The Press

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1859.

THIRD PAGE—Literary Criticism—"Principles and Models"—Letter from Pittsburg; General News. FOURTH PAGE—Daily News.

The Mount Vernon Fund—$158,333 Already Paid.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, of which Miss Ann Cora Ridgeway, of Boston, is President, have [illegible] patriotic and successful [illegible] and spirit which put the exertions of your own sex to the blush. There is something positively romantic in the manner in which funds have been collected throughout the country, (at a time too when monetary troubles of unusual severity prevailed,) for the purchase of Mount Vernon and its grounds, upon the Potomac. Even as we write, we wonder in immense [illegible] by a report of the Secretary of the Association, Mr. Frank Maxwell, of Richmond, Virginia, published in the Mount Vernon Record, that up to the 22d of the present month, the 24th [illegible] paid to Mr. John A. Washington $158,333.32, being the entire balance due up to the 22d of February last, 1861—there yet remaining in the purchase money to be paid, $41,666.68, payable on or before the 22d of February, 1862—being the fourth and last instalment.

The report—which, indeed, is a most satisfactory and gratifying one—goes on to say that $146,000 of this sum has been paid in a period of little over three months.

The means by which, indeed, so great and successful a sum were questioned, the manner in which the ladies have established such a responsibility, shows the patriotic and national energies which seeks to purchase the Home and Tomb of Washington for the country, would nullify the doubt. Only a few short months since the whole scheme was received with a shrug of the shoulder, as promising no possible chance of success, and, at first, was met in some States with deadly opposition and almost open hostility. We are truly cheered at the grand results expressed in the Secretary's Report, and the difficulties which have been overcome.

After this, Woman need not fear to attempt almost any thing. It is not too too greatly taxing the Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association, we should solicit them, when the hall a million is raised—which will include all required for buying, beautifying, and preserving Mount Vernon—to continue their organization, and apply its machinery, energy, and tact to the completion of the Washington Monument in the Federal Metropolis. From Mount Vernon itself the Regent might appropriately make her appeal, and then, instead of descending at the rate of about two feet a year, it would be completed within twelve months from the time Miss Cunningham and her fair associates took it in hand.

The Ladies' Association, through whose energies and influence so much of the Mount Vernon purchase money has been raised, have been considerably assisted by their organ, the Mount Vernon Record, which has widely spread through all parts of the Union, accounts of what has been done, everywhere, for the sacred cause which it espouses. Its literary and artistical merits are very distinguished; but its values of details, within a comparatively limited space, is astonishing. The lists of names of contributors, published in a supplemental sheet each month, (several thousands in each number,) must have inspired generous emulation. Nor can this persuasively-appealing and well-edited little sheet be spared its way. With the great good which the Mount Vernon Record must have rendered in helping to bring about, if there were no other reasons to give it unbelieving patronage, this in itself should largely increase the generous list of subscribers which it now enjoys.

The office-holders of the Federal Administration, feeling that they can neither use Judge Knox to forward their schemes, nor intimidate him in the assertion of his independent opinion against the despotic course of the President of the United States and the head clerks who constitute his Cabinet, have temporarily abandoned all assaults upon Governor Packer. They demand, as a peace offering, that the head of the Attorney-General shall be presented to them on a silver plate. Yet readers there will more intuitively see that the Judge Knox, [illegible] Governor of the Commonwealth utilizes the resistance to the plots and cabals, plots and corruptions at the capital of the State Government, and also against the contrivances and intimidations of the tyrants at the capital of the General Government. Not only Pennsylvania, but the Governor of Pennsylvania, are to be congratulated upon the fact that we have so upright and fearless a statesman at the right hand of the Executive; a man who shrinks from no responsibility, and whose public action is based upon his unquestioned personal and official integrity. We predict that hereafter they may be set through with their crusade upon Judge Knox; they will have a very good time of it when they do so.

