The Press.

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1858.

FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS

Will be Ready at the

OFFICE OF THE PRESS,

NO. 417 CHESTNUT STREET,

At One o'clock This Morning.

This paper is published expressly for

CALIFORNIA CIRCULATION,

And contains a complete summary of what has transpired in our City, State, and the Atlantic States, since the departure of the last steamer for California.

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All advertisements intended for the

STEAMER PRESS

Must be handed in before TEN O'CLOCK THIS MORNING.

FIRST PAGE.—Visit to West Chester; From Minnesota; From Pensylvania, N. Y.; The Catastrophe on the Erie Railroad; The Allegheny County Murder; Another Accident in the Coal Region; The City; General News. FOURTH PAGE.—List of Letters in the Philadelphia Post Office up to 12 o'clock M., July 17.

THE NEWS.

The steamship Austria arrived at New York on Saturday, with one day's later news from Europe.

From Buenos Ayres we have dates to the 27th of May. The United States Consul and Don Felix Frias were to examine all claims of Americans against the State of Buenos Ayres. Severe storms of rain and wind had done much damage. The Executive had officially defined the actual political relations existing between the State and the other portions of the Argentine Confederation. It declares that Buenos Ayres is and will be an integral portion of the Confederation, but the temporary division now existing will be maintained for the next ten years if the difficulties are not amicably adjusted in the meantime.

It is reported, unofficially, that a messenger left Washington on Friday, carrying despatches to Mr. Forsyth, Minister to Mexico, approving of his suspension of diplomatic intercourse with that country, and directing the withdrawal of the Legation and its return to the United States.

The steam revenue cutter Harriet Lane, Capt. Faunce, from New York via Washington city, arrived at Norfolk on the 14th inst., with the Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, and the following distinguished personages, on a pleasure party: Sir W. Gore Ousely, Lady Ousely, Miss Ousely, Count Sartiges, Hon. A. Schell, Collector of New York; Hon. Elisha Ward, of New York; R. W. Hughes and lady, the editor of the Washington *Union*; Mr. P. Clayton, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, lady and daughter; Major Ramsey, U. S. A.; Mr. Ben. Ogle Taylor of Washington city; Messrs. Magraw, Scharff, Sandidge, and McAllister; Miss Harriet Lane, niece of President Buchanan; two Misses Bright, daughters of the Hon. Senator Bright. The party remained until half past two o'clock yesterday, and took a ride through the city. The company then departed for Old Point, and dined at the Hygeia. From thence they go to Annapolis. They have a splendid band of music with them.

We give some further particulars of the recent terrible accident on the Erie Railroad. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that the victims "*accidentally, and by misfortune, came to their death, and not otherwise.*" The jury further state that it was their belief that the cars were thrown from the track in consequence of a broken rail, against which ordinary care and foresight on the part of those in charge of the train could not guard. New York "railroad accident" juries are composed of very singular materials. There was certainly a want of "ordinary care and foresight" on the part of those who receive heavy salaries to keep the road in repair.

General Quitman died at his residence, near Natchez, Miss., on Saturday, of the disease which he contracted at the National Hotel in Washington.

A fire occurred in Leavenworth city, Kansas, on the 14th inst., which destroyed the theatre and thirty buildings adjoining, involving a loss estimated at $100,000.

Five girls, between the ages of fourteen and nineteen, inmates of the House of Mercy of New York, while bathing in the North river on Friday night, were drowned. It appears that after making the necessary preparations all the girls joined hands and went some distance into the water, but being unacquainted with the presence of a few deep holes near the Eighty-sixth street dock, they unfortunately got beyond their depth, and being unable to swim, sank to the bottom. Their situation was witnessed by several persons on shore who immediately used every possible effort to rescue the girls, but without effect, as they were all drowned. Not one of the bodies was seen after first disappearing under the water. The probability is, therefore, that the unfortunate girls remained locked in each other's embrace, and will be found in that condition. At the last account none of the bodies had been recovered.

The steamships City of Washington, and Anglo Saxon, sailed from New York for Liverpool on Saturday.

"Occasional" sends us an unusually interesting letter from Washington.

The were five hundred and fifty-three deaths in New York last week, being an increase of *one hundred and eleven* over the previous week.

The National Convention of the Sons of Malta convenes this morning at the rooms of Minnehaha Lodge, in the Assembly Buildings. Delegates have already arrived, as we see by the Girard House register, from India, England, France, the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky, and Alabama. To-day, we understand, delegates will come in from all parts of the country.

WM. ENGLISH AND THE ENGLISH BILL.

The ignorance of the leading European journals on many prominent points of American polity has been often noticed. We have now to record another very singular instance. Several of the London newspapers, and at least two of their Parisian contemporaries, have been discussing that peculiar enactment of the last Congress commonly known as "The English bill." In happy ignorance of the fact that this measure, such as it is, owes its title to the remarkable legislator on whom that precious statute is generally affiliated, certain London and Paris editors seriously assume that it is an "English" bill, simply and solely because it embodies *English* principles!

