The Press.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1859.

Forty Pages of Interesting Matter.—Contents of This Morning's Press.—The Tragedy in Washington City: General News; From Delaware. The City. Fourth Page. Ship News.

THE NEWS.

About half past one this morning we received a telegraphic despatch from New Orleans, stating that the steamboat Princess, running from that city to Vicksburg, had been burned, near Baton Rouge, and that it was supposed *two hundred persons* were lost. We can only hope that the number is exaggerated, but the instance of the boat yesterday is one more than giving the despatch as we received it. Some of the names of those known to be lost will be found under our telegraphic head.

The United States Senate yesterday refused to take up the homestead bill, by a vote of 29 to 26. Mr. Houston, of Texas, made his farewell speech, in which he reviewed at some length the attempts to defame his character, and recited, in refutation of them, his military career in defence of the State of Texas. The Post Office appropriation bill was next taken up, and was debated until a late hour.

In the House, there was a personal difficulty between Messrs. Reagan and Bryan, of Texas, (involving a question of veracity,) which caused much excitement. The naval appropriation bill was taken up, and passed, after reducing the appropriations of $1,102,000 for the navy yards, to only $130,000. A suspension of the rules was defeated Mr. Phelps, to enable him to introduce a bill to revive for two years the act authorizing the issue of treasury notes. The House went into committee on the miscellaneous appropriation bill, and was in session until a late hour.

The select committee appointed last session to investigate the accounts of Mr. Callom, late clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, yesterday submitted a report acquitting him of all corruption or dishonesty in office. The committee say that perhaps more care might have been exercised, but the only fact established was that the clerk failed to correct pre-existing abuses.

The cause and the remedy for the troubles in unfortunate Mexico are given in a few words by the New York *Times*, of yesterday. The editorial is well worth the attention of those who look to it for information. We quote as follows:

"We cannot but hope that the intimacy between Mr. Key and Mrs. Sickles has been remarked in Washington circles for a year past, and had been the occasion of more than one disagreement in the families of the parties. During the last Congress, notes passed between Mr. Key and Mr. Sickles on this subject, which were followed by a complete reconciliation, and Mr. Key visited as usual at the house of Mr. Sickles, having dined with him at a large party not more than ten days ago.

"The last time the writer of this article saw Mr. Sickles and Mr. Key together was some ten or twelve days ago, at the residence of the former, the lady herself being present, with other company. No event that has happened in this country for many years will occasion more wide-spread excitement. The youth of the parties, the beauty and popularity of Mrs. Sickles, the numerous connections, political and personal, of the principal actors, and the fearful lesson which the whole circumstances of this case must give to society, will form the subject of comment for years to come. Mr. Sickles is proverbially cool and collected, not apt to be moved by sudden passion, and is of a generous and confiding nature, devotedly attached to his friends and ready to serve them at any sacrifice.

"Mr. Smith O'Brien.

"This distinguished gentleman, who arrived in Philadelphia on Sunday evening, in company with Mr. Cole, the proprietor and editor of the *Irish American*, in New York, was received at the Girard House by Daniel Dougherty, Esq., James R. Cantwell, Esq., Dr. Shelton Mackenzie, and a few other gentlemen. He expressed his desire to avoid any public exhibition, saying that his intention in visiting this country was solely to make himself acquainted with the workings of all its great political system, the mode and management of its Government, and the habits, manners, and feelings of its great population. He added that he looked with great interest, as every thinking, European must look, upon the mighty and hitherto successful experiment of a republic, in these latter days of monarchical rule. He expressed himself much delighted with what he had seen of Canada, and the prosperous appearance of our cities, and was much pleased with the courtesy shown him by the gentlemen who had waited on him. He never could sufficiently acknowledge the cordiality of the kindness which had hitherto greeted him in the short time he had been upon these friendly shores. Yesterday morning Mr. O'Brien paid a visit to The Press office, and said that he had been making as much use of his time as he could under the circumstances of a very short stay, but hoped, on his return, to make himself more acquainted with Philadelphia and its beautiful environs. He left yesterday by the one o'clock P. M. train for Baltimore, where he will remain for a day or two before proceeding to Washington, to witness the termination of the present Congressional session.

"The Late Robert Walsh.

"Three days ago, a correspondent requested us to inform him whether Robert Walsh, formerly editor of the *National Gazette*, in Philadelphia, were alive, and, if so, where would a letter find him?" We referred to the second volume of Duyckinck's Cyclopædia of American Literature, and there found that Mr. Walsh was residing in Paris. The European mail, which reached us yesterday, informs us of Mr. Walsh's death, at Paris, on the 7th February.