The Public members of the Office-holding Association, who landed in the Administration for its complete success in asserting the long mooted question of the right of search," will find in the special Washington despatch of the New York Herald, (the personal organ of the President,) of yesterday, the following information, which completely exposes the folly of their position of their honored subject.

"The United States and England having failed to come to any definite understanding regarding the right of search, the negotiations will now be declining to yield any point, and the English Government refusing to submit any new plan the French Government, have stepped in and submitted a project to the English Government which, it is hoped, will be accepted, and which will probably settle the vexed question. It has not yet been made public. As soon as it is arranged I shall send it to you."

Public Amusements.

The Musical and Dramatic Festival, in aid of the Mount Vernon Fund, given at the Academy of Music last night, was very badly attended. The singing, in the first part, which was all we cared to wait for, was very good. Miss Richings gave an air from Verdi's "Vespri Siciliane" with her wonted accuracy and certainty of execution and sweetness of tone. She was encored. Miss E. May's fine voice was very effective—in a duet from Verdi's "Ernani" with Mr. Fraser, and in an air from Bellini's "Norma." She was rapturously encored in the last. Mr. Fraser's execution in the duet was excellent, as we have rarely heard "My Sister Dear" (from Meyerbeer's "Dinorah") given with so much tenderness and taste. Mr. Bohr sang "The Standard Bearer," which we have heard to more advantage. The transition from a thinly-scattered audience in the Academy, to the Walnut-Street Theatre, crowded to the ceiling, was a change indeed. The opera was "The Bohemian Girl," and we came in for the last act. The opera was the most musical of any we have yet seen given by the New Orleans troupe, and will draw another crowded house on repetition. We dreamed that we dwelt in marble halls, (which Piccolomini travestied in such a fairy manner,) we thoughtlessly sang by Miss Durand, and shocked, we were "The heart bowed down," by Mr. F. Lyster, and "You'll remember Mary" by Miss Hodson. The interval of eighteen minutes between the curtain falls on the second act, and the commencement of the music before Act III, is unnecessarily tedious, and annoys the audience. This evening will be played the opera of "The Crown Diamonds."

Anniversary of the Conference Missionary Society.—This society celebrated the thirty-sixth anniversary of its formation at Musicians' Hall, last night. It was held last evening instead of on Monday, as it is usual to do, in order that the Bishops, who are expected to be present at the Conference, and ladies and gentlemen from a distance, might be present. The Rev. Dr. Durbin, Rev. Mr. Maxfield, Rev. Mr. Cooper, Rev. Mr. Chase, and Alexander Cummins, Esq., of Baltimore, were the speakers. Mr. Wilmer read the report of the treasurer, from which it appeared that the receipts of the society were about $[illegible] during the year, and that the sum will shortly be transmitted to the Treasurer. This is a large increase over any former period.

Rev. Dr. Durbin, in his speech, said that the society was the Ebenezer upon which the Methodists should endeavor to stand when most hard pressed by the Philistines. He was glad to see that the Methodists were liberal in their contributions to the cause of missions. He was glad to see that the lower self-sacrifice of the members of the society had allayed the opposition to Mrs. Judson, and the United States and England, and the indifference of the times were so favorable, that, ere long, another Judson would be able, without molestation, to go to the Burmese country. Mr. Cooper, in his Missionary speech, said that it was the duty of the church to keep pace with the rapid rate of progress, the whole world would be brought under Christian influences, and he was glad to see that the Methodist Church was so liberally responsible for the payment of missionary work.

The Rev. Mr. Chase, in a speech, said that the society was a foundation for the Bible Society.

Sale of Real Estate.—A block of twenty dwelling houses, one of them cottages, on the south side of Spring Garden street, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets, near the Mission Chapel, was sold by Messrs. Freeman & Son, at auction, on Monday last, for $[illegible] per foot. A sale of twenty-four dwellings, on the north side of the same street, adjoining the above, was made, and we understand that a very handsome price was realized.

