The Press.

PHILADELPHIA:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1859.

FIRST PAGE—Rates of Postage; Lecture by Rev. A. A. Willits; Dry Goods Announcement; Letter from New York; General News; Arrival of the City of Baltimore; The City. FOURTH PAGE—The Courts; Ship News.

The News.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, Mr. Shields presented the credentials of Stephen A. Douglas, re-elected for six years from the 4th of March last, from Illinois. Mr. Polk presented the credentials of Willard Saulsbury, Senator-elect from the State of Delaware, to succeed Mr. Bates, resigned. The Post Office appropriation bill being taken up, Mr. Yulee moved to amend by inserting a clause to abolish the franking privilege, and a clause to reduce the rates of postage, being the same clause that was inserted in the post-route bill, the object being to have two chances of getting the clause through the House. The amendment was agreed to—yeas 29, nays 28. On motion of Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, it was agreed that the post-office advertising shall be confined to two newspapers of the largest circulation in each State. A debate sprung up on the route of the Butterfield California Mail Company, during which it was stated that every letter by the overland route costs from thirty-five to sixty dollars. Several amendments were made to the Butterfield contract. The section relating to the rates of postage and abolishing the franking privilege was adopted.

In the House, the miscellaneous appropriation bill was passed, with the Senate's amendments. The mail steam appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and, after considerable debate, the committee rose, and the bill was tabled by the House. After some business of a miscellaneous nature, the House adjourned.

Mr. Butterworth has published a minute statement so far as he is connected with the late tragedy, in which he says that when he left Mr. Sickles' house he had no thought of meeting or seeing Mr. Key, his object being to see a Mr. Stewart. He had no arms with him, and did not know that Sickles intended to take arms. He (Sickles) left the house after Mr. Butterworth, and had drawn a revolver when Mr. Key called toward the door of the house. When Mr. Key stated Mr. Butterworth, the latter did not know that Mr. Sickles was approaching, nor did he see him until he turned to leave Key. It is not true that he sought or detained Key, who first addressed Butterworth. Hon. R. J. Walker appends a statement confirmatory of Mr. Butterworth's narrative.

Mr. Smith O'Brien met with a grand reception in Baltimore on Monday evening. He arrived in Washington yesterday, and was on the floor of the Senate during the debate last evening, receiving many marks of attention from the members.

The New Orleans *Picayune* endorses the statement of a correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican*, that Cuba is a poor place for a consumptive patient. The climate is too debilitating and the comforts too few for invalids of that class.

The City of Baltimore steamship arrived at New York yesterday morning, with four days later news than already received. A debate occurred in the House of Lords on the right of search question, and the hope was expressed that the code of instructions which had been agreed upon between France and England, and which had been submitted to the United States for approval, would prove satisfactory in suppressing the slave trade. The British Government had refused to grant the assistance asked for by the Atlantic Telegraph Company.

On Monday afternoon, as the train from Newark had stopped at Hackensack Bridge to allow the train from New York to pass, two boys on a colored lad were discovered on the roof of one of the cars. The brakeman told them to come down, when both of the boys jumped off on the other track. Just at that instant the New York train came swinging by, and both of the boys were caught by the cowcatcher and thrown about 150 feet. They were taken on the train, and before arriving at Jersey City, the white boy died. The colored lad was sent to the New York Hospital.

By the burning of the Utica theatre, (announced in yesterday's PRESS,) Mr. Zavistowski, formerly of the Arch-street theatre, lost all his theatrical property, costumes, &c., valued at $1,500. The last performance given there was on Saturday night last, by the Zavistowski ballet troupe.

A London newspaper item has it that Mr. T. C. Evans is in that city just from New York, with a purpose of escorting Dickens to the United States, and Mr. Arthur Smith will accompany him. Mr. Albert Smith says that it is just possible Dickens may soon become the lessee of a theatre in the Strand.

The number of the diplomatic circle in Washington is about to be increased by a new *attache* to the Russian legation, in the person of a Prince Ouroussoff. As his ancestors have held once sovereignty in Tartary, it may be said that he is a genuine article, and not a creation by parchment. Let us say, for the sake of beauty, fashion, &c., of our political metropolis, that the new comer is young, elegant, and wealthy.

A young man, named Orlando Parsons, formerly a clerk in the New York post office, committed suicide yesterday, in Baltimore, on account of disappointment in failing to receive a clerkship in the State Department at Washington.

The Pennsylvania Bank Building was disposed of at auction, last evening, by Messrs. Thomas & Sons, for the sum of $163,100. The Philadelphia Bank was the purchaser.

The Washington *Star*, of last evening, gives the following particulars of the funeral ceremonies of the late unfortunate Philip Barton Key:

The funeral of Philip Barton Key took place at 2 o'clock P. M., from the late residence of the deceased, on Capitol Hill, nearly opposite Col. Benton's house. In the parlor, the corpse, which had been placed in the coffin, was exposed to the view of the numerous friends who desired to behold in death him whom they had loved during life.