From Messrs. Duyckinck's book we learn that Mr. Walsh was born at Baltimore in 1784. His father was Irish; his mother a Pennsylvanian Quaker. He received a good education at Catholic colleges in Baltimore and Georgetown. Travelled in Europe—returned, at the age of twenty-five, married, became a lawyer, and settled down in Philadelphia, but did not long continue in practice. In 1809, being then twenty-five years old, he broke ground, as an author, in the *Portfolio*, and published a work on the Government of Napoleon, which was well received in this country, and ran through four editions in England, and was favorably criticised in the *Edinburgh Review*. Two years later, he commenced the *American Review of History and Politics*, in which he wrote largely. Only eight quarterly numbers appeared. He performed various other literary work before the publication of his "Appeal from the Judgments of Great Britain respecting the United States." It was a powerful vindication of his native land against attacks made by foreign writers.

Soon after, Mr. Walsh became editor of the *National Gazette*, a new tri-weekly, soon changed into a daily newspaper, and immediately was perceived to have fallen into a position for which he was extremely well qualified. His criticisms upon literature and art were admire ble, and gave great value to his paper. While thus engaged, Mr. Walsh wrote much for the *American Magazine of Foreign Literature*, (the precursor of Littell's Museum and Living Age,) but resigned his share in the editorship on reviving his own Quarterly, in 1827, as *The American Review*. He remained in charge of this periodical, still editing the *National Gazette*, until 1837, when he removed to Paris—giving to the world ere he left Philadelphia, two volumes of "Didactics," chiefly consisting of articles selected from a multitude written during fifteen years editorial labor.

Mr. Walsh was consul at Paris for several years, and thence contributed a highly valuable foreign correspondence with the *National Intelligencer*, of Washington, and the *Journal of Commerce* of New York. The "Cyclopædia of American Literature," which has supplied us with the above biographical facts, says: "No American abroad has enjoyed more intimate relations with the *savans* and politicians of Europe, or has traced with greater interest the progress of government and science." The *Evening Bulletin* says:

"He was a gay and able man, somewhat bigoted, on political as well as religious questions, but honest, faithful, and loyal to every cause that he espoused. His literary style was clear, strong, and masculine, free from ornament and surplus of words, and, therefore the more relied upon and the more admired by judicious people.

"Mr. Walsh was a man of delicate frame and figure with a fine, intellectual face; and in conversation, in which he excelled, his manner was delightful. He married first the daughter of General Moylan, an eminent lawyer of this city, and had by her a large family of children. His second wife was Mrs. Stocker, of this city, whom he also survived."

Mr. Walsh was in his 75th year at the time of his death.

Rev. Mr. Milburn's Lecture.

At Jayne's Hall, this evening, Mr. Milburn, the blind clergyman, will deliver a lecture, by invitation, upon the life and public services of Alexander Hamilton, who fell, in a duel, by the hand of Aaron Burr. When this lecture was lately delivered in the New York Academy of Music, some four thousand persons were present. Mr. Milburn's manner is good, his composition scholarly, his delivery graceful, and his command of language very great. How Prescott could write history, with greatly defective vision, and Mr. Milburn (who can barely distinguish light from darkness) should be one of the most eloquent, effective, and instructive of lecturers, constitutes one of the most remarkable mysteries of modern literature.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1859.

