The Press.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1859.

FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS
Will be Ready
To-morrow, at 1 o'clock P. M.
This paper is published expressly for
CALIFORNIA CIRCULATION,
And contains a complete summary of what has transpired in our City, State, and the Atlantic States, since the departure of the last steamer for California.
Price Six Cents per copy, in strong wrappers, and stamped, ready for mailing.

FIRST PAGE.—Almanacs; Additional Copartnerships and Dissolutions; The Revolution in Mexico; From Minnesota; Murder in New York; General News; News by Telegraph; The City; The Courts. FOURTH PAGE.—Letters from Harrisburg; The State of Things in Greene co., Pa.

The News.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, Mr. Seward offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information concerning the American vessels engaged in the palm-oil trade, on the coast of Africa. A resolution was passed appointing Commodore Stewart senior flag-officer. Mr. Shields offered a resolution which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Territories to inquire into the expediency of organizing the portion of Minnesota west of the present State boundary. A debate sprung up on a motion being made to take up Mr. Johnson's resolution to limit the expenditure of the Government within the revenue, the dispute being as to whether the resolution should be sent to a special committee or to the Committee on Finance. Mr. Douglas delivered an eloquent tribute to the memory of Mr. Harris, of Illinois, (published in our paper to-day,) after which, upon the customary resolution, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, after the transaction of some unimportant business, Mr. Morris, of Illinois, announced the death of Thomas L. Harris, his late colleague, and pronounced a eulogy on his private and public worth. Several other gentlemen followed who knew the worth of the deceased, after which the House adjourned.

Very little business of importance was transacted, with the exception of the election of State Treasurer, by the State Legislature yesterday. In the Senate, a resolution was passed requesting the Governor to furnish information in regard to the sale of the public works.

In the House, several petitions were presented for more passenger railways in this city, and a number of bills were read, of no public interest. The election of State Treasurer then took place, with the following result:

Eli Slifer	80 votes.
H. S. Magraw	43 "
Majority for Slifer	37

Eli Slifer was therefore declared elected.

The Secretary of the Treasury has addressed a communication to the Committee of Ways and Means stating eighteen millions of dollars in treasury notes fall due before the first of July next, and that he has no means of providing for them.

The Indiana Legislature have agreed upon a memorial to the Senate, asking that body to unseat Senators Bright and Fitch, and give their seats to Messrs. Lane and McCarthy, just elected.

Late Havana dates state that the negroes were somewhat unruly, and many of them had been arrested and imprisoned. Two thousand five hundred knives had been sold to them during a few days.

Another brutal murder took place in New York on Sunday morning, the account of which will be found elsewhere. Two fellows forcibly broke into a house of ill-repute, and were making free with the furniture, when the proprietor interrupted them, and was shot for his pains. He was, last night, alive, but is in a critical condition. A stevedore, named Richard Owens, who happened to be passing by after the villains were ejected from the premises, was struck on the head and shot in the lungs. He died soon afterward.

From the annual report of Fire Detective Blackburn, we learn that the whole number of fires during the year 1858 was 824; total amount of losses, $285,729; insurance, $172,315; number of lives lost, 52.

General Robles, just chosen President of Mexico, is only twenty-eight years of age. The following "incidents of the revolution" are given by a correspondent of the New York *Herald*:

"The number of political prisoners set at liberty by Robles is not less than five hundred—amongst them General Traconis, who has been in prison for about two years.

"The number of generals who signed the plan of Robles, on the day it was proclaimed, is forty-two. You may understand the character of the military chieftains of Mexico when you hear, in a few days, of these generals signing another plan in opposition to Robles. You may be able to form some notion of the number of generals in this country when forty-two are found in this place, that has a garrison at present of not more than fifteen hundred strong.

Pennsylvania Common Schools.

The Common Schools of Pennsylvania exercise a far more important and powerful influence upon the destiny of our citizens than any other agency within her border. The system has had many difficulties to contend with, prejudices to overcome, and pecuniary embarrassments to surmount; it has suffered from the incompetency of teachers, niggardly parsimoniousness, and ignorant and hostile directors; yet it has achieved an untold amount of positive good in spite of all obstacles, and is at this moment rapidly advancing to that high point of efficiency which the general welfare requires that it should ultimately attain.