The coffin was of mahogany, covered with black cloth, and heavily silver mounted. In it lay the body in full dress, viz: black cloth coat and pants, white vest, and white kid gloves. In the hands was placed a bouquet of fragrant flowers, and inside the coffin were strewed japonicas, geranium leaves, and other exotics. On the coffin lid was a silver plate, bearing the following inscription: "Philip Barton Key, died February 27th, 1859, aged 39 years."

The features of the deceased wore so *life*-like an expression as to make it difficult for the spectator to realize that that once noble form lay in the sepulchre. At six o'clock P. M. the members of the bar and the officers of the court met at the City Hall, and proceeded in a body to the house of the deceased, where the last rites were soon to be pronounced over the inanimate form of their friend and companion. At two o'clock P. M. a large number of the citizens had assembled in front of the house of Mr. Key's house. The doors were thrown open for the admission of such as could obtain places inside, and shortly afterwards the funeral service of the Episcopal Church was read over the remains by Rev. Dr. Pinckney and Butler.

The coffin was then placed in the hearse, and, followed by a large concourse of people, was conveyed to the railroad depot for transmission to Baltimore city, accompanied by the pall-bearers and other intimate friends of the deceased.

The pall-bearers were Messrs. M. Claxton, Esq., Chas. Lee Jones, Esq., Richard Wallach, Esq., W. D. Davidge, Esq., A. B. Upshur, Esq., Jos. H. Bradley, sen., Esq., P. R. Fendall, Esq., Richard H. Weightman, Esq. They accompany the corpse to Baltimore. The body was taken to the cars to go by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to Baltimore, where it is to be placed by the side of his wife and child.

Foreign News by "City of Baltimore."—By the steamship *City of Baltimore*, which left Liverpool on the 16th of February, and arrived at New York yesterday, we have four days later news.

The Foreign Secretary of England (Earl of MALMESBURY) had announced, in the House of Lords, that England "had exercised a wise discretion in giving up the Right of Search," and that a code of instructions had been agreed to by England and France, and had been submitted to the United States for approval, which would be found to work satisfactorily in suppressing the Slave Trade. Lord DERBY expressed his belief that this would prevent future complications with this country. He said, "that the British Government only maintained that which nobody could deny, that England, or any other country, had no right to board and visit the ship of any other nation; but they also maintained that which was no less undeniable, that England had a right, and a well-founded right, to ascertain the nationality and character of any vessel which there was cause to suspect."

The Reform Bill was to be introduced, into the House of Commons, by Mr. DISRAELI, on the 28th ult. The British Government declined granting unconditional guarantees (which means promising payment) to the Atlantic Telegraph, or any other submarine telegraph company. Mr. SALOMONS had been elected M. P. for the borough of Greenwich, being the second Jewish member of Parliament, under the new law.

The general impression that an European war is inevitable seemed to be diminished. Very active preparations, as if for war, it is supposed, to mask something, also, that the King of Sardinia was about marrying the Emperor of Russia's sister. The idea prevailed that if there be a war, France, Sardinia, and Russia will combined against Austria, on Austria's refusal to the British Ministry consent to rely on NAPOLEON's "loyalty," and his oft-repeated declaration, "The Empire is Peace." Meanwhile, it is evident that Austria is terribly alarmed, and that Austrian Italy enterprising Milanese begin to think something will turn up."

Smith O'Brien and Richard Cobden. Two distinguished foreigners arrived in this country, a few days ago, each with the avowed purpose of travelling through it, and making personal observation of its people, with their institutions, habits, and prospects. These are WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN, who was leader of the "Young Ireland" party, in 1848; who was transported for life to a remote penal colony; and finally, after several years of hard *duresse*, was rehabilitated as a British subject, with entire restoration to whatever rights he possessed previous to his conviction. Mr. O'BRIEN threw himself into the Repeal movement, during the life of O'CONNELL, with an earnestness and enthusiasm which must have surprised that temporising leader. The result was that, deeply committed as he was to the National party in Ireland, he did not care to desert his friends when they determined to make a strong effort for Irish independence. His friends were honest men, we firmly believe, but lacked discretion. They essayed to shake off the British yoke, without arms, numbers, money to give the attempt the slightest chance of success. The result was a failure. We dare say that, in his thoughtful moments, Mr. O'BRIEN has sadly smiled at the reflection of the inadequacy of the means to the end. He is restored to his country, still in the prime of life, (we take his age to be about fifty-four,) and has a career of great utility before him, should he desire again to enter into the arena of public life. He has been solicited, by various constituencies, to resume his seat in the House of Commons, but has hitherto declined. There is no body of electors in Ireland, we are sure, that would not joyfully and readily take SMITH O'BRIEN as their Parliamentary representative, if he intimated a desire to that effect. As he holds the pen of a ready writer, and is a thoughtful, observant, highly-educated man, it is not improbable that he may one day publish Impressions of America. Respecting Mr. O'BRIEN himself, the best account of his career and the ability as well as fairest estimate of his character, is to be found in a volume published some three years ago, entitled "Ninety-eight and Forty-eight," and written by Mr. JOHN SAVAGE, now of Washington.