Steam Engine on the Delaware.—The steam engine on the Delaware will be tested at 4 o'clock this afternoon, on Chestnut street, in front of the city.

The Revival of the Slave Trade.

When Governor Adams, of South Carolina, a few years ago, advocated in his message a revival of the slave trade, the proposal was almost universally regarded as chimerical as it was wicked. But since that time, new evidences have almost daily been presented of a growing sentiment in the South in favor of that infamous traffic. The leading organs and orators of the ultra Southern school now openly advocate it, and present their arguments against the act of Congress which prohibits the foreign slave trade with as much coolness, sagacity, and determination as if they were pleading for a holy cause. Public meetings are not unfrequently held in the Southern States in favor of a revival of the slave trade. In Southern Conventions the project forms a leading topic of discussion; and while it is denounced by the moderate, humane, and patriotic men of the South, the Hotspurs of that region zealously advocate it. Not satisfied, however, with a mere theoretical advocacy of this traffic, something practical has also been done. There are many rumors of cargoes of slaves having been secretly landed in Texas, Mississippi, and Florida; and the fact that a cargo was landed in Georgia, by the yacht Wanderer, was clearly established.

Since the commencement of the agitation of this question, the forces of the slave-trade champions have been steadily increasing until large accessions have been made to their numbers. The next "advance step" was in the case of the brig Echo, when a Southern Grand Jury ignored a bill of indictment against men known to have participated in the revolting and inhuman voyage which proved fatal to hundreds of the unhappy Africans whose surviving companions were restored to their native shores by the steam-frigate Niagara. Then came the direct importation by the Wanderer of a cargo of slaves into Georgia; and, as a fitting *finale* to this last act in the revolting drama of reestablishing the most infamous traffic that ever disgraced the world—a traffic based not only in human flesh and blood, but in human life, accompanied, as it necessarily is by a fearful sacrifice of existence in Africa to obtain the original possession of the slaves, and on the ocean, during their transportation to this country—the scheme appears to have virtually received the approbation of the faithless public servants at Washington, to whom the government of the country has been entrusted. The following extracts will explain the conduct to which we refer:

CAPTURE AND RESCUE OF SOME OF THE WANDERER'S WILD AFRICANS.

The following, in relation to the capture of part of the Wanderer's cargo, is from a letter to the Milledgeville (Ga.) *Recorder*:

JACKSONVILLE, March 11, 1859.

Our village has been the theatre of considerable excitement and bustle for some days past, respecting the capture of thirty-six wild Africans, a part of the cargo of the Wanderer. On Thursday, the 3d inst. to wit, John F. McRae, Esq., deputy marshal of the State of Georgia, and a citizen of this (Telfair) county, having been informed that a large number of Africans, under the charge of a white man, *en route* for Alabama, were passing through this county, in a close wagon, summoned a posse, composed of some of the most respectable citizens of the county, pursued and overtook the negroes in Worth county, within three miles of Isabella, took possession of them, and marched them to Jacksonville and put them in jail, and reported the officers at Savannah his action in the premises. The white man in charge of the negroes denied at first that they were Africans, and attempted some resistance, but afterwards *admitted that they were a part of the cargo of the Wanderer*. The most of them are very likely, and are whom I take to be twenty-one years old; there is only one woman among them. They seem perfectly happy, and are as contented and free from care as if roaming their native wilds. They remain in jail only at night; during the day they are permitted to walk freely about the town. One of them are quite smart, and all are quick to learn. At first they could not speak a word of English; several of them, since they have been here, have mastered many words. "Money" and "whiskey" are favorite words with them; all love money and appear to have a strong love of whiskey. They seem to have a knowledge of the value of coin, but none of our paper currency. I gave one an order for something at a store, since which time all scraps of paper are in great demand with them. A newspaper was torn into small pieces and carefully put by; they thinking it will answer the same purpose as money. Their dances and sports are very amusing and original. Most of the older ones are quite ingenious, making knives and other things out of iron hoops and sardine boxes. They are very fond of fun. One day I saw a party of them have a game by putting ribbons through the holes in their ears, which makes them quite proud. I don't think they have an idea of God. I have taken some pains to find out their belief in a Supreme Being, but have failed. They are from different tribes, some speaking three or four different dialects, these being known by their tattoos among them, indicating, as they say, different nations, or perhaps, as more reasonable, different castes. They soon learned some words relative to their being sold to some white man, but I cannot tell what they will do, so, having a master, they seem to expect them.

