The Press

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1858.

FIRST PAGE—Life Taking; Trial of Thomas Washington Smith—Speech of Mr. Mann; The Latest News by Telegraph; General News.

☞ We are indebted to the President of the United States for a pamphlet copy of his annual message.

☞ Mr. Senator RANDALL, Mr. RAMBEY and Mr. OLDHOM, of the House, Mr. GLASSMIRE, and others, will receive our thanks for attentions in the way of documents, &c.

☞ We return our acknowledgments to Hon. T. B. FLORENCE, for a copy of the new Congressional Directory.

THE INAUGURATION OF GOV. PACKER. To-morrow the new Governor of Pennsylvania will be inaugurated. WILLIAM F. PACKER, of Lycoming county, assumes the responsibility, which JAMES POLLOCK, of Northumberland county, elected in 1854, surrenders. The Executive of such a State occupies a proud position. He can make or unmake a great reputation. He may confer blessings, or he may inflict disasters upon the people. At this moment of time, moreover, the Governor of Pennsylvania is a personage of unusual interest and importance. He may begin an entirely new era. He enters his office at a period when the State has disposed of her interest in the public works, and when, in order to be relieved of a great debt, the most enlightened and sagacious statesmanship is demanded.

The beauty of our republican system is its *frugality*; and yet there is a wide, vast difference between a frugal and a parsimonious Government. A great State can afford to be generous in the promotion of great ends, and must be, if she would not fall behind in the struggle for superiority continually going on between the families of this Union. Liberality to the cause of education is the first duty. This is the base upon which the whole pyramid of society must repose. Next to this is the development of our resources; the opening of new lines of communication into other regions; the protection of our rights as against all opponents. These are noble objects, worthy of any ambition, however lofty.

Pennsylvania is not burdened by a brood of bankrupt railroads, as are New York and other States. Her citizens are not paralyzed by unhappy complications in the wild ventures of distant enterprises. Her great main lines of improvement are, though embarrassed, by no means hopelessly so; vast fields of mineral wealth lie ready for the re-awakening of trade. Millions, and hundreds of millions of coal and iron, are in reserve—sources of independence and comfort which no other State can boast of, and behind all these, a profusion of agricultural products surpassed by no State of the thirty-one. When the dismal cloud that has hung so darkly over our prospects for four months past is lifted from before the future, all these glorious elements of prosperity will make Pennsylvania start in the race for superiority like a mettled courser eager for the prize.

But Governor PACKER has another duty to discharge. He comes in when the banking system is in a sort of collapse. A thousand reforms will be presented and pressed. Every crude theory will be offered and pressed upon him. Legislative borers will surround him in shoals, and corporate rights will be asked for for every conceivable scheme, from a free bank to a life insurance. It will require much decision and discrimination to meet these demands; but our new Governor is a veteran, though a young man, and will not be intimidated by difficulties of this description. He knows well that, in the midst of differing opinions and schemes on the subject of finance, there is a settled and positive feeling all over the State in favor of reform in regard to banks of circulation. This is a fact upon which he may confidently act.

The Governor has organized his Cabinet—Hon. WM. W. HIESTER, Secretary of the Commonwealth; Hon. JOHN C. KNOX, Attorney General, and H. L. DIFFENBACH, Esq., Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth. The announcement of these names has been received with great favor by the whole community. We have yet to see an objection urged from any quarter. They are all, of course, Democrats, and each has been selected with direct reference to his peculiar fitness for the duties he may be called upon to discharge. That they will co-operate to make Governor PACKER's administration a popular, efficient, and vigorous one, we cannot doubt.

And with these words, we wish the new administration of our beloved State God speed!

THE MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

[From the Reading Daily Gazette, of Saturday last.]

Exclusive of several companies expected to participate at the inauguration of Governor Packer, from Schuylkill and Lebanon counties, and from different points in Cumberland Valley and elsewhere, the following companies will certainly be present:

Gen. Miles' Philadelphia Brigade, numbering seven companies.

Pennsylvania Dragoons, Capt. Chas. Thompson Jones.

Black Hussars, Capt. Becket.

Reading Rifles, Capt. Boas.

Quitman Guards, Churchtown, Cumberland county, Capt. Messinger.

Woodward Guards, Williamsport.

Norris City Rifles, Norristown, Capt. Amery.

Newport Artillery, Perry county, Capt. Zollinger.

Logan Guards, Altoona, Capt. Bowley.

National Guard, Harrisburg, Capt. Eyster.

Wicoisco Guards.

Jackson Guards, Capt. John McGann.

Powel's Valley Infantry.

The Black Hussars, of Philadelphia, have been selected as the guard of honor.

The following will be the principal officers in the parade:

Gen. Wm. H. Keim and staff, consisting of Maj. S. L. Young, Maj. A. Jordan Swartz, Maj. James Freeland, Maj. J. Gilbert Herr, Maj. George A. C. Seiler.