Fortunately for the honor of the country, the Cuban bill has been shelved for this session. The sentiment of the nation is unanimous against the occupancy of Cuba by any other foreign country than Spain, and nearly the entire Democratic party, and many members of the Opposition, would gladly hail the honorable acquisition of that island by the United States. If Spain were willing to sell, I have little doubt that this nation would be prepared to purchase, if the price were at all a fair one; but the great objection to Mr. Buchanan's proposition consists in its dishonorable nature. We were warned in advance that the people of Spain were opposed to the sale of Cuba. The Spanish Cortes, by a unanimous vote, indignantly rejected the proposition of Mr Buchanan; the Spanish ministers indignantly denied having given any countenance to it; yet, in the face of all this, an appropriation of thirty millions, from an empty Treasury, was asked for. If it had been granted, how could it have been used to carry out the avowed purpose of the President? In no other way than by attempting to bribe the ruling spirits of the Spanish Court; and this, I learn, was actually contemplated, or, at least, was the basis of the whole policy of the President, so far as he had a policy beyond a mere Buncombe agitation of the subject. Did you ever seriously reflect upon the exact meaning of a proposition like this, at a time when our own country is becoming deeply tainted with the odor of corruption—when American legislation is in the eyes of the world growing to be a purchasable commodity—when developments of the most frightful character are being made of the manner in which the business of the nation is managed by the President and his Cabinet? We were asked to carry abroad, upon another continent, the same infamous system which is practised upon our own corrupt legislators, to buy up Spanish ministers to violate the interests and rights of their constituents, as professional borers buy up the venal members of our own Legislatures. It was proposed to tamper with the integrity of those to whom, for the time being, the honor and interests of the people of Spain were entrusted, as a man might tamper with a dishonest lawyer to betray the interests of his client. The thirty millions were demanded to bribe the ministers of Spain in the same way that a robber might attempt to bribe the cashier of a bank to admit him into its vaults, at midnight, that he might plunder its treasures. So far as Mr. Buchanan's policy had a meaning, this was its character; and if the scheme had been adopted, and the American people had become fully acquainted with its character, they would have recoiled from it with indignation and disgust. Comparisons were instituted between this thirty-million proposition and the proposition made by Mr. Jefferson to purchase Louisiana; but did Mr. Jefferson bribe anybody? Was there any odor of corruption—any taint of criminality—any suspicion of infidelity on the part of the ruler of France to his country in that transaction? None. If the remotest suspicion of such a nature had been in any way connected with the transaction, it is safe to conclude, in view of Mr. Jefferson's high and unimpeachable character, that, anxious as he was to purchase Louisiana, he would not have employed any such means. But, with the fact staring us in the face, that Spain indignantly rejected our proposition; that the sentiment of her people is almost unanimous against it; that if any of her statesmen were in favor of it, they dare not avow such sentiments; but one opinion can be formed of the manner in which Mr. Buchanan hoped to purchase Cuba—if he ever had such a hope at all—and that is by corrupt appeals to the individual interests of parties who possess a controlling power in Spain. It is questionable whether filibusterism itself would not be a more honorable way of obtaining Cuba than a corrupt *purchase made from faithless Spanish officials* against the wishes and interests of the people of *Spain*. If there are any who think differently, let them reverse the case, and suppose, for a moment, that England should pass a corruption bill to spend $30,000,000 in obtaining such legislation as she desired at Washington, by purchasing up Mr. Buchanan and the members of his Cabinet, and influential members of the Senate and House of Representatives; and that through such agencies she should be successful in acquiring territory from us against the known wishes, feelings, and interests of the entire body of the American people, would not the unanimous voice of the nation brand such a scheme with the deepest infamy?

"Passing away, passing away!" The death of Edward A. Hannegan, at St. Louis, revives many recollections connected with his name. "I knew him well, Horatio." During the great debate growing out of the Oregon question, (Hannegan was the leader of the ultra progressives); some of his speeches thrilled the popular heart, especially that in which he took Colonel Benton to task for declaring in favor of the line of 49 deg. and against that of 54 deg. 40 min. [illegible] career which any man might have envied. He was singularly well calculated to arouse public feeling, but, like many of his nature, he could not control his passions and his appetites and some two or three years ago was unfortunate enough to get into a conflict with a near relative, which resulted in the death of the latter. Since then he removed to St. Louis, but those who knew him say that he was a heart-broken man. The men who figured in those days have nearly all departed. Benton, Clay, Calhoun, and Webster are laid in their graves. Their contemporaries are prepared to meet the summons of the dread destroyer. Who shall take their places? Who shall rise up to guide and counsel the country? I am no Cassandra; I have full faith in the perpetuity of this Government; but there can be no doubt that the time is at hand and rapidly approaching when the country needs the aid of all its patriotic and distinguished sons. Corruption, like a slow poison, is circulating through the veins and arteries of the Republic; but, happily, the people are no longer indifferent. Their eyes are being daily opened to the enormities practised here, and with the indignation and inquiry now pervading all parts of the Union, I cannot but hope that a *thorough reform will be inaugurated*, such as will restore the Government to its original purity and recall our rulers to a sense of their duty.

Our city has been plunged into deep gloom by the sad tragedy which occurred on yesterday after noon. It is the all-absorbing topic of conversation in all circles, and while deep regret is expressed for the untimely death of Mr. Key, who had many devoted friends, as the long train of circumstances connected with the case becomes known, the course pursued by Mr. Sickles is regarded as a natural and inevitable one.

PIONEER.

The Bank of Pennsylvania.

The sale of real estate, stocks, &c., by Messrs. Thomas, to be made at the Exchange this evening, will be unusually attractive, as, among the twenty-six important lots advertised, is the new banking-house in Chestnut street, with granite front, erected for the Bank of Pennsylvania, at a cost of $330,000. It has seventy feet width, with a depth of one hundred and seventy-eight feet; is entirely fire-proof; heated by hot water; has every room well ventilated, and is better adapted for a bank than any other building in the city. There is another purpose to which it might be applied. Its remarkably good construction, and its convenient location, mark it, especially, as suitable for occupation by the city as a Record office. It contains thirty-four rooms in all, many of which might also be used by public officials, who are now compelled to carry on their business in small pens—for we cannot call them offices. The sale this evening is *peremptory*; the building must go to the highest bidder.