They argue, therefore, that the American Legislature, having adopted the principle of resistance to Popular Sovereignty—which principle is the key-stone to all Anglican legislation—thereby abandon what is the very life and soul of true Democratic action. And thus, while we, on our side of the Atlantic, are congratulating England on gradually assimilating her institutions to our own, foreign journalists are boasting of the change which has passed over the spirit of our dream, and saying, in a very exultant tone, "See here! the United States have virtually relinquished the old 'Vox populi, vox Dei' principle, for they maintain, and they enact, that Popular Sovereignty ought to be shelved in the instance of Kansas, and that the Few in that incipient State shall dictate, against the popular will, to the indignant and Democratic Many."

But while the English and French journalists thus overlooked the fact that the man ENGLISH named the measure, it happens that they are right in the main—for, however it be named, the degrading fact is that *the bill is essentially British in its principle and its bearing.* It is precisely such as Lord CASTLEREAGH, in the most rampant days of his most intolerant Toryism, would have forced a British Parliament to adopt—such as Lord DERBY, the leader of the more liberal Tories of the present day, would never have dared to propose. The abandonment of the full Democratic principle of Popular Sovereignty is suited, at this moment, not to the atmosphere of Washington, but to nominal legislatures, such as NAPOLEON has at France and King BOMBA has at Naples—legislatures which really have no power of free thought or of free action, and *must only record*, and formally advance, measures springing from the arbitrary will of influencing and dictating Power. Yes, the foreign journalists *are* right. That Bill which gives vitality to anti-popular principle is indeed thoroughly *English* in feeling as it is in name.

☞ We are indebted to the able editor of the Doylestown *Democrat*, Major W. H. DAVIS, for a fine plume, taken from the pinion of an eagle, shot by a Pike county anti-Lecompton Democrat, MAHLON S. HELLER. Mr. HELLER shot this eagle on the 18th of June, in Hilltown township, Bucks county, with a rifle, while it was perched at dusk upon the top of a high tree. We shall preserve the testimonial sent us until the recognition, by all parties, of the principle of Popular Sovereignty, when we will use it as a pen with which as a fitting instrument to record the glorious and inevitable result.

The Board of Guardians of the Poor will hold their stated semi-monthly meeting this afternoon, at three o'clock. A number of officers of the almshouse are to be elected, and other important business transacted.

THE INSOLENCE OF OFFICE.

We occasionally receive letters from postmasters, of which the following is a specimen:

PUNXSATAWNEY July 13t 1858.

Col J. W. Forney

Dear sir we suppose that the time the club for the Weekly Press has run out but we find it is still coming on I am authorised to request you to stop it There is but one of them that can swallow your anti Lecompton doctrines and they are not willing to patronize a man professing to be a democrat and all the time batling against Democracy and the Democratic party

Respectfully yours THOS. MCKEE P.M.

Curiously enough, it would doubtless appear on investigation, that most of these little office-holders, now so violent in their proscription of THE PRESS, like nearly all of their masters, were originally the most decided opponents of the present Kansas policy of the Administration. Cabinet Ministers, like HOWELL COBB; Senators, like Mr. BIGLER; Representatives in Congress, like PHILLIPS, LANDY, OWEN JONES, DIMMICK, GILLIS, WILSON REILLY, DEWART, &c., have made the most startling records against this policy, and having changed their course of action, not content with the commission of this offence themselves, traduce and proscribe all others who will not go and do likewise. The business of attacking newspapers by such means as that resorted to by the postmaster at Punxatawney, Jefferson county, has fallen into disuse at Washington. Resorted to for some months for the purpose of intimidation, it has proved to be an expensive process. The cry is raised now, *on the other hand*, by those who were first to make the test, that the test is only made by the anti-Lecompton Democracy. ☞ Postmasters, take notice.

Many of the gentlemen holding position under this Administration are excellent men, men who would disdain such a business as that of cutting down the subscription of a newspaper because of its opinions; but here and there we find one, who, like the postmaster above referred to, conceives it to be his duty to prove his subserviency by denouncing THE PRESS and canvassing his neighborhood against it. The man MCKEE, the value of whose office is something over $100 a year, performs this degrading service for a small sum with infinite gusto. Does he know that but for the principle advocated by THE PRESS he would not now be in possession of that stipend?—that if the Democratic party had not in 1856 boldly planted itself upon that principle, Mr. GILLIS would be vegetating at Ridgway, and that JNO. C. FREMONT would be President of the United States? Does he not know that the opinion of the Democracy of Jefferson county is against the attempt to desert and destroy this doctrine? And furthermore, that every effort he makes to proscribe those who differ from him, only increases the ranks of our political opponents and renders the defeat of the Democratic party more and more certain in 1860?