Brigadier General Williams and staff: Maj. Wm. A. Delany, Maj. F. W. Boley, and Maj. James P. Espy.

Gen. J. D. Miles and staff; Maj. Thos. A. Sutton and Maj. A. McManus.

Maj. Gen. John C. Watson and staff.

THE READING RIFLES.—This well-drilled and gentlemanly corps, the only representatives of the Reading military who will be present at the inauguration, will leave on Monday morning at 9 o'clock, returning on the following Wednesday. Including the city band, who accompany them, they will number about seventy, rank and file. The officers are Captain F. S. Boas, and Lieutenants H. R. Hawman, and J. J. Herrick. The Rifles will escort Gen. W. H. Keim, who will have command of the military at the inauguration.

THE RESIGNATION OF JUSTICE KNOX. This gentleman resigned his position as Justice of the Supreme Court of this State on Saturday last, in order to accept the office of Attorney General, voluntarily tendered him by Governor PACKER. The loss of so profound a jurist, whose urbanity, learning, and experience men of all parties acknowledge, will be greatly felt. But our regret at parting with him from the Supreme Bench is tempered by the satisfaction we realize in knowing that he has been called to fill a station in which his eminent talents and sound judgment will promote the welfare of the Commonwealth. As the Governor's legal adviser, he will be brought into immediate contact with the Administration at Harrisburg, and in that situation his counsels will have the value which arises from his extensive experience as a lawyer, a legislator, and a judge. A more fortunate selection for this high office could not have been made.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

The arrival of the steamer America at Halifax, yesterday, puts us in possession of three days later news from England. The revenue returns show a deficit of £1,800,000 on the year. The Bank had not further reduced its rates of discount. There is no further news from India, but the next Overland Mail was expected to bring particulars of the capture of Canton.

Suicide at Lancaster.

Jacob Herzog, a prominent merchant of Lancaster city, committed suicide on Saturday evening, by hanging himself in the marble yard of Lewis Haldy, North Queen street. He was found yesterday (Sunday) morning, at four o'clock. Mr. Herzog, it will be remembered, was implicated in the late railroad robbery on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and his trial was coming on to-day. Mr. Herzog was a native of Germany, was a prominent man among the Jews, had resided in Lancaster many years, and had accumulated considerable property. He was about 40 years of age, and leaves a wife and three children. Mr. Dicky was determined to prosecute the matter, and he was probably fearful of being convicted. He left a letter lying upon his desk at home stating where his body could be found, &c., &c.

STOCKS AND LOANS.—Messrs. Thomas & Sons will hold a sale of stocks and loans to-morrow evening, including seven hundred and twenty-five shares New York and Middle Coal Field Railroad Company. See advertisement.

THE PRESS—THE ADMINISTRATION—THE SOUTH AND KANSAS.

[From the Richmond South of the 13th of January.]

"FORNEY ON Gov. WISE'S LETTER.—The Philadelphia *Press*—Forney's paper—comes to us with a column of hyperbolical panegyric on Gov. Wise's letter. The article bears the startling title of 'The Hour and the Man,' and its general tone is up to the level of the rhapsodical exordium. The 'hour' means the moment of resistance to the Lecompton Constitution, and the 'man' is Henry A. Wise, of Virginia. For the last six months Forney has been assailing the Administration and the South with the utmost vindictiveness. In that fact we have the secret of his present demonstration."

THE PRESS is not yet six months old; and the idea that the Lecompton Constitution was *not* to be submitted to the people, was never broached, even at Washington, until late in November. On the contrary, the submission of that Constitution to the people was made an issue in Virginia; and on 23d June, 1857, was advocated in a masterly article in the Richmond *Examiner*, as a binding consequence of the Kansas bill and the pledges of the campaign in 1856. We have preserved that article, (which was copied into the Washington *Union*, and warmly endorsed,) and the following extract will show what was then regarded as Administration doctrine:

THE MAIN SUBJECT.—We come now to the main subject of this Southern outcry against the Administration, through Walker.

In the first place, let us ascertain precisely the policy which the Administration has thought proper to order in its instructions to Walker. We find it set forth by Walker in his Lecompton inaugural. We quote:

"By instructions from the President, through the Secretary of State, under date of the 30th of March last, I sustain "*the regular Legislature of the Territory*" in "*assembling a Convention to form a Constitution,*" and they express the opinion of the President that "*when such a Constitution shall be submitted to the people of the Territory, they must be protected in the exercise of their right of voting for or against that instrument; and the fair expression of the popular will must not be interrupted by fraud or violence.*"

It is clear from the context from which we take this extract, that the language in quotation marks contains all that is said in Walker's instructions on this subject. What, then, is the position of the President on the vexed question of submitting the Constitution, which shall be framed by the Kansas Convention, elected under pro-slavery auspices, to the popular vote. He does not recommend, urge, or initiate any other measure; but he takes it for granted that the Constitution will be submitted to popular ratification, and directs that, when that shall be done, the people shall be protected in their right of voting.

