The Press.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1858.

FIRST PAGE.—Report of Senator Douglas from Committee on Territories; Items of News. FOURTH PAGE.—List of Letters remaining in the Philadelphia Post Office, up to 12 o'clock M., Saturday, February 20.

THE GREAT REPORT OF SENATOR DOUGLAS.

We this morning publish the Report of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, from the Committee on Territories, in the Senate of the United States, in opposition to the attempt to force the Lecompton fraud upon the people of Kansas. Every citizen will be strengthened in his convictions, or entirely converted to its positions, by a careful reading of this remarkable paper. Many of its positions are entirely new, especially that in which the Senator meets and answers the President's declaration, that "a large portion of the people of Kansas" have been in rebellion against the Government. Here Judge DOUGLAS displays his wonderful talent. He shows that the Lecompton movement, after the Territorial Legislature elected on the 5th of October last assumed control, became as much of a "*rebellion*" to the law as Topeka itself. We invite attention to this striking point. The whole report is so sustained, connected, and logical, and so founded on facts, that it must exercise a new and irresistible influence upon the public mind.

But that portion of this admirable report which will probably attract the most attention is the concluding column, in which Senator DOUGLAS disposes of the plea that the people of Kansas can immediately proceed to alter their Constitution, should Lecompton be bought and bullied through Congress. "The blood of DOUGLAS can protect itself."

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

More than a century has elapsed since this Western Continent received the impress of that primal fact which was to make its memory sound through "the corridors of time." Inseparably as the name of WASHINGTON is connected with the very mention of America—looked up to over the whole world as a beacon of hope by patriots struggling, through long agony and despair, into the atmosphere of freedom—held as the synonym of chivalric courage and martial dignity unsullied by the slightest stain of dishonor—it has kindled an enthusiasm of admiration for its glorious wearer which makes all eulogy trite and commonplace. As Mount Vernon has become "a Mecca of the mind" for the martyr-pilgrims who worship in the creed of devotion to the people's liberty, so the anniversary of the birth of WASHINGTON has been marked as a white day in the annals of history. Commemorating the initial point in the political regeneration of a Continent, it was no unfitting or unworthy advice, on the part of the patriotic sages of the Revolution, to honor its recurrence.

Those who had come out of that dark and bloody struggle were not so far removed from the eventful scenes in which WASHINGTON had figured as to fail to trace back to the hour of his birth the providential good fortune which had carried the cause of the colonies to a successful issue. They were not insensible to the weight of gratitude which the newborn nation owed to its great deliverer. The striking contrast furnished in the peaceful tranquillity which succeeded the seven years' War of Independence was of itself sufficient argument to convince the most skeptical of the real advantages gained by the wisdom of the prudent commander. His total abnegation of self; his thorough self-discipline, the first lesson of which had been conned in the bitter school of BRADDOCK; his diffidence even after the most brilliant successes; his forgetfulness of all family ties in his devotion to the interests of his country; his acceptance, at the unanimous call of his fellow-citizens, of the highest honor in their gift; his final modest resignation of this greater than princely dignity, were all brought vividly to mind by the magnificent results of which they were the antecedents. The commemoration of the birthday of such a benefactor, by annual demonstrations of national delight, was the natural consequence of the deep impression made on the popular heart by his glorious life.

We think, that in the present era of the Confederacy, such celebration should assume the form of a grand ovation of Thanksgiving. There was a providential thread of mystery woven in the brilliant woof of that life for which we should perpetually utter thanks. He was emphatically the man for the hour, and Destiny called him, for the wisest of purposes, to that very position which he alone could have worthily filled.

SHALL HIGHWAYS BE OWNED BY RAILWAYS?

The course of the Common Council at their last meeting, in regard to the question of city railways, has excited our surprise and regret. We have always been the consistent advocate of the passenger railway, believing that its introduction, under proper restrictions, must meet with the approbation of nine-tenths of our citizens. But, at the same time, we are very far from believing that there is any necessity, whatever for the city parting with the entire control of certain highways to the sole use of any railroad corporation, however great the advantages supposed to be conferred may be. We are always disposed to be chary of granting special privileges to any organized companies, believing that true Democracy is hostile to all kinds of monopolies.

On Thursday last, Mr. O'NEILL submitted to the Common Council a petition, largely signed, respectfully asking action to prevent the passage of any law by the Legislature giving to railroad companies a monopoly of the public highways. The mover of the resolution, anxious to have a question so important referred to a majority of its friends, asked that a special committee of three from each Chamber be appointed to report upon the subject, agreeably to the expressed wishes of the petitioners.