It is a melancholy spectacle that men are willing to lend themselves to this contemptible persecution. We would suggest to Mr. Postmaster-General BROWN the propriety of hinting to his subordinates that the act of opposing Lecompton can no longer be profitably punished. We give him the hint.

We trust that the friends of THE PRESS will steadily keep their eye upon the machinations of these intolerant postmasters, and checkmate their operations.

THE PRESS is an independent journal. It has neither sought nor asked for the patronage of any Administration. It will support every public servant when he is right, and oppose him when he is wrong; and we have no doubt that in the fulfilment of this mission it will be sustained by a generous and intelligent people.

THE LADIES AND MOUNT VERNON.

The arrival in this city of the Regent of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association, Miss ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, and her accomplished assistant, Miss CHRISTIE JOHNSON, reminds us not only of the extraordinary success which has crowned the efforts of this splendid Association, but of the apparent neglect of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and other States, in properly seconding the work so suspiciously begun and so industriously prosecuted. The object, "the purchase of the Home and the Grave of Washington," for the purpose of making it the property of the nation, appeals to our holiest sympathies. For years *the idea of purchasing* Mount Vernon, and dedicating it to the nation, has been advocated. Repeated attempts have only been followed by repeated failures. At last Miss ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, a Southern lady, inspired by the most disinterested ambition, appealed to her countrywomen in every State of the Union to undertake the good work. She has given herself up to the task, and the indications are that her efforts will be entirely successful. In response to her appeal Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, the great orator of our country, if not of the world, agreed to give his invaluable services to the cause. He has already raised a large sum by addressing his countrymen on the character of WASHINGTON, and by repeating his splendid composition on Charity. More than forty thousand dollars have thus been realized, and Mr. EVERETT announces his determination to speak to the people wherever a fitting occasion shall offer, still further to increase this amount. Meanwhile, under Miss CUNNINGHAM'S auspices, has been rapidly extending its organization. Vice-regents have been appointed in a number of the States, and care has been taken to obtain the aid of the most distinguished ladies. The following is the list of officers:

REGENT.—Miss ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM, South Carolina.

VICE-REGENTS.—Mrs. Anna Cora Ritchie, Richmond, Virginia; Mrs. Alice H. Dickinson, Wilmington, North Carolina; Mrs. Philoclea Edgeworth Eve, Augusta, Georgia; Mrs Octavia Walton Le Vert, Mobile, Alabama; Mrs. Catherine A. McWillie, Jackson, Mississippi; Mrs. Margaretta S. Morse, New Orleans, Louisiana; Mrs Mary Rutledge Fogg, Nashville, Tennessee; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Walton, St. Louis, Missouri; Mrs. Mary Morris Hamilton, New York City, N. Y.; Mrs. Louisa Ingersoll Greenough, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Abba Isabella Little, Portland, Maine; Mrs. Susan L. Pellet, Secretary, Richmond, Virginia; George W. Riggs, Esq., Treasurer, Washington, D. C.

The Constitution also empowers the regent, by and with the advice of the vice-regents, to provide a plan of organization for State action, and to appoint a board of managers for each State. In consideration of the difficulty of devising any one plan calculated to meet approbation in sections of the country differing widely in population and in the structure of society, she deems that the advancement of the cause will best be promoted by leaving it to each vice-regent to enlist such aid for the collection of funds as will most conduce to the success of the enterprise.

"The sum of $1 constitutes the contributor a member of the Association; and the name, sum, and residence of every subscriber must be carefully registered by the persons who are authorized to make or receive collections in aid of the Mount Vernon fund. It will be the duty of such persons to transmit the same to the vice-regent of the State, and, in default of a vice-regent, to the treasurer of the Association, who will cause them to be published in the *National Intelligencer* and Washington *Union*, and forward a copy to the regent or secretary.

The generous offer of the Masonic fraternity of Virginia, and, through them, of the Union, to aid the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in the accomplishment of their sacred object has been gratefully accepted, and it is confidently believed that their contributions will be equal to their high appreciation of the character and virtues of their illustrious brother.

To show what these noble women have done, read the following:

[*Extract from a letter.*]

I have now the pleasure to inform you that the purchase and sale of Mount Vernon has been consummated by and between Ann Pamela Cunningham, late Southern Matron, now Regent of the Association, and John A. Washington, the owner and occupant, on the 6th of April, instant, upon the *following* terms:

$18,000.00 cash paid Mr. John A. Washington.
57,000 00 to be paid on 1st January, 1859.
41,666.66 to be paid on 22d February, 1860.
41,666 66 to be paid on 22d February, 1861.
41,666.68 to be paid on 22d February, 1862.

$200,000.00

The deferred payments to carry interest from date, and possession and *title to remain with* Mr. Washington till paid in full, with the *proviso* of obtaining possession at any time, by thirty days notice, when the *Association* is prepared, and does pay the entire amount of purchase money.