Nor does the President undertake to indicate who shall be entitled to vote upon the Constitution. He contents himself with the use of the term "people," leaving some other authority to define who the *people* are.

The head and front of the President's offending in this behalf, therefore, is, that he assumes that the Constitution to be framed will be submitted to popular ratification, and that the "*people*" of the Territory will vote upon it.

To these positions of the President we find no objection. We cannot see how the submission of the Constitution, when framed, to popular ratification, can be avoided, consistently with the text and spirit of the Nebraska-Kansas act, or with any regard to the peace of the Territory. We know there are precedents in which territorial Constitutions have not been submitted to the people for their acceptance before their presentation to Congress; and that there are other precedents in which they have been. But three wrongs, for one fault, in which no great towering question of contention agitated the people of the Territory and entered into the text of the Constitutions. The case of Kansas is a very different one, and it seems to us that, after all that has been said in behalf of "the right of the people of a Territory, in the act of applying for admission as a State into the Union, to determine for themselves their organic institutions," and in view of the importance of a peaceful and final settlement, once for all, of this slavery agitation in Kansas, the people of Kansas ought to have a vote upon the work of their servants in the Convention. For one, as a Southern man, we would not give a fig for a Constitution in Kansas introducing slavery into the new State, if it were proclaimed against the sentiment of a fair majority of the people; and we would not vouch for the existence of such a Constitution one year.

The President takes it for granted, in his instructions to Walker, that the Constitution will be submitted to the "people" for acceptance, and, for one, we do not see how so Democratic and conservative a proposition can be combatted on any enlarged principles of conservative Southern policy.

Two weeks after this, on the 7th of July, 1857, the Washington *Union*, in a very able editorial, declared, after having insisted that the Constitution of Kansas should be submitted to the people:

"We do most devoutly believe, that unless the Constitution of Kansas be submitted to the direct vote of the people, the unhappy controversy which has heretofore raged in that Territory will be prolonged for an indefinite time to come. We are equally well convinced THAT THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY, whether it be for or against slavery, will finally triumph, though it may be after years of strife, disastrous to the best interests of the country, and dangerous, it may be, to the peace and safety of the whole Union."

The late intelligence from Kansas discloses how much "the unhappy controversy which has heretofore raged in that Territory" is aggravated by the non-submission of the Lecompton Constitution to the people.

On the 4th of July, 1857, the Editor of THE PRESS delivered the annual address to the Democracy in Independence Square, by regular invitation, in which, following out the declarations of the Richmond *Examiner* of the 23d of June, and, as it appeared, *anticipating* by three days the strong editorial of the Washington *Union* in the same direction, he used the following language. We copy from the printed report of that speech:

It is not my purpose to enter into an argument to show what ought to be the qualification of voters in the Territory of Kansas, when the State Constitution, shortly to be formed, shall be submitted to them for rejection or adoption. Gov. Walker has himself declared that *the people of the Territory must be protected in the exercise of their right of voting, for or against that instrument*, and upon this basis, however they may have refused to vote for delegates to the Convention, or however they may refuse to vote when the Constitution is submitted to them, it is morally certain that they cannot sustain themselves before the Convention by rejecting Governor Walker's fair and liberal policy.

I am surprised, however, that in some quarters the right of the people to vote upon this Constitution should be questioned, but I rejoice to know that in the South many of the ablest and purest men acknowledge this right, and are resolved to stand by it. In this connection the article in the Richmond *Examiner* of the 23d of June deserves notice—a newspaper conducted by an extreme State-rights man—a newspaper which may be called a representative of the Calhoun school of politicians—which boldly states, that according to the provisions of the Kansas bill passed in 1854, there can be no doubt that this right exists and that *it ought* to be recognised when the Constitution shall be presented to the people of Kansas for their judgment. It would be supererogation to show in how many cases territorial or State Constitutions have been submitted to the people after they had been formed. Our own reformed Constitution, in 1838, was presented to the people and adopted by them, and according to that instrument, every subsequent amendment to it must first be ratified by two-thirds of two successive State Legislatures, and then submitted to the ballot-box. The same may be said of every other Constitution which has been liberalized within the last twenty years. It would be, to say the least, a monstrous wrong if this principle were not carried out in Kansas. If it should be, as it will be, what Southern, what Northern man, will cavil at the result?

