The Press.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1859.

FIRST PAGE.—London Newspapers, No. 2—The Morning Advertiser; Notices of New Books; Items of News; The City; News by Telegraph. FOURTH PAGE.—General News; The Courts; Ship News.

The News.

The tariff was the main subject under consideration in Congress yesterday. In the Senate, Mr. Hunter delivered a speech on the subject. In the House, Messrs. Phillips, McQueen, Reilly, and Garnett, also spoke in regard to the tariff, the former pointing out the glaring errors of Secretary Cobb, and warmly urging the necessity of an increase of the rate of duties.

By the arrival of the steamship Philadelphia, at New York, we have some later news from Havana. A cargo of eight hundred and thirty-six coolies had arrived at Havana per French steamship Francis I, eighty-five days from Macao via Cape of Good Hope. A grand parade and review of the troops took place on the 5th, before the Captain General of Cuba, and in presence of many thousands of spectators, many hundreds of whom were Americans.

Governor Packer has appointed Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, of Philadelphia; Dr. John Allen, of Lancaster; and Jacob R. Eby, of Harrisburg, Trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum.

The bill for a general banking law comes up before the State Senate to-day.

By the arrival of the steamship America at Halifax, last night, we have news from Europe one week later than previous advices. It will be found under telegraph head.

Another overland mail has arrived at St. Louis, with San Francisco dates to the 21st ult. The papers of that day are destitute of news. The steamer Uncle Sam had been libelled again for $150,000. The ship Queen of the Pacific sailed on the 20th for New York. The Los Angeles *Star* of the 22d says that Col. Hoffman's escort of dragoons, under Lieut. Chapman, had been attacked by the Mohave Indians near Beale's crossing of the Colorado, but were beaten off with the loss of ten killed.

The Territorial Legislature of Kansas, which adjourned on Friday last, passed an act granting pardon to all persons in custody, and immunity from prosecution on account of the past disturbances in Southern Kansas. The Governor sanctioned the bill.

On Thursday next, at four o'clock in the morning, there will be a total eclipse of the moon, which will be plainly visible here. The rising sun will conceal the eclipse part of the time, but from four to five o'clock it will present a sight well worth seeing.

Campbell P. White, formerly Representative in Congress from New York city, died on Saturday morning last.

A daring attempt at murder was made yesterday morning, in Hatboro, Bucks county, the particulars of which will be found in *The Press* of to-day. Two old ladies were beaten in a most brutal manner by a couple of fellows who entered their residence with a view to robbery.

The Toronto (Canada) Assizes terminated on Saturday last, and three unfortunate men were sentenced to be hanged on the same day. James Fleming, the youth who stabbed Thomas Madigan, in Toronto; William Hughie, an old gray-headed man, who killed Robert Ramsey, his brother-in-law, at Aurora; and John O'Leary for the murder of Kelly, at Georgina, were brought to the bar before Judge McLean, and were sentenced to be hung on Friday, the 4th of March.

First Assistant Sloan has been ordered to superintend the construction of the machinery of the sloop-of-war Lancaster, at Philadelphia.

There was a desperate fight on Sunday in the Sixth ward, New York, between rival factions of a gang which infest that locality, during which a notorious character, known as "Fatty Welsh," was shot in the neck, by a pistol in the hands of a man named Mulvihill. Had it not been that "Fatty" wore a patent stock, in which there were steel bands, that prevented the ball entering his neck, "Fatty" would have been a subject for the coroner instead of the police magistrate.

Geffrard, the new President of the Republic of Hayti, is a man somewhat advanced in years; his hairs are gray, and he has the appearance of having seen a good deal of life. He is at least 50 years old. He is nearly black, but still has some white blood in his veins.

The trial of James Stephens, for the murder of his wife, by poisoning, commenced in the New York Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday. The peculiar circumstances of the case, and the extraordinary nature of the testimony that will be offered, will make the trial one of unusual interest. It will be a test of the value of chemical evidence in poison cases, such as we have not yet had in this country. It will be recollected that the testimony relied upon to corroborate the statements of the accusers is the chemical analysis of the body of the alleged victim, made more than a year after her decease.