☞ We invite attention to the announcement elsewhere of Messrs. Raiguel, Moore & Co., Nos. 220 and 222 North Third street, whose stock of silk and general dry goods is one of the largest and most complete it has been our privilege to examine this season. We have, perhaps, few dry goods houses in this country fully equal to this in the variety and completeness of its departments. The immense rooms, extending, in the basement, under two large store-houses, besides a capacious vault some fifteen feet in width, and rising five stories in height, are all literally filled with goods adapted to the season, almost every room in the entire edifice being devoted to some special department, and superintended by a competent head. Being among the oldest and most successful houses on this thoroughfare, it has, by its enterprise, contributed largely to the business of Third street. Notwithstanding the bulk of the sales of Messrs. Raiguel, Moore, & Co., to what is known as the *near trade*—as is the case with Third-street houses generally—yet their trade with the West and South has, of late years, been very considerable, and, from present indications, will this spring exceed any former season in amount and importance.

SPLENDID BANKING HOUSE, MARKET-STREET STORES, ELEGANT AND PLAIN RESIDENCES, LARGE LOTS, GROUND RENTS, STOCKS, &c.—See Thomas & Sons' pamphlet catalogue, comprising twenty-six properties, to be sold this evening, by order of assignees, executors, Orphans' Court, &c. A large portion peremptory sales.

JONES'S HOTEL.—This favorite hotel has recently undergone a thorough renovation, been furnished with new and elegant furniture, and will open this day for the reception of guests. The proprietors, Messrs. McIntosh & Matthews, are gentlemen of large experience as caterers, and cannot fail to meet the success their enterprise deserves. We cheerfully recommend them to the patronage of the public.

ENGLISH PICTORIAL NEWSPAPERS.—Callender & Co., South Third and Walnut streets, have favored us with copies of the *Illustrated London News* and its extremely popular rival *The Illustrated News of the World*. These journals maintain their hold on public favor, and circulate very largely in this country.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WASHINGTON TRAGEDY.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1859.

There are many rumors in circulation in relation to the late melancholy affair between Hon. Daniel E. Sickles and Philip Barton Key. Many of these statements are unfounded, and most of the details are exaggerated. I have been able to glean the following, as a full and reliable account of the matters connected with this fearful tragedy:

Last Thursday evening Mr. Sickles received a bundle of letters addressed to himself. Among them was an anonymous communication, which he either overlooked or did not open till Friday morning. This letter charged infidelity to her marriage vow on the part of Mrs. Sickles, and stated further that Mr. Key had hired a house on Fifteenth street, between K and L streets; that Mr. Key's motive in hiring this dwelling was for the purpose of meeting Mrs. Sickles; and that Mrs. Sickles was in the habit of visiting Mr. Key at certain hours in the day.

Mr. Sickles was, as naturally would be supposed, at first inclined to treat the anonymous firebrand as the work of malice. But the circumstances being detailed with such precision, his suspicions were aroused, and accordingly he requested Mr. George B. Wooldridge, a mutual friend of himself and his lady, to ascertain the truth or falsehood of these assertions, affecting, as they did, his own honor and that of his family.

Mr. Wooldridge undertook the mission, and visited the neighborhood indicated in the anonymous missive, to see whether such a house had been let last summer, and under what circumstances the lease had been granted. He there learned that Mr Key had hired such a dwelling, at the time alleged. The landlord was a colored man named John Gray, who stated that he received fifty dollars a month rent for his house, he having furnished it, &c. The house was a two-story brick; no one else occupied it. Mr Key commenced going there with Mrs. Sickles in the month of January last. Key generally entered first; and going up stairs, would hoist the first window over the door, and hang out a towel or a white handkerchief as a signal to Mrs. Sickles that all was clear. He then would leave the door ajar, for Mrs. Sickles to enter.

The last time Mrs. Sickles and Key had been at this house was on Wednesday the 23d ultimo. On that occasion they entered in the back way, through an alley-way leading from Sixteenth street.

On this Wednesday night there came along a man closely muffled in a shawl He asked a colored woman standing on the pavement whether the house was then occupied or not?

"Yes sir;" was the response.

"Very well, that's all I want," the mysterious gentleman replied, and turning around, walked away in the direction of K street.

He was observed, however to hang around the neighborhood for a good part of the evening. Eventually Key was seen to leave the dwelling, and the stranger muffling his face still closer, spoke a few words to Key and then hurried off. It is supposed by many that he was the author of the anonymous letter.

Mr. Sickles knew of no intimacy existing between Mr. Key and his wife. He supposed it simply an innocent but incautious flirtation, and, on account of the scandal that it excited in many circles, he remonstrated with her. She did not pay any heed to these entreaties of her husband, but continued uninterruptedly her singular, but (by her husband) unsuspected intercourse. Key was known to be in the habit of attending the theatre, opera, balls, soirees, and other places of gaiety and fashion, and was almost invariably accompanied by Mrs. Sickles. He, indeed, followed her everywhere.

