The Press.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1858.

FIRST PAGE—Free Proceedings in France; Letter from Washington; Letter from Iowa; Banks County Correspondence; The Mount Vernon Festival; General News.

SECOND PAGE—The News.

The President has found enough subservient tools among the Democratic Senators to secure a decision in the caucus in favor of removing Judge Douglas from the position of chairman of the Committee on Territories. A greater political outrage was never perpetrated, and it is no wonder that such men as Toombs, Hunter, Brown, Johnson, Stuart, &c., opposed this despotic act.

It seems that the rumors of the escape of the filibusters from Mobile are well founded. They are said to have a rendezvous somewhere on the Florida Keys, and the steamer Fashion is supposed to have carried out a large number of them, with ammunition, as well as the schooner Susan. Our Government, which has been so mightily in crushing out "rebellious and turbulent Lecompton" men, is sufficiently vigilant to thwart the schemes of the violators of our neutrality laws.

The late election of Hon. James Chesnut, as United States Senator in South Carolina, is stated by the Charleston *News* to have been a decided triumph of the conservative sentiment in that State. The *News* says: "Mr. Chesnut before election clearly and frankly defined his political position in response to conversational inquiry. It was, in brief, that he was a State-rights and Convention, and anti-slave-trade man. He endorsed, in the main, the Barnwell speech of Senator Hammond, and the personal and political relations of these gentlemen place them in the fullest and most salutary accord as colleagues. Mr. Chesnut is in the prime of life, with ample margin of age for study, training, and advancement as a statesman. He has a clear and sagacious mind, even temperament and manner, firm and high spirit, and combines conservatism with decision. To a sufficient readiness in debate he adds clear logic and calm discernment. The purport of this Senatorial election cannot be mistaken. It sustained State-rights. It absolutely condemned the agitation of the slave-trade question. It indicated the policy that the people of the State should not merge in any party; but, when advisable, should co-operate as allies, not partisans, with the Democratic party *of the South*. It gave assurance that Senator Hammond would receive the cordial support *of his State*."

Senator Douglas, on his recent visit to New Orleans, was welcomed by a large body of the citizens, and congratulatory addresses were delivered to him by the Mayor of the city, and by Hon. Pierre Soule. His reply was as follows:

"I present my grateful acknowledgments for this cordial and unexpected reception—a reception in a two-fold capacity—from the city authorities and from my political friends, which is most gratifying under existing circumstances. I come here on private business. My approach was as private as it could be. I had no time to attend to other affairs, but I find my fellow-citizens of Louisiana prepared to give me a magnificent welcome, in which, mingled with the enthusiasm of the old political associates, and for this I am heartily grateful. I have just emerged from a struggle on behalf of the Constitution, against sectionalism and fanaticism—and no State in the American Confederacy rejoices more at the triumph of States Rights and the Federal Constitution than Louisiana. Looking South, to the Gulf of Mexico, and East, to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, there is an equality of interests that should ever be preserved under the common Constitution. The Union can be preserved and maintained even in the spirit in which our fathers made it. Through the Constitution the Union can be preserved, and by no other mode is it worth preserving. Again, I thank you, gentlemen, you, and grateful acknowledgments, and proffer my thanks for the cordial greeting you have extended to me. And I may say, on returning to my home on the lakes, I shall ever remember this spontaneous uprising and welcome received at your hands."

The Senator then retired to his apartments, and the multitude, after a parting and rousing cheer, separated.

In the reconstruction of the Committee of Ways and Means, rendered necessary by the resignation of Hon. J. G. Jones, Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, has been made chairman, and Mr. Phillips, of this city, has taken the place made vacant by Mr. Phelps's promotion to the chairmanship. The New York *Times* alleges that Mr. Phillips's views on the tariff question do not accord with those of Mr. Buchanan.

A correspondent of the Augusta *Chronicle* says: "You will be surprised, probably, to learn that arrangements are now being made to commence washing for diamonds in Georgia, yet it is true. Two localities have been found where the true matrix, and all its accompanying material, are found in abundance; and from the upper section, in Hall and other counties, several have been found of the first quality."

The City Councils held their regular sessions yesterday. In the Select Branch a resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of a committee to inquire into the expediency of removing the almshouse to a more remote point, with a view of reducing the expenses of that establishment. Messrs. Parker, Foster, and Neal were appointed to carry out this object on the part of the Select Council. A vote of the Arch street railway bill was received from the Mayor. A very remarkable occurrence took place shortly before the adjournment—the supply of *gas* gave out. In the Common Council, the ordinance making certain street stands for market wagons was finally passed.

Lord Napier.