If SMITH O'BRIEN be a representative man, assuredly RICHARD CORDEN, the founder or father of Free Trade, is not less so. One is intensely Irish, claiming descent from the ancient Kings of the green Island, who ruled, and fought, and died, a thousand years ago. The other is proud, as CORBETT was, of having come out from among the People, without any aid but a clear head, a strong mind, and an honest ambition. The son of a Sussex yeoman, RICHARD CORDEN takes rank, at this moment, among the ablest of British statesmen and politicians. We are in doubt whether he is not a greater man than JOHN BRIGHT, who is now engrossing so much attention by his bold attempt to leaven the aristocratic House of Commons by infusing a very large portion of Democracy into its constitution.

Nearly quarter of a century has elapsed since Mr. CORDEN, then known only as an industrious and shrewd "Manchester man," paid a business visit to the United States. The results of his observation he communicated to the world in two pamphlets—one called "England, Ireland, and America," and the other entitled "Russia." At once, attention was directed to him, and he eventually succeeded in gaining a seat in Parliament, avowedly to assert and vindicate the principles of the National Anti Corn Law League, in the establishment of which, not long before, he had powerfully assisted. He agitated so successfully, in and out of Parliament, that in two years from his first election, the Act for repealing the duties on the importation of Foreign Corn was made the law of the land. This was on the 26th June, 1846. Three days later, Sir ROBERT PEEL, who had carried Free Trade contrary to the wishes of his own party, was turned out of office by their coalition with his opponents, and his last words as Premier were in graceful acknowledgment of the zeal, ability, honesty, and eloquence of Mr. CORDEN, the champion of cheap food. Immediately after, Mr. CORDEN received a testimonial of public gratitude, in the tangible form of a gift of £70,000. He was elected to represent the West Riding of Yorkshire, but lost his seat in 1857, his constituents repudiating him for having condemned the war policy of Lord PALMERSTON's Administration. Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, and some others, were also rejected—but have since resumed their legislative functions. Mr. CORDEN alone, of that small phalanx, has steadfastly declined re-entering Parliament, though repeatedly invited to allow himself to be named as candidate. He warmly sympathises with the present Reform movement, of which his friend Mr. BRIGHT is leader, and is understood to be most anxious to observe, in this country, how the Ballot works. He has advocated its introduction at Parliamentary elections in England. He is one of the best public speakers among English politicians. His age is 54, and though his health is not robust, his extremely temperate habits have enabled him to go through an infinite amount of mental and bodily labor.

We suspect that Mr. CORDEN will find reason, in this country, to doubt the truth of his life-long conviction that Free Trade is *the* panacea, in all places, for commercial difficulties. England, an old nation, could bear the experiment, and has not apparently been injured by it. America is a new nation, and it is actual ruin to her productive industry to depress it by placing its results in competition with foreign manufactures, made by under-fed and under-paid hands. England, crowded with excessive population, can obtain labor at less than half the price which it wins in this country. Free Trade may answer in England, but American manufactures, to prevent their being undersold by foreign competition, require Protection. This is a conclusion, we doubt not, at which Mr. CORDEN's good sense will arrive, after he traverses the State of Pennsylvania, and marks the busy industry of this city.

We heartily hope that O'BRIEN and CORDEN will each make a book out of their American tour. If Mr. CORDEN will compare the United States, as seen by him in 1834, with the same country at the present time, he will astonish the world on the other side of the Atlantic—which world, by the way, knows almost as little of our *real* condition as it does of the condition of China.

The Board of Guardians of the Poor. The bill introduced into the State Senate by Mr. RANDALL, some time since, which provides for the abolition of the present Board of Guardians of the Poor, and for the appointment of a new board by Councils, the judges of the various courts, &c., appears to be still stifled in a committee of the House, notwithstanding its unobjectionable character and the strong feeling manifested in its favor by the citizens of Philadelphia. Its unanimous passage by the Senate, after a free discussion, is a *strong proof of its merit*. If the representatives of the "People's Party," at Harrisburg, are animated by a desire to render their organization odious in the eyes of our citizens, they cannot devise a better method of doing so than by shielding the present Board from the indignation which has been excited by the exposure of some of its nefarious transactions.