If the majority of the people of Kansas desire a free State, they will have it; and if they desire a slave State, they are entitled to it. In the former event, after all that has been said and written, what becomes of the Republican platform of 1856? What becomes of the pledge of the Fremont leaders that, whenever Kansas is made a free State they will be willing to endorse the policy which produces that result? *This was their only issue of the late canvass.* Upon this basis the opposition sectionalized itself. Upon this basis they struck out fifteen stars from the national flag. Upon this basis they refused to co-operate with Southern men. Upon this basis they denounced the Democratic party as the slave party, because they believed or said that the policy of Mr. Buchanan's friends would be certain to end in making Kansas a slave State. But when, after a fair and legitimate canvass of votes in the Territory of Kansas—when all the people of that Territory have the polls thrown open to them—when organizations, foreign to the soil, are prevented from obstructing the ballot-box—when those who have removed from Arkansas, Missouri, South Carolina and Mississippi, Alabama and Texas, shall stand side by side with those from Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, shall take advantage of the protection of the Federal Government, and the unrestrained majority of their votes shall give Kansas a free Constitution—what, I ask, then, becomes of the pledge of the Republican leaders in 1856? The last plank upon which they stood will have been taken away; the work which they said could not be accomplished fairly, will have been accomplished fairly. In that event, sectionalism will have received its death-blow, and Abolition will be compelled to fall back upon those old irritations and devices which shamed and disgraced the early stages of its existence.

I can well conceive the dilemma of mere politicians who opposed the Democracy in 1856, in such an event. But what will those men do who, in that contest, and by Legislatures chosen in that contest, were elected to the new House of Representatives and Senate of the United States? In Pennsylvania, Simon Cameron was chosen to the Senate upon this platform; in New York, Preston King; in Illinois Lyman Trumbull; in Wisconsin, Charles Durkee; in Iowa, Aaron Harlan. All these men, professing Democrats in their day, were chosen to the Senate, as others were chosen to the House of Representatives, *upon the platform of free Kansas*. How long will they remain identified with the opposition should Kansas become a free State? Nor will the South be a loser should a fair trial bring about this result, for the same men who repeatedly pledged themselves to submit to any policy which made Kansas a free State, also declared that if the South were willing to yield this point, they were ready to acquiesce in the erection of new slave States out of portions of Texas. They were willing to concede the purchase of Cuba—all they asked was that Kansas should be secured to the free States. Such, at all events, is my reading of the events of the last campaign, and such, it seems to me, must be the end. It would indeed be an eloquent sequel to the struggle of 1856, and to all its incidents, if, under a Pennsylvania President, a Pennsylvania like Robert J. Walker, as Governor of Kansas, should be the instrument of restoring peace, prosperity, and happiness to the fair soil of that interesting region.

But while it is unquestioned that every honest man in the Southern States is, as I solemnly believe, prepared to sanction the admission of Kansas into the Union as a free State, should that be the result of a fair untrammelled election, so do I believe that a vast majority of the Northern people will approve a different result should an honest expression of the ballot-box in Kansas so decide.

These views were not only not contested in any quarter, North or South, but were very generally endorsed by the Democratic papers. The Washington *Union* not only spoke favorably of them, but, as we have shown, followed them up by the article of the 7th of July, which we copy above.

On the 1st of August THE PRESS made its appearance. With the most fervent desire to stand on the full platform of the Administration, and to support its entire domestic and foreign policy, we beheld, in its supposed programme on the Kansas question, (authoritative as we *had every reason* to believe,) not alone an ample realization of the promises and expectations of 1856, but complete fidelity to the creed laid down at Cincinnati, and to the Inaugural Address: And when, late in October or early in November, Governor WISE, in his letter on the subject of the Virginia Senatorship, eloquently supported the same idea, and took the same ground, the record was made up. The Oxford and McGhee frauds were the next demonstration. We denounced those frauds for every reason. They were intended to cheat the honest opinion of Kansas, and they disgraced the name of the ballot-box; and for this, as in the matter of submitting the Constitution, we have been, and we are now, sustained by the people, and especially by the Democratic party.

Up, then, to November of 1856, the doctrine of the Richmond *Examiner* of June, and of the Washington *Union* of July—that the Constitution of Kansas must be submitted to the people, or else the whole movement would be a fraud in the eyes of our opponents—was the Administration doctrine. But about this time the *Union* determined to change front, and the word was given out, by that print, that the Constitution of Kansas, which had not been, and was not intended to be, submitted to the people, must be accepted as an achievement of the sublimest statesmanship, and as a settlement of all the difficulties in Kansas, and that the people of Kansas must be compelled to accept it. A most insolent attempt was made to make a test of this change of front. The transformation of the *Union* was, however, too sudden, direct, and brazen. It occasioned mingled contempt and indignation in every independent mind. Almost the entire Democratic press had been committed on the other side—in favor of the doctrine originally preached by the so-called Administration organ. In the free States, not one paper, of any party, had taken ground *against* this doctrine—all who spoke had but one opinion. The people had obtained possession of the great thought that it would be a FRAUD (to copy the Washington *Union's* phrase) not to give the majority of Kansas a right to vote on the Constitution of Kansas; and politicians and presses might change, but the people would stand firm, and hold all who cowered or deserted to a strict accountability. This was the situation of affairs less than three months ago. Some of the Democratic papers, under the lash of the Washington *Union*, did change front at once; but the great and controlling number *nobly rallied to the pledge and the principle*. These latter felt that they could not eat their own words with honor, and they refused to abandon their ground. This is a plain statement of facts.

