would be well whether they are killed, here or at the West? It is plain that it will all be Western game in order to escape penalty. Such an amendment, therefore, would unquestionably be a practical repeal. The gunning propensities of our city population have well nigh exterminated all kinds of game, and in view of this a number of gentlemen are in the habit of importing birds from the West to perpetuate the breeds. This is the case with quail. Let the game laws be altered as proposed, and there will be no longer any protection for these.

New Street Locomotive.—The North Pennsylvania Railroad Company have now upon the city portion of their road a "dummy engine" This is essentially a locomotive, but so arranged that its progress is unattended with the usual noise. Very little smoke is emitted, and the machinery is so completely under the control of the engineer, that the whole affair can be stopped in an instant, even when progressing at its highest speed. It will be used by the Railroad Company, if found to work well, to draw passenger trains between their lower depot at Front and Willow streets, and the depot on the outskirts of the city. The mules, of course, will be dispensed with, and much trouble and inconvenience obviated. The North Pennsylvania Road is used by numbers of our merchants, whose residences are upon the route beyond the city. With such monstrous is valuable, and any invention that will dispense with the quadrupeds in the drawing of the cars will be a great improvement, and receive their consideration. These engines are used in Baltimore and New York, and are favorites with the citizens, performing as they do their stated work with safety, celerity, and economy.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Non-Arrival of the America.

HALIFAX, Jan 16.—1 P. M.—There is still no signs of the *steamship America*, overdue with Liverpool advices to the 2d inst.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, January 15.

SENATE.

The Senate was not in session this morning.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BOCOCK, of Virginia, asked that the House take up the joint resolutions of the Senate, the whole effect of which was this: *An act was passed* at the last session authorizing the naval officers, who were affected by the action of the Retiring Board, to apply within one year, to have their cases examined, the action by the Naval Courts of *Inquiry being granted*, on which the President might nominate for restoration. It was not known outside of the Senate what was going on there, but it was known that these courts have acted on certain cases. The President has made nominations which have not yet been disposed of by the Senate, but it was fair to presume that the Naval Committee of the Senate were considering the proceedings of these courts. This was the last day when anything can be done under that resolution, position of the other man mentioned in the Scripture by way of contradiction, and exclaim "God be merciful to me a sinner," I have no doubt the exclamation would meet with a hearty amen from every gentleman on this floor. [Laughter.]

Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, wanted to know why Mr. Stanton and Mr. Grow sat quietly in their seats when resolutions were introduced proposing an investigation into the conduct of the late clerk of the House, and in relation to the sale of Fort Snelling.

Mr. STANTON replied that the Fort Snelling case involved nobody by name.

Mr. LETCHER, returning, the public interests required a close examination.

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, from the Committee of the Judiciary, reported a resolution which was passed, authorizing a special committee to investigate the facts attending the sale of Fort Snelling, and employ a stenographer. He remarked that Mr. Davis, of Maryland, would be the first person called upon to testify.

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Mr. GROW, of Pennsylvania, protested against the positions assumed by Mr. Davis from Maryland, and Mr. CRAIG of Missouri. This latter had attempted to throw suspicion on the members of the House, and, like the man of old, thanks God he is not like other people, and wraps his cloak of self-righteousness about him. He trusted that the attempt to make the select committee of *that Congress* a precedent would not be successful.

He would throw around the most humble individuals the safeguards of the law. The Constitution guarantees that the person charged shall be confronted with *his accusers*. The former committee called prodigates from the streets to blacken the character of members of Congress; and in secret chamber allowed them to give evidence in the absence of the accused. He protested against *raising a committee and ordering* witnesses to be called, without the accused being permitted to confront them. The character of a member of *Congress* should not be held in less esteem than that of a petty thief, who is entitled to a fair trial. He repeated that the investigating committee of the last Congress prevented the accused from confronting the witnesses, and having suppressed a part of the evidence, asked the House to pass judgment.

Mr. HARRIS, of Illinois. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GROW) and others are like the man of old. If he means to assert that I thank God I am not as some other men, he is correct. If the gentleman will put himself in the position of the other man mentioned in the Scripture by way of contradiction, and exclaim "God be merciful to me a sinner," I have no doubt the exclamation would meet with a hearty amen from every gentleman on this floor. [Laughter.]

Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, wanted to know why Mr. Stanton and Mr. Grow sat quietly in their seats when resolutions were introduced proposing an investigation into the conduct of the late clerk of the House, and in relation to the sale of Fort Snelling.

Mr. STANTON replied that the Fort Snelling case involved nobody by name.

Mr. LETCHER, returning, Nor do these proceedings involve the name of any member of Congress. When the case of the late clerk was taken up, why did not the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GROW) move that the whole testimony in the case was to be committed, rights to be violated, and the accused arraigned and persecuted in secret, and brought before the House for judgment.

Mr. STANTON said the clerk of the House was the person named. The Fort Snelling case did not involve the rights of any member, or the character of the House. The sale of the property was an act of the Executive, and as the House had no power to try him, they could not pass censure.

Mr. LETCHER. Your explanation amounts to this: You did not rise on one occasion because nobody was named, and you did not rise on the other because somebody was named. So far as Secretary *Floyd* was concerned, a more unfounded charge was never made on the reputation of a public man.