A GREAT HOSIERY HOUSE.—It may not be generally known to the trade at large, but it is a fact worthy of Philadelphians "making a note on," that the largest *exclusive* hosiery business done by any one firm in this country, is done by Messrs. H. Dubring & Co., in this city. Their extensive establishment, at Nos. 26 and 28 North Fourth street, is a perfect hosiery museum, as may be imagined from the fact that they have, (as we have taken pains to see for ourselves,) *first*, every size of stocking for men, women, and children, that any possible contingency could require; *secondly*, they have this immense scope of varieties, in every grade, quality, and texture that the *manufacturers of this country, England, and Germany* are capable of producing; and, *lastly*, they have all these in gradations of *fineness* of their respective materials, ranging from the lowest prices to the most expensive qualities. An immense hosiery house it is, and we are glad to find that their enterprise in this department is being acknowledged in a substantial way.

Richard Randolph, a cousin of John Randolph, of Roanoke, died in Miami township, Ohio, on the 21st of January. The deceased, who was as eccentric as his more celebrated cousin, was an old bachelor, and had resided on the Randolph tract, Ohio, for twenty-five years. He leaves a property, mostly in land, valued at $80,000, to be expended in the purchase and freedom of the slaves now owned in the Randolph family, and those, with their offspring, formerly owned by the Randolph family, which slaves are to be set free; and if the estate is not exhausted in this purchase, the balance to be applied to the use and benefit of said slaves.

Rev. Wm. H. Milburn's Lecture on Alexander Hamilton.

Though not the most numerous, we may say that one of the most select and appreciative audiences attracted by any lecture-board effort during the present season, was assembled at Jayne's Hall last evening, to hear the Rev. Wm. H. Milburn deliver his celebrated lecture on the "Life and Character of Alexander Hamilton." At the appointed hour the lecturer appeared upon the platform, accompanied by Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie, who, in a few expressive remarks, gracefully introduced Mr. Milburn to the audience.

The lecture opened with a brief allusion to the accident which, nearly thirty years ago, deprived him of sight, and we are quite sure that those who had the pleasure of hearing his eloquent discourse on this occasion, pregnant with information as it was throughout, could not but have looked upon the man who, "with knowledge at one entrance quite shut out," could thus hold them spellbound with his magic eloquence, as for nearly two hours he poured forth, in philosophic detail, the life of one of America's most distinguished heroes.

In 1774, the speaker said, an immense concourse of people had been gathered in what was now the Park, in the city of New York; the people were excited; the doings of Parliament were the occasion of it. There it was that the youthful Hamilton had entered into the discussion of the hour, which won for him the respect and admiration of all who heard him.

In this part of the lecture, the speaker was evidently preparing, with a master's hand, the canvas upon which the portrait of Hamilton was to be sketched—we may say, indeed, elaborately delineated.

He was a West Indian by birth, half Scotch and half French. From his birth, he followed him, in rapid flight, through his youth and the incidents attending his education.

The Declaration of Independence had been announced on the same day that Lord Howe landed on Long Island, and events of great moment began to follow each other in quick succession. The military career of Hamilton was here introduced, and graphically followed through all the events of the Revolution in which his life was interwoven. The central figure of that great struggle we all know had been George Washington. He was the pivot on which the Revolution turned; twice he had been elevated to the position of virtual dictator of the land; but a great difficulty he then had to encounter was the growing disaffection of the people. Then it was that Washington had called around him advisers, and prominent among these had been Alexander Hamilton. The intimacy and friendship existing between his subject and his chieftain, however, had ultimately reached a crisis. At this point the lecturer narrated, with renewed interest, the interview between Washington and Hamilton on the stairs, when Washington had used the hasty expression, "Col. Hamilton, I must tell you frankly, I think you treat me badly; you have kept me waiting here these ten minutes." The lecturer's version of this affair, or at least his construction of it, was at once judicious, liberal, and philosophical. By this unexpected misunderstanding, it was said that Hamilton had attained an independent position, which he had long desired. The shrewd, but honest, military course of Hamilton, subsequently, which had so effectually eluded the expectations of General Clinton, was next set forth with much oratorical skill, and the part he had borne in that glorious conflict commented upon, which had resulted in sending as rapidly as those non-telegraphic days would admit of, the news throughout the length and breadth of our land that "Cornwallis was taken."

Hamilton married the daughter of General Philip Schuyler, of Albany, New York. His great acquisition of legal erudition, prosecuted as his studies had been, under so many disadvantages, was dwelt upon as extraordinary. Quite below the middle height, his silvery voice and noble mien had fully compensated for this want.

The great financier of the Revolution, Robert Morris, here came in for a just tribute, which was heartily responded to by the audience.