We have before us a copy of the report of HENRY C. HUOKON, the present able State Superintendent of the schools of the State, and rejoice at the many indications it presents of their improvement. The whole number of schools, exclusive of Philadelphia, is 11,281, an increase of 325 over 1857, and an increase of 1,095 over 1854. The average length of time the schools have been open was increased from 5.18 months in 1857 to 5.25 months in 1858. The total number of teachers was 13,856; 8,272 of whom were males, and 5,584 females. The average salaries of male teachers per month, exclusive of Philadelphia, in 1858, was $24 25, an increase of 25 cents over 1857, and of $4.04 over 1854. The average monthly salaries of females was $17.22, an increase of 62 cents over 1857, and of $4.42 over 1854. The total number of pupils in the schools of the State in 1858 was 628,201, a large increase over the previous year. The total amount expended for tuition, fuel, and contingencies, exclusive of Philadelphia, was $1,488,663.63, an increase over the previous year of $178,738.70, and an increase of $488,857.96 over 1854. The total expenditure of Philadelphia for the year ending December 31, 1857, was $484,625.25; and if this sum, (no doubt less than the expenditures for 1858,) and the building expenses be added to the above statement of the common school expenditures of the State, the total for the year 1858 is $2,427,632.41. Of the teachers, 10,946 were born in Pennsylvania, and 1,505 were born out of it—a fact which shows that our chief reliance for teachers must be upon those born and reared in our own State.

A large portion of the teachers possess considerable experience in their vocation. The number who have taught less than one year is 3,889; while 4,010 have taught between one and three years; 2,585 between three and six years; 1,281 between six and ten years; 708 between ten and twenty years; and 226 veterans have taught more than twenty years. More than one-half of the whole number have read books and periodicals on teaching. The number who intend to make teaching a permanent business is 4,888, and the number who do not is 7,441. These statistics indicate a much higher grade of proficiency than existed in the school-boy days of most of those who will read this article, but there is still great room for improvement. The number of teachers who give full satisfaction in their respective grades is 5,087; of medium teachers, who may be employed until better can be procured, 5,887; of those whose services should be dispensed with, 2,218.

The report discusses in a very able manner the various projects for increasing the utility of the system: Teachers' Institutes, District Institutes, Teachers' Libraries, State Normal Schools, the County Superintendent system, the grading of schools, and their revenues, all receive careful and appropriate consideration.

The "dear school-boy spot we never forget, though there we are forgot," is one of the most important arenas of human existence. The boy is father to the man, and the impressions of his early life exert a powerful influence upon his nature, and shape his destiny for good or evil, happiness or misery, failure or success. The State has properly undertaken to control the destinies of the great body of her children during this eventful period. She should do it well, in a wise and generous spirit, and every dollar she thus judicially expends will be returned to her, ten-fold, by the increased intelligence and energy of her sons. Her school teachers should hold a high place in her confidence and esteem; the standard of their qualifications should be elevated; and this being done, they should be rewarded by a corresponding increase in their salaries.

Douglas's Eulogy on Harris.

The following beautiful eulogy on the death of the Hon. THOMAS L. HARRIS, of Illinois, was delivered yesterday, in the United States Senate, by Hon. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. We are indebted to an attentive Washington correspondent for a copy of it in time to lay it before our readers this morning:

MR. PRESIDENT: For the first time during my public service, has it become my mournful duty to join in an official tribute of respect and veneration to the memory of a colleague from my own State. The message from the House of Representatives has announced to the Senate the death of Thomas L. Harris, a well-known Representative from the State of Illinois. His declining health—the result of severe exposures in the military service of his country—had long since impressed upon his family and immediate friends the stern necessity of preparing their minds and hearts for this afflicting bereavement. With a constitution broken, and sinking slowly but certainly under an incurable disease, and while calmly awaiting a result which he was conscious was inevitable and rapidly approaching, he retained and displayed the indomitable energy, courage, and fortitude, which had characterized his whole life, and enabled him until the hour of his death to perform his whole duty to his family and to society—to his State and the Union. He died at his home in Petersburg, Menora county, Illinois, on the 14th of November, 1858, of pulmonary consumption.

The history of Thomas L. Harris may be studied, and his example followed with safety and honor by the youth of our country. Born in Norwich, Connecticut, on the 29th October, 1816, he was only two years of age when his father died, leaving him and a younger brother dependent upon a widowed mother for support. By his own exertions—with the labor of his own hands—he obtained the means to acquire an education, and graduated with credit at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., in 1841. During his senior year in college he became a student at law in the office of Gov. Toucey, now Secretary of the Navy, and pursued his studies with assiduity and success. In December, 1841, he removed to Amherst county, Virginia, where he continued the study of the law, while teaching school to obtain the means of support. In 1842 he was admitted to the bar in Virginia, and the same year removed to Petersburg, Menora county, Illinois, where he commenced the practice of his profession, and resided until the period of his death.