A letter to the Savannah *Republican* says:

John F. McRae, of this county, deputy United States marshal, having been instructed by the marshal to capture any Africans he might find passing through the country, was informed that there were thirty-six in charge of one or two men on their way to the Alabama line. He summoned a posse of ten men, some of our best citizens, proceeded to Jacksonville, in Worth county, arrested them as deputy United States marshal under his instructions, and brought them to Jacksonville and put them in jail and sent an express to the marshal at Savannah reporting the arrest and his action in the matter. The express reached Savannah late in the evening, and the marshal came, *which stated he had telegraphed and written to the authorities at Washington, and had received no answer respecting the Africans then known to be in the country; that the Government knew of the Africans being in the State, and had given him no orders, and that he advised was to turn them loose and let them proceed on their way. When this letter came, and as the arrest had been made by the authority of the United States, and in good faith, the negroes were delivered to the person in charge of them, paying for the provisions they consumed and medical attention to those that were sick. One or two of those assisting in the arrest retook the negroes and demanded payment for their outlay and trouble, threatening to carry the Africans to Governor Brown if it was not paid. A compromise was made to the satisfaction of the parties, and "the last of the Wanderer's cargo" were allowed to depart in peace.* The negroes disliked very much to leave, as they had been treated very kindly by the citizens.

For the honor of the country, we trust that some satisfactory explanation of the facts here set forth may yet be made. It appears to be clearly shown that a portion of the Wanderer's crew were taken into custody by a deputy United States marshal in Georgia; that the marshal of the district was apprised of their arrest, but that the course of the authorities at Washington in relation to these negroes was such as to induce the marshal to order them to be restored to the custody of the slave-traders, and thus enable them to complete their piratical enterprise by disposing of their victims, and consigning them to perpetual slavery! The servility of the Administration to the haughty and arrogant demands of the slave power has thus apparently reached its climax. Not content with endeavors to force slavery upon the soil of Kansas against the will of her citizens; not content with advocating a theory designed to force slavery, by positive law, into all the Territories yet unsettled, against the wishes of those who are to inhabit them; not content with squandering the money of the Federal Treasury, with reckless extravagance, to purchase in the North venal white slaves to obey the behests of Southern minrists; not content with the thirty-million bribe bill for the acquisition of Cuba, the Administration has crowned its pyramid of infamy by shamelessly neglecting its official duties for the purpose of conniving at the revival of a traffic, so odious that but five years ago scarcely a single human being in America would have dared to advocate it—a trade justly ranked in the same category with the blackest of human crimes—which has no parallel in its fiendish iniquity but piracy in its most horrid forms, and which has been justly denominated "the sum of all villainies."

If the statements we have taken from Southern newspapers are true, there is now no efficient barrier to the revival of the slave trade. The whole drama has been played out, and the existing laws completely set at defiance. When a cargo of slaves land upon our shores—no matter if the guilt of the murder of hundreds of human beings rests upon the souls of her crew—a Southern jury will ignore a bill of indictment against them. If a deputy marshal, in the centre of a Southern State, has enough old-fashioned integrity, notwithstanding his Southern education and prejudices, to suppose that a faithful execution of existing laws is just and proper, we have at Washington a President to thwart his legal and humane efforts, either by his silence, or by his direct orders, and thus to sanction and confirm the inhuman, illegal, and blood-stained right by which the slave-trade pirates claim to hold the unfortunate victims of their merciless avarice.