The arguments used by Mr. O'NEILL in favor of this reference were very pertinent and well-chosen. They certainly ought to have carried weight with them in the minds of all who care to guard the interests of the public from being bartered away, or given away for nothing. The question involved could not properly be said to fall within the supervision either of the Railroad Committee or of the Highway Committee; for, as it affects directly every citizen of Philadelphia, it should, we think, be examined and reported upon by a special committee raised for the express purpose.

The Council, so far from giving any heed to views so justly urged by Mr. O'NEILL, on motion of Mr. RIDGWAY, smothered the investigation by referring the whole matter to the consideration of the Committee on Highways, which is notoriously committed *in favor* of the extension of passenger railroads. This kind of game may do at Washington, but we think that in merely local matters, where no question of party is involved, all courtesy should be extended to those who are anxious to reform abuses, and every attempt to curtail such courtesy ought to meet the hearty condemnation of every good citizen. We hope Mr. O'NEILL will take care to keep the matter agitated, and not permit it to die in the hands of a committee of its enemies. Let him call on the chairman of the Committee on Highways to report upon the subject forthwith.

ONE OF THE VICTORS.

The gentleman named below is the same who was *elected by a minority* at the late election in Kansas, on the 4th of January, under the auspices of JOHN CALHOUN. He expects to take his seat in Congress, with a majority of about 10,000 against him, in the event of the admission of Kansas on the Lecompton basis!

[From the Charleston (S. C.) Mercury.]

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER.—The Kansas Association of Charleston have taken advantage of the flying visit of Mr. Joseph P. Carr, member of Congress elect from Kansas, to tender him a dinner in compliment to his unyielding staunchness and skilful conduct in the sectional struggle that has claimed that Territory for its field the last few years. It is intended as a mark of admiration and respect inspired in the breasts of all true sons of the South, by the gallant bearing and persistency of the pro-slavery party, in defending their rights against the inroads of anti-Southern emissaries and political recruits sent against them. This tribute comes very properly from South Carolina, and the place which is proud to claim Mr. Carr as a native-born citizen, and to acknowledge his worth as a man and a patriot.

The dinner will take place this afternoon, at St. Andrew's Hall.

THE SNOW.

There has been much rejoicing, among "fast" young gentlemen and rapid young ladies, because a heavy snow-fall has given them the opportunity of enjoying some good sleighing, ere Spring comes on with her coronal of bright flowers and green leaves. Do we blame them? Not we. Sleighing is a pleasant thing, and, in a new country like this, where the increase of population is an object, ought to be esteemed as a decided institution. We have no doubt whatever that about one-sixth of the marriages which take place annually, in "the best society," have originated while the parties were out sleighing. There is something exhilarating in the amusement—the fresh air and the quick motion so charmingly flush the cheeks into beauty—the eyes beam so brightly, flashing out amid furs, and bonnets, and netted worsted head-dresses—the spirits get so elevated, and so on, that pop goes the question, and Benedick returns home not only an engaging, but decidedly an engaged man! Yes, snow is decidedly anti-Malthusian.

Pleasant and suitable for sleighing; not very much liked, however, by the shopkeepers—we mean by those who deal in articles chiefly purchased by or for the ladies. When there is no walking in Chestnut street, save on the extremest demand of business, the fair sex cannot make purchases, and make them they must, in fine weather, for "fine feathers make fine birds."

If the shopkeepers lament, the farmers rejoice over a heavy fall of snow, such as now covers the fields. It is all very well to feel thankful for such a mild winter as we have had, so singularly free from frost, and snow, and rain, but this very mildness is viewed by the farmer with distrust. He apprehends, and not without cause, that the harvest, to be reaped in next autumn, will probably suffer from what he considers as nothing less than an infliction of unseasonably mild weather.

We have lately been in country places—in this State and the foreign realm of "the Jerseys"—and everywhere we found complaints from the agriculturists of the mild season, which was too rapidly bringing forward the seed in the earth. Now, snow is what the farmer looks for, in the early part of the year, to protect the grain which he has put into the land for an early crop. Snow, which covers the earth, is supposed to keep it in a somewhat even temperature—neither too warm nor too cold. Snow protects the earth alike from heat and frost. Above all, snow is considered as a fertilizer—probably because, as it gradually melts, it gives a moderate supply of that moisture which the seeds require for their proper germination.

All things considered, therefore, the great fall of snow which we have had is a decided advantage, independent of sleighing with what Poe calls

The tintinnabunation
Of its bells—bells—bells!

THE GERMAN DEMOCRACY.

ANTI-LECOMPTON.—The "New York *Staats Zeitung*," by far the most able and extensively circulated Democratic German newspaper in the United States, hoists the anti-Lecompton flag, and calls to its editorial chair its late able Washington correspondent, Mr. Hofer, whose anti-Lecompton proclivities have just lost him his clerkship in the Pension Office at Washington.