He rose rapidly in his profession, and had already acquired an enviable reputation as a lawyer, when the Mexican war broke out and called him to another field of duty. In May, 1846, he raised a company of volunteers and was elected their captain. He joined the Fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, under the command of Col. Baker, and, on the 4th of July of that year, was elected major of the regiment. After reaching Mexico, the absence and sickness of the colonel and lieutenant colonel devolved the command of the regiment on Major Harris; and in this position he displayed great vigor and energy, and fully tested the qualities of the soldier and the officer—courage, energy, promptitude, and discipline. He soon became conspicuous, winning the applause of his superiors and the confidence and love of those under his command. At Vera Cruz, as well as at Cerro Gordo, after the fall of General Shields, the command of the brigade devolved upon Colonel Baker and that of the regiment on Major Harris, in consequence of the sickness of the lieutenant colonel, *the gallantry of my friend* became historical, as appears by the official despatches of Gen. Scott, Commanding-in-Chief, and the reports of Major General Patterson and Colonel Baker. During his absence in Mexico Major Harris was elected by the people to the State Senate of Illinois, notwithstanding the district had previously given a decided majority in opposition to the political party to which he belonged. Returning from the war surrounded with honors, which his fellow-citizens all took pride in awarding to him, and which he bore with a *modesty in harmony with his character*, he again engaged in the practice of his profession with that earnestness of character which was a part of his nature. But he had become an object of too much public interest to be allowed to remain long in private life. In 1848 he became the nominee of the Democratic party, with which he was then, thoroughly identified, for Congress, in a district which had uniformly given a decided Opposition majority, and was triumphantly elected upon the distinct issue of non-intervention by Congress with slavery in States or Territories. His course in Congress was bold, manly, and unequivocal; always adhering strictly to the principles upon which he was elected. He supported, by vote and speech, the legislation of 1850, known as the Compromise measures; and never failed to defend the author of those measures and the principles involved in them, whenever and wherever assailed. In 1854, when sectional strife raged with its greatest fury, and men of less nerve quailed before the storm, Major Harris again became the candidate of his party for Congress in his district, which had been changed so as to conform to the new apportionment, and was then represented by a political opponent. In this contest he stood forth the bold and fearless champion of the principles embodied in the Kansas-Nebraska act, and on that distinct issue he was elected by about two hundred majority over his popular antagonist. *Maintaining in Congress*, with ability and fidelity, the principles on which he was elected, he, for the third time, became the chosen leader of his party by a unanimous vote in 1856, and after an arduous and severe canvass, pending the Presidential election of that year, he was re-elected by about *two thousand majority. The course which Major Harris* felt it his duty to pursue on the important and exciting question which engrossed the attention of Congress during the last session, is familiar to the Senate and the country. Whatever diversity of opinion may exist, here or elsewhere, in regard to the merits of that controversy, all will unite in bearing testimony to the ability, fidelity, and gallantry with which he maintained and defended his conscientious convictions. When Congress adjourned, he returned to his home in the beloved State of his adoption, worn down and exhausted by excessive labor, and sinking slowly under the effects of a disease which even his energy and will could no longer resist. He received the unanimous nomination of the Democratic party for re-election to Congress, and was elected on the 2d of last November by about four thousand majority. Contrary to the advice of his physicians, and in opposition to the urgent and affectionate remonstrances of his friends, he insisted upon being carried to the polls, that he might pay the last tribute to his political faith and perform his last duty to his country. He lived to receive complete returns of the election in the entire State, and to write affectionate letters of congratulation to those with whom he had uniformly acted on public questions, and in whose success he cherished a deep and heartfelt interest.

Major Harris left a wife and four small children, to whom he was tenderly, ardently, and devotedly attached. Of them—their affliction, their loss—I will not attempt to speak. God alone can pour consolation into their hearts.

While the country at large will mourn the loss of a brave and true man, whose patriotic services in the field and in the councils of the nation gave promise of a brilliant and useful future, we, of Illinois, who knew him best in all the relations of life, can alone fully appreciate the extent of our loss.

Philadelphia Book Trade Sales.

We are glad to learn that the book, paper, and stationery trade sales, which are to commence in this city on the 21st of March, under the management of M. THOMAS & SONS, promise to be very extensive. We understand that all of the Boston publishing and many of the New York houses, as well as all the principal publishers of this city, will make contributions to these sale s, and from present appearances their catalogue will be very large.

Public Entertainments.