Hamilton's assiduity in devising schemes for the benefit of the nation, many of which had been of the most important character, was enlarged upon. Passing on a few years, he decired his audience to accompany him to one of the most noble of human assemblages, in what in this country might be truly termed the temple of liberty, within a square or two of where he was then speaking. Speaking of the part acted by Hamilton in that august company, he felt that he was risking nothing in saying that the foremost statesman of them all, in that Convention for forming our National Constitution, was Alexander Hamilton. The parts taken in those deliberations by this patriot statesman were severally glanced at. Three weeks that body had been in session, when, on the 6th of June, he delivered a speech of six hours length, which Gouverneur Morris, who had heard many speeches, pronounced the finest he had ever heard. The power and influence of this eloquent effort was well known to the world. At last, in September, the Constitution was formed; yet, in the shape presented, it was not *entirely* acceptable to a large number. Subsequently, nine States ratified it, and thus sanctioned it as the fundamental law of the nation. New York State, however, had stood out with steadfast opposition against its adoption, and thus, for the time being, threw a barrier in the way of the desired national unanimity; and here, again, Hamilton's efforts in influencing New York to accept had been distinctly signalized.

With the full consciousness of the want of interest which the mere details of Hamilton's course as head of one of the departments—that of the Treasury—he could not but remind his hearers of the unparalleled depressed financial condition of the country when he entered office. His statesmanship manifested in this position was truly remarkable. In the language of the immortal Webster, "He smote the rock of our national resources, and streams of revenue gushed forth."

He next took up the life of his subject as politician and lawyer. He had been a politician in its *true* and most respectable sense, and a lawyer utterly devoid of the pettifogging proclivities that so generally characterize the profession now.

Approaching the close of his theme, the speaker said that, for thirty years, Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr had been virtual competitors. While, however, Burr on the one hand had been gradually sliding into insignificance and oblivion, Hamilton had stood unmoved in all the magnificent and symmetrical proportions of his patriotic principles. He next followed these two rivals through scenes and events which had successively resulted in the victory of Hamilton and the defeat of Burr, which had so maddened the latter that he at length turned around, and with cold-blooded deliberateness determined upon blood revenge, and, accordingly, was not long in finding a sufficient pretext upon which to found a challenge, which challenge, after some slight remonstrance, was accepted. He must either do this or be disgraced; such was the then military sentiment of the country.

An eloquent episode upon that God-defying code of honor, which still, in the face of Jehovah's decree to be his own avenger, found advocates in our midst, was here introduced.

But the circumstances which shrouded this collision seemed—so thought the speaker—to be such as to render the duel inevitable. The fatal hour arrived, and the sad, sad result of it was well known to us all. He fell a victim to the deliberate malice and revenge of a life-long and unworthy rival.

In his dying hour he had contritely received the sacrament at the hands of Bishop Moore, and expired with the words "*Grace, rich grace!*" on his lips. The nation was in a state of mourning, only second to that which marked the death of the Father of his Country. He died in the forty-seventh year of his age.

The lecturer's conclusion was a fair, though not fulsome tribute, to the private life of Hamilton. As writer, as orator, as arbiter, as adviser, he stood second only to the Washington. Talleyrand had paid to Hamilton the compliment of admitting to a friend of the lecturer, that of the men of mark he had ever seen, of Europe and America—and he had seen most of them—he considered Alexander Hamilton the very foremost of them all.

Notwithstanding the protracted length of the lecture—so necessarily—the most profound attention was elicited to its close. After the lecture, Mr. Milburn was surrounded with a host of friends and admirers to greet him with a personal welcome and extend him their congratulations.

AUCTION NOTICE.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, sells this morning, commencing at 10 o'clock, 800 lots new and desirable goods, viz: Embroideries, white goods, linen cambric handkerchiefs, mitts, veils, ribbons, fringes, laces, bonnets, parasols, jewelry, &c., to which the particular attention of the trade is invited.

HEAVY SALES OF REAL ESTATE, &c.—Messrs. Thomas & Sons sold yesterday, at twelve o'clock M., the property of the Dauphin and Susquehanna Coal Company for $370,000, subject to a mortgage of $97,000, with interest, being equal to about *four hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars*. Their auction last evening, at the Exchange, amounted to over $290,000.

THE valuable residence of the late Dr. Mitchell, at the southwest corner of Walnut and Eleventh streets, together with a number of other desirable properties, will be sold at public auction, by Messrs. Gummey & Sons, on Thursday evening, at the Philadelphia Exchange.

ROBBERY.—The felt hat manufactory of J. E. Stiness & Co., at No. 104 Elfreth's alley, was entered on Monday night through a hole made in the wall between the factory and an old building in the corner of Front street. The thieves carried away about four hundred felt hats in different stages of manufacture. The value of the property stolen is estimated at $400.

SENT BELOW.—A woman, named Mary Sonner, was before Alderman Patel el, yesterday morning, on the charge of passing a counterfeit three-dollar note, purporting to have been issued by the Jersey City Bank, at a dry-goods store in Tenth street above Spruce. She was committed to answer at court.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1859.

