The Press.

PHILADELPHIA: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1859.

FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS

Will be Ready for Delivery to the Trade tomorrow at Kinkelpach's Mercantile Agency, this place. It is published expressly for the

CALIFORNIA CIRCULATION,

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

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The News.

The eclipse of the moon came off yesterday morning, according to announcement. The unseasonable hour at which it occurred prevented many from seeing the celestial phenomenon, for, as printers are supposed never to retire, quite soon in consequence, they had the advantage of a military shortcut, and enjoyed themselves immensely by observing the exhibition, consoling themselves with the reflection that if the eclipse had occurred at the usual hour, the audience, at the show, was a small one, at best, the merit, at least, of being remarkably select. Up to four o'clock A. M. the moon shone with unusual splendor. Then the eclipse commenced in the most gradual manner, the disc of the moon not assuming a slight bluish color, the obscuration increasing until about five o'clock, at which time the eclipse was complete, and it would be difficult to imagine anything darker than was the city then. The eclipse continued until sunrise. The eclipse prior to this one took place on the 25th of October, 1855, and on the 16th of August there will be another, but it will not be visible here.

An attempt was made yesterday in the United States Senate to take up the homestead bill, a motion being made to postpone it and consider the deficiency and civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, which required a tie vote, and the Speaker decided in favor of the appropriation bill, which, after being discussed for some time, was postponed for the purpose of discussing the interminable Cuba question.

Mr. Cassin appeared before the House of Representatives yesterday, and having satisfactorily explained the cause of his non-appearance before that body as a witness in the public printing investigation, he was declared purged of the alleged contempt, and honorably discharged from custody. Mr. English called up the bill regulating postage on newspapers and periodicals. He said it had been reported that this bill proposed to tax newspapers passing in exchange. This was not the fact. The design was that periodical dealers shall receive their mail matter on the same terms as regular subscribers. Another section authorized maps and lithographs to be carried at one cent per ounce or fraction of an ounce; heretofore such matter has been excluded from the mails. The third section proposed to punish persons taking letters out of the post-office by mistake, but wilfully and fraudulently omitting to return them; and also persons who, in like manner, fail to apply money handed them for the prepayment of postage, &c. There is at present no adequate law to punish such offences, and the bill proposes a fine of $100 or one year's imprisonment, or both. The bill was passed. Mr. English made an ineffectual effort to consider the resolution to abolish the franking privilege. The House went into committee, and the army appropriation bill was taken up.

The steamer Prince Albert arrived at St. Johns, N. F., last evening, from Galway, Ireland, with a week's news. Parliament had met, and the Queen in her opening speech was silent on the war subject, which caused a decline in the funds. The late hour at which the news was received prevents our giving the usual summary. By referring to the telegraphic column the reader can obtain particulars.

The screw steamer Lebanon, from Liverpool, with dates to Saturday, the 29th ult., arrived at New York yesterday. Her dates have been anticipated.

An instance has occurred in New York in which a bank has had to suffer for negligence in a small matter. A merchant keeping his account with the American Exchange Bank deposited two notes for collection. When they became due the maker did not take them up, and they were protested. The person depositing them sued the endorser, who, by refusing to pay, because notice of protest was sent through the mail. The court held that the service of protest through the mail was not sufficient to charge the endorser. The person holding the notes then sued the bank, and recovered not only the face of them, but also compelled the bank to pay the costs and his counsel's fees, so much for serving protests through the mail.

In the matter of the disappearance of Mrs. Brannan, on the 20th July last, the New York papers state that "further investigations have been made, and no doubt rests on the mind of any person who knows the estimable and intelligent lady that she was murdered. Beyond the established facts that Mrs. Brannan went to Staten Island in the seven o'clock boat, on the evening of the 20th of July, there spoke to Mr. Carroll, as stated, and got into a public carriage, nothing whatever as to her whereabouts has been ascertained. Circumstances point strongly towards a suspected person as having been involved in her mysterious fate.

A meeting has been held in New York to consider the question of the increase of pauperism in that city. A report was read which suggested as a remedy the sending of the unemployed to the West, in accordance with plans of the American Industrial Association.

With Oregon, the Federal Union consists of thirty-three States, in eighteen of which slavery is not allowed. The relative positions of the free and slave States may be seen at a glance, as follows:

	States.	Senators.	Representatives.	Free.	Slave.
Free	18	36	147	147	
Slave	15	30	90		90
	33	66	237		

Buffalo, claiming to be the greatest grain market in the world, is just now short of grain, and Buffalo agents have been in the towns up the Genesee valley, purchasing corn, oats, and even barley, for the city. There is probably half a million bushels of wheat in the elevators at Buffalo; but other grains are short, and consumers, who have hitherto relied upon deposits made there from the West in the fall, are compelled to go eastward, into the interior, for supplies.

