The Press.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1858.

THIRD PAGE.—History of "The Associated Press"—Politics in Virginia—New Movements in Japan—Speech of Senator Douglas—An Embarrassing Disappointment—General News. FOURTH PAGE.—List of Letters remaining in the Philadelphia Post Office up to 12 o'clock P. M., Saturday, Nov. 20.

The News.

Late advices from Mexico state that the whole of that country, except the capital, is now in possession of the Liberals, and that an attack was also made upon the City of Mexico by the latter party on the 15th ult., which was nearly successful, and that they felt confident that in a second attempt, which is soon to be made, they will succeed.

Accounts from St. Thomas add to the already lengthy catalogue of marine disasters caused by the gales that swept over the Atlantic and the Gulf in the latter part of October last. The ship Messenger, bound for St. Catharine's, with coal for the steamer of the Paraguay expedition, had reached St. Thomas in a very dismantled condition, and badly leaky. She suffered severely in the gales, and was obliged to throw overboard her other cargo. The brig Industry, Capt. Robinson, from Turks Island for New York, laden with salt, encountered on the 21st ult. her crew, and ship were saved. The brig Mary Conway, Capt. Lewis, from Port au Plate for New York, was dismasted on the 14th ult., and arrived at St. Thomas in a very sorry plight, crippled by the storms. The schooner Harvard, Capt. Shaw, from San Francisco for New York, arrived at St. Thomas on Saturday evening. A heavy rain storm, extending throughout the State, has swollen the rivers to such an extent as to cause a temporary stoppage of mining operations in the river beds. The rain, however, was regarded as a favorable event, as it insures a more plentiful yield of gold when the waters subside. The receipts in the office of Adams & Co. had paid dividends of the firm to the amount of upwards of $150,000. Five hundred passengers and $42,000 in treasure had arrived at San Francisco from the Fraser river region.

Considerable excitement prevail in the Reading Berks county, on Saturday, in regard to the nomination of a Democratic candidate for Congress, to fill the unexpired term of Hon. John Glancy Jones. After a spirited contest the editors of John carried their point—the vote standing for Jos. B. Wagner, 70; for Captain S. S. Ancona, 69. The nomination will be made on the 1st of December, unless he should choose to decline, when another person will fill the ticket.

The close game between the New-York and Philadelphia clubs was continued on Saturday night, until thirty one nevers had been made by each party, when further proceedings were postponed until this (Monday) evening, at six o'clock. At the close of the game, on Saturday night, each party had six pawns and a rook, but we think the Philadelphians had a slight advantage in the position of their men, and if they play the remainder of the game as carefully as they have proceeded thus far, we do not see how they can be beaten, and if they are not victorious, the game will probably be a drawn one. The chance of the New-Yorkers for winning does not appear to us at all flattering.

The Hibernia Engine company departed on their long talked of trip to New York, on Saturday. One hundred members were in line. A beautiful flag was presented to the company on Saturday previous to its departure, by the ladies of the Fifth ward, through Colonel Thornley. It was received by Colonel James Page, marshal, on behalf of the gallant members of the Hibernia company. The company arrived safely at New York, at eight o'clock on Saturday evening, and were received by nearly the entire New York Fire Department, assisted by five companies from Brooklyn and Williamsburg. The turn-out in that city is said to have been magnificent.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the Bank of Pennsylvania was held at the office of the Bank on Saturday, to consider a request made by District Attorney Lee, about to be employed, of additional counsel to assist him in the trial of the case of the Commonwealth against Allibone and Newhall. After considerable discussion the meeting decided not to comply with the request.

A man named Hugh Cunningham, of Germantown, who was ejected from a car on the Fifth street Railway, near Chestnut street, on the night of the 12th inst., because he was intoxicated, and who, in his efforts to get back upon the front platform of the car, fell down, and by being run over by the car, had his leg crushed, died from the effects of the injuries thus received on Friday night, at the City Hospital. A coroner's inquest in the case, held on Saturday, exonerated the driver and conductor of the car from blame.

On Saturday night, Robert McCutridge, while under arrest, and on his way to a station house, stabbed police officer Laird in the breast with an oyster knife, and dangerously wounded him. The prisoner could probably have escaped, but he was seized by Dr. John K. Kane, who happened to be passing, and while they were coming, Mr. Laird fired his revolver, and shot McCutridge in the calf of his leg. The injury received by the latter is not considered serious, but the condition of the former is quite dangerous.

The number of interments in this city for the week ending November 20, was 145. Of the deceased 77 were adults, and 68 were children. Two were from 90 to 95 years of age, and two from 90 to 100. Thirty of the deaths were caused by consumption, eight by dropsy, six by fever, six by apoplexy, four by cancer.

The Philadelphia favorite, Madame Gazzaniga, will appear at the Academy of Music to-night, in the character of Lucrezia Borgia.