The Association, by the aid of their co-laborers in this glorious cause, are now in possession of the funds to pay the first instalment of $57,000, on the first of January next. There being now no reason for any delay in accumulating, at tangible points, the stipulated purchase money, but on the contrary, every reason why it should be furnished, as speedily as possible, to arrest the accumulating interest, which Mr. Washington has proffered to relinquish entire, if the principal is paid on the 22d of February next; it then only remains for every one to use their utmost exertions, so that the *entire sum* will be made available on the 22d of February, 1859; on which ever-memorable day the actual possession may then pass to the "Ladies' Mount Vernon Association," and constitute an epoch through all recorded time, which will challenge history for its parallel.

Mr. EVERETT detains in his hands a large amount of the money, the proceeds of his own efforts, subject to draft, as above, and other sums are paid to the eminent banker at Washington, GEO. W. RIGGS, Esq., who has accepted the post of Treasurer, and is fully embarked in the movement.

No vice-regents have yet been appointed for Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, and other States. These embrace a wide field, and if properly canvassed will realize an enormous sum to the object in view. As it is proposed to expend the interest of at least $800,000 on the beautifying of Mount Vernon after it is paid for, GEO. C. THORBURN, Esq., of Newark, N. Jersey, having agreed to undertake the task, every citizen will have a chance to subscribe. Of this gentleman the Newark *Advertiser* says:

We are glad to learn that the ladies of the Mount Vernon Association have taken one step, and that an important one, in order to make the Mecca of the American pilgrimage all that it should be, by soliciting the services of Mr. Geo. C. Thorburn, of the city of Newark, to take charge of the premises. It is intended, we understand, to raise a large fund—$500,000 if possible—the interest of which will be appropriated towards beautifying the place from time to time, the cultivation of rare and beautiful trees, flowers, (seeds and cuttings of which will be distributed through the country,) laying out the grounds in the most tasteful manner, and in a word, making it the Garden of America. Among other improvements contemplated are the restoration of an old church on the premises, built by Washington, which has long gone to decay, and the building of a mausoleum, to cost from $25,000 to $30,000. No more competent person than Mr. Thorburn, it is said, could be obtained to superintend the carrying into effect the intention of the ladies in all the departments connected with developing and improving the natural beauties and advantages of the place."

☞ We trust that THE LADIES OF PENNSYLVANIA will not be the last to respond to this glorious call. The fair vice-regents above-named are actively engaged in raising money, under the lead of the enthusiastic regent.

Miss CUNNINGHAM, the regent, and Miss JOHNSON, her assistant, are temporarily sojourning at Mrs. SMITH'S, Portico Row, Spruce street, above Ninth, in this city.

THE DEATH OF GENERAL QUITMAN.

The telegraph announces that General JOHN A. QUITMAN, a Representative in Congress from the Natchez District, of the State of Mississippi, died near that city, on Saturday last, the 17th of July. A public man who had taken part in so many public events, both civil and military, and who had so many friends among the people in every section of the Union, cannot be called away from the scene of life without exciting profound sensation. Few men, not born in Pennsylvania, had a stronger hold upon the affections of our volunteer soldiery, especially those who served under him or with him in the Mexican war. Though strongly embued with extreme Southern ideas, General QUITMAN was born in a Northern State—the State of New York. His father was a native of Prussia, and was a pastor in Duchess county, New York State, in the Dutch Reformed Church, and the features of the son recalled his peculiar German extraction. We perceive that the New York *Tribune* fixes the age of General QUITMAN at 60 years. We think he was older.

Politically, he was at the time of his death an ardent Southern Democrat; and yet, during his career, he had supported General HARRISON and Mr. CALHOUN, and had been a candidate against the regular Democratic ticket in his own State. He served with great gallantry during the Mexican war; was appointed Major General by President POLK; conspicuously participated in the capture of the city of Mexico, of which, on its surrender, he was made Governor; was named for Vice President in the Democratic Conventions of 1848 and 1852; came into Congress in 1855, and at the time of his death was serving out his second term. As a Representative in Congress he was eccentric and dogmatic, disposed to have his own way, and strongly inclined to the fire-eating school,—in this latter respect, like other Northern-born Southerners, going to the extreme side of the slavery question. In private life he was an accomplished, courteous gentleman, a warm-hearted friend, and a genial companion. We never knew a man whose temper in Congress was so different from his bearing in society at large. He spurned a mean action, and never dealt in the small arts of small politicians.