There is a report from England that Lord NAPIER, British Ambassador to Washington, is to be recalled. It is added that there is an intention of promoting him to a higher diplomatic mission. Perhaps so; but we do not quite see how this is to be done. The Embassy to the United States is a very lucrative one. There are very few diplomatic situations of higher honor or more salary. In the first class (of Ambassadors Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary) there are Sir HENRY BULWER, to Turkey, with £14,000 a year, and Earl COWLEY, to France, with £10,000. In the second class (of Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary) we find Sir John CRAMPTON, to Russia, and Mr. ANDREW BUCHANAN, to Spain, each with £6,000 a year; Lord BLOOMFIELD, to Prussia, and Lord AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, to Austria, each with £5,000. The embassy to the United States comes next after, salary £4,500; and the remaining English missions range from £4,000 to £2,000 per annum. There was a rumor in the London clubs, three months ago, that Lord BLOOMFIELD was likely to resign the Prussian mission. This is the only probable vacancy for Lord NAPIER. A few weeks since Lord DUFFERIN resigned the Embassy from England to the Netherlands, and his successor has not yet been appointed; but as the salary is only £3,600, or £900 less than that of the Minister to Washington, Lord NAPIER would hardly take it. If the Hon. RICHARD BOURKE, now Baron Lyons, be removed from Florence to Washington, it will be a decided gain to him, raising him from £2,000 a year in Tuscany to £4,500 in the United States. We beg to add, for the information of the fashionable circles at Washington, that Mr. LYON is eldest son to Admiral Lord LYON; that he was born in 1817, and that we believe he is a bachelor.

It is not very certain that Lord NAPIER will return to England. His easy manners made him popular in society, his oratorical exhibitions displayed good sense and capacity. He can be fairly chargable with only one neglect while in this country—namely, his having unaccountably delayed to forward to his Government, last summer, Mr. CASS's communication relative to the right-of-search question.

☞ To-morrow we shall commence the publication of a series of foreign letters, written by a young gentleman of this city, who is making a tour through Europe, and has already traversed England, Russia, France, Germany, and most of Italy, and purposes visiting Spain, Portugal, and the Holy Land. These letters were not written with a view to publication, but their descriptions are so graphic and accurate that we are persuaded they will gratify our readers as much as they have gratified us.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER.—On Wednesday, at the Ashland House, Arch street, came off the Anniversary Dinner of the Alumni of Law and Arts, University of Pennsylvania. The chair was occupied by Charles Lex, Esq., and very pleasant was the result of his presidency, of the genial sociality which prevailed, and of a good and well-served a banquet as we have "assisted" at for some time. The variety and fine quality of the viands and wine were creditable to Mr. Benson of the Ashland House.

STOCKS, GROUND RENTS, MORTGAGES, REAL ESTATE, &c.—On Tuesday next, Thomas & Sons will sell, inter alia, the estates of A. Oakford, Chas. W. Bacon, John S. Morton, T. B. Wittner, H. Clark, and R. H. Wardell, by order of Court, of Common Pleas, Orphans' Court, and executors. Also, a very large amount of other property. See advertisements.

TOWER HOTEL, Chestnut street, and a large amount of other property, this day. See advertisements.

CANDLESHOE OF MR. GRATZ'S WINES are now ready.

AUCTION NOTICE.—The attention of purchasers is particularly invited to the large sale of French and German toys, by E. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 4th Chestnut street, this morning, commencing at 10½ o'clock. Catalogues will be found a large assortment, which will prove valuable at city retail sales.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.

NUMBER THREE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1858.

A bright day at last—bright, beautiful, and cold. I have seen the new House in its new garb, with the members in their seats, for the first time. There is too much ornament, perhaps, but, on the whole, the effect is grand and impressive. I missed many familiar faces—many whom I knew only a few short years ago in the other hall. The veteran Quitman, with his *gray moustache* and heavy beard, and military air, and warm generous heart, has been called away. The manly form of Thomas H. Bayly, of Virginia, has vanished from the scene. The merry face and eloquent voice of poor Presby Ewing are cold and silent in his early grave. The beaming countenance and jocund laugh of genial Jack Ogle are quenched and lost forever. Thomas L. Harris, "the pure in heart, the fair in form," sleeps his last sleep under the freshly-broken sod of the valley. The noble form of Macy, of Wisconsin, is seen no more; Dawson, of Louisiana; Brooks, of South Carolina; Hackett, of Georgia; Fowler, of Massachusetts; Dunn, of Indiana, have departed, and the seats they once filled shall know them no more. The young Breckinridge, of Kentucky, now sits in the Vice Presidential chair in the Senate of the United States. Colonel Preston, the polished representative, in 1854, from the Louisville district, is here awaiting his credentials, as Minister at the Spanish Court. Clingman, of North Carolina, now sits in the Senate. Ashe, of the same State, is at present the head of a railroad company at Wilmington. Henry May and R. W. McLane are practising their profession at the Baltimore bar. Vansant is selling hats at his fashionable store in the same city. F. P. Stanton is a practitioner at the Supreme Court in this city. Faran is postmaster at Cincinnati. McDonald is collector at Portland; Hart, surveyor at New York; Penn, superintendent of the public buildings at New Orleans; Riddle a private citizen at Wilmington, Delaware; Hibbard hard at work as a New Hampshire lawyer; and of the other absentees we hear only now and then, as the events of the day bring them to the surface of politics. Some of the old stagers, however, remain. I notice George W. Jones of Tennessee, George S. Houston of Alabama, Bocock of Virginia, Humphrey Marshall of Kentucky, Giddings of Ohio, Orr of South Carolina, (the Speaker.) But new men are constantly coming forward, as the grave of private life demands the withdrawal of the veterans from the stage of action. What a difference two years make in such a body!