REMOVAL.—Under the head of "Dry Goods Jobbers," in another part of our paper to-day, will be found the advertisement of Joshua T. Baily, announcing his opening a very extensive stock of seasonable goods this morning, at his new stores, No. 212 Market street. Mr. Baily is one of the most thoroughly enterprising young men of which our mercantile community can boast, and this change in his quarters—as his friends in the trade will admit—prompted as it has been by absolute necessity for additional accommodations, to meet the wants of his business, is no mean proof of his claims to such a commendation.

IMPORTANT SALE OF REAL ESTATE.—Executors' Sale This Morning at 10 o'clock.—See Sixth Page.—Sons of Benevolence.—Sale of Valuable Ground Rents, comprising Eighteen Dwellings, by Order of the Sheriff.—Sale of Valuable Real Estate.—Thomas & Sons will hold regular sales every week, each sale comprising a very large amount of property. They issue 1,000 pamphlet catalogues every Saturday.

The Condition of Mexico.

When misfortunes overtake us a melancholy satisfaction is sometimes afforded by beholding our neighbors in as bad a plight as ourselves; or, if we find their condition still worse than our own, we are reminded that we should rather rejoice over the blessings still left us than grieve over the minor evils by which we may be afflicted. The poet wept when he was too poor to buy shoes or stockings until he saw a man who had no feet, when his lamentations were changed into rejoicings. Any citizen of the United States who is dissatisfied with the condition of the country, or who looks despondingly upon her future destiny, need only glance at her sister Republic of Mexico to find a thousand incentives to gratitude and cheerfulness in his comparative view of the two nations. Though we are still suffering from a terrible prostration of our industrial interests; though our national finances are disordered; though our President has outraged the national sentiment by a portion of his policy; though strong sectional animosities exist, and to some extent, endanger the stability of the Government; though official corruption is becoming a crime of almost daily occurrence, and though we have much to dissatisfy us with the present and to awaken our fears for the future, the condition of Mexico is so deplorable, that, compared with her, our nation shines forth, whatever may be the faults of her officials or the misfortunes of her people, as a perfect model Republic. Although, theoretically, there is no very great difference in the Constitutions of the two countries, although both are nominally Unions of confederated republican States, what a wide difference exists between them, their history since the establishment of their independence from their mother countries, and their present condition!

Ours has been a Government of law and order with but a few exceptions, so trifling that they have not seriously affected any portion of the country. Our revolutions have all been peaceful ones. In the main our credit has been preserved unstained. Our territory, our population, and our national wealth have increased with wonderful rapidity. Our power has been respected at home and abroad. Nearly all the great essentials of republican liberty and of national prosperity have been preserved intact in all emergencies.

Mexico has been during a very large portion of her national existence, either the prey of anarchy or the slave of despotism. Her history is a history of civil war, of intestine commotion, of a constant succession of appeals to arms, of the alternate triumphs and defeats of a race of military usurpers, with little or no repose, save that established by the iron rule of supreme Dictators. Her people have constantly been oppressed and plundered, and have vainly struggled for relief by trying from the arms of one despot into those of another, as the central authority has commanded only a partial and qualified respect, and has been openly defied. Public order is nowhere fully maintained. The highways are crowded with robbers who laugh at the laws. The frontier settlements, instead of being extended, have been abandoned, and while the Indians have been swept away by the resistless march of American civilization, they have proved too strong for the settlers of the Mexican outposts, and have driven them back from large regions which were once thickly populated and highly cultivated, and even now they hold the Mexican frontiersmen in constant terror, and plunder them of everything that excites their cupidity.

Powerless to preserve domestic tranquillity, to protect property, or to check Indian depredations, the Mexican Government has been equally powerless against her foreign foes. The little army of the United States routed her forces at every point, no matter how great the disparity of numbers, in any of the battles that were fought. The Mexican territory is passing from under Mexican control with frightful rapidity. Already the United States has acquired the larger portion of it—Texas, New Mexico, California, and Arizona, but a few years since integral portions of Mexico, now belong to us. Sonora will very soon follow in the wake of the vast regions we have just named; the lip by which she is now connected with the central Government is of the very weakest character. What is to become of the rest of the country? Although a hostile Spanish fleet is cruising round her ports, and a Spanish army is preparing to embark against her—with a treasury bankrupt, a heavy debt, no money and no credit—a fierce and ruthless civil warfare is raging. Not even a foreign war can restore internal harmony. Mexico is "more sick than Turkey. And the time is rapidly coming when it will become a question of national importance for us to determine what is to become of her effects, and to decide whether we should swallow the whole country, establish a protectorate over it, or leave her people to their fate without any interference.

Have We a Princess Among Us?

A fierce controversy is now raging in New York, upon the *important* question—Is little PICCOLOMINI, the stage-singer, a real Princess—a lawfully-begotten Principessa—or is she only a Princess by creation of his Imperial Highness, ULLMAN the First, King of Opera-management?