The Editorial State Convention met on Wednesday at Harrisburg. Governor Packer, Morton McMichael, and John W. Forney addressed the Convention. Mr. McMichael's speech will be found on our first page.

The American State Convention at Providence, R. I., yesterday, nominated Mr. Turner for the Governorship of that State. Mr. T. is the Republican candidate.

The Hon. Sherrard Clemens was yesterday nominated for re-election to Congress by the Democratic Convention at Wheeling, Virginia.

Mr. William Smith O'Brien, the Irish patriot, has arrived by the steamer Prince Albert.

Territorial Questions.

In a vigorous Republic like this, territorial questions will always necessarily demand great attention. They do so in all countries possessed of energy, enterprise, and power. They did so in Rome and Greece in their palmy days, and do so in Russia, France, and England now. Since the formation of our Government we have constantly had important territorial topics to engage our attention. Sometimes they assumed the shape of disputed boundary questions, in the Northeast and Northwest, the Southwest, or the Southeast; sometimes they related to the acquisition of territory, as in the case of Louisiana, Florida, California, or Cuba; and sometimes they related to the mode in which our Territories should be governed, and to the character of the institutions to be established within their boundaries.

Even if we should not enlarge our dominions by acquisitions from foreign Powers, the immense area belonging to this country lying between the Mississippi river and the Pacific ocean, will continue to furnish a fruitful subject for agitation, unless the whole question involved in its government is disposed of on some broad, comprehensive, and enduring basis. It was but the other day that Oregon was admitted into the Union, and since then, on Wednesday, Mr. STEPHENS, chairman of the House Committee on Territories, reported bills to establish Territorial Governments for Arizona, Dacotah, and Jefferson. These bills were laid upon the table by an overwhelming majority, because the sense of the House demanded as a guarantee for the preservation of the rights of their citizens, which was refused, Mr. HASKIN, of New York, even on the alert, proposed, when the Arizona bill was under consideration, that when the population was sufficient to entitle the Territory to a member of Congress, the Legislature should provide for the election of delegates to form a Constitution, which should be submitted to the people for ratification, and that this provision should constitute a rule of action for all the other Territories. It appears, however, that this amendment was not acted upon, and the correspondent of the New York *Herald* declares that the subsequent action of the House laying the three Territorial bills on the table, would have been avoided, if Mr. STEPHENS had permitted its adoption. Thus it will be seen that the controversy of last winter is, in a modified form, renewed, and that the guarantee to the people of the Territories of the right to form their State Constitutions in strict accordance with the will of the majority of their residents has been denied them. There is so much justice and reason in the provisions of Mr. HASKIN's amendment, and the necessity for it has been so clearly shown by the events of the past eighteen months, that those who persist in opposing it place themselves in a most unenviable attitude before the country.

The creation of the three contemplated Territorial Governments would have conferred upon the President a large additional amount of patronage, which it is said has already, in anticipation of the passage of the bills of Mr. STEPHENS, been parcelled out among his favorites. If this addition is to be made to his power, it should at least be accompanied by the boon to the people of protection from future Lecompton swindles. But there was also a proposition to reach this view of the case. Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, moved an amendment to the Arizona bill, providing that when there were ten thousand actual residents in that Territory, the Legislature should provide, by law for the election of a governor, secretary of State, marshal, and judges, to be commissioned by the President. The marshal and judges, being properly Federal officers, whose duties correspond with those of the Federal marshals and judges in the several States, should always, we think, be appointed by the President. But it is a question worth considering whether governors and secretaries of State should not be elected by the people of the Territories. Some time since a bill to this effect was introduced into the House by Mr. MORRIS, of Illinois; and while the proposition may be at this time premature, and, perhaps, liable to some serious objections, we shall not be at all astonished if, when a full examination of it is made, and the subject is discussed in all its bearings, the American people should finally decide in its favor.

Our Sea-Coast Defences.

Perhaps, in no branch of the public service is the dominion of routine and red-tape more absolute or arbitrary than in the army. The slightest deviation from the military canons, the most modest innovation upon military etiquette, is regarded as a serious violation of the proper *esprit du corps*, which all attached to the army are presumed to be implicitly bound to preserve. Any new opinion upon military science must first pass through the routine of the circumlocution office, and receive the proper *imprimatur* before it may be vouchsafed to the public. It is enough almost to endanger the position of an officer, to indulge the insane liberty of thinking for himself. Under such auspices, to undertake the initiation of reforms in settled rules, stereotyped by centuries of martinet idolatry, is certainly no ordinary task. It demands, in fact, extraordinary zeal and courage; because he who essays such a hazardous mission is sure to encounter, and must be prepared to contend with, more than the usual risks and difficulties which await the reformer in other fields of action. It is, however, to the tribunal of an enlightened popular judgment that the final appeal must come; and if the reforms proposed are found to be based upon the results of practical experience, and are eminently necessary to the public welfare, they are sure to be eventually put in practice.