The Senate still occupies the old Senate house, while the new hall *is being* made ready. Immense sums have been, and are being, expended upon the Capitol. I wandered through it to-day, and saw much to delight and surprise me, of which more anon.

A friend has exhumed the following extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Buchanan, in 1852, on the occasion of the anniversary of the landing of William Penn, which was celebrated in Philadelphia in October of that year. Coming from the present President of the United States, it will be read with curious interest, and with no little surprise, by those who have watched the steady advances toward consolidation made under the present Administration within less than two short years. No man living has ever written and spoken more against the tendency to consolidation in this country than James Buchanan. It has been the apparition which he has constantly held up to admonish his friends in their relations to parties and individuals. Some of his ablest speeches have been pronounced in denunciation of this tendency. And yet he has lived to see, and the country has lived to see in his Administration, the only organized and successful attempt to concentrate power at the seat of the Federal capital—to annihilate the rights of the States—to destroy the will of the majority—and to bind our dependent Territories, like so many chained captives, *to the chariot-wheels of what* has become neither more nor less than a vast central despotism, armed with unlimited capital, surrounded by the army and navy, and fortified by swarms of office-holders in every part of the land, who are again backed by other swarms and seekers after places, no less ready to do the bidding of their imperial master.

Mr. Buchanan writes, in 1852, to the committee:

"The citizens of Pennsylvania have never properly appreciated themselves. * * * Under a more complicated but unrivalled form of Government, State pride has become the truest patriotism towards the whole Union. It is eminently conservative of our Federal Republican Government. *What is less most to dread is the centralization of constitutional, political powers in the Federal Government;* and the indulgence of a well-regulated State pride throughout the Confederacy will always preserve us from this abyss. As our territory extends, as we rapidly advance in power and wealth, as the patronage and expenditures of the Federal Government increase, *the natural tendency becomes greater and greater to accumulate power at the centre of the system.*

"But, while thirty-one State sovereignties, proud of their power and dignity, and their rights, shall continue to resist all encroachments from the General Government, they will ever preserve the just balance between Federal and State authority. *So long as this balance shall be held with a steady hand; neither the Constitution nor the Union will ever be in danger. But let the pride and power of the State sovereignties pass away—let them be reduced to mere provincial corporations, dependant upon the Federal Government, and then the centralization of all powers at Washington, in fact if not in form, will inevitably follow; and then the animation, life, and soul of our institutions will have fled forever.*"

You will perceive in the italicised passages of the extract quoted a remarkable similarity between the opinions held by James Buchanan in 1828, when he was resisting what he regarded as the abuse of the Federal patronage by John Quincy Adams, and his opinions in 1852, twenty-four years after, when our territory had vastly increased, when the Executive patronage was almost double that wielded by John Quincy Adams, when the expenditures of the Government had nearly been trebled, and when our revenues had risen from some twenty to nearly seventy millions per annum. At this moment the State sovereignties are weaker at Washington than they have ever been since the beginning of the Government, and the voice of the people more persistently defied. Excesses, from which every other President would have shrunk with horror, have been boldly perpetrated under the present dynasty. The whole machinery of the Federal Government has been employed like a vast engine, to compel the people to accept doctrines at war with the spirit of the Constitution, the admonitions of the statesmen of the past, the pledges of the Executive himself, and the principles of every party that has an existence or a name within our borders. The President has dictated nominations to Congressional districts, and removed from office every man who has raised his voice in support of the doctrines of the Constitution, and with the money of the people in his hands has demanded the endorsement of faithless public servants. Bribes have been held out to the unworthy, and men whose only claim to consideration was a ready acquiescence in the basest treachery, have been called into the highest positions. Governors of States have been intimidated from the Federal capital—the smallest elections have been controlled by Federal money—and every office, from the highest to the lowest, has been used for the purpose of proscribing an honest difference of opinion. A demoralization, as widespread as it has been unparalleled, has resulted from this reckless and exceptionless tyranny. The effect upon the independence of the Representative has been startling. The weak have been terrified into obedience; the corrupt have been subsidized; and those who have been intrepid enough to stand up in the halls of Congress, protesting against the wrongs of the man they assisted to elect, have been beset, front and rear, with every element of detraction, misrepresentation, and proscription. The employment of money in the elections, so eloquently deplored by Mr. Buchanan, in his last Pittsburg letter, has ceased to be an exception—it has become the rule; and, I regret to say it, he who has been so ready to denounce it has been the first, unblushingly, and everywhere, to resort to it. From the day when the people of Kansas were denied the privilege James Buchanan voluntarily proffered to them, through all the intermediate stages of the contest, down to the last sad exhibitions in the recent elections in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, and Illinois, the *patronage* of the people has been prostituted to the destruction of the rights of the people and the overthrow of the independence of the servants of the people.