THE OPERA.—The audience at the Academy of Music last evening, if not quite so overwhelming an outpouring, in point of numbers, as the demonstrations of Friday and Saturday, was very large, and not by any means lacking in point of enthusiasm. The announcement of Piccolomini as *Violetta*—a delightful part at all times in the hands of a fine artiste—was of itself a decidedly attractive bait to opera-goers; and Mr. Ullman, with his usual cleverness of management, acted wisely in making the judicious selection as a parting card for the fascinating prima donna. We will not say that, for Piccolomini, the trial was a severe and arduous one, for that would be unjust. Yet it cannot be denied that a very strong *prestige* has attached to Madame Gazzaniga's rendering of the *rôle*, and that to venture in the same field with one who has, somehow or other, won over directors and stockholders into making a bust of her in marble, and a full-length portrait in oil, needs no little courage, if not a slight smack of presumption. Those who were present last night had an opportunity of judging how far Gazzaniga's *prestige* was shaken, and how truly, and how touchingly was given, in action and in music, the ideal of the erring, wayward, yet dependent character in "*Dame aux Camélias*."

It is not risking too much to say that if there was any single point in which a discrepancy could be detected between Mad'lle Piccolomini's representation of the author's creation, and the living being of actual life, it was in the childish innocence of expression and action which seemed every moment to newly convince the auditor that there could be no earnest partnership between vice and virtue. Such a winning simplicity of nature as beamed from Mad'lle Piccolomini's features, last night, could never be imagined to have any feeling in common with the fallen "lost one" of Verdi's libretto. The effort, therefore, to associate purity and loveliness with such a character was a trying effort for the imagination to realize, and the audience were willing enough to forget the character *Violetta*, and to only see Piccolomini. The contrast was too strong, the antithesis too abrupt and startling, not to strike the eye and to touch the feelings. This, however, did not diminish—it rather served to heighten the enthusiasm of the audience.

The opening song of "Libbi amo" went off with infinite zest, as full of sparkle as the bumpers of champagne which danced in harmony in the glittering goblets. It brought down an *encore* of the heartiest kind. The *solo* scene, which succeeded, was an excellent test of Mad'lle Piccolomini's powers, and the trial developed a force of musical expression with which, till then, the audience had not credited her. Nothing could have been more effective than the two lines beginning "Che spero or piu?" and which was so beautifully rounded off with the rollicking aria of "Sempre libera," into which Piccolomini infused a devil-may-care *insouciance* perfectly delicious.

The succeeding acts were equally brilliant, and added still more to the impression made by the first. The criticisms of the audience were many, and, between the intervals of the opera, the buzz of conversation was general all over the house, and comparisons with Gazzaniga were freely hazarded. As to the conception of the part, we are confident that Piccolomini has approached more nearly the idea of the author. She has given, indeed, to the rôle a new intensity of expression it has never yet received.

Signor Florenza, as *Germont*, was a great accession to the musical strength of the opera, giving the part all the pathos which it demanded. His voice is full and mellow, and always managed with the careful judgment of a true artiste. Sig. Lorini did full justice to the music. His voice is a sweet-tenor, of fair compass. His defect seems to be the same sort of failing which detracts at times from Brignoli's performances—a want of dramatic action.

The chorus was, as usual, in excellent training, and, as Verdi's operas cannot be rendered without this important adjunct properly cared for, it added an infinite charm to the whole opera. The orchestra elicited praise from all parties. It has never been equalled before in Philadelphia.

The prospect for Wednesday is very flattering. The production of so grand an opera as the "*Huguenots*," on such a stage as that of the Academy, must be no ordinary event, and there will be undoubtedly an overflowing house. Thus far Manager Ullman has fulfilled to the letter every promise made to the public, and this gives a positive confidence that every opera announced will be certainly produced. The very natural result is, that the Academy will continue to be jammed every night.

We should like to learn whether the directors of the Academy of Music have yet made any arrangement for the next year's season. If they wish to have a certainty of opera, and an equal certainty of profitable returns from crowded houses, we incline to the belief that they need not look far to secure the proper manager to bring about the gratifying result.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1859.

The caucus of Democratic Senators, held on Saturday last, was the first called since Lecompton went down to the grave unsung. A characteristic of the caucus on Saturday was, that it was agreed that no Democratic Senator should be bound to pursue any particular course about Cuba, but that all should be left to support or oppose the Slidell thirty-million bill as they see proper. It seemed also to be understood that no caucus, Senatorial or otherwise, had a right to prescribe a test upon any Senator, *concerning any measure before Congress*. I perceive that a telegraphic despatch of this friendly meeting has got into the newspapers, how I am unable to say. Upon inquiry, I learn that some surprise was manifested that Judge Douglas should have indicated his *disposition to vote the* thirty millions into the hands of the President for the purchase of Cuba. Knowing pretty well what his feelings are on this subject—for he made no secret of them before going into a caucus—I commit no breach of confidence, Senatorial or otherwise, when I say that Judge Douglas believes that, with the information before himself, the request for the thirty millions, to negotiate for the purchase of Cuba, is somewhat strange; but, inasmuch as the President had *asked for it*, and as he had means of obtaining information of which the country were not advised, Douglas is willing to let the President make the trial, and take the responsibility of going before the country, enjoying the responsibility of failure or success. I am told that Senator Hunter, of Virginia, does not hesitate to say that if the thirty millions asked for Cuba should be voted, he did not know where the money was to come from, as there was none in the Treasury.