The Milwaukee *Sentinel* says that recently, the treasurer of the town of Erin, Washington county, whose name, we believe, was Whaling, was shot dead, while attempting to rob his own house. It appears that he had collected some twelve or fifteen hundred dollars of the town taxes, and left home in the afternoon, telling his wife that he should be gone all night. Toward evening a travelling pedlar applied at the house for a night's lodging. The wife at first refused to admit him, but finally yielded, with much reluctance, to his request. Some time in the night the pedlar was awakened by the noise of men breaking into his room. Taking them for robbers, he drew a pistol and fired at them. One fell, and two fled. Lights being procured, the dead body of a man, with blackened face, and otherwise disguised, was found upon the floor. Upon further examination it proved to be the proprietor of the house himself, who had resorted to this stratagem to steal the tax-money collected, and had met with this terrible retribution.

A New Profession.

If some of our old-fashioned Pennsylvanians, who accepted the place of legislator with the same reluctance that a business man consents now-a-days to go upon a jury—only because of a conscientious sense of duty to the community—could be introduced to the mysteries of legislation at Harrisburg, how they would stare! The making of laws has become a profession. The lawyer deserts his brief, the mechanic his work-bench, the merchant his counting-room for this new, fascinating, and easy avocation. A seat in our State Legislature is so eagerly sought after now as in former times it was resolutely declined. We are not disposed to cavil at this manifestation. We cannot prove that any of the profits resulting from this struggle are dishonestly acquired. We simply mark the fact of a new profession, which is engaging an aggregate of intellect and enterprise so rarely enlisted in any cause. The land is full of ambitious and aspiring minds, seeking after opportunities for distinction, and it is the duty of the journalist to point their way to fortune—if not to fame. Legislation is the prime profession of the day.

Illinois and Mount Vernon.

It is only a short time since the organization of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for Illinois was commenced under its Vice Regent, Mrs. Wm. Barry, of Chicago, and it is gratifying to see the patriotic feeling already enlisted. With the generous enthusiasm which characterizes the Western people, Illinois has, by one bound, placed herself almost in the van of this noble enterprise. We see by the Chicago *Journal* of the 9th inst., that the Senators and members of the Legislature have already enrolled themselves as members of the association, and that the city of Chicago is preparing to celebrate the coming 22d of February in the most generous manner. Another example for Pennsylvania!

☞ Rev. A. J. McConomy, son of Peter McConomy, Esq., of Lancaster, one of the most public-spirited citizens of the State, lectured in aid of the Brotherhood of St. Vincent de Paul, at the Cathedral Chapel in this city, on Sunday last. We understand that it was a very able and well-considered discourse.

Horrible Affair—Attempt to Rob and Murder.—A horrible affair occurred about 10 o'clock yesterday morning, at Hatboro', Bucks county, which created the most intense excitement in the neighborhood; and if the perpetrators had been arrested, no doubt they would have been summarily dealt with by the excited populace of that vicinity. The facts connected with the case, as we have been informed, are briefly these: Mrs. Cynthia Walton, the mother of Mr. Stephen Walton, who formerly kept a grocery store in this city, and Miss Hannah Walton, his sister, residing on a farm near Hatboro', yesterday morning, were engaged in washing, when two men, named John Scott and Charles Scott, entered the house and assaulted the two females with clubs. They were knocked senseless upon the floor, and left by the villains for dead, while they proceeded to carry out their project of robbing the building. Hannah, however, although very severely wounded, managed to make her escape from the house, and succeeded in a spot a short distance off where her brother with some farm-hands were engaged at work. During her absence the robbers became alarmed, and left the premises before she had been secured. The wounds of both the females are of a very serious character.