Amongst the questions of reform prominently agitated in military circles, none has called forth more earnest discussion than that of our sea-coast defences. The discussion, which has taken a wide range, involves the whole subject of the practical value of our present system of fortifications. This system, which has cost the country a lavish expenditure of money, is borrowed from the antiquated notions of military engineers who lived and died before the application of steam to the naval marine, and years before MINNIE and DAHLGREN devoted their genius to the improvement of arms. An immense advance in military science has been made by the practical results of the Russian war, and it has become a serious question whether the United States shall accept the valuable experience thus furnished and turn it to a profitable account, or consent to rely with blind confidence upon defences which, in time of great emergency, may prove a feeble, if not altogether a barren, protection.

We had occasion, some months since, to notice favorably a clever *brochure* upon this subject from the pen of Lieut. JAMES ST. C. MORTON, of the United States Engineer Corps, a young Philadelphian, the name of whose family is familiar to every citizen. In that paper, the author set forth with much clearness the dangers to be apprehended from a land attack upon seaboard cities like New York; and, with much vigor and originality, suggested, as a proper defence against such contingency, a system of earthwork redoubts, to be connected by earthwork banks. The present Secretary of War, with a healthy disregard of routine and prescriptive tradition, has not only entertained these suggestions kindly, but has warmly commended them to Congress as "practical and judicious." He has even gone so far as to incorporate Lieutenant MORTON's memorial with his own official report of the present session—a distinguished compliment, and an honor which rarely falls to the lot of so young an officer. Gov. FLOYD has called the attention of Congress to the tactics adopted by the Allies in the late Russian campaigns, and inclines to the belief that, in case the United States becomes involved in war with either of those Powers, the latter would repeat the style of attack employed by England in 1812–14 at Detroit, in the Chesapeake, at Washington and New Orleans, but on a scale of magnitude similar to that of the expeditions against Sevastopol, Somarsund and Sweaborg. He decidedly favors the plan proposed by Lieut. MORTON as being eminently adapted for *militia* defence.

These views of the Secretary of War have been fortified by a later paper, recently written by Lieut. MORTON, and published by the order of the Secretary of War, entitled "The Dangers and Defences of New York City." In this pamphlet the whole details of the proposed system are minutely explained with express reference to the land approaches by way of Long Island to Brooklyn, Williamsburg, and New York. Lieut. MORTON suggests that a line of redoubts should be located within cannon-shot of the coast, the redoubts—not exceeding fifteen in number—to be placed at eligible points, at a distance of nearly a mile from each other, and that they should be connected by earthwork banks to be hereafter thrown up. The estimated cost of each will not exceed ten thousand dollars. Mr. MORTON shows that to defend these redoubts, the local volunteer militia must be the reliable force; since all experience developed from our own history, extending from the date of Bunker Hill down to the cotton-bag defences at New Orleans, goes to show conclusively that the fortifications best adapted to our brave, though not always perfectly drilled militia, are earthwork entrenchments. The unexampled resistance of similar defences in the Crimea, against the enormous armament and incessant bombardments of the Allies, is regarded by Lieutenant MORTON as demonstration ample that the introduction of long-range muskets has immeasurably multiplied the defensive capabilities of earthworks, especially when they are modelled upon the style of those used in the war of the Revolution, and reinaugurated with so much effect by the distinguished TODLEBEN at Sevastopol. The scope of Lieutenant MORTON's memoir, though specially illustrated by reference to New York, is national, and takes in, of course, all the cities of the seaboard to which the projected system can be applied. On the score of economy and simplicity, as well as by its recognition of the important value of our volunteer militia, it is well calculated to command the careful attention of Congress.

We have no disposition to excite or foster unnecessary alarms, and we confess that we have no immediate apprehension of the rupture of our friendly relations with the Continental Powers. But the wisdom of statesmanship lies in the grand science and practice of prevention. A nation well armed and well protected has the strongest guarantees of peace. It is in this view that we regard the suggestions made by Lieutenant MORTON, and ably illustrated by the present Secretary of War, as peculiarly pertinent to the present position of public affairs. We believe that the popular judgment will warmly second their adoption, however much army officers and military engineers may feel inclined to censure the extravagant boldness necessarily involved in their publication to the people at large.