Gen. QUITMAN was the brother-in-law of the late lamented PHILIP F MAYER, the venerable Lutheran clergyman, who died recently in this city, after fifty years' service in that ancient religious denomination. He had many friends in Philadelphia, and many admirers. His visit to our city in 1847-'48, after the war, was an ovation. Those who made his acquaintance during the delightful hours he spent amongst us then, will join with us in the sincerity with which we pay this heartfelt tribute to his memory.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Ordway Æolians, now at the Arch-street Theatre, will to-night commence their third and last week of performance. They must be very attractive, for they fill the house, as we saw on Saturday evening. The company is large, and well disciplined, Mr. John P. Ordway being the director. They are vocal and instrumental performers, and most of them dance also. In short, a really good *troupe*. There was a trifle of comic acting, by Howard, Jerry, and Dan Bryant, extremely well done; a stump speech, by the last-named was exaggerated even beyond the accepted line of caricature. The vocalists, who sang so well that we scarcely knew which pleased us most, were Messrs. T. Norton, E. Kelly, E. B. Fairbanks, and Eph. Horn.

Is it not odd that these Ethiopians excel in pathetic and sentimental pieces? The exceptions were T. Norton, Eph. Horn, and Dan Bryant. By the way, this last is a capital low comedian. In addition to what we have already mentioned about him, we have to praise his acting in "Scenes at Phalon's"—*a barbarous performance, in one sense.* There was a fair share of dancing, Frank Brower's Happy Uncle Tom Dance ranking first in merit. When we say that Mr. John Norton played a remarkable trick solo on the violin, which must be seen as well as heard, we have run pretty well through the performance. The conclusion was a laughable burlesque on the usual "Arab" tumbling scenes.

This evening is dedicated to the benefit of Eph. Horn, a most unassuming man, the wit of the company, who either is very ready and humorous with his replies or has the great merit of firing off prepared retorts as naturally as if he had originated them at the moment. The performances will be entirely new, with a variety of songs, dances, acts, and burlesques. Mr. Horn is such a general favorite that he will most certainly have a crowded house. The whole *troupe* will appear, and also those remarkable "Arabs." It is easy to predict a very good time generally—and for Mr Horn especially.

At Thomeuf's Varieties, Fifth and Chestnut streets, Mr. Clinton Price, a guitar performer and ballad vocalist, will appear this evening, for the first time in this city. Other persons will dance, sing, and make fun.

The Sons of Malta.

[From the New York Sunday Herald.]

The "Sons of Malta" is a fraternity that has sprung into existence within the last seven years, and now numbers its members by tens of thousands. At present there is no city of any importance in the Union that has not one or more lodges of this latest order of the secret societies. It originated in the South, and in that section of the Union they are very numerous; but recently the number of lodges and members at the North have increased with great rapidity, and the preponderance will, doubtless, soon be with the North.

A national convention of the Sons of Malta has been called to meet at the Minnehaha Lodge room, in Philadelphia, to-morrow (Monday) at 11 A. M. This is the first convention that has been held, and has been rendered necessary by the spread of the Order and the necessity for a national organization. Heretofore the general business of the Sons has been transacted by the respective State lodges, and a dissimilarity in the modes of procedure has resulted therefrom. The convention which will meet to-morrow will tend towards creating greater unity of action, and it is proposed to form a Grand Lodge of the United States. It is estimated that 200 delegates will be present, and every State in the Union will be represented, including California.

The delegates from the New England lodges arrived in this city yesterday, and put up at the Astor House. Annexed are their names:

Grand Lodges.—Curtis Guild, S. R. Glen, C. F. Davenport, W. H. Bowditch.

Shawmut No. 1—John G. Hovey, John J. Oyer, L. D Richardson, S. W. Ropes, J. P. Ordway.

Lodge of the Iron Crown.—B. F. Brown, W. Gilson, J. E. Manning, H. O. Whittemore, C. J. B. Moulton.

Fremont No. 4.—Jas. Alexander Abbott, Enoch Emerson, F. S. Hill, Geo. O. Braston, (one vacancy.)

Manchester, N. H.—*Granite Lodge No.* 1.—Nathaniel Smith, E. W. Harrington, John B. Clarke, J. C. Abbott, (one vacancy).

Mr. Enoch Emerson was elected president of the delegation, and Mr. S. R. Glen secretary.

The New Englanders were received by the deputations from the New York lodges, and every attention was paid to them. They took their departure last evening in the boat for Philadelphia via Cape May. They are good representatives of the solid and liquid men of New England.

The convention will probably sit two days.

The Indian Difficulties in Washington Territory.

The War Department is in receipt of more detailed despatches respecting the Indian difficulties in Washington Territory, but they contain nothing of special interest different from what we have already given. Meanwhile the Department is acting with vigor in the premises, and in a little time there will be a sufficient number of troops in that country to chastise the Indians for their perfidy in the attack on Colonel Steptoe's command, and reduce them to a state of quietude and peace.