Mr. Hofer wields a ready and spirited pen, and the announcement of his mounting the tripod and devoting his entire energies to its editorial department meets with a hearty welcome by his countrymen throughout the great North-West.—*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

Mr. HOFER is the same accomplished gentleman who labored so efficiently and spoke so eloquently for BUCHANAN and BRECKINRIDGE in 1856, by invitation of the Democratic State Central Committee. He made hosts of friends by his willing efforts in the good cause, and by his manly and modest deportment.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

A New York paper of yesterday contains an announcement, which we copy, in order to correct its error:

SNOW IN PENNSYLVANIA.—It is stated that the snow storms in the eastern part of Pennsylvania have been so heavy as to cause considerable delay in the delivery of eastern freight at Pittsburgh. West of Harrisburg the Pennsylvania Railroad is in many places completely barricaded by the snow, and the company are obliged to keep men constantly employed in removing the snow from the track.

The simple fact is, that no detention, by snow or otherwise, has occurred on the Pennsylvania Railroad, now or at any time. This road and its Western connexions were never in better condition, or more fully prepared for a heavy Spring trade, (which is fully anticipated,) than at present, and parties sending goods by this route may be assured that no detention will occur.

☞ The Harrisburg *Daily Herald*, now conducted by Messrs. ROYALL and MCREYNOLDS, is conducted with ability and spirit, and promises to be a most influential journal in middle Pennsylvania. We are glad to see that the *Herald* has taken sides against the Lecompton fraud, and that it gives a zealous and efficient support to Governor PACKER and his Administration. May it realize a handsome income to its proprietors.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

With extreme regret, we notice the withdrawal of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davenport from Arch-street Theatre. Thereby, Mr. Wheatley loses two of the best cards in his hand. It is said that they are engaged for Boston. Without doubt, they occupy the foremost place, not only here, but in England, in the theatrical world. Having rented Walnut-street Theatre from Mrs. Bowers, on Wednesday evening, with the use of her company, Mr. and Mrs. Davenport will there take a farewell benefit; the performances being "Othello" and "The Serious family." A finer combination than Davenport's *Othello* and Conway's *Iago* cannot be witnessed. This *must* be a bumper benefit, for the parties are eminently entitled to it, having won golden opinions, in and out of the profession, while in this city.

It will be extremely difficult to fill the void in the Arch-street company, made by the secession of Mr. and Mrs. Davenport. We perceive that Mrs. Farren and Mr. Vezin are engaged. We do not think them at all equal to the two admirable performers—who are "stars," in the fullest sense of the term—whom they succeed. Mrs. Farren's style has not been improved in the South and West, where she has long been a favorite. We last saw her at the Bowery Theatre, in New York, and, even there, her acting was exaggerated. After such a long experience as she has had, (her first appearance on the stage was in 1824, as the Page in the farce of "The Purse,") she may find it difficult to subdue her style to the natural. Mr Herman Vezin, whom we noticed, on his *debut*, some months ago, is a good addition to the Stock-company, but no more able to occupy Mr. Davenport's position than to navigate the *Leviathan* in the Polar Sea. In Arch-street Theatre, he will have good opportunities of practice, and (for the truth must out) of learning his profession. He is an educated, intelligent man, and very likely, with practice and study, to become a fine performer. That lugubrious piece of mock-sentimentality called "The Stranger," was played on Saturday night, and that high-falutin tragic rant "the Rev. Mr. Maturin's Bertram," will be performed this evening. Such threadbare, unpleasant dramas give no fair chance to Mrs. Farren and Mr. Vezin.

Mrs. Conway's benefit, at Walnut-street Theatre on Friday evening, was interfered with by the snow-storm. However, many friends and admirers rallied around her. Mrs. Bowers is about producing a new drama, (which was rather successful, at Laura Keene's Theatre, New York,) founded upon Charles Reade's novel of "White Lies," which, in turn, was actually written from a French play!

At the National Circus, despite the snow, Dan Rice has already "made his mark." It is not too much to say that the performers, the performances, and the management, are very superior. The zoological department is unique. A waltzing camel, a tight-rope dancing elephant, low-comedy mules, and a tamed rhinoceros, are congregated here, with many fine horses, under the most surprising control. The gymnastic feats of the Curriculum are most surprising, without the smallest incident to excite apprehension for the safety of any of the performers. The clowns are really first-rate, eschewing the half-century old, hackneied, vulgar, and stupid platitudes of dialogue heretofore ventilated on this same sawdust. There will be performances every evening this week, with a daylight festival on Wednesday afternoon. We do not habitually go in for disaffection and revolt among the juveniles of families, but if the Circus is not crowded with young folks, on Wednesday afternoon, it may be a moot point whether the youth of Philadelphia will not be justified in hoisting their own flag, getting up their own Declaration of Independence, and solemnly protesting against the maternal meanness which has kept them away from Dan Rice's "Great Show."