Mrs. Cynthia Walton, who is an old lady of eighty-seven years, had one of her arms broken and her head battered in, and was in a most dangerous and almost insensible condition, and no hopes were entertained of her recovery. Her daughter, who is sixty years of age, was dreadfully bruised about her head and arms, and otherwise severely, but it is believed not dangerously injured. She fully recognised the perpetrators of the outrage as persons belonging to the neighborhood, and gave a description of their dress.

The alarm was promptly given, and every effort made to arrest the villains, but up to a late hour last night they had not been captured. Several gentlemen arrived in this city last evening and notified the detective officers of the affair, and prompt measures have been taken to arrest the parties if they should arrive in this city.

A Great Business Avenue.

The high rank which Third street, Philadelphia, has long held as a leading business avenue, is well known by dealers generally throughout the West and South; and although Market street is deservedly the pride of our business thoroughfares, it is, nevertheless, true that not a few of the very first jobbing houses in this city are located on Third street. One of the chief characteristics of the business of this street is, that its houses are those which more exclusively and most largely cater to what is termed the near trade—in other words, the wants of Pennsylvania merchants. We are glad to see, also, that year by year is contributing to the extent and number of first-class houses on this great business street.

The present season, we may mention in this connection, has marked the addition to those already located on Third street, of one of the most important and enterprising of our business firms—we refer to the splendid establishment of Messrs. J. T. Way & Co., formerly of 221 Market street, and now occupying the splendid new five-story marble front business edifice at No. 28 North Third street. This building is certainly one of the most elegant, commodious, and complete in all respects, for the purposes to which it is applied, that we have ever examined. The judgment displayed in its arrangements for securing a good light in every part of the house, is especially worthy of notice, every room in the entire building, even to the sub-cellars, being well lighted by means of ample sky-lights. The building, as already stated, is five stories high, besides two cellars, (all of which are required to accommodate the immense business of Messrs. Way & Co.), has a front of thirty feet on Third street, and extends back one hundred and fifty feet, where the width of the store is nearly double the extent of its Third street front. After the best style of modern wholesale business edifices, the interior is entirely without shelving, immense counters and tables, which extend along the entire depth of the rooms, being introduced instead.

We may add—what business men will admit to be no undeserved compliment—that no house better deserves the remarkable success which has rendered this move of Messrs. Way & Co. necessary, than theirs. While their enterprise has been such as to make even opposing obstacles a vehicle of success, their rivalry has ever been marked with a degree of magnanimity that has won for them the esteem and confidence of their fellow-merchants; nor has the characteristic probity of this house had little to do with building up the liberal trade it now commands. The uniform system observed throughout their establishment is also a noticeable feature, and one which merchants generally would do well to emulate. A department for every member of the house, and every member at the head of his department, is their rule, observed with something like clock-work precision. The head of the establishment, Mr. J. Tunis Way, has long been known as one of the most sagacious buyers in the trade—a fact which, added to their abundant facilities, and the superior business capacities of the firm as a whole, secures to them extraordinary advantages.

The stock they now offer, as we can state from observation, is as much superior to their former preparations for trade as their present beautiful warehouse is superior to their former quarters. In fact, a more thoroughly complete stock of American and foreign dry goods could not well be imagined than is now on exhibition in this house; and we hazard nothing in saying that the splendid new dry-goods house of Messrs. J. T. Way & Co., will contribute substantially to the general interests of the trade of Philadelphia, by attracting to this city many new buyers, who have heretofore confined their purchases to other markets.

In this department, also, we may name the well-known house of Messrs. Yard, Gillmore, & Co.—for some years established in the large brown-stone double-front store, Nos. 40 and 42 North Third street—whose facilities for conducting a large business are in many respects unequalled. The class of goods for which their house is more particularly distinguished is in the department of silks, ribbons, dress goods, white goods, laces, linens, embroideries, hosiery, gloves, mitts, shawls, and those costly fabrics generally, of which they are among the largest importers in the country.

It may not be generally known that the dry-goods jobbing establishment selling the largest amount of merchandise annually, of any house in this city, is also located on Third street—we allude to the mammoth business map of Messrs. James, Kent, and Santee. The houses of Ludwig, Kneedler, & Co., and Anspach, Reed, & Co., are also widely and favorably known to the trade, throughout the Union; and the same may be said of the large and enterprising house of Messrs. Raguel, Baird, & Co., and others we might name.