Strange that Mr. Buchanan, now rapidly approaching the Psalmist's age, after having, for nearly fifty years, denounced centralization at the Federal capital, as the bane of the Republic, as *consolidation* has been, and now is, the bane of all civilized Governments, should be the first to make centralization the guiding star of his Presidential policy! It became my duty, some weeks ago, to contrast his present actions with his professions, as a member of Congress, twenty-four years ago, and now I am enabled to produce a still later text from his record, and to refer to the melancholy comment he has made and is making upon it.

The country will be gratified to know that the utmost harmony prevails among the gallant band of Democrats in Congress who resisted the encroachments of Presidential patronage and power during the last session. Since the fall elections, these men have a right to congratulate themselves upon the popular endorsement which their votes have received. Important results have followed their former united action. A grave responsibility is again devolved upon each and all. They have the principles of the Democratic party in charge, and any attempt to rule them out by caucuses, or to drive them out by newspaper denunciation, or to intimidate them by Executive interference, should be permitted to have the slightest effect upon their action. They are, in fact, the conservators of the Democratic creed, and, as such, their conduct will be watched with intense interest by the people.

J. W. F.

Another Blow at Douglas—Proscription in a New Shape.

The startling intelligence reached us last night that a majority of the caucus of Democratic Senators had decided to remove Judge DOUGLAS from the position he has so long adorned, of Chairman of the Committee on Territories. In vain was this deed of ruthless proscription and of suicidal folly bravely opposed by *the ablest members of that body*—by such men as HUNTER of Virginia, TOOMBS of Georgia, JOHNSON of Tennessee, BROWN of Mississippi, SHIELDS of Minnesota, CLINGMAN of North Carolina, and STUART of Michigan—the supple tools of tyranny, the pliant BIGLER and his kindred spirits, yielded a ready submission to the demands of Executive vengeance.

So intimately has Judge DOUGLAS been identified with the position, that if this attempt to remove him from it succeeds it cannot but be regarded as a national calamity. Familiar with all the wants and the trials of our frontier settlements, no man in the country so well understood its true territorial policy, and he has left the impress of his genius upon it in indelible characters.

The cause of his removal is, of course, his manly, straight-forward policy on the Kansas question. Not content with striking down every honest Democrat within its reach who dared to utter his sentiments of abhorrence of the Lecompton fraud, and writhing under the contemptibly and indicrously-ignominious attitude in which it was placed by the Danite assault upon the regular Democratic organization in Illinois, the Administration has, to the surprise of every one, found a still lower depth of infamy in which to wallow, and attempts, through the Senators who follow at its heels, to wield the rod of proscription in another shape over the dauntless Hero of Popular Sovereignty!

Among the great mass of the American people there can be but one opinion of an act like this. A sentiment of profound contempt for all who were engaged in it will universally prevail, and each new dastardly blow of this kind struck at DOUGLAS will only serve to raise him still higher in the affections of his countrymen.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, December 9, 1858.