His Majesty, who delights in being called the Napoleon of the Opera, lately took offence, or pretended it, because the French journal in New York, our readable and amusing contemporary, the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, had the downright audacity to print—aye, and to say first, that PICCOLOMINI was *not* the greatest singer of the age; and next, that she was not a PICCOLOMINI "at all, at all." As to the singing, we shall have some opportunities of judging of *that* in January, when his Imperial Majesty, ULLMAN I., as aforesaid, kindly means to introduce PICCOLOMINI to her subjects in the Quaker City. No doubt she will receive not only applause and bouquets, but dollars also. *She is the fashion*—and that is enough. She was a good card, extremely well played, in the hands of manager LUMLEY in London, for two seasons. Though she may not be equal to many other singers who have favored us with their visits, though, in fact, if report be true, while she *acts* prettily in several operas, she *sings* well only in three, ULLMAN's splendid advertisements in her favor will be implicitly accepted as truth, until, after her visit, opera-goers come to strike a balance, and exclaim, "Oh, Mr. ULLMAN, what a glamour you cast upon our eyes and eyes! This little PICCOLOMINI, whom you so puffed up, is not half the good as GAZZANIGA or COLSON, as SONTAG or ALBONI, as BOSIO or LAGRANGE. Why *did* you deceive us so?" But ULLMAN will come again, in six months, with another Prima Donna, telling you wonderful stories about *her*; insinuating, it may be, that she is an Empress in *mufti*, and oh, ye easily-excited Opera-goers, once again you will believe the flattering tale—ending, most probably, after much pleasant enthusiasm, in another grumble at having been *sold*, and, after the grumbling, be ready again for another wonderful singer, from the conservatory of ULLMAN the First.

The leading gentlemen connected with the *Courrier des Etats Unis* were advertised by ULLMAN, as "three hungry Frenchmen"—because they did not tell the world that PICCOLOMINI was the greatest singer in the world. Thinking otherwise, they said otherwise. More than that, they said she is not a Princess. Upon which saying, Mr. ULLMAN announces that "the public will be rejoiced to hear that Mlle. PICCOLOMINI's father, as a member of the princely house of Piccolomini, has, from a pardonable family pride, instituted legal proceedings against MASSERAS [connected with the French paper], and it is to be hoped that the reckless calumniator will meet his deserts." Upon which saying, the New York *Herald*, which has had much practical experience in personal slanders, chuckles at the idea of PICCOLOMINI bringing "actions for libel against the fellows who made so free with her lineage." We really would have fancied that, on individual grounds, the *Herald* would have fought shy of allusions to people's lineage.

What was the libel? ULLMAN quotes it, and thereby, is himself the publisher, and might also to be sued. Here is what MASSERAS said:

"The elderly lady of Mlle. Piccolomini has been, it is known, the object of more than one offer and of more than one proposal, but amid all these informations and suggestions, no precise information has transpired to solve this question until now. A word or two will do it. The father of the pretended Princess singer is only a simple citizen like you or me, and he bore the modest name of Clementini until the day the nation joined him, to throw dust in the eyes of the public. On that occasion it was discovered that Madame Clementini, his wife, was descended, more or less remotely, from some branch of the Piccolomini family, and it was readily seen what advantage might be taken of this providential connection. I ought to add that this discovery and the mode of using it was less the work of the artist herself," &c.

And again:

"Great talk has been made of the opposition of that Mlle. Piccolomini met with from her noble family against her irresistible desire to go upon the stage. This opposition is not altogether an invention; but it had every circumlocution and aim than the one ascribed. It was not the taste of Mlle. Clementini for the theatre, that was contested by the Cardinal Piccolomini, but simply the right to advertise a name that does not belong to her."

Against this, which says that the singer's mother, and not her father, was of the Piccolomini blood, Mr. ULLMAN favors the public with her Tuscan passport, and says, "It is well known that passports in Italy are only granted on exhibition of the certificate of birth, and of all requisite family papers. Her father possesses a similar passport, speaking of him as his Excellency the noble Count CHARLES PICCOLOMINI, and both are signed by BARGAGLI, dated April 2, 1857." The lady's passport runs thus:

"In nome di sua altezza Imperiale e Reale, &c., &c., LEOPOLDO SECONDO,
"Principe Imperiale d'Austria, &c.; Gran Duca di Toscana, &c., Invitiamo a lasciare liberamente passare
"S. E. la nobile Contessa Maria Piccolomini, di Siena, di anni 21," &c.

All that we can make of this is that the young lady (who, by the way, adroitly passed herself off on the passport-signer as a year younger than she is) gave her name as PICCOLOMINI, and declared, at the most, that she was but a Countess—the lowest rank in Italy, whereas a Princess is the highest. Therefore, Mr. ULLMAN's own evidence puts him out of court. His client claims only to be a Countess, while he has represented her as a Princess, shrewdly anticipating that republican Americans would willingly pay to see a Princess on the stage, and hear her sing.