☞ The fifteenth anniversary of the American Literary Union will be celebrated this evening, with appropriate ceremonies, at the Musical Fund Hall. The Union is one of the most flourishing and influential of all our societies. The gentlemen announced to deliver addresses on this interesting occasion are eloquent and convincing speakers. We anticipate a crowded house.

The Rev. William H. Milburn.

The blind preacher, Mr. Milburn, who was formerly chaplain to Congress, and has since eminently distinguished himself, in this country and in England, as a lecturer of great eloquence and large information, upon historical and literary subjects, is about being invited, we believe, to lecture in this city, as he has lately been lecturing in New York and other places, upon some subject of popular interest. His most recent lectures are one upon Alexander Hamilton, and another upon Aaron Burr. Either, or both of those, would be very acceptable here, and we are sure that our largest lecture-room would be filled by audiences anxious to hear one of the most extraordinary and gifted public speakers of the age.

DR. R. SHELTON MACKENZIE, well known among the literary men of the country, has prepared for the press a new work, entitled "Tresilian and his Friends." It is a collection of original tales, set in the framework of a love story, a middle-aged major and a widow lady doing the love. It is dedicated to John Brougham, Esq., and will be published in a few days, by Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia.—*New York Express.*

EXTRA VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—Very large sale 1st of March. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements, auction head.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1859.

Two leading items, which have swelled the budget of Secretary Cobb to its enormous size, are the Utah and Paraguayan wars; but the actual cost of these expeditions is so adroitly intermingled with the general expenditures of the army and navy, that it is difficult to exactly ascertain it. The national expenditures during the last year, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to $81,585,667, about quadruple their amount twenty years ago. If it be possible, as the opponents of a revision of the tariff contend, to reduce these expenditures to $50,000,000, those who have guided the affairs of the Government for the last two years have a grievous sin of extravagance to answer for; for there are no good reasons why the expenses of next year should be thirty millions less than those of last year, unless corruption, lavish expenditure, and reckless squandering of the public money, unprecedented in the annals of history, have heretofore prevailed. The anti-tariff economists are either trying to do entirely too much now, or they have been doing entirely too little heretofore. When we consider the relation between our past expenditures and their present programme of appropriations, in connection with the heavy debt already piled up, and the expensive project for the purchase of Cuba, which is being steadily pressed, the clamor against a revision of the tariff at this time must strike every intelligent man as the most arrant demagoguism. It is worthy only of a State legislator who fears to add half a mill to a State tax, when he knows that the credit and honor of his Commonwealth imperatively demand the imposition of such a tax, because he is afraid that the indignation of the tax payers of his district will prevent his return to a seat which he dishonors by his cowardice. Buncombe is the great curse of American legislation; and buncombe has more to do with the stubbornness with which a change of the tariff is resisted than any other cause, for the simple reason that members who have free-trade constituencies fear that their chances of re-election might be imperilled if they did justice to the financial interests of the nation.

It is said that the Mormon war has already cost the Government more than $10,000,000; and if an army of two or three thousand men is to be kept there for an indefinite period of time, a similar drain upon the national resources will be continued. The American people are eminently practical in their views, and some of these days will begin to inquire whether it is desirable to incur so much trouble and expense to attain results of comparatively small importance. The great difficulty in Utah appears to be between the judges and the people. So far as recent advices inform us, peace reigns there. Governor Cumming possesses the confidence of the people, and to a great extent commands their obedience and respect. In the courts, District Attorney Wilson seems to move along as successfully as the generality of district attorneys. From the very nature of the legal system of Utah, as of all other American communities, the juries are made up of men chosen from the body of the people, and represent, inevitably, to some extent, the passions, feelings, and prejudices of those among whom their lot in life is cast. When Judge Sinclair, in the discharge of his official duties, chose to place upon the pardon of Mr. Buchanan an interpretation differing from the sense in which it was ordinarily accepted, and from the meaning which the peace commissioners and Governor Cumming placed upon it, and when he evinced a disposition to press prosecutions against a large number of the prominent citizens of the Territory, even against the better judgment of the district attorney, it is not very singular that a people, banded together as the Mormons are, should not only feel disposed to resist his edicts, but, in their resistance, to go beyond the bounds of legal propriety. That they are not wholly disposed to ignore the action of the courts is shown by the fact, that when Ferguson was indicted for alleged indignities upon Judge Stiles, the grand jury, composed of a majority of Mormons, found a true bill, but after a trial of three weeks' duration, during which he displayed considerable ingenuity in his defence, which he (being a lawyer) conducted in person, he managed to secure an acquittal. In the subsequent case of a man indicted for the murder of a deaf mute, the Mormons allege that there were extenuating circumstances; and their version is that the deceased was killed while in custody for a criminal offence, at a time when the officer in charge of him was compelled, in self-defence, to destroy him. It is, no doubt, vain to pretend that, according to the strict rules of law, under the circumstances, as we understand them, that a Mormon grand jury was justifiable in ignoring a bill of indictment in this case; but the point which I wish to present to your readers is this: that juries, everywhere throughout the country, are notoriously influenced in their deliberations by the sentiments and peculiar ideas of the communities in which they live; and serious as that evil is—subversive as it is of the true ends of justice—does it impose upon the National Government the duty of correcting it by having martial law declared in Utah—by having men tried by drum-head courts—by giving judges absolute power of life or death, and unlimited control of property, or by squandering away $10,000,000 in vain attempts to establish Mormon jurisprudence on a basis which exactly squares with the ideas of clear-headed lawyers? If the National Government is to undertake to compel juries and grand juries to act in all important cases as the *judges think they should act*, it will have its hands full, and it can squander away hundreds of millions annually; and after it has done so, discover that infinitely more harm than good has been accomplished.