Our largest house here also, in the department of saddlery hardware, is located on this street—we refer to the popular house of Messrs. Wm. P. Wilstach & Co., at No. 38 North Third. Their stock of goods in this line, embracing every variety of saddlery articles, is most complete. It is to their immense stock and liberal mode of doing business that their remarkable success is, doubtless, mainly attributable.

The extensive boot and shoe house of Messrs. Hendry & Smith, on the northwest corner of Third and Arch streets, is also worthy of special notice in this connection, as a representative establishment in that branch of trade; nor can we omit the well-known and popular wholesale grocery house of Messrs. Tangeman & Smith, located at No. 43 North Third street, which, as many of our readers are aware, is one of the oldest and most extensive establishments of its class in the city. Their present facilities for doing trade, we presume, are not exceeded by any other wholesale grocery house in this country, and it is not paying them an undeserved tribute to say that their reputation, as thorough merchants, has been of substantial advantage to the business avenue, to which the present article is devoted.

Public Amusements.

Mr. Hackett played *Falstaff*, last night, in the Walnut street Theatre. Now that Dowton has shuffled off this mortal coil, Hackett has no superior—indeed no equal in *this* character. He performed with his wonted and felicitous ease, and won the plaudits of a crowded house. His best scene was the description of his Gad's Hill exploit, given with infinite unction. He has one decided fault—namely, his soliloquies are spoken directly to the *audience*, instead of to *himself*. Mr. S. K. Murdoch was the *Hotspur*, and played the part respectably. Mr. Perry, in *Prince Henry*, did amplest justice to the part. His was a fine embodiment of a very difficult character—an excellent piece of acting, wholly free from mannerism, or exaggeration, and we hope he will frequently give us opportunities of thus highly commending him. Why *will* he sometimes over-act and under-act in his part? Mrs. Thayer was a capital *Dame Quickly*. Mr. Hemple, as *Bardolph*, and Mr. Crocker, as *Sir Walter Blunt*, merit special and favorable notice. Mr. Hackett, we believe, will play again this week. This evening Mlle Christine Ludlam, the *Danseuse*, will take her benefit. In the military spectacle of "The French Spy," she will sustain three characters. "The Robber's Wife," and "The Virginia Mummy," will also be performed.

Mrs. John Drew's benefit takes place at Arch-street Theatre, this evening, when, for the first time, on this stage, Shakspeare's "Cymbeline" will be played, with Mrs. D. as *Imogen*. This will undoubtedly be a great night—from the popularity of Mrs. Drew, the excellence of the play, and the capital cast.

At the National Circus, Walnut street, the complimentary Benefit to Mr. L. B. Lent, the manager, came off last night. As the *beneficiaire* fully merited the honor, the house was crowded. Van Amburgh and Menagerie of lions, tigers, panthers and leopards were in the ring. There, also, any one might see the elephant. The gymnasts and acrobats were there, and so, in full force, were the equestrians. For the first time, a very amusing scene called "The Flitch of Bacon" was presented. All contributed to a great success. What is more, Mr. Lent fully merits this demonstration in his favor.

Signor Blitz, who has been performing in Germantown and other remote regions, has returned to Assembly Buildings, Tenth and Chestnut. He is as lively, pleasant, amusing and multo-voiced as usual. *That* rope-dancer of his is as much a favorite as the best of his trained canaries.

At Thomson's Varieties, (Cafe Chantant,) corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, extraordinary attractions are presented during the present week. The usual stock company consists of Virginia Myers, Julia Price, Miss Blanche, Miss Henry; Bob Edward's Minstrels, Gardner, Ashworth, Cumming, Reynold, T. A'Becket, Charles Jenkins, the humorist, *par excellence*, and Master A'Becket, pianist. In addition, and without any advance on the prices of admission, Mr. Thomson has engaged Signorina Valentino Paravalli, pupil of the Conservatory of Paris, and recently prima donna of the Vestivali's Mexico Opera Troupe. This young lady, we understand, has a beautiful voice, under such skilful management, that her singing is delightful. She made her *debut* yesterday evening, and gave great gratification to a very crowded house. Mr. Thomson is managing his "Varieties" very respectably, and has good houses constantly.