For M. MASSERAS to have said this is denounced as "an unprovoked outrage," which "the public must condemn." We cannot see it in that light. If a stage-singer be introduced to the world as a Prince or Princess, as an inducement to draw money from the public, and if we, or any brother-editor, strip off the pretence, there is no outrage in doing so. It strikes us that the original outrage consists in representing people to be what they are not. Miss MARIA PICCOLOMINI is as much a Princess as we are an Archbishop.

After all, there will *not* be a libel-suit for reflecting on the "lineage" of the little singer. Mr. ULLMAN, it seems, has written a confidential letter to one of the "three hungry Frenchmen," in which he (ULLMAN) begs M. DE THORIANO to accept his apologies, adding, "these lines are intended for you, and it's a request you to consider them as confidential; it is solely that the public may not be involved in an affair with which it has no concern." How a *confidential* letter came to be printed does not concern any one.

Finally, one question is ascertained. PICCOLOMINI is *not* a Princess. A second question we should like to have truthfully answered—namely, Has not all this paper-war been got up (as JENNY LIND's famous charity-concerts were) simply to create a new *furore* about the *petite* vocalist? Mr. ULLMAN, we notice, significantly winds up his epistle with an announcement that, whereas the public had been told that PICCOLOMINI had made a *fiasco* at Florence, in "Lucrezia Borgia," he meant her to play that character at New York, and show what she could do with it. As the point of a lady's letter lies in the postscript, that of a Manager's advertisement may be found in his last paragraph.

Clinical Instruction to Medical Students.

The Medical Colleges of Philadelphia have for years enjoyed a preeminent reputation. Nowhere are greater facilities afforded for the acquisition of the healing art. The natural consequence has been that we have had in our midst every winter a larger number of students than any three other cities of the Union. For this preeminence we are indebted in the main, it is true, to the excellent abilities of our Professors, but at the same time it is only fair to confess that it is in part due to the opportunities presented by our hospitals for practical bedside or clinical observation. We know that Paris, not because of its schools of medicine, but rather because of the far-famed clinics of its hospitals, attracts students from every quarter of the globe. Our colleges are not inferior to those of France, nor, indeed, to those anywhere, and are only outstripped, if in any particular, by those of Europe in the point of a systematic clinical instruction. We are glad to learn that the proper steps are being taken to do away with any invidious distinction against us in even that regard. The students here have petitioned the Board of Guardians of the Poor for full and free access to clinical observation at the Blockley Hospital. We cannot believe that the petition will be rejected. Regard for the progress of medical science, as well as prudential pecuniary considerations, alike appeal to the board to grant the request. Philadelphia reaps the annual benefit from her medical schools of something like one and a half millions of dollars—not a trifle by any means; and beside, instead of injuring that hospital, a system of clinical lectures will secure for its patients the best medical advice from the first physicians. The question is to be decided, and we hope affirmatively, by the Board of Guardians of the Poor at their meeting to-day.

Public Entertainments.

At Walnut-street Theatre, Mr. John Drew will this evening commence a short engagement, previous to his starting for California, with an intention of dropping in upon the Australians, and probably returning via Calcutta, Paris, and England. He appears this evening in "The Irish Ambassador" and "Handy Andy." In the former play we shall have Miss Richings, who seems to have almost shelved of late, and that fine veteran Mr. Thayer, whom to see is "good for sore eyes," as the saying is. John Drew is one of the very few good Irishmen on the stage, and we much fear, if they once get him at a London theatre, whether they will part with him.

At the Arch, "Pauvrette" has been withdrawn, after a run of three or four weeks, to give place to "Our American Cousin," a play written for Laura Keene's theatre, by Mr. Tom Taylor, of London. We must say, in parting with "Pauvrette," that it was well put on the stage and admirably performed. Mrs. John Drew, as the heroine, played with wonderful art, showing that variety of ability which so greatly distinguishes her. Mr. John Gilbert, as the worn-out veteran, left the audience nothing to desire. He is an artist in the fullest sense of the word. Mr. Shewell and Mr. Dolman (the latter taking Mr. Wheatley's part for the last few nights) also merit favorable notice. The Taylorian comedy, to be produced this evening, with a strong cast, new scenery, &c., has been played for five weeks at Laura Keene's theatre, in New York, and may run as many weeks more, if the management please, so great has been its attraction. We dare say it will be very successful here, as Mr. Wheatley's company is quite as good as Miss Keene's.

At Assembly Buildings Signor Blitz and his learned canaries continue to draw full houses, evening after evening, and also on the afternoons of Wednesday and Saturday.

The National Circus keeps up the good reputation with which Mr Lent, the manager, started, and is very respectably attended. For two nights previous to his departure for California, the Ethiopian clown, Eph. Horn, will appear in the circle, in addition to Messrs. Long and Thayer. To-night and to-morrow evening (when he takes his benefit) are Horn's only nights here. Besides "The Knights of Malta," (a gorgeous spectacle,) the novelty of Mr. E. Wood's Pictures of Napoleon is announced.