THE PRESS having, under all these circumstances, raised *its* standard for Popular Sovereignty and for the Will of the Majority, did not fly the field. It stands now where it stood in August; where the Richmond *Examiner* stood in June, and where the editor of THE PRESS stood in July.

As to having assailed the Administration of Mr. BUCHANAN, with or without "vindictiveness," as charged by *The South*, we peremptorily deny the accusation, and challenge *The South* to the proof. The pages of our paper and its readers are our best witnesses. They answer for us abundantly. We have studiously avoided personalities in this journal, on all subjects, and especially in regard to the Administration. If, indeed, we do differ from the President on this issue, we shall deeply deplore it; but as our difference is sincere, it is not necessary that we should manifest it by personalities. We adopted our opinions deliberately, in the *conviction* that they were in accordance with the Administration policy, but not because of it. We believe these opinions are rightfully; and if it is so that Mr. BUCHANAN does not entertain similar opinions, greatly as we reverence his character and his example, this fact will not justify us, to our conscience, and to the people, *in deserting what we have openly and always advocated.*

The worst personal assaults upon Mr. BUCHANAN and his Cabinet and his Administration, have come from *The South* and its allies. The columns of that paper have boiled over with the boldest and bitterest editorial and communicated censures of the President and his policy; and, at this moment, PRYOR delights in ridicule of some of the nearest and best friends of the Executive; those *acknowledged* to be in his confidence. We disclaim all desire to imitate the friendship of *The South* for the Administration.

Nor have we assailed the Southern people. Not a line—not a word—has appeared in THE PRESS, capable of such a construction. We have stood by the South for twenty years. We stand by the South now in sanctioning her in all her rights; but we are not willing to sustain a gross wrong attempted upon a free people, and unjustly sought to be maintained in the name of the Southern people. "*If that be treason, make the most of it.*"

ITEMS OF KANSAS NEWS.—CALHOUN AT WESTON, MO.

JOHN CALHOUN made a speech to the pro-slavery men at Weston, Mo., on the 4th of January, of which we have the following report. It agrees with the report by telegraph:

This morning, about 11 o'clock, a meeting of the citizens was called together at the court house, and General Calhoun made a short speech explanatory of his position, his views, and the course he wished the people of Missouri to take. After stating that the Democracy had triumphed in Kansas, and that the pro-slavery State and Congressional delegates were both elected, which was received with demonstrations of applause, he went on to say that the black Republicans were bent on having another civil war, and that himself and his party were in peril of their lives in the Territory; that Jim Lane and his gang were only waiting for the proper moment for an invasion from Missouri to break out into open hostilities. The General urged very strongly the necessity of Missourians keeping quiet and cool, and that by no means should they enter Kansas as an armed body of men, for this would be by virtue of the Kansas law, just what the Black Republicans, and do precisely what they wished to be done, thus giving them an excuse for another outbreak. The whole speech, though short, was cunningly devised, and like Antony's speech over Cæsar's body, most admirably calculated to create an excitement under the pretence of allaying it; for, after every adjuration to "keep cool, and on no account to invade Kansas in an armed body, and thus destroy the very purpose they were aiming at," he went on to say with a most unmistakable emphasis of voice and manner, that "he did not wish to be understood to discourage any Missourian who might wish to go over into Kansas to assist his friends; on the contrary, he believed it the duty of everybody to render every *personal* assistance in their power to their Kansas friends, in this hour of their peril; but on no account ought they to go in a public manner, and thus bring upon their party the disgrace of getting up an invasion. If there should be another collision between the pro-slavery and free-State men of Kansas, this delicate insinuation will not be lost, and a great many Missourians will discover that they have *personal* friends in the Territory, who stand in the greatest need of their personal assistance. The General finished his speech by saying, that "if the Missourians would only keep quiet, in a few weeks Kansas would be admitted into the Union, and *become all that Missouri ever hoped or wished, or desired her to be?*"

[From the Leavenworth City Times, Jan. 5.]

The election, yesterday, for State officers, and the adoption or rejection of the Lecompton Constitution, in its entirety, passed off without the slightest disturbance in this city. Two companies of United States infantry were at the polls, and a full battery near at hand to preserve the peace. *For the first time in our lives we were compelled to pass through a line of federal troops in order to deposit our ballot.* We have a special chapter on this subject *embodied*, which we will give to our readers at an early day. We have only space in this issue to give the vote of this city:

Against the Constitution framed at Lecompton	1384
For the Constitution with slavery	8
For the Constitution without slavery	2
Scattering	2
Total	1396
Majority against Lecompton Constitution	1372

[From the Kansas, Leavenworth, Ledger, Jan. 6.]