I do not know any one who has better reason to be satisfied with Mr. Buchanan's Administration than Bennett, of the New York *Herald*. The *Times* of that city calls Bennett the "President's weakness." On the contrary, he is the right arm of the strength of the present Administration. Though denounced by the whole South, and execrated in the whole North; though the organ and advocate of the Fremont antagonism in 1856; and the assailant, by turns, of every Democratic statesman in the land—Bennett is, par excellence, the pliant parasite of the White House and its venerable occupant. After the General Administration was organized, Bennett bullied them into allowing him to send out a correspondent on the great sub-marine telegraphic expedition, in the good ship Niagara; then he forced another of his agents into the diplomatic service at Mexico; then he got Fleurot, the friend of his family, sent as consul to Bordeaux; then Chevalier Wikoff, the most intimate associate of Bennett, was sent abroad on the secret-service fund as a roving diplomat. This much is known, though there are, doubtless, similar other favors, between the parties, "secret, sweet, and precious." Bennett has a longing for "Society." Tabooed in New York, and utterly ostracised here, the President has resolved to give him the most ample recognition. John J. Crittenden is not invited to dine at the Presidential mahogany; the whole Republican and American party are excluded from the same hospitable board; but Bennett, in the midst of his assaults upon some of the most eminent citizens of this District, is sent for, and escorted to the fire-side of the President, and honored almost on bended knee. Nor does the President tire of well-doing. As if to give a new and more public mark of his affection to Bennett, and to spit in the face of the whole American press, of every party, including his own, he causes to be forwarded to him advance copies of his annual message, to the exclusion of all the other journals of the country. While the great third estate of New York, the daily journals of that city, are waiting eagerly for the message to be delivered from the collector's office, the *Herald* extra is thrown before the people, and the fact made known that that most refined journal had had the message in type for a whole day! The return for all this official praise and preference on the part of Bennett is a consistent abuse of every friend of the President in Washington and in New York—abuse of Mr. Sickles, of Mr. Hart, of Mr. Cobb, of Mr. Corcoran, of the *Union*, of Gov. Wise, of everybody, in fact, who may be willing to serve the Administration. Do not say these attacks are suggested by the President; for they are not arrested—they do not stop him in his coarse courtesies to the editor in question; they rather attach the one more closely to the other. The fact is, the President's desire is to take care of *himself*—to monopolize Bennett as his own special champion—to have nobody praised in the *Herald* but himself. Worship me, O Bennett, is the cry of the President, and you may calumniate all the rest of the world.

PIONEER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1858.

The Press is sought after with more avidity, perhaps, than any other paper which comes to this city. Night before last not a copy could be had fifteen minutes after the agency received it, and my copy was loaned out to half a dozen *anxious inquirers*.

The most amusing topic for conversation is Mr. Buchanan's avowed dual existence. He is Mr. Buchanan, "a private individual," and Mr. Buchanan the President of the United States. We have two rulers. Of course, it will startle many people to know this now for the first time. But Sparta had two kings, and so have we, and that is the end of it. Those who place such implicit confidence in the President's alleged history of Kansas affairs, with all its inconsistencies, one-sided statements, and errors of fact, must agree of consequence to this; for have they not all along sounded into our ears that on Democracy and its organization he was and is as infallible as the Pope on the church doctrines and the church establishment?

Hereafter, therefore, it should be particularly inquired into, when Mr. Buchanan speaks, whether he speaks as a private individual or as an official. I wonder whether his letter to the Du Quesne celebration was written from a private individual or from the President. It must have been written from the former, for the President assuredly knew of the untold Federal patronage and Federal influence used to carry Lecompton and Lecompton candidates, and applied in every way to sap the foundation of that public virtue, without which republics cannot exist.

When the President's message reaches California, and the entire Pacific coast, whence it is now flying upon the wings of steam and electricity, it will create an excitement rarely witnessed in the history of this country. It will be recollected that it recommends a United States protectorate of Sonora and Chihuahua. *We know by the last two steamers* that the people of that coast have been on the *qui vive* to learn tidings from this quarter, preparatory to rush upon the Mexican States named, and now that it is openly declared from the Chief Magistrate's chair, that we must have control of them, we may expect to hear of scenes of bloodshed all along that border.

There are the murders at Dunbar's, in Arizona, Crabbe's massacre at Cavorca, and constant outrages of like character on the part of the Mexican authorities to be avenged, and I know how profound is the feeling which is cherished that they shall be avenged. One must tremble for the result.

As well stop a torrent as the tide of emigration which will overflow the mining and agricultural districts of Sonora and Chihuahua. The Government of Mr. Buchanan says we must have that Territory, and there will be eager haste to purchase out old Spanish and Mexican grants and squat and take up unoccupied lands.

Last session anti-Lecompton Democrats, who voted for all the Administration measures except its Kansas policy, were read out of the Democratic party; while those who voted for that alone, and against all the others, were given the fraternal hug and all the fat places they desired. Mr. Buchanan recommends specific duties and an increased tariff. His Lecompton friends will go against it—every man from the South, I think, without exception—and on the contrary, the anti-Lecompton men will support it.

On parity of reasoning, are not the Lecompton men out of the party? *Douglas*, and *Broderick*, and Stuart, and Hickman, and Haskin, and Davis, and Chapman, and Clark, and all of those noble spirits have been heretofore read out, and now a like fate awaits Hammond, and Orr, and Keitt, and the rest of them. Then, who is in the Democratic party, except alone Mr. Buchanan, the *Union*, and the *Star?*

TRUSAKIN.

A Hebrew on the Hebrews.

The lecturer, before the People's Literary Institute, for last evening, at Concert Hall, was the Rev. M. J. Raphall, an eminent Jewish Rabbi. The hall was nearly filled with a highly intelligent audience, and the lecture, in its matter, was, in many respects, a production of superior merit. It was delivered without notes, and, as a finished composition, would have compared favorably with any lecture-board effort in this city during the present season. Indeed, as an instance of the English in its purity, by one *so* foreign in his accent and pronunciation, we do not now remember of ever having heard it equalled. The eloquent Magyar who visited this country *in search of* "material aid," a few years ago, for insuperable reasons we did not hear.