Mr. ROBERT SMITH, of Illinois, said that he offered the resolution for a committee to inquire *into the facts concerning the sale* of Fort Snelling. He never said the Secretary of War did anything wrong in the matter, but thought from the knowledge in his possession that the subject required investigation. This was due to the Secretary of *War*, the Administration, and the Democratic party. He had notified the chairman of the committee that he would appear at any time and tell his story. He thought that something was wrong in that sale, but did not charge it by implication on the Secretary of War. It was all wrong, unwise, and imprudent to sell the buildings at Fort Snelling.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, with the record before him, had no intention to let the country believe the Republicans voted for the tariff bill on the passage, with ninety-eight who opposed the Republican party. Among the ayes only two Democrats voted against it. Therefore, he thought the chances of being involved in the charges would be proportionably great.

English Consols have advanced from the lowest point in October 7½ per cent. The price was then 86¼, and it has now reached 94 for account. This advance is about the same as after the panic of 1847, when the lowest point reached was 79½, and the recovery at the close of the year was to 93½, ex-dividend. The rate of Bank of England discounts, which on the 25th October was fixed at 8 per cent., was reduced at intervals to 7, 6 and 5 per cent. before the end of the year, and by the 15th June following it was 3) per cent.

The decline in all kinds of merchandise and produce will be apt to occasion additional failures, and capitalists who have succeeded in withdrawing their money from commerce and commercial paper, will, for a time, prefer to invest it in fancy stocks.

While all kinds of investment securities are appreciating in price, no paper can be sold unless known to be, beyond a doubt, at rates below one and a half per cent. a month, and but little passes at even these high figures. Favorite paper can be sold at from 8 to 10 per cent., but the supply of it is very limited.

The following are the receipts of some of the principal railroads for last month, compared with those for December, 1856.

	1857. December.	1856. December.
Baltimore and Ohio	$381,745	$406,103
Chicago and Burlington	71,650	100,764
Fort Wayne and Chicago	105,944	137,425
Norwich and Worcester	25,179	35,815
New York and New Haven	53,505	65,486
Pennsylvania Central	309,516	336,899

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD.—The following is the amount of coal transported on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, during the week ending January 11, 1858:

	Tons.	Cwt.
From Pine Grove	5,665	05
" Schuylkill	4,794	17
" Auburn	540	06
" Port Clinton	2,045	05
Total for the week	12,982	07
Previously this year	130,222	00
Total for the year	162,164	07
Same time last year	190,427	07

The Pittsburgh bank statement for the week ending January 11th compares with the previous statement as follows:

	Jan 5	Jan 11	
Circulation	$1,353,815	$1,355,996	Dec., $2,031
Deposits	1,196,922	1,146,922	Dec., 50,000
Due to other banks	153,521	159,322	Inc., 5,801
Specie	1,243,306	1,166,931	Inc., 55,406
Circulation	2,553,815	2,503,918	Inc., 49,897
Due by banks	515,631	521,052	Inc., 105,401

The receipts of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad during the month of December were as follows:

	Main Stem.	Washington Branch.	Total for both roads.
For passengers	$52,516 83	$20,743 57	$70,254 40
For freight	291,017 13	10,811 89	301,889 02
	$343,557 96	$37,585 46	$381,733 42

The following is a statement of the receipts of the past month, as compared with those of the corresponding month of last year:

	Main Stem.	Washington Branch.	Total.
Dec. 1856	$431,656 68	$34,447 39	$466,103 77
Dec. 1857	343,559 96	37,585 46	381,143 42
Decrease	$88 093 62	Inc. $3,138 27	Dec. $84,960 35

We notice by the latest California papers that money has grown easier during the fortnight owing to a falling off in the demand, and within a few days loans upon merchandise security have been readily negotiable at two per cent. per month. The receipts of more funds are offering than there are borrowers for.

An agreed case has been made up and submitted to the Supreme Court for testing the right of the people to legalize the payment of the California State debt by vote as they did at the late election; a decision is looked for speedily, and it is not doubted will be affirmative.

Owing to a conflict going on in the courts of San Francisco, between the Commissioners of the City Funded Debt and the Board of Supervisors about some legal technicalities, the City Treasurer is not empowered to *remit funds to New York to provide* for the coupons falling due, but will pay them on presentation at his office in this city. This is directly a violation of the terms upon which the loan was contracted, and will injure the credit of the city abroad.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES,

January 15, 1858.

REPORTED BY MORTIMER MURPHY, & CO., BANK NOTE, STOCK AND EXCHANGE BROKERS, NORTHWEST CORNER THIRD AND CHESNUT STREETS.

FIRST BOARD.

200	Ches & Del Ca	bls.	66
200	City 6s	new	90¾
600	do		90
1000	do		90
400	do		89¾
1000	Cit 6s	new	90
1000	Kentucky 6s		101
1000	Penn R 6s	1870	93¾
1000	Del R 6s	1st	85
500	Wilmington R 6s		85½
100	City 6s		90
100	Read R		41¾
100	do		41¾
100	do		41¾
100	do