THE LECOMPTON CONSTITUTION.—We have reliable news from Lecompton, from which we learn that sufficient returns have been received to indicate that the vote on the Lecompton Constitution (with the slavery clause sustained) has received about "*seven thousand votes*," *a majority of the entire votes cast last October.* If this should prove correct, it will be proof conclusive that there is something rotten in other places, as well as "Kickapoo" and "Denmark."

The entire official vote for the two highest candidates (Parrott and Ransom) was "eleven thousand six hundred and eighty-seven." Parrott's official majority over Ransom being "four thousand and eighty-nine.

If the Lecompton Constitution, on the 21st day of December last, received a majority of the entire vote polled last October, *where did the voters come from?* The proper and legitimate answer is, *that they were manufactured expressly to meet the exigency* of the case.

It is very evident that no such vote was given legally, but it was necessary to have a large vote *returned* in order to carry out the programme as marked out at Washington long ago.

The vote for the Lecompton Constitution, on the 21st day of December last, was confined to the pro-slavery men. And we know that their strength is not over two thousand.

The vote *against* the Constitution, on Monday, will reach (at the lowest estimate) *ten thousand*. This vote is made up of free-State men, "conservative Democrats," "Whigs," and hundreds of other citizens, who are not identified with any party.

[From the Pottsville Register and Democrat, of Saturday.]

LETTER FROM KANSAS.—We had not intended to worry our readers with anything about Kansas this week, except the news of the election of the 4th instant; but a friend handed us a letter written at Leavenworth last month, from which we are permitted to make a few extracts. The party written to is one of our most prominent office holders, (elected last fall by the Democracy,) and his correspondent is now a resident of Kansas, but was formerly a citizen of this county. Our readers will recognise the writer when we say that he was twice a member of the Legislature of this State, that he is a gentleman of correct principles, and that his Democracy was always undoubted in this region:

LEAVENWORTH, K. T., Dec. 28, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I have been promising myself for some time to write to you, and I hope that what little I have to say may be acceptable to an old friend. In the first place, I am truly glad to know that the Democracy of glorious old Schuylkill have at last rewarded you for your long and faithful service to the Democratic party in many a hard-fought battle. In the next place, I am glad that Pennsylvania did so nobly at the last election—it done my heart good to hear the result. But, when "bleeding Kansas," there is no show for a Democrat. Everything is "Black Republican," and I feel convinced that Kansas will be a "Black Republican" State—and there is no person to blame for it but the party that met at Lecompton to frame a State Constitution. They made a Constitution and had not the manliness to submit it to the people of the people.

But why should I write of this? Without doubt you have seen and read the instrument for yourself. I can tell you, however, that it is very unpopular with all classes here, and the way they undertook to have a large vote upon it—why, all along the border of Missouri the people came over the river by hundreds to vote, *and did vote.* But the free State men did not vote at all. *They* will vote on Monday next, (4th of January,) when the Constitution will be most signally defeated. Now, my dear old friend, I am good a Democrat as ever I was, but I cannot go in for those extra pro-slavery moves of some of the wire-pullers of Kansas, who would sacrifice our beloved Union to make this beautiful country a slave State, which I hope and trust never may be accomplished.

Douglas's and Walker's course is sustained almost to a man in the Territory—but I have written enough upon this subject. * * *

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

On Saturday evening there was played at Wheatley's Arch-street Theatre, a new version of a French play called "Les Pauvres des Paris," which had so much success at Paris, that Mr. Stirling Coyne, a London dramatic critic and playmaker, "adapted" it for the English stage, where it also succeeded. In fulness of time, the London version was transferred to the little theatre—bearing the title of "*Moral* lecture-room"—at Barnum's Museum, in New York, and made a third hit. On this, throwing about forty minutes into it, so as to change the *venue* to New York, Mr. Dion Boucicault (who is popularly believed to have copyrighted every one of Shakspeare's plays) put it in the hands of the property-man, scene-painter, and performers of Wallack's Theatre, and, in due season, it was brought out as "The Poor of New York." After some weeks' delay, this piece, or something like it, was acted at the Circus in Walnut Street, where, though the performance was so-so, some of the scenery is good, and the piece has *taken*. A little later, Mr. Wheatley sets H. J. Conway, a well known dramatic workman, to adapt the English version to *this* locality. He has done so, with much tact, and the first performance of "Fraud and its Victims, or the Poor of Philadelphia," at the Arch Street Theatre, on Saturday evening, was a most unequivocal and deserved success.

The acting, by what Mr. Wheatley insists on calling "the entire Star Company," was capital. Mr. Wheatley, Mr. and Mrs. Davenport, and Mr. Clarke especially distinguishing themselves. There is a great deal of excellent local scenery—one of the best views showing Arch street Theatre by lamplight. The piece is announced to run through the present week, but will probably be an attraction for a longer time.

At the National Theatre (into the Circus) the Boucicault adaptation of the above piece, continues to be played.