Before commencing his lecture, Mr. Raphall desired to correct the erroneous statement, as published in the newspapers, of his proposed subject. What he designed to speak of was "The Biblical Poetry of the Hebrews, and the Characteristics of their Literature," and *not* of the Hebrews themselves.

That collection of records, known as the Old Testament, had been properly compiled by Simon the Just—High Priest of Jerusalem, a cotemporary of Alexander the Great. The view he proposed to take of his subject rendered it necessary for him to speak of both the prose and the poetry of the Sacred writings. By prose he meant the ordinary language of the mind in its ordinary state, whilst poetry was the language of the more powerful emotions of the heart. Both these elements were in the Bible judiciously introduced. In commenting upon the character of the several books of the Old Testament Scripture, it was said that while it was true that the *style of each* was in some degree stamped with the idiosyncrasies of their respective authors, it was nevertheless true that their inspiration was amply attested in the impress they each bore of a unity of Divine purpose.

In taking a general survey of his proposed theme, the speaker said there were three distinct, prominent characteristics, which peculiarly marked the literature of the Hebrew Scriptures; these were their *originality*, their *naturalness*, and their *holiness and purity*. These several features, as the lecture progressed, were each illustrated with great force, and shown to be applicable to the Bible as they are not to any other book the world has ever produced.

The entire analysis of this subject by the lecturer was felicitous, and marked him as at once a man of learning and ability. If, said he, we should prosecute our studies of Bible literature in the light of *its progress*, we should find it divided into the four following periods:

First, from the earliest times to Moses, a period of twenty-five hundred years; *second*, from Moses *to David*, a *period of four hundred years*; *third*, from David to the death of Solomon; and *fourth*, from the division of the Hebrew monarchy, through a period of some eight hundred years. In the first of these periods, we had presented to us in the Scriptures the Book of Genesis, and that first, and never-since-equalled drama, the Book of Job; which latter the speaker believed chronologically to belong to a point anterior to the five books of Moses. In the second of these periods we had developed the Hebrew nationality, as recorded in Joshua and the Judges. The third period was identified with the lyrical poetry of the Hebrews, and the fourth with their prophecies, of which the most polished specimen was afforded in the writings of Isaiah. As was Moses among legislators, and David among poets, so was Isaiah's superiority among prophets.

Throughout the lecture the aim of its author was, evidently, to demonstrate the unequalled character of the Sacred writings in point of true literary merit. His illustration of this truth, in comparing the sublime epics of Homer, and his Latin imitator, Virgil, with the simple, yet sublime and faultless story of Joseph, in order to prove the superiority of the latter, both in point of literary excellence and moral grandeur, was given in masterly style, our only regret being that space will not warrant its repetition here. Among the audience we noticed a large number of our worthiest and most intelligent citizens.

Letter from New York.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

THE CANCEMI MURDER CASE: TACTICS OF MR. ASHMEAD—THE "UNITARIANS: REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS: VESPERS—WILL OF THE LATE B. F. BUTLER—THE NEW COMPTROLLER: FOUNDLING HANGED AFTER HIM—A LONG LECTURE BY GREELEY—PLAYING OUT THE LANDING OF THE CABLE—THE BENICIA BOY CHALLENGES THE WORLD—RECEIPTS OF THE OPERATIC SEASON—MR. FORREST.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9, 1858.

Your late townsman, John W. Ashmead, Esq., made another effort yesterday to engineer the notorious Cancemi out of the clutches of the executioner. At the opening of the court he asked for the dismissal of his client, and objected to any further proceedings in the case, on the ground that, by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New York, a prisoner could not twice be put in jeopardy for the same offence. The court denied the motion, and the empannelling of the jury was commenced. It will be curious to watch the movements of Cancemi's counsel in this fourth attempt to escape the rope. The prisoner noticed that, by some legal legerdemain, he will yet escape the gallows.

The Unitarians are turning Pusseyites. Not long since a Unitarian church was dedicated in Marietta, O., the walls of which were decorated with Scriptural scenes. It was built by an old, conservative Unitarian, and the officers of the "American Unitarian Association" took part in the dedicatory exercises. The Brooklyn Unitarians are going a step beyond this. The Rev. Mr. Longfellow (brother of the poet) has announced that on Sunday evening next "vespers" will be performed in his church—the Second Unitarian—the service having been carefully prepared by Mr L., to be continued on alternate Sabbath evenings. The regular service at this church differs from most other Congregational churches, as it includes, besides the ordinary services of such churches, "silent" and audible prayers, anthems, chants, &c.; thus combining portions of the Congregational, Episcopal, and Quaker modes of worship. It is said to be impressive. So we go. The conservative Unitarian, the most Protestant of Protestant Churches, brbreaks through its polished chillliness, and prepares to take its chance with other innovators upon religious ritualism.