It is said that Key was accustomed to boast of his attentions in this quarter, and that at the National Club House the criminal intercourse between himself and Mrs Sickles was well known, and formed the topic of conversation.

Mr. Sickles' dwelling was opposite the Club House, and Key was accustomed to go up stairs to a window in the latter building, overlooking Sickles' house, and hang out signals to Mrs Sickles He would also go in Lafayette square, wave his handkerchief at her, throw out kisses, and make profuse demonstrations of attachment.

Before the fatal denouement of this unhallowed intercourse, Key had been time and again warned by his friends that something dangerous wou'd grow from his criminal attachment. He was accustomed, however, to treat these friendly admonitions with an air of haughty bravado. He had been known to boast of his amours in society, and it is said that Mr. Buchanan, being informed of Mr. Key's character, had made out his dismissal, and was only waiting to select a successor, previous to sending in the document to the Senate, when Mr. Key met his death.

I visited Sickles to-night in the prison He appeared to be in good spirits, and has been visited during the day by many of his friends and Congressional colleagues. He positively refuses another examination and declares his determination to remain in prison till the day of trial. He asks no favors from the law.

A despatch was received to-day, from New York city, to the friends of Mr. Sickles, sympathizing with him in his sorrows. Public opinion in that city is said to sustain Mr. Sickles in his conduct.

Mr. Sickles' affection for his daughter weighs heavily upon him. He feels that his hopes are blasted, and that his home is broken up.

The mother of Mrs Sickles, (Mrs. Bagioli,) and the mother of Mr Sickles arrived in the city to night, Mrs. Bagioli will take charge of her daughter, while the mother of Mr. Sickles will take under her charge his daughter.

Public opinion is universally in favor of Mr Sickles. The counsel retained by him embrace the following-named gentlemen: Messrs. Bradley, Chilton, and Magruder. David Paul Brown, Esq., of your city, is not retained, as has been reported. The remains of Mr. Key will be taken to Frederick City, Md., for interment. This evening's train brought many friends of Mr. Sickles from New York. The greatest excitement still prevails.

C.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.

SENATE.

After the transacting of some unimportant business, Mr. Yulee, of Florida, from the Post Office Committee, reported adversely to a large number of memorials asking for new post routes.

Committees of conference were appointed to meet similar committees of the House on the legislative and executive, and consular and diplomatic appropriation bills.

Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, moved to take up the homestead bill, but the Senate refused by a vote of yeas 26, nays 29, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Bell, Bayard, Broderick, Cameron, Chandler, Clark, Dixon, Doolittle, Douglas, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Gwin, Hamlin, Harlan, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, King, Pugh, Rice, Seward, Shields, Simmons, Stuart, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Baker, Bayard, Bigler, Brighb, Brown, Chesnut, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Hammond, Hunton, Hunter, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Mallory, Mason, Pearce, Polk, Reid, Sebastian, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, Ward, Wright, and Yulee.

Mr. Houston, of Texas, made his parting speech on clothing his political career, reviewing and vindicating his Congressional course.

Mr. Houston said that he had been forty-six years in public life. He would leave posterity to determine how he had spoken it, and was content to stand on the foundation where it should place him. He embraced the occasion to refut the calumnies by which he was assailed, some of them secretly circulated by persons assisted, during the last session, by the Senator from Texas, the compilers of the Texas almanac, just laid on his desk and was severe on the Rev. Dr James H. Perry, of New York, and recently Bishop of San Jacinto. That person, who had joined the Texan revolutionists, had connected with an attempt to sell a free yellow girl in New Orleans. Mr. Houston said he had spoken of this in the Senate, and the Rev. Dr Perry had been, for the last twelve years, engaged in defaming his character, although it was owing to (Houston's) clemency that he was not executed in the communication with the enemy. Mr. Houston reviewed at considerable length his own military career, to defend it from the innuendoes which his enemies had recently revived and circulated. Mr Houston closed by saying that little was the last time that his voice would be heard in that chamber. With the gentlemen who had successively occupied the seats he had endeavored to cultivate friendly feelings. He knew their great abilities, and that they will exert them to give strength and stability to the Union. His prayer will be that light, knowledge, and patriotism, and that wisdom that under their influences and exertions peace and prosperity may be secured to the latest posterity.

On motion of Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, the Post Office appropriation bill was taken up. The first section appropriates for inland transportation of the mails, $12,633 000; compensation to postmasters, $4,375 000; postmasters' clerks, $200,000; ship, steamboat, and way-letters, $20 000; advertising, $70,000; mail bags, $50,000; printed blanks, $50 000; wrapping paper $10,000; mail locks, keys, seals, and furniture, $15 000; contingencies, $450,000; expenses, $1,250,000; miscellaneous payments, $200 000; postage stamps and stamped envelopes, $100,000; new edition of post office laws and regulations, $15,000

The second section appropriates for deficiencies of revenue in Post Office, for the year ending June 30th, 1859 $3 835 700.