The bill for the codification of the revenue laws, now before the House, is a mountain of corruption and ought to be defeated. One clause in it alone gives Cobb power to appoint an indefinite number of secret agents to examine the mint, assay office, and the books of all the custom-houses and treasurer's offices, paying them six dollars a day and travelling expenses. Under this provision two thousand mercenaries could and would be appointed to take charge of the business of packing State and National Conventions. I predict its defeat.

The Democratic members of the Legislature of Maine, in regular meeting assembled, unanimously adopted the following resolutions, thus adding another State to our column. They assert, as you will see, the entire popular sovereignty platform, without which it is evident that no Northern State can be carried in 1860. These resolutions are more significant, inasmuch as they were passed by a body expected to be controlled by the officers of the Federal Administration who are scattered in great profusion over that State.

Mr. Pierce, from the committee, reported the following, which were read separately and unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That we hold it to be sound and unexceptionable doctrine, that if the people of a Territory are in favor of slavery, they have a right to make laws to establish and protect it, and if they are opposed to slavery, they have an equal right to make laws to exclude it.

"*Resolved*, That it is our deliberate and fixed purpose to declare that Congress should, in no event, pass any law to establish, protect, or sustain slavery in the Territories of the United States, or to exclude it therefrom, but should promptly guarantee to the sovereign people thereof the undisturbed right to dispose of it in their own way, and without interference or molestation, from any quarter, subject only to the express provisions of the Constitution.

"*Resolved*, That we are in favor of the immediate admission of Oregon, and also of the admission of Kansas into the Union, whenever a Constitution, republican in form, truly and honestly ratified by the popular vote of said Territory, shall be presented to Congress.

"*Resolved*, That the newspapers of this State be respectfully requested to publish the foregoing resolutions unanimously adopted by the Democratic members of the Maine Legislature, in convention assembled."

In addition to the above, the Democracy of New Hampshire, in their last Convention, unanimously endorsed sentiments to the same effect with the above, and refused to pass a resolution unqualifiedly endorsing the Administration of Mr. Buchanan. Another item of intelligence showing the progress of the same irresistible sentiment is as follows:

The Democrats in the Legislature of Indiana have agreed upon Douglas men for the offices of State Agent, State Treasury, and Superintendent of the Penitentiary. All sides have met in caucus and unanimously nominated these men to be elected by joint ballot in the Legislature.

PIONEER.

A Relic of the Past.

The following reminiscence of other days was reproduced, a few days since, in one of our courts of justice:

Philadelphia, Nov. 28, 1833.

REMONSTRANCE AGAINST LIGHTING WITH GAS.

To the Honorable, the Select and Common Councils, of the City of Philadelphia:

GENTLEMEN:—The Subscribers beg leave respectfully to remonstrate against the plan now in agitation for LIGHTING THE CITY WITH GAS, as they consider it a most inexpedient, offensive, and dangerous mode of lighting. In proving this they are fully sustained by the accounts of Explosions, Loss of Life, and great destruction of property, where this mode lighting has been adopted.

We consider GAS to be an article as IGNITIBLE as GUNPOWDER, and nearly as fatal in its effects; as regards the immense destruction of property, we believe the vast number of fires in New York and other cities, may be in a great measure ascribed to this mode of lighting, the leakage of pipes and carelessness of stopping off the Gas furnish almost daily instances of its destructive effects. And when we consider that this POWERFUL and DESTRUCTIVE AGENT, must necessarily be often left to the care of youth, domestics, and careless people, we only wonder that the consequences have not been more APPALLING! It is also an uncertain light, sometimes suddenly disappearing, and leaving streets and houses in total darkness.

The *Waters of the Delaware and Schuylkill*, now considered the most pure and salubrious in the world, as many long voyages have fully tested, must soon, we fear, experience the deterioration which has reduced the WATER OF THE THAMES to the present impure and unhealthy state, for no reservoir will be able to contain the immense fetid drains from such an establishment, and very soon the rivers must be their receptacle to the destruction of the immense Shoals of *Shad, Herring*, and other fish with which they abound; the same cause must produce like effects. *Salmon, Smelts*, and other fish, formerly caught in vast quantities in the THAMES, have nearly *all disappeared*; the constant digging up of the streets, the circumstance of the gas pipes which at the intersection of each square must come in contact with the water pipes, are difficulties and evils which we would anxiously avoid.