The show-melo-drama of "The Count de Monte Christo" has met with considerable success at Walnut street Theatre, during the past, and is to be continued through the present week. We are willing, even anxious, to admit the merit of the leading performers in this drama. Mrs. Conway, Miss Richings, and Mrs. Bowers, together with Mr. Conway, Mr. Richings, and Mr. Shewell, would make a good and efficient cast in any play. Yet, we have not witnessed a single representation of "Monte Cristo." The lessee and stage manager have to be told why. It is simply because of rudeness "in front of the house," which, perpetrated by underlings, often does serious injury to the interests of the principals. Newspaper writers, with a number purpose pressing upon their mind, cannot be expected to attend the general run of theatrical performances, as a matter of pleasure. They have no inducement to go, at all, unless they are treated with courtesy. The only cause which we can assign for this bad policy, (to call it by the mildest name,) is that, from the opening of Walnut-street Theatre, by Mrs. Bowers, we have uniformly refused to publish, as our own critical opinion, any of the daily—sometimes even twice-a-day—puffs showered down upon us with remarkable pertinacity, from that mysterious department called "The Treasury" of this Theatre.

We have two things to add, ere we close this unpleasant subject: First, Mr. Wheatley, of Arch-street Theatre, has never yet taken the liberty of sending uncut-and-dry notices of his performances; he has not even requested us to attend on any particular evening, when a new piece was to be played; and, secondly, the next "Treasury" memorandum we receive, we shall publish in full—announcing the *impartial* source which may have supplied it. This applies also to Lectures and Concerts. Meanwhile, we wish Mrs. Bowers all success, at Walnut-street Theatre, and wiser servants. The last word, by the way, is scarcely correct, as some of the parties clearly do not *serve* her.

That capital local pantomime, "Harlequin Shoemaker," which has had nearly a month's run at Sanford's, will be played on the four last nights of the present week, and no longer. This night and Tuesday evening, Dan Gardner's burlesque of Miss Emma Stanley's "Seven Ages of Woman" will be performed.

The public rehearsal of the Germania Orchestra, at the Musical Fund Hall, on Saturday afternoon, was very well attended. The composers drawn upon were Beethoven, Verdi, Spohr, Strauss, Mendelssohn, Lanner and Kéler Béla. These instrumental concerts are very attractive, and it is to be hoped that they will be continued.

We can state that the operatic company, now at New York, under Mr. Ullman's management, will commence a season of a fortnight's duration at our Academy of Music, and will break ground next Friday evening with "Le Barbiere de Seville." So, we shall hear Carl Formes, after all.

With some difficulty we put a stop to the constant visitation of these "notices," which, in reality, were the broadest and boldest praise, without stint or limitation, of certain leading performers. We hope that these puffs were *not* written with the knowledge or concurrence of the lessee and the stage-manager. If we witness a dramatic performance, and give a notice of it, the readers of THE PRESS expect the opinion of an impartial critic, qualified from experience and judgment. Such an opinion might not arise, it is true, into the hyperbole of praise disinterestedly sent to us from "The Treasury," but we suspect that the public would pre-fer our *say* on the matter.

[For The Press.]

LEBANON, January 15, 1858.

The tunnel on the Union Canal, near Lebanon, which was not of sufficient height hereofore to admit the decked boats commonly used on Juniata Canal, is now being enlarged. The company have engaged a strong force of experienced miners, to excavate three feet from the ceiling of the tunnel, and when this is completed, which will be by 1st of April next, the canal will be navigable to a depth of 5 feet of water, sufficient to accommodate the heaviest loaded boats from the State canals. This will be good news to your *boating* friends along the Juniata, who, with their decked boats, used to have hard scratching to get through the tunnel. The work is under the direction of B. B. Lehman, Esq., the intelligent and energetic engineer of the canal, and, in order to prevent any delay to the navigation in the spring, the work is being carried on night and day.

The Bangor (Me.) *Union* of Thursday states that about four o'clock on Sunday morning last, the log house of Aaron Scribner and Samuel Harvey at Shin Pond, about eleven miles from Patten, was consumed by fire, and two sons of Mr. Scribner, aged eleven and thirteen years, perished in the flames. These boys occupied the attic of the house, in which portion the fire originated. The bones were found among the ruins.

Died, at his residence in Greensburgh, Pa., January 2d, after several weeks' illness, Alfred T. King, M. D., in the 42d year of his age. As a skilful physician and surgeon, Dr. K. was widely known and esteemed; and among men of letters and science, here and across the water, as an author, geologist, and botanist. He has filled a professor's chair, in one of the medical colleges of Philadelphia, for some eighteen months past.

O'Reilley, the telegraph constructor, has proposed to Congress to erect a line of telegraph to the scene of the expected war in Utah. He proposes to perform the work with soldiers, who shall be stationed at frequent posts on the line for its subsequent protection, and would form a line of guards for the mail. The advantages to government would be a means of immediate communication between the army and the headquarters and department.