Valentine's Day.—The sale of Valentines, which was very large during the past week, culminated in a surprising manner yesterday. Mage, who has just removed to a store in Chestnut street, between Third and Fourth, is said to have sold over a hundred dollars' worth in the course of the day, prices ranging from one cent to ten dollars. Other Valentine-vendors had considerable sales, also.

Closing Lecture of Professor Mitchell.—Our readers should not forget that the last opportunity of hearing Professor Mitchell in his present course of lectures on astronomy will be afforded at Jayne's Hall this evening. The power of eloquence and learning are singularly combined in Professor Mitchell as a lecture-board orator, and his concluding effort to-night will doubtless be a brilliant affair.

Dramatic.—Mr. Yancey, the American traveller to the Argentine Republic, had reached his destination, and had been flatteringly received.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

Correspondence of The Press.]

Washington, Feb. 14, 1859.

We had a rare gala night on Saturday after the passage of the bill admitting Oregon as a sovereign State of the Union. Oregon would long ago have been admitted but for the mistake of the President in reference to Kansas. But for this, the two States of Oregon and Kansas would certainly have come into "the Union hand in hand." Nothing has been gained for the advocates of Lecompton by the postponement of Kansas, because, when the new Congress meets, Kansas will be ready with her Constitution, and will, of course, be admitted upon it. President Buchanan made a characteristic speech on Saturday evening, in the which he took occasion to go out of the way to denounce all men as "cowards" who were not in favor of expansion. Of course, this had direct allusion to Cuba, which Mr. Buchanan has done more than any other American statesman, living or dead, to keep out of the Union, because his policy in reference to the territorial question has excited so general a hostility to the Administration that anything coming from him in reference to Cuba is received with general distrust.

The last man on earth to apply the term "coward" (the most offensive epithet in the English language that can be applied to an American citizen) is James Buchanan; for had he not been infirm of purpose, and had he not yielded to the threats of one or two fire-eaters on the Lecompton question, not only would Kansas and Oregon be States of the Union to-day, but Cuba itself would be in a fair way to be added to the American confederacy. It is an easy thing for a President controlling the vast millions of patronage connected with his Administration to make an issue, and to force it upon his partisans, as he did, with infinite and incalculable disaster to the Democratic party, in the case of Kansas, and as he is now trying to do in the matter of Cuba. But it is not cowardice to expose a dishonest expedient of the Administration: it is high courage. Does Mr. Buchanan mean to say that the editor of the Richmond *Inquirer* is a "coward," and that the editors of Louisiana are "cowards" because they refuse to accept Cuba as he offers it, and as he presents it, shrouded as it is in the habiliments of war and national disgrace? If there are cowards in the North on this question, they are not those who reject the Cuban policy of the Administration. The slaves of power in New York; the miserable office-hunters in Connecticut; the parasites who think our President can be a despot and still be in the Democratic party; and all this only to get his patronage—these are the "cowards." Does Mr. Buchanan know that the South itself is filled with intense contempt for his Cuban policy? Does he know that he has armed Northern fanaticism with weapons to destroy the Democratic party by this policy? Has it ever crossed his brain that his high-toned Minister, Mr. Preston, may be rejected in disgrace by the Spanish Cortes and Court? and that his policy may plunge us into a war with all the civilized world against us, and more than three-fourths of our own countrymen? Are he and his partisans mad in their efforts to force an issue upon Democrats who are really in favor of the acquisition of Cuba by honorable means, when these Democrats refuse to stand forth as sponsors for the new idea of compelling Spain to sell what she refuses to sell, and regards the proposition as an insult to her national character? We did not get Texas so; we did not get Louisiana so; nor Florida, nor California. Opposition to the Cuban policy of the Administration is neither Northern nor Southern, but national. The office-holders of Washington may make it an issue, but the American people will reject it with contempt and disdain.