The Germania Orchestra recommenced their Rehearsals on Saturday, in Musical Fund Hall, and had a good house.

Father Kemp's "Old Folks" remain another week—at National Hall, Market street. They had quite a crowd of juvenile visitors, at their afternoon concert on Saturday.

To-morrow evening, a fine concert, for an excellent purpose, will be given in Musical Fund Hall. The profits are to go in aid of the Building Fund of Zion P. E. Church. The performers announced are Miss Esther Bolster; Mr. J. J. Frazer, the celebrated tenor; an Amateur vocal Quartette; Mr. Weber, violinist; and the Philharmonia Orchestra, with Carl Sentz, as conductor, and Mr. B. C. Cross, as pianist. The programme is made out with judgment as well as taste. Among the songs we notice the novelty of "Clio Clac," the Mulotseer Song from Balfe's new opera of "The Rose of Castile," now performing in London. Mr. Fraser will sing this—the first time it has yet been sung at any concert in this country.

MUSICAL.

The Concert given by the Strakosch operatic company at Musical Fund Hall, on Saturday evening, was listened to by a highly pleased auditory, which filled the Hall. We have seldom seen a Concert go off so satisfactorily. The first decided hit was a torzetto from "Don Giovanni," by Signora Parodi, Madame Strakosch, and Signor Labocetta. The first encore was Madame Colson's song, Auber's "Bronzo Horse." The most popular performance of the evening was a lively French song, given by Madame Colson, with infinite archness, vivacity, and skill. Her merry laugh, which comes in so charmingly to each verse, was like ringing music, clear and melodious. The call for an encore was most unanimous, and the repetition of the song was almost better than the first singing of it. Brignoli was encored in the Serenade from "Don Pasquale," and delivered it beautifully. Madame de Wilhorst gave a Swiss song very prettily, and, as an encore, substituted a little Scotch song which also was well received. Next to the Laughing Chanson which Madame Colson made so effective, an aria from Mendelssohn's Oratorio of St. Paul's was the best received—actually estimated by voice and power, perhaps the best-sung piece in the whole concert; here Parodi appeared, like a queen among smaller planets. "The Star-Spangled Banner," by Parodi and Madame Strakosch, was encored, (as it always is when Parodi is in it,) so hearty in her expression of the sentiment, and the concluding prayer from "Moses in Egypt," was very fine. On looking over our notes of this performance, we find that Signor Labocetta sang an air from "Don Giovanni" very fairly, and that Signor Ettore Barili received much applause in one of Mercadante's romances. Considered in its entirety, the concert was a great success, and the public will be glad of the opportunity of attending another, of equal merit.

The present is the last week of the Strakosch *troupe* performing here. This evening, and on Wednesday, Madame Gazzaniga appears. She appears in "Lucrezia Borgia" this evening, and a bumper-house may be expected, so great a favorite is she here. On Wednesday evening she will appear in "La Favorita." There will be a *matinée* to-morrow, at which the final performance of "Martha" will be given, Madames Colson and Strakosch, with Brignoli, in this opera. This is the *last* opera matinee of the season, and it may be as well to remark that the performance will commence at half-past one o'clock. There will not be any increase of prices on the Gazzaniga nights.

The Trevelyan Prize Essays.

In 1857 Sir William Calverley Trevelyan, Bart., of Wallington, Northumberland, (England,) offered two prizes—one of $500, and another of $200—for the best Essays upon the Philosophy of Spoken Language. Eighteen competing Essays were delivered in, but none of these quite fulfilled the conditions of the offer. But Sir William, who is himself a good philologist and oriental scholar, (Master of Arts, from Oxford University,) has decided on giving $250 to the writer of the Essay with the motto, "Fiat justitia ruat cœlum," which, though deficient in some of the requirements, had been highly commended by several of the adjudicators, and proposes to give the other $250 on the author's undertaking to thoroughly revise, complete, and publish the Essay. He also gives $50 each to the writers (all English scholars) of four other essays, of inferior merit.

The successful Essay, we are happy to say, was written by Professor B. S. Haldeman, of Columbia, Pennsylvania. A London literary journal, from which we take these facts, says: "Professor Haldeman's Essay contains a valuable outline of the theory of etymology, embracing a critical inquiry into the value of the Roman and Saxon alphabets, and many bits of word-history, which are treated with much subtlety and originality; and, above all, with a rare degree of method and precision in tracing, step by step, the corruptions of oral language. The question of how much assistance the etymologist can gain from Romanic spelling is skillfully handled, and in a manner very adverse to the opinions of the Rev. R. C. Trench."

The London journalist expresses a hope "that Professor Haldeman will fall in with Sir Walter Trevelyan's suggestion, and publish his own Essay entire."

It is Professor Haldeman's intention, we believe, to extend and complete his production. It may be added that his literary study has long been in this wide field of lingual inquiry. Two or three years ago, if we recollect rightly, he lectured, with marked success, at the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington, upon "The Mechanism of Speech." We are much gratified at being able thus to record the triumph of a Pennsylvanian among the competing philologists of England.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 1858.