Gen. Clark, who has command of the Pacific division, is reported to have sent to the seat of war all the available force he had in California, numbering, probably, some six hundred men; and it is thought likely that he has gone thither himself before this time. Gen. Scott has also just issued the preparatory orders for sending about four hundred men from the Atlantic sea-board. These latter are *ordered to be ready to sail from New York to Aspinwall on the 20th*, (Tuesday next,) whence they will proceed to Washington Territory without delay. The following officers are ordered to accompany these reinforcements:

Br. Major J. H. Carleton, 1st dragoons; Captain H. O. Walton, 4th infantry; Captain T. C. English, 9th infantry; Captain E. Underwood, 4th infantry; Lieutenants L. Bysself, C. O. Woods, P. J. Quattlebaum, and J. C. *Bonnycastle*, 9th infantry; R. Johnston, 1st dragoons, and R. B. Ayres, 3d artillery.

There are already in Washington and Oregon Territories, it is said, some twenty-three companies, but they are far from being full, and are believed to comprise less than twelve hundred men. These do not, of course, include the reinforcements from California, which are supposed to number *some six hundred men.*—*Washington Star.*

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, July 18, 1858.

The Federal City is as dull as a country village, with the men all at work in a hay field, and the women asleep. The official exodus has begun. The President will leave to-morrow afternoon for Bedford, and will stay as long as he can be spared. This will keep a good many of the office-hunters away from the hotels; but it may help the owners of the establishment at Bedford.

The news from Illinois is not relished in the departments. Judge Douglas starts in the race with the inside track. He goes on like a conqueror, and the office-holders do not hesitate to say that he is in danger of being re-elected to the Senate. The Southern men denounce the *Union* bitterly for its madness in abusing Douglas, while the Republicans think that Lincoln has made a fearful mistake in asserting such ultra doctrines. I am glad to inform you that that gallant spirit, Col. Thomas L. Harris, the heroic defender of popular sovereignty from the Springfield district, stands a capital chance of being returned. The enthusiasm in his favor is said to be irresistible.

Great joy has been excited in official circles here by the announcement, in the last Harrisburg *Union*, Colonel Haldeman's paper, that every Lecompton Democrat in Pennsylvania is certain of being renominated. The office-holders here care very little whether the whole of the county tickets in Pennsylvania are borne down by these unfortunate nominations, only so that the policy of the Administration in reference to Kansas is endorsed.

Mr. Barrett, the Administration candidate for Congress in the St. Louis district, is a known *Douglas Democrat; at least, he was so when he was in* this city, on his way East. Hence some of his speeches have excited surprise.

A good deal of astonishment is felt and expressed here that Mr. Biddle Roberts, the chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania and U. S. District Attorney for the Western part of your State, has as yet issued no address to the people. It is needless to say that it is the practice of Democratic State Committees in all the States to issue addresses to the people prior to a State election. He was appointed by a Lecompton State Convention, and ought to speak out one way or the other. It is the strong feeling in the South that there shall be no double-dealing on the Kansas issue in Pennsylvania, and that Judge Porter shall say where he is. "Under which king, Bezonian? speak or die!" And, as the Administration expect every man to do its duty (to THEM,) Mr. Roberts should consult the Judge, call his committee together, and as soon as possible take action on the matter.

I have been a good deal amused at the comments of some of the opposition papers over the letter of the Hon. Wm Montgomery, the Douglas Democratic candidate for Congress in the Washington district of your State, in which he proposes to buy a certain kind of Monongahela whiskey for the President. This is urged as a grave charge against Montgomery. When it is recollected that he never indulges in whiskey, or any kind of liquor, himself, as everybody who met him in Washington last session knows right well, his effort to procure a *good* article for the President is certainly no treason. Washington county is famous for good whiskey, and Montgomery's ancient foe—that exceedingly social gentleman—John L. Dawson, will tell you that Fayette county is equally well known for first-rate "rye." Why, then, should Montgomery be denounced for his enterprising efforts to supply Washington city with the best that the market affords?

The last rumor is that the illustrious John Calhoun, of Kansas, is indignant at his removal from the office of Surveyor General, and is about to print certain mysterious documents received from distinguished gentlemen in favor of the doctrine of popular sovereignty. It is stated that he will also show that while he is supposed to have been the prime mover in the desertion of Governor Walker, he has simply been used to pull the chestnuts out of the fire.

Minnesota, it is evident from the intelligence received from that quarter, will go anti-Lecompton by immense majorities. The movement has with it the ablest and most substantial men of the new State. The Representatives who were admitted at the last session are hopelessly shelved by their position on the Kansas question. It will be recollected that Mr. Kingsbury, the Delegate of Minnesota Territory, made a most foolish speech in favor of Lecompton, and that afterward, when he came up, after the admission of the new State, for his seat as a Delegate from Dacota, he was thrust aside as unworthy even of contempt, and his standing here is, if possible, much worse. So fare those who deny the truth before men. This same Kingsbury came here most bitterly on the other side.