Section three enacts that if the Post Office revenues shall be insufficient to defray the appropriations of section first, the deficiency at the expiration of each quarter of the fiscal year shall be paid from the Treasury.

The total amount appropriated is $19,500 000.

After much discussion, extending till nine o'clock, the third section was stricken out, and in lieu thereof was inserted a section providing that the sum of $3,000,000 be appropriated from the Treasury to meet deficiencies for the fiscal year commencing July 1st 1859, but that the Postmaster shall in no event expend or incur any liabilities whatever over the appropriations *for the current fiscal year. Adopted.*

10¼ o'clock P. M.—About six hours have now been spent in the discussion of the Post Office appropriation bill and its amendments. The debate has been uninteresting though much confusion prevailed throughout the proceedings

An additional section from the committee was adopted, instructing the Postmaster General to report, at the commencement of the next session of Congress, what post routes have not paid the half of their cost. Also, to report what loss of the Department, generally, the expenses may be reduced. Also, an amendment by Mr Broderick, providing that a lady of the California mail agent from $6 000 to $1 000

Mr Wilson, of Massachusetts, amended the bill, by cutting down most of the miscellaneous items, such as advertising, mail bags, wrapping paper, and post-office blanks—the total saving of over $80 000. In reference to the blanks, he said he was convinced of a case where Mr. Rice, editor of the *Pennsylvanian*, had a contract for printing blanks, for $40 000 which cost him just $5,000; the profits being divided—50 per cent. to the Washington *Union*, 5 per cent to Mr. Appleton, Secretary of State, and 3 per cent. to a paper published in the interest of a member of Congress.

Mr. Mason, of Virginia, said that if the facts were so, it is due to the Senate and to the country to lay the information before them.

Mr. Wilson reiterated the statement, and said that Mr. Rice himself had said so, and moreover, that the arrangement was with the cognizance of the President of the United States.

Mr Cammon said that the matter was so notorious that everybody, except perhaps the Senator from Virginia, must know all about it. Mr. Rice, until recently, was a creature of the President's; but recently they had a quarrel, and Mr. Rice went about blabbing all about it

Mr. Mason. Did Mr. Rice tell the Senator so?

Mr Cammon. The way to get this information is to appoint a committee of investigation, or sue one for slander, and that will bring the evidence. I am ready enough for all I say, here or elsewhere. Just bring here Billy Rice and the President They know all about it, and I think my colleague knows something about it, too.

Mr. Mason. Did Mr. Rice tell you so?

Mr. Cammon I do not speak to Mr. Rice.

Mr. Mason. Then, you bring here the rumor and hearsay of the country to make these grave charges of fraud.

Mr. Bigler, of Pennsylvania, said that whatever extravagance there might be in the printing of these blanks, he could say that the whole was executed in accordance with the law. The prices were fixed by law. Mr. Bigler then explained the details of the affair, and added that his colleague was scarcely justified in these imputations of the President.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, while considering the prices for printing these blanks too high, could not believe the imputation cast by the Senator from Pennsylvania on the President. No doubt that the Senator himself believed it, but he (Mr. Johnson) could not give it credence.

Mr. Cammon said that, to show his sincerity, he would move for a committee of inquiry.

Mr. Wilson's amendment was then adopted.

Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, proposed to add a clause to the bill increasing the rate of postage from three to five cents, for the reason, as he stated, that the post-routes bill, to which was added a similar provision, is an unimportant bill, which the House, if it is averse to raising the rate, would let fall to the ground; whereas they could not throw over this appropriation bill. Lost—yeas 19, nays 27.

Here, on motion of Mr. Green, the Senate adjourned—yeas 23, nays 17.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Reagan, of Texas, made a personal explanation relative to a dialogue between himself and Mr. Bryan, his colleague, involving a question of veracity. After the colloquy had been continued for some time this morning, Mr. Reagan asked whether Mr. Bryan intended to invite dishonorable proposals to him. If so, then they would know where they stand

Mr. Bryan, in reply, said, among other things, if his colleague was aggrieved, he knew where he could right the wrong. He should not shelter himself under any constitutional provision of his State. He was responsible here and elsewhere for what he said.

Mr. Reagan charged his colleague with having sought to place him in the light of not being a good Southern man; but he (Reagan) had always professed to be a national man, repudiating all sectional heresies and fanaticism, whether coming from the North or the South. He would ever resist all violations of the moral law or statute law, to build up political or sectional parties. He had once gone through the ordeal, and was ready again to meet the people of Texas on this issue.

[Much excitement prevailed in the House during this colloquy.]