You have thrown a fatal bomb-shell into the Cabinet by reproducing the great tariff speech of the President. Just at the moment when the Southern papers were charging you with having deserted the Democratic party by taking ground in favor of protecting domestic industry, you come forward and show that the President himself has taken stronger ground, and that he is solemnly and irrevocably committed to carry out his favorite tariff policy. I am now writing on Sunday, after a careful perusal of your leader of Saturday, and the great speech of the President in 1842. My copy of *The Press* has been loaned out to a gentleman, who desires to show it to some quarter where that paper is tabooed, and great will be the concern over these revelations. Mr. Cobb's estimates of the receipts and expenditures of the Government have awfully fallen off, and now, on the threshold of a winter that threatens to be a hard one, he will doubtless indulge in other and equally fallacious prognostications. The effect of any further equivocation on this subject will be terrible indeed. We are by no means out of the woods. I differ from you in the opinion that any improvement that takes place in the spring will be rapid. It must be gradual. Emigration has fallen off, and there is little prospect of any immediate change in this respect. There is still on hand and in bond an enormous amount of imported goods. The sales of public lands will be slow of necessity, owing to causes not necessary to recapitulate. The spare capital of our Eastern farmers has been sunk in Western investments, and the great demand from German emigrants has been arrested, not to be renewed in years. Then, how are we to economize the national expenditures? We may postpone, but we cannot reduce to any extent. The massive public buildings now going up in this city must be finished sooner or later. Whether it is true statesmanship to stop these works, and to arrest those elsewhere in progress, requires no great sagacity to decide. We are pledged to make the pay for the great Pacific railroad; and this work, costly as it is, must become much more expensive as it progresses. The maintenance of the army in Utah, and in the territories of the Pacific; the cost of the military establishment in Texas, in Minnesota, and the Paraguay expedition will demand more money. The opening of new mail routes, overland and isthmean, the extension of postal facilities in other quarters, the payment of contractors for the furnishing of supplies, the cost of the new sloops, not to speak of a host of necessary and unnecessary demands upon the iron box of Uncle Samuel, together will make our future expenses great beyond all example. Suppose the French Spoliation bill should be lobbied through the next House and Senate. This scheme has by no means been given up. It is a far more equitable one, by the way, than most of those which are carried through Courts and Congress. This would take five millions at least. You will see, then, without including the splendid operations in New York and other cities, for post offices, courts, &c., &c., how certain it is that an increased revenue will be required for the next year and for many years after this. You must meet the issue, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Cobb. It will be a rather difficult thing for you to be called upon to bear the *double* burden of extravagant expenditures to help Lecompton through, and at the same time to refuse aid to our perishing industry, while you are resisting the necessary revenue.

The unwritten history of the manner in which the Administration managed the last campaign in your State is curious. One of the members of the State Central Committee, now here, gives me some details. When the committee first met, your surveyor of the port, Mr. John Hamilton, wanted the anti-Lecompton Democrats expelled from that body. This raised a storm, and Mr. Hamilton yielded. Several other meetings were held, but nothing could be done. The whole campaign passed off without a word from the committee, though a majority were Administration men. Sometimes the candidates for Congress would rush into the committee demanding silence on Lecompton; then the candidate for Supreme Judge would make a pious appeal; and again some audacious rebel would protest against having anything to do with the people at Washington. The committee was therefore blind, deaf, and dumb, like a wooden automaton, out of order, it would neither speak, nor move. It died, and made no sign. Born of a noisy and illegitimate Convention, it had neither life nor motion, but was doomed to death from its birth.

Hon. Joseph C. M'Kibbin, of California, is now in Washington. In fine health and spirits. I am enabled to say that he will not, as at present disposed, claim his seat on his last canvass, but will contest the Administration forces for that seat in 1859. He desires to take no advantage of them. He asks no favors. He will meet them on their own ground, and defeat them.

Our news from Mr. Broderick to-day is that he is much better, and will be in his seat early in the session.

His Excellency David R. Porter and General Duff Green are said to be in negotiation with the iron interests of your State, New Jersey, and New York, to obtain such legislation as will be satisfactory. I am told by a gentleman, now here, that those worthy and venerable men profess to speak for the President in making certain promises to the iron interest. It is a little unfortunate, however, that they were both the ardent and unflinching advocates of Mr. Buchanan's Lecompton policy. Gen. Duff Green is a very able man, of much historical repute, but he is not the person, I fear, to secure the confidence of either the North or South. He possesses intellect of a high order, but his suggestions are too vast and visionary for our age. Ex-Governor Porter is a practical iron-master, but he is not so much beloved by our Congressional delegation as to secure the great desideratum of protection to our interests. However, joy go with both, and success, too.