Hon. John G. Davis, the gallant Representative of the Terre Haute district, in Indiana, has put himself in the field as an independent Douglas-Democratic candidate for Congress, against all odds, and will be triumphantly re-elected.

It is stated that Mr. Secretary Stanton, now on the stump in Kansas against the English bribe, will, if called upon, publish a letter of Senator Bigler, of Pennsylvania, in which the aforesaid Bigler denounces the President and Cabinet for renouncing the doctrine of popular sovereignty; but I cannot vouch for the correctness of this report.

Hickman's canvass in the Chester district excites the politicians here as much as that of Douglas His speech is reported round in a dozen ways—none of them correct but in one or two points, however. It is admitted that he will be elected, and the word has *again* gone out calling off the officials, who have been abusing him.

The re-election of John B. Haskin in the Westchester District, New York, is admitted to be beyond doubt. Mr. Augustus Schell will have instructions to call off his subordinates from their fight against Haskin to attend to the discharge of the duties for which they receive the Government money. This is done here as in Hickman's case, so that in the certainty of defeat they may perchance have some merit for Haskin's Democratic success in Westchester, and Hickman's in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Augustus Schell has a number of officers in his custom-house appointed from New Jersey. These gentlemen are very actively engaged opposing Mr. Adrian, the gallant Douglas Democratic Representative from the Third district. I am glad to hear that the people in this district will not believe that their gods of 1856 were false gods, and that they will re-endorse the resolve of the Cincinnati platform, the principle of popular sovereignty, and their Representative by his re-election to the House of Representatives.

OCCASIONAL.

IMPORTANT FROM THE ATLANTIC CABLE FLEET.

Two Unsuccessful Attempts to lay the Wire—A Third Experiment to be Made.

[From the Boston Courier of Saturday.]

The ship Alice Munroe, Capt. Comings, from Liverpool, June 12, arrived at the Boston quarantine yesterday afternoon, with important intelligence from the Atlantic Telegraph fleet. He fell in with two of the ships in mid ocean on Sunday, June 27, and learned from the lieutenant of the Niagara, and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, who boarded his ship, that two unsuccessful attempts had been made to submerge the cable; and that the fleet were about to enter upon a third experiment. We give Capt. Comings's report as follows:

"At sea, Sunday, June 27th, lat. 52.05 N, lon. 33 15 W.; wind west, light; weather hazy; saw two ships heading to the eastward; on looking with a glass, found them to be the United States steam-frigate Niagara, and H. B. M. steamship Gorgon, of the telegraphic squadron, and as they were lying still, I at once tacked ship and stood towards them. At 11 A M. was boarded by Cyrus W. Field, Esq., and a lieutenant from the Niagara, from whom we received a letter-bag, and the following communication:

MR. FIELD'S COMMUNICATION.

"'The squadron had experienced bad weather since leaving port, and were sixteen days reaching their destination; that they had made two unsuccessful attempts to lay the cable. On the 26th, when they made the second attempt, they succeeded in laying upwards of 40 miles, and were going along finely, when the communication suddenly ceased at 12.55, Sunday morning, June 27.

"'The ships then returned to the starting point, (according to agreement), and were waiting for the Agamemnon and Valorous to return. Should they should do so, a new splice would be made, and another attempt made to lay the cable.'

"We lost sight of the Niagara at 3:30 P. M., 27th. The Agamemnon and Valorous were not then in sight, and as it set in foggy soon after, I do not think the squadron joined before the next day.

"Mr. Field seemed in good spirits and thought they should yet succeed in laying the cable. No cause could be assigned by those on board the Niagara for the breaking of the cable the second time, as it did not break near the ship. The weather was fine and the sea smooth at the time. The stormy weather had caused much delay and some slight injury to the squadron. One ship had a coal bunker broken in, one broke the leg of one sailor and the arm of another. They were all well on board the Niagara; the machinery worked finely, and the ship performed well in all respects.

"The weather has been very stormy and unsettled ever since parting, sometimes blowing a gale from the westward.

"Ship Alice Munroe,
"J. S. COMINGS, Master.
"July 3, 1858—Lat. 47.30 N., lon. 47.30 W."

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The above is the statement of Captain Comings. our own reporter visited the Alice Munroe at quarantine, six miles down the harbor, last night, returning to the city at an early hour this morning, bringing the following information, procured from the first mate, Mr. John Richards:

The Alice Munroe left Liverpool on the 13th of June, three days later than the date of the sailing of the telegraph fleet from Plymouth. She experienced almost constant southerly gales, and was forced to take a much more northerly course than she otherwise would have done. Being a very staunch vessel, she rode out the storms with entire ease and safety, and was subjected to no injury.