You will see by the proceedings of the House to-day, that Mr. John Cassin, of your city, has appeared before the House, and declared his readiness to testify to the investigating committee. He stated that his appearance here was delayed by the sickness of a relative, and his statement appeared to be entirely satisfactory to the House.

There is a little hope left for the revision of the tariff at this session; but as the measure has to run the gauntlet, between professed tariff men on the one hand, who really prefer to keep the issue open for future political operations, and free traders on the other, who wish to endear themselves to their constituents by resisting taxation, the prospects of favorable tariff legislation are by means as brilliant as I should like to see them.

PIONEER.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, Feb. 17, 1859.

A supplement to the act incorporating the Delaware and Schuylkill Basin Company passed the House on Tuesday. It extends the time within which this work may be commenced to six years, and allows ten for completion.

A resolution offered by Mr. Baldwin, of Lancaster, calling upon the State Treasurer for information, as to whether any demand has been made by him upon the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the tonnage tax due, and if so, whether the said company has refused to pay the same, was, on motion of General Shaeffer, so amended as to embrace all railroad companies, and call for information as to amount of arrears and the time when due. General S. earnestly expressed his wish that the resolution should be comprehensive, and that the inquiry should be for facts, full and fair, without any discrimination. Inasmuch as it affected the revenues of the Commonwealth, he contended that Senators should be willing to apply the examination to all roads paying such tax.

Mr. Schell read a bill yesterday for a repeal of this tax on the roads between Philadelphia and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania Railroad and Harrisburg, Portsmouth, Mount Joy, and Lancaster Railroad. The condition upon which this repeal is made, is that these companies lessen their charges on local tonnage and freight, except coal and lumber, at least five mills on each ton, for each mile the same is carried. Notice of an acceptance of this condition to be given to the Governor.

Mr. Schell presented the bill by request, and does not wish to be regarded as committed to its support. A debate of more than usual interest and force was engaged in this morning by Messrs. Bell, Coffey, Finney, and Palmer, upon Senate bills Nos. 2 and 114, acts relating to evidence; the former introduced by Mr. Coffey, and the latter by Mr. Bell. We shall not attempt to sketch a discussion so eloquent and profound, but merely note the points of difference.

The bills are similar in this particular, that they remove all objections to witnesses on account of interest. They differ in this, that according to the provisions of Mr. C.'s bill, parties are admitted to testify, whereas by the bill proposed by Mr. B. they are excluded, except where called upon by their adversary. No vote has yet been taken, and as the question is one of vast importance, calling forth legal learning in its varied forms of power and logical beauty, further disputation is expected.

Mr. Baldwin read a bill entitled "An act regulating the construction of passenger railways in the city of Philadelphia," which empowers the City Councils to authorize construction of the same by ordinance, designating route, &c. Within thirty days after the passage of such ordinance, it shall be the duty of the Mayor to sell at public sale, to the highest bidder, the right to make the road designated—ten per centum on the amount to be paid upon its being declared the highest bid; and the entire amount within thirty days.

The general banking law, by request, was allowed to lie over. No bills were read in the House to-day.

ALBION.

The annual report of the Commissioners of Emigration for 1858 has been forwarded to the New York Legislature. It says the year 1858 has been marked throughout by the greatly lessened number of alien emigrants who arrived during the year in the United States, and especially at New York. The number of alien emigrants who arrived at that port during the year 1858, and for whom commutation was paid, or special bonds executed, was 78,589, being 105,186 less than in the year immediately preceding, and 63,753 less than in 1856, whilst the proportion to the average of former years, since 1846, is much less than half. Of these emigrants, 31,874 were from Germany, 25,075 from Ireland, and 12,324 from England.