The fairy pantomime of "Cinderella" (Sanford himself as *Pompolino*) is to be brought out tonight, and played all the week, at Sanford's Opera House, with new scenery, dresses, tricks, and machinery.

There will be special and varied performances at Themeul's this evening, in commemoration of the birthday of Washington.

"The Annual Ball of the Actors' Order of Friendship" will take place this evening, at the National Guard Hall, in Race street below Sixth. It is for an admirable purpose, and we shall be happy to learn that it is as successful as its best friends can desire.

The chorus company who call themselves (very modestly) the "Musical Folks of America," give a concert every night this week, except Thursday, three of them for benevolent purposes. They perform at National Hall, Market street, above Twelfth.

Mr. Frazer, the well-known and highly popular tenor, this evening commences a series of ballad entertainments, at Academy Hall, southwest corner Broad and Walnut streets. Having had the gratification of attending some of these entertainments elsewhere, we can speak most confidently in approval of them. In fact, they should be called ballad lectures, for the singing portions are connected by illustrative spoken narrative—critical, historical, biographical, and anecdotal—well written, amusing, instructive, and admirably delivered. Mr. Frazer has judiciously put the admission at twenty-five cents.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Lecomptonite Troubles—Duelling—British Ship Letters—Sun's Parallax.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1858.

There is an unexpected, and it may be insurmountable difficulty to the speedy execution of the programme of Senator GREEN and the Lecomptonites. It was their intention, and is still, so far as I can learn, to press the Lecompton Constitution through the Senate without the least delay, and then, that it shall be as hurriedly rushed through the House. Unfortunately for them, however, there exists the widest difference of construction amongst the Lecomptonites in respect to the power of the people of Kansas to alter and amend their frame of State Government prior to 1864, the time which it prescribes. Some Northern Democrats, who have gone with them thus far, refuse to go one step further, unless the people there are empowered by law, in a manner admitting no contrariety of opinion, to throw off the incubus of a hateful Constitution, which nobody pretends to support, as embodying the "consent of the governed." The ultra Southern men, the followers of the Richmond *South*, the New Orleans *Delta*, and the Charleston *Mercury*—who, at the beginning of Mr. Buchanan's Administration, reviled him in every way, imputing the most improper motives to his public acts—now that they see a chance of securing Kansas as a slave State, advocate his Kansas policy, and refuse to make the slightest concession to the other side, each moment fearful that the prize will slip away from their grasp. Calhoun, only a few days ago their idol, to whom they offered up all praise, is, by his recent letter, consigned by them to everlasting infamy; they have him by evincing a willingness to correct the fraudulent returns from Delaware Crossing when the fraud had been made as clear as day to everybody. One wing of the Lecomptonites then insist upon a declaration in the law against the 1864 provision, while the other wing as strenuously resist it. To heal this division in the ranks at this critical moment was the moving cause for the call of a Democratic caucus which was postponed, and when it assembled at last, gave by its debate no hope of a compromise on this point. It was again called for Wednesday last, but no ground having been gained toward the object sought, it was postponed to the call of the chairman.

There is an overwhelming majority, when the question comes squarely before the House, who will vote in a provision empowering the people of Kansas to change their Constitution whenever they please to do so, and when this shall be done, and the question will recur on Lecompton, as amended, there will be arrayed against its passage a large number of Southern members. Under the circumstances, no Northern member can refuse to vote for such a provision, least of all can they when their constituents understand the position assumed by Toombs, of Georgia, and others in the House as well as in the Senate. If Lecompton, say they undisguisedly, be the Constitution under which Kansas shall be admitted as a State into the Union, then slave institutions for the next six years are implanted there, to grow and fasten themselves upon all matters of domestic policy, regardless and unaffected by the popular voice. They are there by supreme law, and to touch them is to inaugurate revolution and aggression upon the South, against which Southern States will do more than clamor.

It is rumored that one or two Louisiana members have joined the anti-Lecompton ranks.

Washington is afflicted with the duelling fever. This disease has broken out with great virulence in this city at various periods of the Government. The last attack occurred immediately after the Mexican war was closed. Since then, the social relations of politicians have rarely been interrupted by sentiments of personal hostility, causing the ready staking of life against life upon political differences. Never before, however, has there been more bitterness and ill-feeling than that now entertained on all hands. The town is kept on tip-toe with rumors that Mr. A and Mr. B had some words, and Clay went and fought, to adjust their differences *a la code d'honneur*, or that Mr. C and Mr. D have taken rail to John C. Rives's farm to have it out on the Bladensburg duelling ground, where Gilley and Mason and others fell. In truth, society begins to grow uncomfortably Tipperaryish.

It is announced by the Postmaster General that the British rate of postage upon letters despatched from or brought to any port in the United Kingdom by a private ship, whether steamer or sailing vessel, has been reduced to a uniform rate of six pence (12 cents) the half ounce.