The House took up the naval appropriation bill, and concurred in Mr Shannon's amendment reducing the appropriation of $3 100,000 for repairs, armament, equipment, and fuel for the steamers and hemp, to $1,950 000, to be expended as follows: $600 000 for hemp and other materials, and $1,000,000 for repairs, with the proviso that not more than $1,000 shall be expended at any navy yard, for repairs, unless the necessity for such repairs be demonstrated by the report of a board, consisting of not less than three naval officers. The vote on agreeing to this amendment was 122 yeas to 66 nays

An amendment reducing the appropriation of $1,102,000 for the ten navy yards to only $130,000, was concurred in by 68 majority

The bill was then passed.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, from the Committee of Ways and Means, asked leave to report a bill to revive for two years the act authorizing the issue of treasury notes.

Objections were made, and Mr. Phelps moved a suspension of the rules.

The motion to suspend the rules was negatived—yeas 93, nays 103.

Mr. Phelps of Missouri, moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the miscellaneous appropriation bill

Mr Hoyond, of Pennsylvania, inquired whether it would be in order to offer a tariff bill as an amendment to the appropriation bill

The Speaker replied that the chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union would have to determine that question, as it would come before him.

Mr. Phelps' motion was agreed to

Mr Washburne, of Wisconsin, moved to strike out the item of $250.000 for continuing the survey of the Atlantic and Gulf coast. After a debate the motion was rejected.

The House went into committee on the miscellaneous appropriation bill, and, up to 11 o'clock P. M., agreed upon about eight hours in unprofitable debate on various amendments.

Mr Reilly, of Pennsylvania offered an amendment, which was ruled out of order, reviving the tariff act of 1846.

At twenty minutes after eleven o'clock the committee rose, and reported the bill, with amendments, to the House.

Mr. George Taylor, of New York, from the committee appointed to investigate the accounts of the superintendent of public printing, made a report. They say that the books are so negligently and loosely kept that it is impossible to arrive at any definite knowledge of the business done in the office. The accounts, in some instances, appear balanced, when such is not the case; and considerable sums have been collected on the same under the direction of the present superintendent. The certificates is used for engraving and lithographing do not agree with the accounts kept by the parties who did the work. They exhibited their books, and swore they had been paid for all the work done; the books show the amounts received by them, yet it appears that certificates were issued to several parties for greater amounts than appears on their books. In one case the difference is $10,000; in another over 6,000—the difference being against the Government.

The paper accounts do not agree Several hundred reams are unaccounted for The committee say:

"In fact, there appears to have been a singular facility about the books and accounts connected with these matters. Few of them could be explained, and none entirely satisfactorily."

They unanimously report that the facts show conclusively that there existed a combination for the compelling all contractors to pay their way for contracts; that this was the general belief among contractors, and the payment for contracts, either in the way of a loan, commission, or per centage, was general.

The contractors found it necessary to employ certain agents at Washington to attend to their business, and pay them largely before they got work At a general thing, they say they did not know that Seaman was interested in the matter, but it was certain that they got no work until after they employed particular parties.

The contractors were all led or forced to employ the same agents, although they had no previous acquaintance with them. The paper contractors employed a public printer to act as their agent, for which they paid about three and a half per centum. The printer employed a clerk to do a little work at a yearly salary of $1,600, while the printer received profits ranging from $3 000 to $7 000 per annum Engravers and lithographers found it to their interest to employ the public printer to act as agent to look after their interests, and received the money to be paid

The committee report that they traced between $35 000 and $40 000 into his hands, and some $10 000 in cash, and about $20 000 there for the benefit of Seaman, which last sum was given by way of bonus, and is still remaining unpaid. A small portion was paid by contractors for a percentage.

The committee found two or three agreements to pay money direct for contracts, two in favor of Mr. Seaman, and one in favor of the printer, but found one indicating the largest sum by reason of the refusal of one of the paper contractors.

In a second case, the money was paid not to the printer, but to other parties not known to the witness as to the third contract for 20 per centum, on account of lithographing, the committee could not ascertain whether it was paid or not. The combination referred to existed for all contracts going through Mr. Seaman's office. The committee say the testimony in the case forced them to the conclusion, that some intimate and confidential relation existed between Mr. Seaman and the principal parties involved And they were not informed of the action and interests of each other from the House:

"Resolved, That A. D. Seaman, late superintendent of public printing, has been guilty of improper and illegal practices in the discharge of his official duty, and in violation of the provisions of the act, approved the 26th day of August, 1852, creating the office of superintendent and defining the duties thereof."

"Resolved, That the testimony in this case be certified to by the clerk of the House of Representatives, and sent to the District Attorney for the District of Columbia."

Adjourned.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 28, 1859.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 3 P. M

The Speaker presented the annual reports of the House of Refuge and Northern Home for Friendless Children.

Mr Finney introduced a bill relative to sales of real estate by order of the Orphans' Courts. The bill was taken up and passed.