I should not be at all surprised if we had news of another bloody scene in Virginia. You have read the cards of Messrs. O. Jennings Wise and Charles Irving. I am glad that Mr. Wise, who has had one terrible *escapade* with Sherrard Clemens, of Wheeling, has resolved to avoid his antagonist, and I trust no new *emeute* may follow. Mr Wise is the son of the Governor, and one of the editors of the Richmond *Enquirer*, and was private secretary of Mr. Mason, at Paris, for two years, I think. He is quiet and inoffensive in appearance, but bold and fearless in action. He is not yet twenty-five. Mr. Irving was for a long while connected with a Lynchburg paper, and is a splendid writer and fine speaker. He is more impulsive and less deliberate than Wise. The condition of things in Richmond is greatly to be deplored. I repeat the hope that all may pass off well.

It is stated in many journals that the points in dispute between this Government and the Central and South American States are adjusted, or in a condition of adjustment. This news is too good, almost, to be true, and, until I have better evidence than I have at present, I must remain a doubting Thomas. The Administration has a golden opportunity to retrieve its misfortunes on every question of public policy it has yet handled, by prompt and decided action in all matters involving the interests and the honor of the United States on this Continent; but it will, I fear, in this, as in the others, let the glittering prize slip its grasp to hug to its embrace the mishapen spirit of evil. Look at the points in controversy between us and Venezuela, us and New Granada, us and Peru, us and almost all of that tribe of spavined, wheezy, and asthmatic States. Don't they remind you of Jarndyce *vs.* Jarndyce, or any other interminable chancery suit where the parties have gone long years to grace before a decision has been rendered? It is too true that these petty Powers assume to themselves the strength and lofty grandeur of the spreading oak, when, in fact, they are remarkably small scrub saplings.

Either our Government is instituted to protect its citizens, or it is not. If the latter be true, it is time it were so declared; but if the contrary, then the wrongs and blood of our people, which clamor aloud for vengeance, must be heeded. It will not be tolerated that, as in other Presidential messages, they will be given the go-by with finespun rhetoric and specious generalities. Something more than that will be demanded, and must be bestowed. Commissioners, Cabinet couriers, ministers messengers, &c., have already run up a sum equal to, if not more than any indemnity we may receive prior to the Day of Judgment. We can here take an example from our hated rival, England, and our ancient ally, France. In the Cagliari steamer affair, England asked from Naples, and received at once, reparation for outrages committed upon one or two of her subjects. She did not wait as long as Miller has already waited for the end of the world. And France and England instantly enforced from Turkey punishment for the massacre at Jeddah.

Mr. Buchanan will give Kansas a paragraph in his message. Why this is so it is hard to tell. She has now more population than she had last year, when he gave her almost the entire message, and a kite in the way of a special communication as long or longer; her people are as anxious for admission; and, now unlike then, peace and prosperity reign throughout her borders. Perhaps it is because the Honorable John Calhoun, Surveyor General of Kansas and Nebraska, has not furnished him with the only and sole copy of a Constitution, of a mysterious and sphinx-y nature, endorsed by votes drawn from sly candle-boxes. What a pity it is for the President that the people are practical and honest, and will continue to think of these things!

Here is an amusing *on dit*: A politician a few days ago inquired of a statesman of repute, "What, sir, has this Administration done?" "Done! it has done what was thought impossible," he replied. "Why, my dear friend, it has made Capt. Tyler's Administration respectable!"

OCCASIONAL.

Reception of the Hibernia Engine Company in New York.

[From yesterday's N. Y. Herald.]

The city of New York, so proverbial for the frequent recurrence in its midst of amusements of every shade and description, was shaken to its "very centre" last evening by the attractive and mammoth exhibition of the fire companies of Old Gotham. Whatever may be said of these exhibitions *per se*, it cannot be denied that the effect of the "pageantry" is to produce a feeling of emulation in the minds of those who know that the leading fire companies of New York are favorably advancing in the march of scientific improvement, and, by the unanimous feeling of its members, is making their names and characters felt, not only in New York, but throughout the wide area of the United States.

It must be well known to our readers that the visit of the Hibernia Engine company has been a matter of discussion for some time past. Although their arrival has not been "up to the time"—to make use of the phraseology of a sporting body—the delay in their appearance has not in the slightest degree affected the character of the enthusiastic reception which was promised, and which we are glad to say has been accorded to them. There is, happily—as there ought to be—a good and fraternal feeling between New York and Philadelphia; and no better evidence could be given than the present by which the denizens of the two cities could manifest the cordiality and affection which ought to exist between the two fire departments of the Empire and Brotherly Love cities.

New York has before to-day evinced a disposition to pay the highest honors to Philadelphia; and, in the exhibition of the various fire companies last evening, we observe an inclination to draw together more closely those springs of sanguinity which ought to bind in love and friendship the children of every portion of this great and glorious Union.

The visit of the Hibernia Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1, of Philadelphia, has been for some time expected, and it was thought that when the Philadelphians arrived there would be a great and splendid display. The day fixed for the exhibition passed off without the appearance of the Philadelphians; but though, they had been "backward in coming forward, their ultimate arrival has not been regarded in any other than a highly satisfactory light.