All letters, therefore, mailed in the United States, and transmitted to Great Britain for conveyance thence by *private ship* to any British colony or foreign country beyond sea, must be prepaid 33 cents the single rate of half ounce or under.

Lieut. J. M. Gilliss, who was in command of the United States Astronomical Expedition to Chili, has communicated to the Secretary of the Navy the chief result of his labors. He has ascertained the sun's equatorial horizontal parallax to be 8'' .4950, or 8'' .0762 *less* than the value commonly adopted; and he concludes that 8'' .5000 may be assumed, which will correspond to the distance of the sun from the earth of 96,160,000 statute miles. This is an important fact for astronomers. Y. Y.

On Thursday evening, at half-past five o'clock, while the convicts in the State Prison at Sing Sing, N. Y., were filing into the mess-room for supper, five of them made a rush for the river, which is frozen over, thinking to escape on the ice. They were pursued and fired upon by the guards, and all brought back, when three were found to be wounded; John Spence, the well-known companion and pal of Mabie Hodges, had received five balls; Pete Devlin, sent up for receiving stolen goods, two balls, and Quinn, a Fourth ward burglar, got four bullets. The other two were not injured. Spence and Quinn are badly hurt, and will probably die.

A private letter from Berlin, Wisconsin, dated Feb. 9, gives the following extraordinary low rates for produce in that place: "Wheat is selling at 40 cents per bushel; oats, 17 cents per bushel; corn, 20 cents per bushel; potatoes, 12½ cents per bushel; butter, 12½ cents per pound; eggs, 11 cents per dozen; white beans, 62½ cents per bushel, while, last spring, they brought $4 per bushel in the market. Hay is selling at from $2 to $2.50 per ton, and good hickory wood brings $2 per cord."

The St. Louis *Republican* notes a heavy operation in provisions in that city on Tuesday, amounting at a money value to over $100,000. The seller was a gentleman of Peoria, and delivers most of the stuff in that place at advanced quotations. This transaction includes, in round figures, 2,500 barrels of mess pork, 1,000 tierces of lard, and over 50,000 pieces of cut meats. The mess pork sold at $15 50, and the lard at 9½c.

Two men, one named Martin Wallace, and his companion, (both laborers.) left Buskirk's Bridge, New York, Tuesday evening to go to Eagle Bridge. They had been drinking pretty freely. During the evening, Wallace's companion was found dead in the highway. He had undoubtedly been beaten to death with a club. Officers were immediately sent after Wallace, the supposed murderer, and he was arrested at Walt's Corners.

It is proposed to take off enough from the large county of Tazewell, in Virginia, to form two new counties, one to be called Buchanan and the other Breckinridge. In the county of Buchanan, that is to be, there are said to be three slaves, and in the proposed Breckinridge it is added that there will not be a slave owned. So says the Tazewell *Advocate.*

JOHN Hancock, Esq., says the Boston *Ledger*, nephew of Governor John Hancock, of revolutionary memory, will complete his 84th year to-day, when the "Hancock House" will see one of those hearty old-fashioned times for which it has been heretofore famous. Mr. Hancock wears his years well, and walks abroad every day.

The Providence (R. I.) *Post* mentions the suicide, in that city, of a young woman named Ashby Webb, by taking arsenic, 14th inst., in a cup of coffee. The cause was one of the old ones—disappointed love. After receiving the attention of a young man and forming a decided attachment on her part, he transferred his attentions elsewhere.

General Concha has granted permission for the publication of a newspaper in the English language in Havana. It will be styled the *Cuban Messenger*. This is the first time such permission has been granted, though repeatedly applied for.

Our exchanges received yesterday from all quarters are filled with accounts of the late severe snow storm. No serious damage, however, appears to have resulted from it. The various railroad trains were detained from five to ten hours.

Admiral Zerman, who escaped from Mexico with President Comonfort, was robbed on board a steamboat at Mobile, a few days ago, of $1.000 in gold and several important despatches for our Government.

Mr. Upham Treat, of Frankfort, Me., is stocking Shattuck's Lake, and others adjacent, with alewives; shad, bass and salmon. He has expended upwards of $2,000 in the enterprise.

A fire in Kittanning, Pa., on Friday morning destroyed the carriage factory of Mr. Pinney. The loss will be over $3,000, on which there is no insurance.

Pierre Gentin, who participated in the battle of New Orleans, and subsequently fought several duels, died suddenly last week in that city.

The mountains in Georgia were covered with snow last week, giving them an unusually grand appearance.

ELEGANT SPRUCE-STREET RESIDENCE AT PUBLIC SALE.—Included in Messrs. Thomas & Son's sale, 2d March, will be the elegant brown-stone residence, No. 1524 Spruce street. See advertisement.