Besides the telegraphic despatch which I sent you last evening, embracing, as it did, all the matters of interest in connection with the recent tragedy, up to the hour of 12 o'clock M., I have learned the following additional facts, which, notwithstanding the many contradictory statements circulated, may be relied upon.

I visited the prison where Mr. Sickles is confined, this morning, about 11½ o'clock, and found him engaged in conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Bagioli, the parents of Mrs. Sickles, and Mr. Charles K. Graham, engineer in the Brooklyn navy yard, a particular friend of Mr. Sickles. The conversation lasted some thirty minutes, and, judging from the broken sobs escaping the room, must have been of a most affecting character. Presently Mr. and Mrs. Bagioli emerged from the room in which Mr. Sickles for the present is confined, until a cell can be properly fitted up for him. She is a fine-looking woman, rather well advanced in years, and was leaning on the arm of Mr. Graham, and sobbing in a most violent manner. Mr. Bagioli appeared to be more composed, although apparently quite affected. The party stepped into a carriage outside the prison, and rapidly drove off. What the particulars of this conversation may have been, I did not learn. It must certainly have been heart-rending in the extreme, and the effect was visible in Mr. Sickles, he being unable to control his feelings for some time after the party had left the prison. It was, indeed, a sad sight, and one long to be impressed upon my memory.

Quite a number of the friends of Mr. Sickles have visited the prison this morning, many of whom are from New York city. A certain selected few are admitted to his room—those connected by family ties, and those of relationship. Many, however, as it should be, are unable to gain admission, but cards are left at the prison gate to an alarming extent. I do not know that I ever saw such a feeling of friendship existing upon the part of acquaintances and strangers towards an individual placed in the circumstances of Mr Sickles; and while all lament the unfortunate occurrence of this transaction, still, at the same time, the feeling of sympathy is most intense. This fact may be taken as the reason why Mr. Sickles is enabled to bear under this heavy affliction without evincing any of those emotions incident to individuals in his position.

While I was at the prison this morning, a gentleman, carrying a portfolio under his arm, entered, and introduced himself to the jailor as one of Frank Leslie's artists, who had come for the purpose of making drawings of the prison-room in which Mr. Sickles is confined, &c.

President Buchanan has this morning appointed Robert Ould, Esq., of Georgetown, United States District Attorney to fill the position rendered vacant by the decease of Mr. Key. Mr. Ould was a candidate for this office at the time of the reappointment of Mr. Key by Mr. Buchanan.

At the present time there is confined at this prison Hillary Hutchins, who is awaiting his trial at the present session of the Criminal Court for the murder of the young man, John Ennis, which took place in Georgetown a short time since. This case will, according to the manner in which trials are conducted in this city, consume some three or four weeks, and unless the case of Mr. Sickles should take precedence with the other business on the prison docket, quite a long incarceration is before him. However, the best of treatment is given him, and he is rendered as comfortable as possible.

A rumor has been in circulation all the morning that Mr. Butterworth had been arrested on the supposition that he was an accessory to the matter of the shooting, and as a looker-on without interference to prevent the same. This was the supposition which would have warranted the arrest; but on inquiry my belief is positively confirmed that such is not as yet the case. A statement, however, has been prepared by Mr. Butterworth, explanatory of his conduct in the premises.

CIC.

Aid to the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association.

[From the Daily Examiner of Feb. 16th.]

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri.

In the House, yesterday, on motion of Mr. King, of St. Charles, the Senate bill appropriating $2,000 to the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association, as a tribute from the people of Missouri towards purchasing the home and grave of Washington, was called up, and, after some little debate, was passed, all the members of the House who were present voting in the affirmative, except the following named gentlemen: Messrs. Boyd Davis of Buchanan, Edwards, Ellis, Enloe, Lenox, Moore, Roberts of De Kalb, Shields, York, Wallman, Walker of Cape Girardeau, Welch, and Wormack.

So the appropriation of $2,000 by the State of Missouri to this noble object only wants the signature of the Governor to become a law. How many of our sister States will follow our patriotic example?

Letter from New York.

THE TRAGEDY AT WASHINGTON—MR. CORDEN—MR WM C RIVES'S FORTHCOMING LIFE OF MADISON—MR. DICKENS—MR. SPURGEON TO BE HERE THIS MONTH—THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL—LIBERALITY OF THE METHODISTS—MR. AND MRS. BARNEY WILLIAMS—THE FRENCH THEATRE.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, March 1 1859.

The sad tragedy at Washington forms the topic of general conversation. Public opinion seems to incline in favor of Mr Sickles, though, of course, many persons who are personally and politically inimical to him, and whose interests would be subserved by his being out of the way, are quite loud in their denunciation. One point of the city may be taken to indicate, pretty fairly, the tone of popular feeling

The Hon. Richard Cobden is among the guests at the Brevoort House.