The City Hall and Park were crowded as early as seven o'clock, all anxious to gain a "footing" in view of the procession. Every point from which a sight of the firemen could be obtained was eagerly seized upon by all classes. Not only the boy of tender and yet experienced years, but also the aged, thronged to the Park, and eagerly battled for a prominent locality to view the procession. Outside the circle of the throng and around the Hall, a perfect pandemonium prevailed, and, as upon all festive, commemorative, celebrative, and "receptive" occasions, the vendors of good things made their appearance.

The companies met and formed in reverse order, at seven o'clock P M, dressed in full fire suits, the right resting on the corner of Battery place and West street, extending through Battery place to Broadway, and up Broadway, on the west side. Upon the arrival of the Hibernia Company at pier No. 1 North river, a national salute was fired by the Peterson Guards, under command of Captain Samuel Jackson. The Hibernia Company was received by the Chief Engineer, Henry Howard, Esq., on behalf of American Engine Company No. 6, in the following speech:

"Gentlemen, members of the Hibernia Engine Company, brother firemen of Philadelphia: By an invitation (which I consider a very flattering compliment) of American Engine Company No. 6, whose guest I am, I welcome you to the New York Fire Department. I great you, and bid you welcome to our city. We have anxiously waited your arrival, and are prepared to receive you as you deserve to be received by the firemen of this metropolis. I am not here to pay homage to your mammoth steam fire engine, nor can I disparage or defame it. My duty is to assure you that while you honor us with your presence, every exertion will be made by New York firemen to make your visit an agreeable and a happy one." [Cheers.]

At precisely eight o'clock the line began to move, and No. 6, preceded by the Board of Engineers, as a special escort, passed in review, each company falling in line as the Hibernia passed, marching four abreast through Broadway to the western gate of the Park, passing the front of the City Hall, where a national salute was fired by the Live Oak Volunteers, under command of Captain Charles Miller, and they were received by the Common Council and other city authorities; thence, through Chatham to Bowery, to Canal, to Centre, to Leonard, to Broadway, up Broadway to Spring, to Sullivan, to Houston, to Hudson, to Barrow, to Bleecker, to Broadway, to Union square, where a national salute was fired by the Adriatic Club, attached to Engine No 31, Captain D. L. Chalmers; thence down Union square to the Bowery, to Grand, to Henry, to house of Engine Company No. 6, where they were received by a grand display of fireworks, the companies on parade dismissed, and a national salute fired in their honor by the Young American Guard, under command of Capt John McGee.

The company were then escorted to the Italian Hall, in Grand street, and enjoyed for some time the pleasures of the "festive board." Throughout the line of the procession the utmost enthusiasm was manifested, and the several engine and hose companies' houses were brilliantly illuminated. In Sullivan and Henry streets, for several blocks, Chinese lanterns were suspended, and triumphal arches erected in honor of the Philadelphia company.

Several other salutes were prepared and duly fired, and the enthusiasm of the people was carried to its greatest height. The firemen's procession which have from time to time taken place in this city, in consequence of their magnificence, have attracted considerable attention; but the display of lights and illuminations, last evening, were of a character that could not fail to impress every one who observed them with the feeling that, even in this branch of human science there was room enough for advancement and improvement.

A DESIRABLE COUNTRY SEAT.—It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, that a very desirable country residence, situated in Montgomery county, will be sold by order of the Orphan's Court, on the 25th inst. It is only ten miles from the city, and in a neighborhood famed for its healthfulness.

THE EXTENSIVE PRIVATE LIBRARY of rare, valuable, and curious books, to be sold on Friday morning next, is now arranged for examination, with catalogues, at the auction rooms of Messrs. Thomas & Sons.

HORRID MURDER.—At Petersburg, Menard county, Ill., a few days ago, a man named Neeley, and some others, went to the farm of a Mr. Howell to levy an execution on a field of corn, and in consequence became involved in a quarrel with the mother of Howell, who threw eggs at them as they were leaving the yard. They resented this by throwing mud at her, when young Howell rushed between them, and telling them not to throw at his mother, said if they wanted to fight to try him. Whereupon Neeley drew a pistol from his pocket and shot Howell dead. Neeley was immediately arrested

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Three Days Later from California.

BY OVERLAND MAIL.

ADVENT OF THE RAINY SEASON.

$12,000 of Frazer River Gold.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 20.—The Overland Mail from California arrived this evening with its accustomed regularity, bringing San Francisco dates to the 25th ult.

The rainy season commenced on the night of the 21st, with a heavy rain extending throughout the State. The flood was so heavy that the miners have been driven from several river beds where they had located during the dry season.

Henry M Nagle, the receiver charged with the settlement of the affairs of the Adams Express Company, has completed the payment of the first eight classes of indebtedness, amounting to upwards of $150,000.