THE valuable library of books, to be sold on Tuesday and the following evenings, are now arranged, with catalogues, at the auction rooms.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

From Parkersburg.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

PARKERSBURG, VA., Feb 20, 12 M.—It is still raining, and the ice in the river is gradually disappearing, and the river is rising. Steamers Baltimore and H. A. Jones will leave to-morrow for ports below.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE

THE AFRICA AT NEW YORK.

NOTHING LATER FROM INDIA.

Re-Opening of Parliament.

The Refugee Question.

BREADSTUFFS LOWER—COTTON DECLINING.

Consols 96 for Money.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The Cunard Mail Steamship Africa, from Liverpool, with dates to the 6th inst., anchored off the bar at 6 o'clock last evening, but did not succeed in reaching her berth till this morning. Her dates are three days later than furnished by the Baltic.

ENGLAND.

No later intelligence from India or China had been received. The telegraphic abstract of the coming mail was expected to reach London on Monday, the 9th inst.

Parliament re-assembled on the 4th inst.

Indian affairs promised to occupy much of the attention of Parliament. Lord Palmerston had given notice of his intention to bring in a bill for amendment of the Government of India.

A bill has, also, been proposed giving authority to the East India Company to raise a loan of not over ten millions sterling, on debenture bonds, in the next two years in England.

Addresses have been voted in both houses of Parliament congratulating the Queen on the marriage of the Princess Royal.

Lord Palmerston gave notice of an intended bill in regard to conspiracies to murder, designed to meet the refugee question.

Mr. Roebuck asked Lord Palmerston whether any communications had passed between France and England in regard to the alien act, or for an alteration of the criminal code. He spoke bitterly against the Emperor Napoleon and the French officials. Lord Palmerston acknowledged the receipt of a despatch calling attention to the refugee question, and hoping that the British Government would do what they thought fit under the circumstances. No answer had been returned. He rebuked Mr. Roebuck's onslaught.

FRANCE.

The French penal code was undergoing modifications.

A decree issued invests Prince Jerome Napoleon with the right of attending the councils of State, and presiding in the absence of the Emperor.

The French consuls are hereafter not to grant passports to British subjects.

The trial of the Neapolitan revolutionists of June last has been commenced.

SPAIN.

A decree has been issued extending the amnesties granted on the birth of the prince to the Colonies.

ITALY.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* says: "It appears certain that, in consequence of the observations addressed to the Sardinian Cabinet by the English and French Governments, the note which was to have been presented to the Neapolitan Government has been withdrawn."

At the trial of the Neapolitan revolutionists of June last, which has commenced at Salerno, two hundred and eighty-six prisoners appeared in court. The correspondent of the London *Daily News* says that some of them appeared more like beasts than men—pale, dried up, shivering and shrinking from the cold, and scarcely able to walk upright, from the effects of cold and hunger. Their allowance was half-pence per day.

Members of the newspaper *Ragione* of Turin, who were arrested and brought up for trial for an offensive article in regard to the attempt upon Napoleon's life, were acquitted.

A slight shock of an earthquake is reported at Parma.

DENMARK.

Advices from Copenhagen state that Prince Christian, heir presumptive to the throne, was to go to Paris on a mission of congratulation to the Emperor.

The King of Denmark had been suffering from inflammation of the chest, but was better.

RUSSIA.

The Emperor Alexander, to add example to precept, has resolved to emancipate all the serfs on his private domain, securing to them all the advantages granted to peasants of private individuals, and giving them the buildings in which they reside.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, February 5—COTTON MARKET.—The sales of Cotton for the week 74,000 bales, including 5,500 to speculators, and 3,000 for export. The market for the week opened with a slight advance for all qualities, but this advance was lost, and the market closed with a decline for new Uplands of 1-16d. The sales to-day (Friday) were 6,000 bales, including 1,600 for speculation and export. The market closed steady at the following quotations:

Fair Orleans	7¼
Middling	6 15-16
Fair Mobiles	7¼
Middling	6¾
Fair Uplands	7
Middling	6¾

The stock of cotton in port is 330,000 bales, of which 175,000 bales are American.

The Manchester advices continue favorable, and all qualities of goods have advanced.

HAVRE, Feb. 4.—New Orleans tres ordinaire are quoted at 98f.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFF MARKET, Feb. 5.—The market closed very dull for Flour and Corn, all qualities having declined.