As I write, the last *Reading Gazette* is before me, (a paper edited by the same J. Lawrence Getz who, after abusing Glancy Jones in the bitterest manner, became his sycophant,) in which I find a somewhat grave denial of an allegation in a former letter of mine, to the effect that the present anthracite coal agent is paying 65 cents a ton more than the market price, and also an allegation that my letters are written by the editor of *The Press*. To this latter, I have only to reply, that Pioneer always speaks by the book, as the general veritability of his correspondence has shown, and that he has made fewer mistakes than any other Washington writer in the United States, and also, that he writes from the spot, and that his letters are written in the midst of the scenes which he describes. But to the main point. Mr. Nivins, a well-known coal-dealer of Pennsylvania, furnished the committee of which John Sherman is chairman, with the copy of a proposition, sworn to by his clerk, that he offered to furnish the same coal for which the Government paid Beach of Philadelphia $3.85 per ton for $3.20 per ton, and also that Mr. Reppler, another coal agent, and one of your most respectable and influential citizens, swore before the committee that Hunter, anthracite coal agent from your State, signed a certificate that he saw weighed and inspected every cargo of coal, when in fact he (Hunter) rarely inspected, and hardly ever saw, a single cargo since he has been appointed coal inspector. Getz, in his Saturday's article, says that Tyson, the former anthracite coal agent, last May a year paid forty cents a ton more for coal than Hunter did, but the illustrious Getz forgets that coal at that time, including the freight, was worth some ninety cents a ton more than it was when Mr. Hunter purchased. I do not know what Mr. Sherman will report through his committee, but from what I hear today, it will be just such a report as, if made in the times of Polk, when James Buchanan was Secretary of State, would have induced him to sever his connection with any Administration that would allow a Secretary of the Navy to permit himself to be connected with such gross misconduct (to call it by no harsher name) on the part of those who hold office under him. Messrs. Bocock and Grosebeck, the Administration members of the committee, are fair men, and I have reason to know they are considerably disgusted at the exhibition which has been made of official favoritism and corruption.

The attempt to make the protection of Pennsylvania interests a party question in our State, is the best way to defeat the main object. The unity of our delegation in the House is a fixed fact. It is this unity that gives its strength and power here. If what our delegation asks could be granted, all reasonable men would be satisfied. Mr. Gresley says, in a late number of the *Tribune*, that there are many free-traders in the Republican party, and all the signs show that no National Convention will dare to make high protection a part of its creed. There, therefore, who expect to make capital for party purposes by attacking the true friends of Pennsylvania now rallied in one compact body, are the worst foes of our State.

Pioneer.

Serious Charges against a Government Official in Illinois!

[Special despatch to the *New York Times*.]

Washington, Sunday, Feb. 13.

There is quite a commotion among the especial friends of the Administration in regard to the charges preferred against Charles N. Pyne, United States marshal for the Northern District of Illinois, by Mr. Martin, his book-keeper. Martin has filed with the Department of the Interior charges against Pyne of malfeasance in office, misapplication of the public moneys, and the violation of the sub-treasury law by making his deposits in banks instead of the sub-treasury, and with paying the expenses of the United States courts in uncurrent and depreciated paper of the banks of Missouri and other Western States, instead of in gold and silver. He also produced a transcript from the books, showing that in less than four months Pyne has drawn from the public funds and applied to his private purposes more than $7,200, while the limit of his salary for a whole year by law is but $6,000. The charges are made directly and unequivocally, with specifications under each head, and we understand they are sworn to by Martin, who speaks from his own personal knowledge, and accompanied with an offer on his part to prove every one of them by the testimony of other persons.