Mr. Schofield, a bill relative to publishing the opinion of the Supreme Court in certain cases.

Mr. Turney, one relative to challenging jurors in civil cases.

The following bills were passed:

To incorporate the Fort Kennedy Railroad of Montgomery county

To reduce the number of directors of the American Mutual Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

After passing a number of private bills the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7 P. M.

It being petition day, a large number were presented.

Messrs. Evans and Harding presented remonstrances against the passage of the supplement to the German Town Passenger Railway.

Messrs. Neall, Thorn, and Smith presented remonstrances against the Green and Coates-street supplement.

Mr. Hamersley presented remonstrances from citizens residing in the Seventh and Eighth precincts of the Twenty-first ward, against a change in the manner of electing Overseers of the Poor in said precincts.

Messrs. Thorn and Harding, petitions for a law preventing negroes from coming into the State

Mr. Church, from the Committee on Corporations, reported a bill, as committed, supplementary to the act consolidating the city of Philadelphia.

This bill empowers the Receiver of Taxes to refund certain money.

A large number of bills were read in place.

The House reconsidered the resolution to adjourn *sine die* on the 15th of March, and whilst the resolution was again pending an adjournment was had.

A General Cullom's Case.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28—The select committee, appointed at the last session to examine the accounts and conduct of Gen. Cullom, former clerk of the House, acquitted him of any corruption or dishonesty in the discharge of his duties They have reported the facts connected with every charge, which, on examination, was found worthy of attention. In one instance, the committee thought that more care might have been exercised, but this amounted to no more than a failure to correct pre-existing abuses.

The Steamer Black Warrior.

NEW YORK, Feb 24.—The steamer Black Warrior still lies in an exposed situation, and will go to pieces A large quantity of her cargo was brought ashore, yesterday, at Rockaway.

The boiler attached to the steam pumps on board the steamer exploded yesterday, demolishing the upper deck and seriously injuring the engineer.

From Havana.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 28 —The steamship Isabel, from Havana, has arrived. Her advices have been anticipated by previous arrivals at New York.

The Black Warrior.

NEW YORK, Feb 28 —The steamship Black Warrior is reported to have gone to pieces.

Burning of the Utica Theatre.

UTICA, N. Y., Feb 28 —The theatre was destroyed by fire last night, involving a loss of $18,000.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK Feb 28 —The Bank Statement for the week ending Saturday exhibits:

A decrease in Loans	$1,610,000
" Circulation	10,000
" Net deposits	820,000
An increase in specie	125,000

Markets by Telegraph.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 28.—Cotton—Sales of 3,700 bales on Saturday; the previous advance in prices was maintained

SAVANNAH, Feb 28.—Cotton quiet but steady; 550 bales sold.

MOBILE, Feb 28.—Friday's Market—Sales of 2,000 bales at 10⅞ for middlings. Sales of the week, 14,000 bales. Receipts 19 000 bales, against 22 500 bales received the corresponding week last year. Receipts thus far ahead of last 103,000 Stock in port 150,000

Saturday's Market —Sales of 7,000 bales at 10⅞ cents There is a better feeling in the market

BALTIMORE, Feb 28.—Flour unchanged —Wheat firm at $1 40@1.50 for white. Corn buoyant at 70@78c for white and yellow. Provisions dull. Whiskey unchanged. Coffee firm at 11¼c for Rio

CINCINNATI, Feb. 28 —*Flour* buoyant—there is an active speculative demand; sales of 2 000 bbls to-day at $5 60@5 70. Whiskey is firm at 25½c Provisions quiet; Bacon—sales of 100,000 lbs of sides at 8¼ @9¼c

CHARLESTON, Feb. 28.—Sales of 1,600 bales to-day at unchanged prices.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 28.—Cotton unchanged; sales of 1 350 bales.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 28 —Cotton firm and advancing.

BURNING OF THE STEAMER "PRINCESS."

Two Hundred Persons Lost or Missing.

A LARGE NUMBER OF LADIES PASSENGERS.

Names of Some of the Killed.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 28.—The steamer Princess, from Vicksburg, for New Orleans, exploded her boiler, and was burned to the water's edge, on Sunday morning, at Conrad's Point, near Baton Rouge.

Four hundred passengers were aboard, of which number about two hundred were either lost or are missing.

The passengers were mostly residents of Louisiana and Mississippi.

There were a large number of ladies aboard, filling the ladies' and hall of the gentlemen's cabin.

THE LOST.

Among the killed are—

J. W. Seymour, of Baton Rouge.

—— Calhoun, of Mayville, Ky.

H. B. Murphy, St Louis

J. J. Hodges, of Mississippi.

The pilot of the "Princess."

The assistant engineer of the "Princess," and three persons whose names are unknown.

MISSING.

Charles Baumister and L. Howard