Messrs. Richardson & Spence's circular quotes a declining tendency for flour, which is unsaleable, and quotations are nominal: Western Canal, 20s 6da22s6d; Philadelphia and Baltimore flour, 22s6d a23s; Ohio, 25s a25s6d. Wheat is steady, and the market closed firmer; Western red is quoted at 5s9da6s; Southern 7sa7s2d; white 7s@8d, and choice lots at 7s9d. Corn is dull; and all qualities have declined. Mixed yellow closed at 33s, and white at 35s.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET, Feb. 5.—The market closed dull. Beef steady; pork heavy; bacon, quiet, with a slight decline in all qualities; lard heavy, at a decline; tallow has also declined 1s.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET, Feb. 5.—Sugar is buoyant, with an advance for all qualities; coffee steady; rice steady and active; Carolina has slightly advanced; sales at 18s. 6d. a 20s 9d. Tea is slow of sale, and prices are unaltered.

Rosin firm; sales of common at 4s. 3d.; fine has advanced.

Pot and Pearl Ashes quiet; sales of Pearls at 32s. a 32s. 6d.

Linseed Oil, 30s; Spirits of Turpentine, 36s a 37s.

LONDON MARKETS, Feb. 5.—The circular of Harings & Brothers quotes Breadstuffs very dull.

Iron.—Welsh rails and bars £6 10s.

Saltpetre has declined 1s.

Spirits turpentine dull at 36s 6da37s 6d.

Tallow dull; Linseed Oil 28s 9d.

Sugar steady, coffee dull, tea unchanged, rice heavy.

LONDON MONEY MARKET, Feb. 5.—The money market is slightly easier The Bank of England has reduced the rate of discount to 3½ per cent

American securities are active and tendingupward.

The bullion in the Bank of England has increased £395,000.

Consols for money are quoted 96, and for account at 96¼@96⅝.

LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, Feb. 6.—The sales of cotton to-day have been 10,000 bales, the market closing very firm.

Breadstuffs continue very dull.

Provisions are unchanged.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, Feb. 6.—The clipper ship Marco-Polo, from Melbourne, Australia, with £295,000 in gold, was reported off Kinsale yesterday. She left Melbourne on the 24th of October, and having greatly exceeded the time usually made by her, some anxiety has been felt for her safety, and the underwriters were demanding five guineas per cent. for insurance on the gold.

By Telegraph to Liverpool.

LONDON, Feb. 6, noon.—Consols for money are quoted at 95⅞@96, and 96a96¼ for account.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 20.

SENATE.

The Senate was engaged to-day chiefly in the consideration of private bills, a number of which were passed.

A bill relative to the sale of lands for the non-payment of taxes was passed.

A supplement to the act exempting the sale of property to the amount of $300 was passed aroading in Committee of the Whole.

The bill to appoint appraisers to assess damages sustained by transporters and others, by the sale of the Maine Line, passed second reading.

Mr. RANDALL offered a joint resolution relative to a line of steamships between Philadelphia and Brazil. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. NEGLEY introduced a bill to encourage volunteer companies.

A bill commuting the death penalty in certain cases was reported favorably.

A bill to authorize the Governor to appoint commissioners to investigate the management of the Lancaster Bank passed finally.

Adjourned till Monday, at 3 P. M.

Later from Salt Lake—Snow on the Mountains—Preparations for Resistance by the Mormons.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—The Independence correspondent of the *Republican*, under date of the 10th instant, says that the mail from Salt Lake arrived the previous night. Conductor Denver reports the snow from one to six feet deep on the mountains, and the weather intensely cold. He left Camp Scott January 1st, when the troops were in good spirits, earnestly wishing for fine weather and reinforcements to make a descent on Salt Lake City.

From Mormon prisoners and straggling Utah Indians Gen. Johnson is well advised of the movements of the Saints, who are making active preparations for resisting the troops in the spring. Their municipal arrangements are very stringent, and suspicion fastens upon everybody in the least inclined to favor the action of the United States Government.

Governor Cumming is performing the duties of his office as far as he is able.

The outward-bound mails are making good progress. Many Indians were met on the route, and were all friendly.

Gas Explosion in a Church—Destruction of Property—Probable Loss of Life.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 20.—Last evening the Methodist Protestant church, on Sixth street, near Race, in this city, was partly destroyed by an explosion, caused by defective gas pipes. At seven o'clock some fifteen persons were assembled in the basement for prayer meeting, when a strong odor of gas was observed. An effort was made to discover the leakage, and a light was applied to the meter, when a blaze burst forth, but it was extinguished by a bucket of water. Quiet was almost restored, when an explosion took place, tearing up the floor, shattering the walls, and making a wreck of the basement. In the church, above, half of the pews were torn up, the windows were blown out, portions of the floor were carried as high as the ceiling, the doors were forced, and the hinges blown off. In the street the explosion was heard at the distance of half a mile, and the windows of many of the buildings were destroyed.

Eight or ten persons were severely wounded, two or three of whom are not expected to live.