In conclusion, we *earnestly solicit* that the lighting our *city with oil may be continued*.

And your petitioners, &c., &c.

(Signed by)

P Syng Physick	John S Warner	John B Newman
Horace Binney	George Pepper	Matthew Newkirk
Hartman Kuhn	Richard Alsop	William Platt
John Sergeant	Jacob Ridgway	Joshua Tevis
Benjamin Chew	Ezra Styles Ely	Samuel Grant
Chas Wharton	James Schott	David P Brown
Paul Beck	John Perot	Geo A Carpenter
Henry Pratt	Elihu Chauncey	M H Meschert
James G Fisher	Roberts Vaux	Harry Connelly
Joseph P Norris	John Markoe	G Philler
Thos Allibone	Saml Simes	John Cole
*John G Gresson	J J Bohan	Robt Donnell
W L Hirst	Jos Parker	P B Mingle
Edmund A Souder	J W Gibbs	David Evans
J G Burden	Jas S Smith	Wm J Duane
Wm B Glenn	John G Brenner	Hyman Gratz
Wm McKibbin, Jr	Isr Harman Baugh	Henry Lesley, Jr
H Hollingsworth	Geo W Smith	And several hundred more.
V L Bradford	John Robins	
Wash J Duffee	H Buzzy	
Chas H Dingee	G T Fougeray	

* Now Engineer and Superintendant of Gas Works.

We have Buenos Ayres papers to the 6th of November. The *Commercial Times* of that date gives the following amusing account of the "revolutionary movement," a brief reference to which has already appeared in our columns:

"On the morning of the 28th October, Victor Chirino, at the head of a promiscuously armed rabble of thirty or forty men, made his appearance in the Guardia del Monte, deposed the authorities, put the prefect into prison, and issued a proclamation calling upon the country people to join him in putting down the irregular Government, who were ruining the country. Next day he departed in the direction of Canuelas, and encamped for the night on an estancia near to that town.

"In the evening a slight skirmish took place, in which a few shot were fired by the rebels, and the National Guards were driven from an outpost they had occupied. The following day the officer in command, Don Jose Alfaro, despatched his small force to reconnoitre the enemy, while he awaited some reinforcements, then close at hand; but the 'religious column,' who were just then engaged in preparations for breakfast, did not await any further trial of their constancy, but dispersed in admirable disorder, followed by the National Guards, who succeeded in making seven prisoners, the chieftain, Victor Chirino, escaping.

Letter from New York.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE FOR FEBRUARY: THE ARTICLES AND THE AUTHORS—A NEW ENCYCLOPÆDIA—THE SCOTCHMEN OF BOSTON AND THE NOTABLE THINGS THEY ARE TO DO AT THE BURNS FESTIVAL—ARTISTS: ELLIOTT, DURAND, HUNTINGTON, ARTISTS' RECEPTIONS, ARTISTS' CHARITABLE FUND.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 17, 1859.

Harper's Magazine for February, of which I have just received the advanced sheets, will be found quite entertaining and well illustrated. The opening paper is "Washington at Moorestown," by Rev Joseph F. Tuttle, (fifteen illustrations;) next, "Ethan Allen and his daughter," a neat little poem of half-a-dozen verses, by C. C. Cox; third, "Follies of Fashion," by a clever gentleman named Nordhoff, well known to the witty and wealthy fraternity of writing men of this city. All the absurdities and oddities that have gone up like a rocket and come down like a stick in the empyrean of *ton*, from the dandies of 1658, who wore "bore pleated as though they had thirty pockets, two yards wide at the top; petticoat breeches, tied above the knee; ribbons up to the pocket holes, then ribbons hanging all about the waistband, and *shirt* hanging out"—which last fashion may be said to have altogether died out among our modern dandies—all are minutely described and authentically illustrated. The writer glances at the petticoats of 1710, at the hoops, caps and sacks of 1760, at the apparel of the Spanish gentleman of 1560; the perukes, hats, wigs, and head dresses of 1590 and 1690; the female costumes of 17-3 and 1794; the commodes, the towers, the hats, hoods, balloons and baskets of later days, down to the time of *George IV*, whose cast-off toggery sold at auction, after his death, for $45,000—having cost him, it is estimated, nearly, if not quite, a hundred thousand pounds sterling. The article exhibits research, is very entertaining, and, if thoroughly read up by young men and maidens before going to parties, will supply ample material for fashionable chat. The fourth article is on "La Plata," by Mr Guernsey, the "literary reader" at Harper's, whose cleverness, industry, tact, and unmistakable good sense and discriminating judgment, render him admirably adapted for the peculiarly lively *business of wading through reams upon reams of* manuscript works, offered for publication and winnowing the wheat from the chaff. His business is to do "nothing else" than read other people's productions, but this article on "La Plata" shows that he is capable of doing good things of his own. Following Mr. G is "A Woman's Poem," by R H. Stoddard, a very sweet thing. Next, a story by Alice B. Neal, entitled "Paying the Piper" I am not at liberty to give the names of the writers of the three succeeding articles "Found Floating on the Water," "A Christmas in Hamburg," and "*Hints on Self-culture*." The *story* following this, entitled "Hester Grahame: One Woman's Life," is by Miss Sawyer. I need not allude to the remainder of the number, which includes four chapters of "The Virginians," the Monthly Record of Current Events, Literary Notices, Editor's Table, Easy Chair, and Drawer. The funniment, at the close, is "Noodles's Attempts at Suicide." Thus you have the things in *Harper* for February, and who did them