We saw quite a curiosity at the market yesterday morning, (says the Petersburgh *Intelligencer*,) in the shape of a large seal, weighing, it is said, over two hundred pounds. It was killed in the Appomattox river, near Port Walthall, by Mr. Covington, a gentleman celebrated as a great sportsman. He did not succeed in bagging this rare game without trouble, as he expended eleven shots before the seal succumbed. Where did he come from?

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Spirit of Commercial Inquiry Abroad—Treasury Notes—Army Order, &c.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, January 17, 1858.

The first session of the Thirty-fifth Congress promises to be one of unusual activity and usefulness. What with an investigating committee on the charge that the Middlesex Manufacturing Company, of Massachusetts, paid $87,000 to secure the passage of the tariff act of 1857; what with an investigating committee on the conduct of the late clerk of the House of Representatives; what with an investigating committee on the details of the sale of the Fort Snelling military reservation; what with an investigating committee on the case of Judge Watrous, of Texas; what with the difficulties in the navy, growing out of the action of the late Naval Retiring Board, with the controversy going on concerning Kansas and Minnesota, with the civil war upon the Utah borders, with the currency, with the finances, and a hundred other matters, the members will have very little leisure for buncombe; all their efforts, in order to reach an adjournment at a reasonably distant day, will be demanded for the settlement of these questions of legitimate inquiry.

For the nonce forgetful of sectional strife, and agreeing to an armistice upon the slavery question, members bend their minds to a careful consideration of our commercial affairs, interior and exterior. Our trade with the Baltic and with the Dutch East Indies, with Central America (more as an entrepôt than in any other way) and South America, with China and Japan, will have every help that can inure to its successful prosecution. Indeed, there is abroad a spirit of inquiry on commercial topics in which we are interested as a nation, and as a manufacturing and commercial people, that gives promise of valuable results.

One instance: The "commercial relations," as communicated from the State Department, show that of the $90,000,000 of the Baltic trade annually, the proportion of the United States is almost inappreciable compared with that of Great Britain. The proceding Administration took the right step to secure to us our fair share of this rich trade, and of that, too, of Russia, which, I think, in 1853 abounted to $185,000,000, when it refused to renew the Sound Dues treaty with Denmark.

The Sound Dues have been discontinued, but this discontinuance does not satisfy gentlemen here who have taken up this subject that all is done that it is needful to do for the interests of our shipping in the north of Europe. Are there not other restrictions to get rid of? Does commerce follow the best and the shortest path? Is there a necessity for merchandise in bulk, between New York or other seaports of the United States, for Bremen, or Hamburg, or Gluckstadt, or Copenhagen or St. Petersburg, to have that bulk broken and landed for transhipment from Plymouth or Liverpool? Is it necessary to feed British factors to save ourselves, or rather ought we not to save that heavy per centage? These are ill pertinent inquiries.

In regard to the American traffic with the Dutch East Indies, Mr. Sickles, of New York, has been looking into the subject with much care. His research has gone into all the information in possession of the Government, and all that could be obtained in the libraries of Washington; and it is not too much to expect that he will present to the House, at an early day, the data upon which intelligent action may be based.

It is to the credit of the present House that it begins to show so soon such marked and valuable characteristics, and I am sure I only express the common hope that what has been so well begun in the part of members, from every section too—for Senator Stuart, of Michigan, an interior State, but shoring great fresh-water lakes, is not lagging in the work—may be prosecuted with equal vigor.

The Treasury notes have the merit of beautiful designs. The water-mark is printed in green to prevent photograph counterfeits. The one-thousand-dollar notes have a head-engraving of the President, and the five-hundred dollar notes a head-engraving of the Secretary of the Treasury. There are other minor figures, of Justice, &c.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular to collectors, receivers of public moneys, depositories, and other officers authorized to receive duties, debts, and sales of public lands payable to the United States, in which occurs this important clause:

"Should Treasury notes bearing interest be sent to disbursing officers or agents of the United States for payment to their creditors, such officers or agents will be directed to date the interest upon the date so endorsed by an officer or agent of the United States is legally regarded as the true date of the issue of such notes, from which the interest thereon is to be computed." X. Y.

FROM THE UTAH EXPEDITION.

Proclamation of Governor Cumming.

[From the St. Louis Republican of Jan. 12th.]

Last evening we received intelligence from the scene of war at Fort Bridger, and from the Territory of Utah, and proceed to give the news, which is of a highly interesting character.

The whole of the troops sent out upon this expedition have been concentrated, and were, at the date of our last accounts, in winter quarters, on Black's Fork, about one and a quarter mile above Fort Bridger, with the exception of one company of dragoons, who were posted forty miles distant, on Henry's Fork, where there was some scant supply of grass for the horses. Five companies of the infantry were stationed at old Fort Bridger, and were engaged in rebuilding the works, for the purpose of protecting the provisions, and to be occupied hereafter as a permanent fort for the United States. The whole of the works, it was anticipated, would be completed by the spring.

Now as to the Mormons. We publish below Gov.