The Hon Wm. C. Rives, who was in Boston on the 22d ult, and took some part in the public ceremonials of the day, has concluded an arrangement with Little, Brown, & Co, for the publication of his Life of Madison. The first of the three volumes of which it is to be composed is now in the hands of the compositors. It will be issued with that typographical elegance for which those publishers are eminent.

Nothing is known, publicly, of the progress "Mr. T. C. Evans, of New York, is making in his negotiations with Mr. Dickens for a lecturing visit to this country. People profess to be well up in such matters say Dickens cannot afford to come, as he is doing as well in England as he could possibly do in this country—probably better. It is understood he has already netted over $50,000 by the "readings."

How the Methodists do open their pocket-books when the preachers make a sortie for the missionaries! Last Sunday evening, at the close of the annual missionary services in St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, the congregation contributed *ten thousand dollars* to the missionary cause, in addition to a recent contribution of $3,600. The followers of Wesley, in New York, are amongst the most wealthy and influential portion of the community, and they are behind none in liberality.

Mr. Spurgeon *is* to come. No mistake. An acquaintance of one of the editors of the *Journal of Commerce* was told by Mr. S. on New Year's day, in London, that he intended to visit the United States in March.

Our State Normal School, established fifteen years ago, "for the instruction of teachers of common schools in the science of education and the art of teaching," had two hundred and ninety-two pupils during the past year.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, who during their professional tour in England have been bagging five thousand dollars a month, come home in September.

The French theatre opens on Tuesday next, the company having arrived in the Fulton. The auditorium has been arranged very elegantly, with a large number of private boxes, and every adjunct for comfort and sociability. It is already looked forward to as one of the pleasantest places of public entertainment.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, March 1, 1859.

Mr. Evans read in place "An act to incorporate the Northern Market Company." Corporators—Ferdinand Geisler, Jacob Lentz, John Major, Wm Geisler, Warren W. Wilbur, C. B. Andress, Henry Mather, James M. Gibson, Frances McVlamp, Hugh Barr, John Loudenberger, John Zall, Peter Smith, James Price, and others. Capital stock not to exceed $100,000—8 000 shares—with power to borrow $200 000, to secure which bonds are to be issued of $100 each, bearing 7 per cent. interest.

Mr. Hamersley, "An act to incorporate the Belle Isle Salt Manufacturing Company." Corporators—Samuel Grant, Jr., Charles M. Jackson, Samuel L. Ward, James S. Pringle, Edwin Smith, E. Freeman Prentiss, George C. Barber, James Winter, and Daniel B. Coleman. Object—the manufacture of salt at West Cowes, or other parts of the British West Indies, and the sale and disposal of the same at the place of manufacture, or elsewhere. Capital stock, $100,000.

Mr. Thorn, "An act supplementary to an act incorporating the Six-penny Saving Fund of Philadelphia," which confers upon that corporation all the rights and privileges granted to the "Philadelphia" and "Western" Saving Funds.

Mr Yardley, in the Senate, "A further supplement to the act incorporating the Trenton City Bridge Company" John Kirkbride, Mahlon Kirkbride, James H. Farrand, John Handrickson, David Taylor, Elisha Reeves, and Mahlon Moon, of Pennsylvania, and Thomas J. Stryker, John L. Taylor, Wm. A. West Thomas R. Johnston, Barker Gummere, Gregory A Pedricks, and Jonathan Steward, of New Jersey, are appointed as Commissioners instead of those heretofore appointed. So much of their act of incorporation as is inconsistent with this is hereby repealed. This act not to go into effect until a like supplement shall be passed by the Legislature of New Jersey.

The supplement to the act incorporating the Commercial Fire Insurance Company of Pennsylvania, introduced by Mr. Marselis, empowers said company to insure against the loss of all kinds of live stock. Judge Bell has presented another bill relating to evidence. It is the same as his former bill in regard to the removal of the disability of witnesses, but omits the features relative to parties to the record. The bill introduced by Mr. Marselis, some time since, relative to the banks of this Commonwealth, and to prevent frauds by bank officials, which was then noticed in detail, came up this morning and underwent several very material and modifying amendments. Its severity, and the fact that the provisions of former laws embrace some of its objects, were urged as objections; and although some seemed to prefer its reference to the special committee which has in charge the general banking law, it passed to third reading in a mollified condition.

Hon. Thomas Corwin, who is understood to be here on a professional mission, has been the hero of the lions to-day.

ALBION.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

WASHINGTON, March 1.

SENATE.

The Senate, on meeting, went into executive session until noon. When the doors were re-opened Mr. Shields of Minnesota, presented the credentials of Mr. Douglas, re-elected from Illinois, for six years from the 4th of March.

The consideration of the Post Office appropriation bill was resumed.