It is stated by a New York correspondent of the London *Critic*, that three extensive publishing houses of *New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, have united for* the purpose of bringing out a new Encyclopædia—the first volume of which is to appear in April or May.

I learn from Col. Schouler, the clever editor of the Boston *Atlas and Bee*, who was here last week, and who is of Scotch descent, that the Scotchmen of Boston are all agog about the celebration of Burns' birthday, on the 25th. Among other queer things that will be served up at the dinner on that occasion, will be a Scotch haggis, made in the cottage where Burns was born; also, several photographic views of Bonnie Doon, the Cottage, Kirk Alloway, and other noted localities They will be sent over per steamer in time for the grand gorge. What speeches there will be, to be sure! Among those who have positively promised to be present are Everett, Choate, Holmes, Longfellow, Emerson, Wendell Phillips, and Robert C. Winthrop.

Mr Elliott, whose brush has been steadily plied during the season, is now engaged in finishing a portrait of the late George Steers. He is also giving the final touches to the "counterfeit presentment" of two other distinguished gentlemen—ex-Governor Seymour and Dr Cheeseman That of Governor Seymour is full length, is painted for the city, and is to be placed in the Governors' Room, in the City Hall.

A superb line-engraved portrait of Wm. C. Bryant, from Durand's picture, has just been finished by Jones, under the supervision of Durand himself. It is to be published under the auspices of the Century Club.

Huntington is giving the final touches to several new portraits. He will ere long present to the public a large picture which is to include portraits of several gentlemen, distinguished as men of science; among them Agassiz, Silliman, Torry, Hare, Gibbs, Dana, and Dr Mott.

The artist who habitats in the new studio buildings in Tenth street, of which I gave you a sketch a few days since, are about to commence a series of receptions, in the large exhibition room of the building. The first will be given to-morrow (Tuesday) evening.

Another and still more laudable movement has been initiated by several of our leading artists, for the organization of an Artists' Fund Association, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Elliott, Cumings, Stearns, and Collins, appointed to mature the matter. It is proposed that the association hold an annual exhibition and sale of works of art, by its members and other contributors, the proceeds to go towards forming a fund for the benefit of disabled artists and their families.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, JAN. 17.

FIRST BOARD.

10000 Ohio St 6s 80	107	1160 N York Cen R			85
49000 Missouri 6s	85¼	350 do		s3	84¾
1000 St Ts N bd	86¼	950 do			84¾
500 Ind State 2¼	62	50 do		s15	84¾
5000 N Y Cen bds '78	103¼	100 do		s4	84¾
5000 Erie 2d mt bds	102	50 do		s3	84¾
4000 Erie R Co's '71	89	100 do		b10	85
2000 Harlem 2d mt bds	91	250 do			84¾
10 Sixth Ward Gas	60¼	100 do		s10	84¾
1000 Mich S & N I	77¼	50 Ohio & R Rs			60¼
1000 Ill Cen bd	89	300 do		b60	60
3000 Ill Bond's bds	99	100 do		s60	59¾
1000 T Haute & Al 2d	44	100 do		at 30	60
4000 La O & Mil 1 g	23¼	250 do			60¼
1000 do	23	50 do		b3	61¼
5000 N J Cen 2d mt	92¼	100 Harlem R		b60	13¼
30 Bank of N York	100¾	200 Reading R		b60	51
10 Continental Bk	100¾	1500 do			51
48 do	100¾	50 do			51 ⅛
38 Park Bank	105	100 do		s10	51
50 Cumberl'd pref	27¾	600 do			51
57 Del & Hud Co	99¾	50 Mich Cen R		b60	52
10 do	99¾	50 do			51¾
275 Pac Mail S Co	93	100 do			51¾
50 do	b60	100 do		b60	52
5 do	99¾	100 do		b30	52
100 do	99¾	300 Mich S & N I Guar			47¾
100 do	b30	100 Ill Cen R			68¾
50 do	s60	80 do		s10	68
50 do	s30	80¾ 600 do		s5	68
100 Canton Company	20¾	100 Gal & Chi R			71¾
100 do	b60	200 do			71¾
50 Pa Coal Co	83¾	500 do		s30	71¾
250 do	83¾	100 do		s60	71
300 do	83¾	1200 Clev & Tol R			32
200 do	83¾	50 do		s30	31¾
200 do	b60	200 do		b60	32
150 Harlem R pref	38¾	1050 Erie Railroad			13¾
150 do	33¾	500 do		b60	13¾
100 do	s60	38¾ 5 do			13¾
200 do	b60	33¾ 600 do			13¾
100 do	b60	39 50 Hudson River R			34¾
200 Panama R	116	50 do			34¾
100 La Crosse & Mil R	1¾	100 do			34¾
10 N Haven & Hartf	132				