It is said that when these charges were made known to the President, he replied that he did not see how he could do anything with them at present; for the reason that to remove Pyne now would seem to be a confession of the truth of what Judge Douglas had said in regard to the character of some of the public officers in Illinois, and the Chicago *Herald*, Buchanan's especial organ, would be discontinued, that paper being edited by Pyne, and supported by the marshal's office. The subject is now before the Cabinet for investigation. It is probable that no removal will be made, or steps taken during this session, for the reasons suggested by the President. It is understood that if Pyne is not removed, Martin will publish the charges and specifications, with the proof.

The United States officials at Chicago all take sides in the controversy, some on one side and some on the other. Dr. Leib, the special post-office agent in Illinois, takes sides against Pyne. The United States District Attorney has been here several weeks, trying to defend Pyne, cover up his deficiencies, and persuade the Administration to retain him. Threats are made by both sides of terrible disclosures against each other, in the event the President does not sustain their particular men.

The opponents of tariff modification, after canvassing, believe that they can carry a bill to authorize a reissue of twenty millions in treasury notes for two years. This calculation includes anticipated aid from Republicans, abundant experience having established the fact that the Administration can rely upon some assistance from that quarter in any emergency. If treasury notes are reissued, there is scarcely a possibility of carrying any modification of the tariff. S.

☞ Dr. Shelton Mackenzie, Literary Editor of "The Press," has a new and original work of fiction on the eve of publication by Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. It is entitled "Tressilian and his Friends," and will be issued in a few days.

Real Estate, Stocks, &c., This Evening.—See Thomas & Sons' pamphlet, 16 pages, comprising 26 properties, some of them very valuable, besides bank and other stocks, &c., by order of Orphans' Court, executors, and others.

Their sale 1st March will also be very large, including first-class property. See advertisement of both sales.

Auction Sale of Paintings.—This morning, commencing at 10½ o'clock, B. Scott, Jr., 431 Chestnut street, a fine collection of oil paintings.

☞ Our thanks are due to Purser Thomas H. Elliott, of the steamer State of Georgia, for files of late Savannah papers.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

Second Session.

Washington, Feb. 14.

SENATE.

The Senate, in pursuance of a resolution passed on Friday last, met at 11 o'clock.

During the morning hour, Mr Seward, of New York, and Mr Fessenden of Maine, presented memorials from New York and Portland, Maine, relative to the working of the reciprocity treaty with Great Britain.

Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, and Mr. Gwin, of California, introduced the Senators from Oregon, the Hon Joseph Lane and Hon. Delason Smith, who were sworn and took their seats. On drawing lots, Mr. Smith obtained the longest term.

Mr. Hunter presented the credentials of Hon. Robert Toombs as Senator from Georgia till 1865.

Mr Bigler's tariff resolutions were then taken up

Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, took the floor to expose his views on the tariff question, and made an eloquent speech.

Mr Hunter said the present issue is between high taxation on the one side, and moderate expenditure on the other. His national connection with the tariff of 1857 induced him to review the circumstances under which it came into operation, and the principles on which it was established. Secretary Guthrie had founded his estimates on the opinion that the expenditures of the four preceding years, exclusive of the payments for public debt had never required more than forty-eight millions of dollars. The tariff was therefore reduced to that amount of all sections. Unfortunately in the first year of its operation it encountered the great financial depression; but in this year, as far as it has gone, it promised to satisfy the moderate estimate of the Secretary. The Senator from Rhode Island had estimated that it would produce but forty millions of dollars, but during the two first quarters it has produced twenty-three millions, with the probability that the two last quarters will produce fully the amount of the estimates. It has therefore done what it was expected to do, and the question is, shall we continue to use it to carry on the requirements of the Government? The President and the able head of the Treasury Department thought it insufficient, but after earnest thought he (Mr. Hunter) had come to a different conclusion.