The Army Register for 1859 has just made its appearance. We find that our present force of regular soldiers consists of nineteen regiments all told, as follows: ten regiments of Infantry, averaging ten companies of 70 men each; four of Artillery, averaging 12 companies of about 50 men each; one of mounted Riflemen, two of Cavalry, and two of Dragoons—each of the latter numbering ten companies of 60 men. It would be difficult to arrive at a correct estimate of the actual fighting material at the disposal of the War Department, but we presume the entire strength of our army is little over or under 16,000. The Register shows the grand aggregate of the militia to be, all told, 2,724,426.

THE NEW HAVEN BANK THIEF.—It will be remembered that some six months ago, a stranger entered the New Haven Bank, during business hours, and coolly stole a package of $2,300 in bills and specie. Bank Commissioner Noyes took the matter in hand, thinking that in the course of his investigations of bank affairs he might obtain some clue to the theft. He has now discovered the thief, who is confined at Sing Sing on a charge of theft in New York.

It seems that a young man, about twenty-five years of age, came from New York and stole the bills in the manner stated at the time. He also visited the City and Mechanics' Bank, but failed of a chance to steal anything. He took the cars for New York, got off at Williams' Bridge, went up to Harlem Farms, and returned by the Harlem Road to New York.

On the proceeds of the money he got married, and spread wide the cash lasted. He then undertook a similar theft in Baltimore, but was detected. He escaped on straw bail to New York. He was arrested there for stealing overcoats from the Metropolitan Hotel, and sent to Sing Sing for three years, where he now is.—*New Haven Journal.*

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

One Week Later from Europe.

THE PRINCE ALBERT AT ST. JOHNS.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Non-Committal and Silent on the War Question.

A Force Against Mexico Threatened.

DECLINE IN FUNDS CAUSED BY THE SPEECH.

Warlike Rumors Continue.

Warlike Preparations Continued by France.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

Brazil a Mediator in the United States and Paraguay Difficulty.

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN A PASSENGER.

CONSOLS 94¾.

ADVANCE IN COTTON.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Feb. 18.—The Galway steamer Prince Albert, which left Ireland for New York on the 5th inst., arrived here this evening.

The Prince Albert furnishes advices one week later than received by the America.

Her dates from Liverpool and London are to the 4th inst. by mail and the 5th by telegraph.

The steamer North American arrived out on the 3d instant.

The Eng'ish Parliament had opened, and the Queen's speech was read.

The speech is non-committal, and almost silent on the war question, which caused a decline in funds both at London and Paris.

A force against Mexico is threatened.

A warlike rumour continues, but were still of a contradictory character.

The disquietude in political affairs throughout Europe was on the increase.

The Bombay mail of January 11th had been telegraphed.

The British had met with various successes.

Tantia Topee's forces had been defeated by the British.

The project for the encouragement of Cotton cultivation in India was debated in the Commons on Friday the 4th inst.

The Prince Albert had a boisterous passage, and was slightly damaged.

She has a full complement of passengers, one of whom is William Smith O'Brien.

The steamer City of Manchester left Liverpool on the 2d inst.

The features of her news were warlike.

Preparations were going forward actively in France, but the Ministerial journals keep silent on the subject.

The latest letters speak of the war symptoms as being decidedly on the increase.

Great anxiety was felt regarding the speech of the Emperor of France, which is to be delivered at the opening of the Legislature, on the 7th inst. It was rumored that he is preparing a surprise for the world, and that war was a certainty.

The Minister of the Colonies decided that the immigration of Africans shall be superseded by Chinese.

Rumors were current in England of extensive warlike preparations by the French, including the addition of three thousand men to the forces of the navy.

The marriage of the Prince Napoleon was celebrated at Turin on the 20th. The bridal party forthwith started for Paris.

Turin letters say that matters looked slightly more pacific there.

The Austrian six-million loan was introduced on the London Change at 80. The board had offered five per cent. interest. The loan was quoted at a discount for some time, but suddenly improved and closed at a small premium.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—Queen Victoria opened Parliament, in person, on the 3d instant.

Her speech commenced with congratulations on the state of the country, and the progress made in India. On foreign affairs, it says:

"I receive from all foreign Powers assurances of friendly feelings.

"To cultivate and confirm these feelings, to maintain inviolate the faith of public treaties, and to contribute, as far as my influence can extend, to the preservation of general peace, are the objects of my unceasing solicitude."

The conclusion of the treaties in regard to the Principalities, and the one relative to commerce with Russia, are noticed; and the latter is referred to as an indication of the complete re-establishment of friendship between the two countries.

The treaties with China and Japan are mentioned, as promising great commercial advantages. Satisfaction is expressed at the abolition by France of the negro immigration on the east coast of Africa, and the pending negotiations give promise of the total abandonment of the system.