On the morning of the 27th, just after breakfast, say about eight o'clock, saw the United States steam frigate Niagara, lying-to, in latitude 52.05, longitude 33 15, and was shortly boarded by a boat from her, containing Mr. Cyrus W. Field, of New York, and a lieutenant of the Niagara. It was then foggy, but the water was very calm. Mr. Field and the lieutenant desired Capt. Comings to take certain letters and papers relating to the telegraph expedition, to the United States, and wrote one or two letters on board the Alice Munroe during the hour or more they remained on board of her.

They also communicated to Captain Comings and Mr. Richards a statement of their doings for the past fortnight.

They stated that both vessels, the Niagara and *Agamemnon, experienced the most violent* southerly gales from the day they left Plymouth, and were driven as far north as latitude 54—much higher than the rendezvous—thus delaying their operations for several days. The Niagara behaved in all respects like a thorough sea-going vessel, and was none the worse for the storms. The Agamemnon, on the contrary, suffered severely. At one time the commander of the Agamemnon informed his first officer that they might as well prepare for a watery grave—he had no hopes of saving his vessel two hours longer, so great was her straining But the storm subsided at last, and the Agamemnon rode out the gale. A most unfortunate accident occurred on board, however, caused by the breaking loose of the "cone" which held the cable in its position on the gun-deck. The cable "got adrift," and was pitched about the *deck, undoubtedly much to its damage.* Two hundred tons of coal also "got adrift" on the same deck, and caused infinite trouble. Two seamen were injured by these accidents, one of them having an arm broken, and the other having a leg broken.

The two vessels and their tenders finally arrived on the ground, and on the morning of the 26th, a connection of the cable was effected; the weather being then sufficiently calm. The paying out of the cable had scarcely commenced before the wire snapped. After a few hours detention, another splice was made, and the steamers started, the Agamemnon and her consort for Ireland, and the Niagara and her companion for the American coast. Signals were kept up between the two fleets constantly, a message being transmitted every fifteen minutes; and all was going on well till about forty *miles had* been paid out when the electricians on board the Niagara discovered that the current was broken. This was at half-past twelve A. M. of the 27th. The Niagara was immediately put about, and she had already reached the mid-ocean rendezvous, at eight o'clock, when first seen by the Alice Munroe.

It was believed on board the Niagara that the cause of the second breaking was a kink in the *Agamemnon's wire, caused by its disarrangement* during the gale; but of this there is no certainty. Nothing was said to Mr. Richards about the working of the new "brakes;" probably there had been no occasion to put them in use.

Mr. Field could not conceal his evident downheartedness; he certainly had occasion for much forebodings. The theory that June was the most propitious month for carrying out the enterprise *was entirely destroyed; the vaunting boast of the* London *Times* as to the superior capacities of the Agamemnon was put to rest by the narrow escape of that vessel from going to pieces without the aid of rocks or icebergs; and the two breakings of the wire at the very beginning of the trial—these were certainly enough to dismay the stoutest confidence.

The Alice Munroe parted from the company of the Niagara shortly after noon of the 27th, and lost sight of her about four o'clock. The Agamemnon had not then come in sight. The Niagara had hoped that her consort would arrive in season to make another trial that day; but as the weather was foggy, though calm, it is hardly probable that anything was done on the 27th. For two days subsequently, the weather was quite calm and favorable, but after that there was *another succession of heavy southerly gales, and* the weather on the 1st experienced by the Alice Munroe, was exceedingly rough.

Such is the account procured by our reporter from Mr. Richards, mate of the Alice Munroe.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

One Day Later from Europe—Arrival of the Austria.

NEW YORK, July 17—The Hamburg screw steamer Austria, Capt. Heyettman, arrived about four o'clock this morning from Hamburg via Southampton. Captain H. left Hamburg on the 1st of July, and Southampton on the 4th. The Austria brings 361 passengers. She experienced heavy westerly gales, with fog, during most of the passage. Captain Heyettman did not see anything of the telegraph fleet.

By the Austria we have London papers of Saturday, July 3d, the principal contents of which were telegraphed from London previous to the Canada's sailing.

The defeat, by the majority of 151 in the House of Lords, of the bill for abolishing church rates, is confirmed. The principal arguments urged against the bill appear to have been that church rates were a charge on property, and their payment was therefore no hardship to dissenters who purchased property subject to that drawback; and, secondly, that in this compulsory mode of repairing churches the poor had their only security for the permanence of those edifices. Even the peers and bishops who opposed the bill admitted that some change was necessary, and that the opposition was grounded on the fact that the bill provided no substitute for the rate.

The Derby Ministry seem to be carrying their India bill through the House of Commons by a very decided majority in their favor on every proposed amendment.

By the explosion of a boiler at the Atlas Iron Works, Manchester, six or seven persons were killed, their remains being so scattered that the fragments had to be gathered up in sacks for removal.

From the Hamburgh papers of the 30th of June, we translate a few items of interest:

A telegraphic despatch to the *Hamubrger Nachrichten*, from Berlin, states that the King would be absent three months at Teg