Mr. YULEE, of Florida, from the Committee of Post Office Post Roads, appended to this bill a clause similar to that on the post-route bill, raising the rates of postage to five cents and abolishing the franking privilege. Agreed to—yeas 29, nays 28.

The bill to pay the funeral expenses of George W. Wood passed.

The supplement to the act relative to testamentary trustees was discussed, and, pending a second reading, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The bill relative to granting licenses to hotel, inn, or tavern-keepers was taken up. It empowers the judges of the courts to hear evidence, and gives them discretionary power to grant or refuse to grant licenses. The bill led to a long debate, and was finally postponed.

The act to vest certain rights in the Girard School House, in the city of Philadelphia, was debated at length by Messrs. Church, Abbott, Harding, Smith, and Thorn.

Mr Barry offered a proviso that it shall always be used for school purposes in the district of Passyunk. Agreed to

The bill passed as originally reported with the proviso offered by Mr. Smith.

Mr. EVANS presented three remonstrances from citizens of Philadelphia against the passage of the bill for the incorporation of the Delaware Canal Company in its present form.

Mr. POTTER read the following bill in place: That the Militia Law of the forty-second section of "an act to reduce the State debt and to incorporate the Pennsylvania Railroad Company," approved the 29th day of April, 1846, be and the same are hereby extended to the scrip, bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness, issued by any company or association, incorporated under the laws of this Commonwealth, and the treasurers thereof shall perform the duties, and be subject to the liabilities thereon required of or imposed upon the treasurers of municipal corporations.

The bill for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths, and the act to abolish the Board of Health, was postponed for the present.

The bill to incorporate the Mifflin County Bank was discussed till the hour of adjournment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House met three o'clock.

The bill incorporating the Mifflin County Bank passed finally.

The supplement to the Big Mountain Improvement Company passed finally.

The act incorporating the Philadelphia Theatre Company passed

The balance of the session was devoted to the consideration of bills on the private calendar.

The Calamity on the Mississippi—Further Particulars.

NEW ORLEANS, March 1.—The mail arrived from the wreck of the steamer Princess, brings a number of the wounded and dead by this terrible disaster of Sunday. It was foggy at the time of the explosion, and the boat being behind time, an unusual pressure of steam was put on to hasten her arrival at New Orleans.

A despatch from Baton Rouge states that the engineer is reported to have declared that he would reach New Orleans at a certain time or blow up.

About one hundred of the passengers were wounded by the explosion, and many are in a dangerous or dying condition.

It is impossible as yet to ascertain the actual number lost, as many were saved by the several boats in the vicinity at the time. There is much excitement here and all along the river. Numerous bodies have been recognised, have been found floating in the river far below the scene of the disaster.

The number of the lost, as far as ascertained, include none from the North or West, in addition to those already sent.

The Princess was one of the finest boats on the river, having been built at Cincinnati in 1855. She was 716 tons burden.

The body of the engineer was found cut in two by the explosion, which, it is alleged, was caused by his own recklessness.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—It is considered material to supply an imperfect portion of the proceedings of the House During the colloquy between Messrs. Reagan and Bryan, of Texas, when Mr Reagan asked the latter whether he intended to impute dishonorable motives to him, Mr. Bryan replied, that he did not say anything which might cast any imputation upon the motives of his colleague, after which Mr. Bryan proceeded to speak of his own responsibility.

The African Slave Trade—Message of the President.

WASHINGTON March 1.—The President, in replying to the call of the House for information concerning the African slave trade, says the instructions given to the commanders of the squadrons are such that attempts are not likely to be made, except under circumstances which would at least insure a certificate of probable cause, if they do not authorise condemnation.

The object of the Government has been to avoid, as far as practicable, vexatious interruptions of lawful commerce. The only instance at present known to the department in which an officer capturing a vessel on suspected slaver on the coast of Africa, has been assed or otherwise embarrassed by the owners, officers, or crew of the captured vessels, is that of Commander Simonds, who captured the brig Casket. In this case no damages appear to have been recovered against him, and the expenses incurred by him in defending the suit were refunded to him under an act of Congress passed in 1854.

The number of captures made by the American squadron, under the treaty of Washington, previous to September last, was twenty, of which six were condemned.

Destructive Fire at Boston.

BOSTON, March 1.—The immense warehouse, No. 245 Broad street, was burned last night, together with seven thousand bales of cotton, seven thousand bags of linseed and a large quantity of saltpetre. The loss is stated at half a million of dollars.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

BOSTON, March 1.—The total loss by last night's fire amounted to a quarter of a million of dollars, on which there is an insurance of $200 000.

The loss includes 10 000 bags of linseed, 1,000 bales of cotton, and 350 bales of gunny bags.

Collision in Boston Bay.

BOSTON, March 1.—Last evening the steamer William Jenkins, from Baltimore, ran into the schooner Helen Isaiad with lime) in the bay, and stove her bows in. The boat took fire, and the crew of the Hel