In respect to Mexico, the speech says "the state of that Republic, distracted with civil wars, indicated me to carry forbearance to its utmost limit in regard to the wrongs and indignities to which the British residents have been subjected at the hands of the two contending parties. They at length have carried it to such an extent, that I have been obliged to give instructions to the commander of the naval forces in those seas, to declare and, if necessary, to enforce, a reparation."

An increased expenditure for the navy is asked for on account of the universal introduction of steam into naval warfare.

The rest of the speech appertains to local questions.

Among the measures promised are Parliamentary reform and a new bankruptcy law.

An address in response to the speech was agreed to by both houses of Parliament.

Lord Melville, in the House of Lords, and Lord Palmerston, in the House of Commons, complained of the silence of the Government in regard to the threatening state of the Italian question, and other matters of interest.

Lords Derby and Disraeli expressed confidence in the maintenance of peace.

FRANCE.

France continues her warlike preparations.

It was reported that Pelissier will soon return, to be succeeded as Minister at London by the Duke de Montebello.

Prince Napoleon and his bride had arrived at Paris.

The Bourse had fluctuated considerably and declined nearly one per cent. after the reception of the Queen's speech.

ITALY.

The Sardinian Government had decided on negotiating for a loan.

It was reported that the King of Sardinia was about to marry the sister of the Empress of Russia, the widow of Duke Leuchtenbach.

The Brazilian mails, which had arrived at Lisbon, bring the news that Brazil had offered a mediation with Paraguay in regard to her difficulties with the United States.

The American commander had accepted the offer, and the Brazilian admiral had gone to Paraguay on the mission.

The price of coffee at Rio was unchanged.

AUSTRALIA.

The Melbourne mail of December 18th had reached England. Gold to the amount of £568,000 was on the way to England.

Commercial Intelligence.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The brokers' circular states the sales of the week at 62,000 bales, including 8,000 bales on speculation and 2,600 bales for export.

All grades had slightly improved. The quotations for Uplands are ¼d better, and for Orleans and Mobile 1-16d. The market was quiet.

On Friday the market closed quiet but steady, the sales being 7,000 bales, including 1,400 for export and to speculators.

The following are the authorized quotations:

	Fair.	Middling.
Orleans	7¾	6 13-16
Mobiles	7¾	6 11-16
Uplands	6¾	6 9-16

The stock in port is estimated at 423,000 bales, including 62,000 bales of American.

STATE OF TRADE.—The Manchester advices continued unfavorable. The market was dull, except for India goods, which were firm.

HAVRE COTTON MARKET, Feb. 1.—The market is advancing. Sales of the week 9,000 bales. New Orleans *tres ordinaire* 99f.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.—The Breadstuffs market was firm but quiet. Messrs. Richardson & Spence's circular reports Flour dull, except for choice, which was firm. Flour generally was quoted at 10s@12s per central, or 100 lbs.

Wheat was firm but quiet. Red Western 6s 3d@9s per central. White do 8s 7d@10s. Southern 10s@10s 3d.

Corn firm—holders demanding an advance for white. Mixed and yellow sold at 5s 10d@6s 2d per central, and white at 7s 3d@7s 2d.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.—Provisions were generally firm. Beef steady; extra mess sold at 87s. Pork firm. Bacon firm. Lard buoyant at 55s@56s—*holders asked 60s at the close.*

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—Rosin heavy and slightly declined, owing to heavy arrivals; sales at 5s 3d@5s 6d for common. Spirits of Turpentine dull at 39s@40s.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—Tallow is firm. Pot Ashes steady and active at 28s 6d@29s; Pearls steady at 32s@32s 6d. Sugar firm, excepting Grocery sorts, the quotations for which are barely maintained. Coffee dull. Rice (Carolina) quiet. Bark quiet—Philadelphia selling at 9s 6d. Linseed Oil—Sales at 37s@38s. Teas have slightly advanced—Congou is quoted at 1s 1d.

LONDON MARKETS.—Baring Brothers report Wheat firm. Iron—Welsh rails dull at £6 6s; Welsh bars £6 2s 6d. Sugar dull and 6d@9s lower. Coffee steady. Tea firm at 1s 1d. Spirits of Turpentine dull. Rice (Carolina) firm.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—Consols were quoted at 94¾.

American Securities are generally firm.

PARIS, Friday Evening.—The Bourse was much depressed to-day. Three per cents declined to 66f. 85c@67c.

THE LATEST MARKETS.

[By Telegraph to Halifax.]

LIVERPOOL, Saturday—Noon.—The Cotton market opened dull this morning. There has been but little inquiry, and prices are consequently weak. The sales of this morning are estimated at 5,000 bales.

The Breadstuffs market continues quiet but firm.