Burning of the Pacific Hotel, St. Louis—Large number of Persons Killed and Wounded—Startling Incidents—Names of the Victims

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—A fire broke out in the Pacific Hotel, about three o'clock this morning, causing the greatest consternation among the boarders. Ten persons were killed, and many others seriously injured, by leaping from the windows. The building was burned.

The confusion attendant upon this disaster is so great that the names of the killed and wounded have not been ascertained.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—The burning of the Pacific Hotel proves to be a more terrible calamity than was at first reported.

This morning there were about a hundred persons in the house, between forty and fifty of whom are missing.

The following are the names of the persons, so far, known to be killed:

Bruce McNutt, Burkhardt Wurst, Pane Sterret, Mrs. Jenny Jones and child, all of St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson, of Chicago.

Henry Rochester, T. Hart Strand, Rochester, N. Y.

Wm. Saunders, residence unknown.

George Crane, Miss Jones, Charles Davis, Wm. Cunningham, of Terre Haute and Alton Railroad.

Miss Hunter.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard.

Also, nine persons who were in one of the rooms, whose names are unknown, and a negro boy.

The following were seriously injured:

James T. Geary, Reporter of the St. Louis *Leader.*

Elihu Hayes, of New York.

Jonathan Jones.

Mr. Towne.

William Turner.

Mr. Sharpe, the watchman of the house.

The fire broke out in the drug store, under the hotel, and the flames spread so rapidly that before the inmates could be aroused, the stairways were enveloped in fire and all egress was cut off except by the windows. Many leaped from the third story, and were either horribly mangled or instantly killed. Many more were either unable even to reach the windows or were burned to death in their rooms.

Several more bodies are supposed to be in the ruins, and hundreds of excited men are energetically engaged in removing the rubbish.

The wounded are promptly taken in charge by their friends or sent to the hospital, where their injuries are immediately attended to. Several of the wounded cannot possibly recover. The loss of property amounts to upwards of $50,000.

Personal Encounters at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—An altercation occurred at the dinner table at Brown's Hotel, to-day, between Hon. J. B. Clay, member of Congress from Kentucky, and Gen. Cullom, late Clerk of the House. Subsequently Gen. Cullom struck Mr. Clay, with his open hand, in the face.

This morning ex-Lieutenant A. C. Rhind posted Commander E. B Boutwell as "a liar and a coward," near the office of the Navy Department. It is understood that the difficulty originated several years ago, in the Pacific, but was recently renewed before the Naval Court of Inquiry.

Reported Duel.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Rumors have been afloat all day that a hostile meeting had occurred between Messrs. Clay and Cullom, resulting in a fatal wound to the latter. It is, however, believed that up to the present time there has been no meeting. Both of the parties are absent, and the friends are eagerly endeavoring to adjust the affair.

The anticipated hostile affairs between Messrs. Harney and Sumner and A. C. Rhind with Commander Boutwell, are as yet undeveloped.

Breech-Loading Fire Arms.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—On the 5th instant a board of officers, appointed by the War Department, at the was Washington arsenal to test Sharp's breech-loading pistol. In the report it was mentioned that they were "similar in construction to the breech-loading carbine." Since then, however, it having been brought to the notice of the board, by the Sharp Rifle Manufacturing Company, that the two arms (the carbine and the pistol) were dissimilar in material points, the board have amended their report by inserting the words "somewhat" immediately preceding the word "similar" in their description of the pistols.

The Sharp carbine, after repeated tests, has been partially adopted into the United States service.

The carbine is solely made by the Sharp Rifle Manufacturing Company, of Hartford, who neither did make nor present the pistol for trial, and are in no way responsible for the result reported by the board.

The Mormon Campaign.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—In view of the approaching campaign against the Mormons, the Secretary of War recently convened a board composed of Gen. Harney, Lieut. Col. Johnston, Major Bell, Col. May, and Lieut Col. Hardee, to test the efficiency of Colt's pistol carbine and Colt's pistol with breech attachment, which they pronounce superior, for cavalry service, to any arm with which they are acquainted. They recommend the adoption of the latter, dispensing with the swivels attached thereto, and requiring that it be sighted for one, two, or three hundred yards, each trooper to be furnished with two for immediate service.

The Snow Storm South.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The snow was yesterday a foot deep at Upperville, Fauquier county, Virginia.

The Southern mails have been received as late as due, but contain no news of importance.

An extra boat, with from 600 to 700 passengers for Richmond, left this city to-day.

Appointment.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—William Caldwell has been reappointed postmaster at Cambridge. No other Massachusetts appointments were made yesterday.

Design Abandoned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The anti-Lecompton Democrats have abandoned their design of publishing an address to the country.

The Danville Poisoning Case.

DANVILLE, Pa., Feb. 20.—Sentence of death was this morning passed upon William J. Clark, convicted yesterday of the murder of his wife, by administering poison. He asserted his innocence before the judge pronounced sentence.

The trial of Mr