Mr. Hunter went on to show that the estimates of the receipts from the public lands are not overstrained; and that the unexpended balance of the appropriations, if deducted, as probably they ought to be, would thus reduce the estimates twelve millions The war expenditures might be reduced nearly four millions, and the navy nearly four, and then we would have as much as we actually expended; and if the Post Office be made self-supporting, it will economize nine millions upon the estimates for the year The bill reported by the Post Office Committee would add three and a half millions to the expenditure; the establishment of the franking privilege will, it is supposed, save one and a half millions more; and if, by increased charges, we can make the department self-sustaining, we shall then reduce the total expenditures to fifty-five millions

There are many moral, political, and fiscal reasons for this reform in the Post Office. As it at present stands, it is a vast machine of irresponsible power. He bore exact from tables to show its steady and alarming increase of the burden of the Post Office on the Treasury, which, if continued at the same ratio, would make it more costly than the army and navy. With twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine postmasters—exclusive of route agents, special local agents, and other officers, a total of nearly thirty thousand, outnumbering the army and navy—under the discretion of the Postmaster General, who has the power to increase them at pleasure, besides exercising power through the press and the army of contractors—who shall estimate his influence? Why, in the name of Heaven, do we not say the expenditure of this department shall not exceed its revenue? If we should reduce our total expenditures to fifty-six millions, it would give us a surplus of thirteen millions to begin to pay off the liabilities of the Government.

Mr. Hunter next proceeded to demonstrate that the estimates of the revenue for the fiscal year are not exaggerated, but, on the contrary, are rather below them above the probabilities. The statement people for ten years under the tariff of 1846, increased ten per centum per annum. But suppose there no more than five per cent. Coal is being produced more plentifully, tobacco and other staples are disposable at good prices, and employ more hands; and although cereals are under a temporary depression, the difference is more than compensated by increased product. He had heard it estimated by a competent authority of New York that this year will show a revenue of from sixty to sixty-three millions But without accepting that high figure, he was willing to take the responsibility of legislating on the assumption that the Secretary's estimates will be rather over than under. Hence, in his opinion, it would be unwise and inexpedient to touch the tariff of 1857. If, on the meeting of the next session of Congress, it be found insufficient, everybody might come to some agreement for its amendment

Mr. Hunter proceeded to argue elaborately the advantage of ad valorem over specific duties, and showed that the tendency of specific duties is to make the consumer pay more when he could least afford it, and less when he was best able. The value of imports can be easily ascertained. We have the prices current from abroad, and the consular certificates, and if we will appoint faithful appraisers, and not act on the rotation system, we will have an honest and faithful valuation

In addressing himself to the protectionist arguments of the Senator from Pennsylvania, (Mr Bigler,) Mr. Hunter did not believe that protection benefits seven-tenths of the interests which it seems to aid, were it for no other reason than that it induces competition and brings down to a level with the profits of the rest of the iron interest of this country, as in England, was from the revulsion of the credit system, and was common to all branches of industry. The production of gold in California and Australia is doing more to protect the iron interest than any protection that could be passed into law. It has been proved that iron can be produced in America as cheaply as in Europe, for our advantages of cheaper ore and coal exceed their advantages of cheaper capital and labor:

After expressing his belief that the American iron interest has nothing to fear from competition—that it is inexpedient to touch the tariff, and the only way to get along with it is to reduce the expenditure, Mr Hunter concluded by saying that the Senator from Rhode Island has made an appeal in the name of the American laborer. When he does so, he is eloquent and earnest, and said Mr. Hunter, touches my heart, if not my head. He, too, had at heart the interest of the American laborer. He would cheapen the axe with which the laborer opens his way in the forest—the hoe with which he wrings from a reluctant earth a subsistence for his wife and children—the coat that covers him from the summer's heat and winter's rigor. He would cheapen the boat that secures the sailor's ship—the implements he uses in his pursuits of industry and he would open by every justifiable means, every port on the sea to his commerce. He would cheapen to the manufacturer his food and raiment, the cost of ship stores for the sailor, and the tools for the mechanic. He would cheapen the iron, and thus extend the track on which the millions of our citizens speed their way by day and night, in the pursuit of happiness. In short, he would open wide the door for the self-development of American industry, and, for himself, he was willing to abide the result. He did not doubt the capacity of his countrymen to compete with the world; and he believed that the