William Allon Butler, the author of "Nothing to Wear," yesterday stepped into the Surrogate's office, and, as one of the executors, offered for probate the will of his father-in-law, the late Benjamin F. Butler. Its provisions are mainly of a private character, but, after making specific bequests to his family and friends, one-tenth of his residuary estate is directed to be applied to charitable purposes, in conformity with written directions *communicated by him to them during his lifetime*, but which are not incorporated in the will.

The newly-elected Comptroller, Mr. Hawes, is already realising what it is to be famous. On Monday night, just after the closing of the polls, a policeman found a male child about two weeks old in the area-way of a rickety old house in Greenwich street. After naming it Robert T. Hawes, Jr., it was sent to the Governor of the Almshouse, who promptly assumed control of the little republican, and generously tossed him over to one of the nurses. The great "*succo*" that Hawes received from the Americans during the day-time elected him, but the wicker found by the policeman during the night may, by-and-by, find himself as high in public life as his namesake.

The Rochester *Union* says that Horace Greeley, of the New York *Tribune*, has written a lecture on great men, and "starts West this week to spend a month or six weeks in its delivery!" Gracious! the idea of being six weeks in delivering a single lecture!

Flagg, the artist, has just finished a fine painting of the "Landing of the Telegraph Cable at Trinity Bay," painted for James Brewster, Esq., of New Haven. The principal figures are from full-length photographs, by Brady, and the point of time chosen is the moment when the officers and sailors of the Niagara stand with uncovered heads, while Captain Hudson acknowledges that in this great enterprise "the glory is all of God." The picture was exhibited yesterday, for the first time, privately, at the Dusseldorf gallery.

There is no foundation for the rumor that the Astor House has been offered to the Postmaster General for city post office. Stetson's lease has six years to run, and the stores on the street floor are let for a longer term. It would take a bonus of at least $250,000 to buy the leases out. Christadoro, the hair-dresser, could not be bought out for less than $50,000. Speaking of hair-dressers, I yesterday passed a little shop, in one of the by-streets, over the door of which was painted the following trioophoreous or hair-raising sign: "Capillary Operator and Tonsorial Regenerator."

Perhaps it may interest that large number of Philadelphians who are almost as much at home in New York as in Philadelphia to know that another desperate attempt will be made, at the next meeting of our Legislature, to secure the passage of the Broadway Railroad bill; an effort will also be made for an act authorising a railroad from Wall street to the Dry Dock, via East Broadway.

Captain Hudson has received from the Queen of England, through the hands of Lord Napier, a gold box and medal, in testimony of his services in laying the Atlantic cable. Of course Congress will grant him permission to accept.

The Common Council have just established a Foundling Hospital in Fifty-first street, on the plan of similar institutions in Europe. All illegitimate children may be deposited there and "no questions asked."

Mr. John O. Heenan, who rejoices in the cognomen of "The Benicia Boy," is out with a card in the morning papers, challenging nobody Morrissey, but the whole world to fight him for any sum up to $10,000. John is evidently frantic for a fight, and this will be apt to put him in the way of finding some one ready for the job.

The Operatic season, of twenty-five nights, closed yesterday. The gross receipts have been $69,015, or an average of $2,760 per night, a sum unprecedented in the annals of operatic or theatrical establishments in America.

It is said Mr. Forrest is soon to play an engagement at the Broadway Theatre.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS AT WASHINGTON.

PROSCRIPTION IN A NEW FORM.

Expulsion of Judge Douglas from the Senate Committee on Territories.

WASHINGTON, Dec 9, 1858.—After a very exciting debate in a caucus of the Administration Senators, it was decided, by a vote of seventeen to seven, to remove Senator DOUGLAS from the position of chairman of the Committee on Territories. The seven Senators who voted against this proposition were TOOMBS, BROWN, CLINGMAN, JOHNSON of Tennessee, SHIELDS, HUNTER, and STUART.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

Second Session.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.

SENATE.

Senators CRITTENDEN of Kentucky, TOOMBS of Georgia, and JOHNSON of Tennessee, appeared in their seats.

Various petitions were presented and referred.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, offered a resolution authorising the Committee on Public Buildings to inquire and report how soon the new Senate chamber will be ready for occupancy

Mr. IVERSON, of Georgia, gave notice of his intention, at an early day, to introduce a bill for the abolition of the franking privilege, and the substitution of a commutation in money.

Charles S. Jones was elected assistant doorkeeper of the Senate.

The report from the Secretary of State, communicating an abstract of registered American seamen, was ordered to be printed.