The Provision market also continues firm. Lard is firm, and holders have obtained the advance they demanded yesterday. Sales at 59s@60s.

LONDON, Saturday—Noon.—Consols are quoted at 94¾@94¾.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Senate's Committee on Finance have agreed to report an amendment to the executive, judicial, and legislative appropriation bill, making it the duty of the treasurer of the mint, or any of its branches, when refined gold is deposited, to make payment for the same as soon as its value is ascertained, and the coin actually made. The charge for making coin from refined bullion is to be ¾ per centum.

By calculations just made at the Treasury Department, taking the year 1854 as the basis of receipts for 1859, (those for January in each year being nearly equal), the amount of duties averaging 19 per centum under the present year, there will probably be received at New York this year $31,172,000; and taking the year 1857 as a basis for 1859, $37,293,000. It will be recollected that two-thirds of the revenue customs are received at that port.

The Committee of Ways and Means are still unable to come to a conclusion on the tariff question. It is probable that a bill revising the present act, will be offered to one of the general appropriation bills, a report to this effect being prepared.

The Senate Committee on Finance have reported a bill, and recommend its passage, to repay Messrs Sim. Wood; Earle, & Co. the fine illegally imposed on them.

This is the night of the Lord Napier ball. There is a deluge of rain.

Departure of a Supposed Slaver from Mobile.

MOBILE, Feb. 17.—The bark Ottowa, Capt Gordon, sailed from this port yesterday, ostensibly for St. Thomas, but it is believed her real destination is the southern coast of Africa.

American Nominations in Rhode Island.

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 17.—The American State Convention which met here to-day made the following nominations:

For Governor—Mr. Turner, (the Republican candidate.)

Lieutenant Governor—Mr. Saunders.

Secretary of State—Mr. John R. Bartlett.

Attorney General—Mr. Jerome B. Kimball.

State Treasury—Mr. Samuel A. Parker.

The Tenth Congressional District of Virginia.

WHEELING, Va., Feb. 17.—Hon. Sherrard Clemens was unanimously nominated on the 1st ballot for re-election to Congress, by the Democratic Convention which met here to-day.

Rise in the Ohio.

PITTSBURG, Feb 17.—We have to report a freshet in the Ohio river; water now ten feet six inches by the mark, and rising. Boats plenty for river ports and rates low.

Another Treasurer Decamped with the Funds.

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—It is rumored that Wm. S. McGown, Treasurer of the Columbian Mutual Loan and Fund Association, has decamped with the funds of the Association.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

Second Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.

SENATE.

Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, from the Finance Committee, reported the executive, legislative, and judicial appropriation bill.

Mr. MASON, of Virginia, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, moved to print the report of Mr. Nugent, the United States commissioner to Vancouver's Island. Agreed to.

The resolution of Mr. Wilson, recently laid over, calling for detailed information respecting the Butterfield overland mail contract, was taken up and agreed to.

Numerous private memorials, reports, and other business of minor importance, were disposed of.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, moved to postpone all prior orders, and take up the homestead bill.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, also urged the consideration of the bill.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, and Mr. SHIELDS, of Minnesota, insisted on having the vote taken, and Mr. REID, of North Carolina, and Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, wanted it postponed.

It was finally agreed to take up the bill, by a vote of 22 yeas against 23 nays.

The bill was then read.

Mr. HUNTER again moved to take up the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill.

Mr. STUART, of Michigan, remonstrated against the attempt to crowd off the homestead bill by appropriation bills which are sure to pass.

Some time was occupied in discussing the precedence of business.

Mr. SEWARD, of New York, urged that a vote be taken on the homestead bill, as a measure that would settle definitely the policy with respect to the public lands, and rescue them from being held by speculators and capitalists, to the detriment of the interests of labor.

The vote on Mr. Hunter's motion, to postpone the homestead bill to take up the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill, stood yeas 28, nays 25—as the Vice President giving the casting vote in favor of the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill, it was before the Senate.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, moved an amendment in the nature of a substitute, which proposes to abolish all grades of ministers, except one, and fixes the salary of that grade at $10,000 per annum, and the salary of secretary of legation at $3,000 per annum; but all missions are to be special, and for reasons explained to the Senate by the President at the time of appointment or confirmation. The office of consul general to be abolished, and the consuls to have the fees of their office up to limit of the salaries now provided by law.

Mr. MASON, of Virginia, said he was of that Mr. Pugh could do better service to the country than to give his scrutiny to the subject of the consular service, but that remedial measures will require more preparation than this general amendment. He, for a suitable time he hoped to have his able support in revision of the consular, and, where need be, the diplomatic service.

Mr. MASON would also say, not ceremoniously, that insmuch as