SECOND BOARD.

1000 N Car 6s	98	82 Erie Railroad	13¼
1000 Tenn St 6s	90	91¾ 200 do	13¾
4000 Va St 6s	95	100 Hudson River R	34¾
1000 do	95¾	100 Harlem Railroad	13¾
1000 Missouri St 6s	85	200 do b60	13¾
5000 Erie R bonds '75	43¾	50 La C & Mil R	1¾
500 Ill Cen bonds	89¾	100 Harlem R pref s10	38¾
7000 La O & M L G	21¾	250 do	38¾
2000 N J Cen 2d mtg	93	300 Reading R	51¾
3000 do	93¾	400 do s60	51
1000 Mich So 2d mtg	69¾	100 do s10	51¾
5000 Harlem 2d mtg	94	1000 do s10	51¾
2000 Harlem 3d mtg	73¾	25 Mich Central R	52
100 L Erie & W 2d mt	52¾	150 Mich S & N I Guar'd	47¾
5 Bank of N York	100¾	25 Panama R R	116¾
80 Bk of Commerce	100¾	250 Illinois Central R	63¾
50 Pac Mail Co	93¾	187 Clev & Toledo R	32
100 do	93¾	110 Ohio & Miss R	60¼
100 N York Cen b60	86	100 do b60	60
100 do s10	84¾	100 do s60	59¾
800 do	84¾	50 do s30	59¾
600 do	84¾	200 do	60

ASHES are quiet, but without material change in prices, which continue at $5.62 for Pots, and $5 for Pearls.

FLOUR.—With continued light receipts and a light demand the market for State and Western Flour is buoyant. Sales 5,000 bbls at $5 76@4 25 for rejected; $4.75@5 for superfine State; $5 50@5.80 for extra State; $4.50@5 for superfine Western; $5 50@5.85 for extra Western; $5.85@6 for shipping brands of extra round hoop Ohio.

Canadian Flour firm for extra, with sales of 200 bbls, at $5@6.80; Superfine remains nominal. The demand for Southern Flour is light and the market firm, with sales of 500 bbls, at $5 50@5.50 for common to mixed, and $5 60@7.50 for extra brands.

FRUIT.—The first new Sicily Fruit of the season, imported per bark John Wesley, from Palmero, was offered at auction by *Minturn & Partridge, and sold as follows*: 1500 boxes oranges at $1 90@2.05; 520 do do at 2.15; 800 do do at $2.00@2.05.

GRAIN.—The market for Wheat is firmer, with sales of 6,000 bus at $1.36 for choice red Indiana, and $1.42@1 43 for white Michigan. Corn is firmer, but quiet, and almost nominal, at 86@87c for Western mixed, and 82@86c for new yellow.

Rye is held firmly at 89@92c. Oats are buoyant at 50@56c for Southern, Jersey and Pennsylvania, and 60@62½c for State, Western and Delaware.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is quiet and firm, with sales of 110 bbls at $17.06 for new Mess, $17.62 for new Mess, and $18 12@18 25 for Prime. Beef is steady, with a fair demand, and sales aggregating 150 bbls at $6.50@7 for Country Prime; $7 75@9 for Country Mess $8.75@10.50 for repacked Western Mess, and $11@11 50 for extra do.

SALT.—A cargo of 6,500 bus Turks Island, ex Lauretta, was sold previous to arrival at about 18c.

SUGARS.—By auction, 20 hhds New Orleans Sugar sold at 6⅞@7.8½c, 90 days and 4 months.

WHISKEY is held for higher prices, 28@28½c being now demanded.

The Chess