Various memorials, of an unimportant character, were presented.

Also, one from the Legislature of Minnesota, asking an appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, and for a grant of land to aid in the construction of railroads. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker announced the standing committees, as follows:

On Elections—Messrs. Boyce, Washburne of Missouri, Stevenson, Clark of Connecticut, Wright of Tennessee, Gilmer, Lamar, Wilson, and Cavanaugh.

On Ways and Means.—Messrs. Phelps of Missouri, Phillips, Letcher, Davis of Maryland, Kelly, Howard, Dowdell, McClay, and Morrill.

Of Claims.—Messrs. Marshall of Illinois, Jackson, Giddings, Davidson, Kunkel, Moore, Goodwin, Arnold, and Maynard

On Commerce.—Messrs. John Cochrane, Millson, Washburne of Illinois, Miles, Wade, Stallworth, Eustis, Sandy, and Comins.

On Public Lands—Messrs. Cobb, McQueen, Bennett, Davis of Indiana, Garnett, Ruffin, Hill, Montgomery, and McKibbin.

On Post Offices and Post Roads.—Messrs. English, Powell, Wood, Scott, Horton, Davis of Iowa, Craig of Missouri, Davis of Mississippi, and Atkins.

On District of Columbia—Messrs. Goode, Bowie, Dodd, Burnett, Morris of Pennsylvania, Wright of Georgia, Dean, Scales, and Ward

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Houston, Caskie, Tappan, Craig of North Carolina, Billinghurst, Taylor of Louisiana, Healy, Chapman, and Olin of New York.

On Revolutionary Claims.—Messrs. Cox, George Taylor, Clawson, Cragin, Jackson, Lovejoy, Curry, Davies, and Vance.

On Public Expenditures—Messrs. Elliott, Edmundson, Covode, Wortendyke, Parker, Cockerill, Kellogg, Gregg, and Walton.

On Private Land Claims—Messrs. Sandidge, McKibbin, Harlan, Hawkins, Washburne of Wisconsin, Blair, Fenton, Gilman, and Avery.

On Manufactures.—Messrs. Bishop, Watkins, Bliss, Clemens Durfee, Ahl, Ricaud, Shaw of North Carolina, and Foster.

On Agriculture—Messrs. Whiteley, Hall of Ohio, Kelsey, Tripp, Kelm, Huyler, Mott, Foley, and Gillis.

On Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Greenwood, Scott, Leiter, Bryan, Woodson, Shorter, Burroughs, Colfax, and Russel.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Faulkner, Marshall of Kentucky, Savage, Stanton, Barham, Curtis, Pendleton, Buffinton and McRae

On the Militia.—Messrs. Hatch, Watkins, Roberts, Bowie, Tompkins, Warren, Shaw of Illinois, Jenkins, and Thayer.

On Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Bocock, Florence, Davis of Massachusetts, Winslow, Corning, Sherman, Seward of Ohio, Morse of Maine, Hawkins.

On Foreign Affairs.—Messrs Hopkins, Burlingame, Olay, Ritchie, Barksdale, Sickles, Royce, Grossbeck, and Branch.

On the Territories.—Messrs. Stephens, Smith of Virginia, Grow, Branch, Waldenbigden, Hughes, Zollicoffer, Knapp, and Clark of Missouri

On Revolutionary Pensions.—Messrs. Hickman, Leidy, Hall of Massachusetts, Farnsworth, Barker, Shaw of North Carolina, Abbott, Clemens, and Potter.

On Invalid Pensions.—Messrs. Jewett, Florence, Robbins, Savage, Chaffee, Burns, Anderson, Palmer and Cox.

On Roads and Canals.—Messrs. Jones of Tennessee, Talbot, Mason, Gooch, Walbridge, Warren, Morris of Illinois, Thompson, and Ruffin.

On Patents.—Messrs Stewart of Maryland, Niblack, Reilly, Edie, and Brayton.

On Public Buildings and Grounds.—Messrs. Keitt, Peyton, Morgan, Hall of Ohio, and Purviance.

On Revisal and Unfinished Work—Messrs. Dewart, Miller, Leach, Bryan, and Shermann of New York.

On Accounts—Messrs. Searing, Dick, Powell, Kunkel of Maryland, and Skinner.

On Mileage—Messrs. Smith of Illinois, Murray, Phelps of Minnesota, Harris of Maryland, and Waldron.

On Engraving.—Messrs. Adrian, Hatch, and Underwood.

On Expenditures in the State Department.—Messrs. Owen Jones of Pennsylvania, Curry, Bingham, Avery, and Hoard.

On Expenditures in the Treasury Department—Messrs. Lawrence, White, Gilgore, Kunkel of Maryland, and Gartrell.

On Expenditures in the War Department—Messrs. Reilly, Clark B Cochran, Cocker