OCCASIONAL.

Removal.—By a card in to-day's paper, it will be seen that the office of the National Telegraph lines has been removed to the office of the American Telegraph Company, 105 South Third street.

A report was in circulation, yesterday, on the authority of a despatch from Washington, that General Cass had died suddenly. We are happy to learn that there was no truth in the rumor.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from "Occasional."

WASHINGTON, March 26, 1859.

There is no doubt that the old Whig party, defeated in 1844 under Henry Clay, and greatly demoralized in 1854 by the American movement, is now shaking its locks, and preparing for another campaign. Many things, as I have repeatedly said in my letters, look to this result. Not again lengthily to notice the movements of John M. Botts in Virginia, it is well for politicians in the Opposition to pay attention to the late demonstration in New York, headed by Governor Hunt, which contemplates a national organization of that Opposition. Governor Hunt is an old Henry Clay Whig, and a national man, the representative, not so much of the anti-Seward element, as of the element of hostility to sectionalism in the opposing organization. He is a wise and prudent statesman, and his speech foreshadows an earnest spirit against any mere Northern organization. He shows that no party can long retain possession of the Federal Government which does not possess influence in every section of the Union, and hence at the close of his speech in New York, on the 24th inst., he uses a sentence full of significance, *coming as it does from so* moderate a man. I copy: "If a union of the friends of good government and salutary reforms is made impossible by exclusive views and extreme requirements, it is equally safe to declare that the Whigs of the Union will be found true to their country, faithful to their cherished principles, and ready to obey the voice of duty whithersoever it may lead. The Republican leaders will not like these demonstrations of the old conservative sentiment, but it is my duty to mark their recurrence as among the signs of the times.

By the way, the late article of the *North American*, of your city, in favor of John Bell, is creating a good deal of sensation here, and well deserves to be classed among the political symptoms of the day.

There has been a good deal of figuring within the last week by the Washington *Union*. Mr. Wendell, in whose name that paper has been published, makes no secret of the allegation that he is rather tired of the expensive connection. "It costs a good deal more than it comes to," having nearly all the money to raise and pretty much all the censure to bear, and he is also called upon to pay out heavily to all the lazzaroni who cling around the fading fortunes of the Administration, and hence he has slightly revolted at the load put upon him. As I write, it is rumored that George Washington Bowman (Superintendent of Public Printing) has purchased the *Union*, and intends to publish the national organ under his own auspices. We all know Gen. Bowman, and he has made a very honest Superintendent of Printing. He has, too, rare qualities for the organship, having been, probably, the bitterest enemy that Mr. Buchanan ever had in middle Pennsylvania; but he is not the most competent man in the world *to take charge of a great central newspaper*. If Wendell, with his financial skill and ability, could not engineer the *Union* through the storms and quicksands of the last two years, how can Bowman expect to do it with his known record against plunder in the departments? Of course, should Gen. Bowman take charge of the paper, he will resign his superintendency, and give way to another, if not a better, man.

I beg to repeat, upon the most positive information, notwithstanding the late official denial, that General Cass has been very ill within the last few days, and is still quite weak. The President has tried to pay some attention to the Department of State, but so badly has that arm of the Government been attended to, that even Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, (the organ of the Administration,) is compelled to cry out that the foreign policy of the Administration is a dead and disastrous failure.

I am somewhat amused at the Washington *States* calling your movement against Executive usurpation a rebellion. This is a good word—this of rebellion; but why does not *The States* remember that it has done as much as any other journal to excite the contempt and derision of the country against the Federal Administration? Indeed, so fatal has the policy of this Administration been to the Democratic party everywhere, that even Virginia is not safe. Almost every Congressional district is filled with dissensions, some of the best friends of *The States* being among the rebels. Organizations are set aside, nominations discarded, and the strongest measures resorted to. *The States*, however, is blind and deaf to all these things, but does not hesitate to unsheathe its sword against the rebels of Pennsylvania. There is a good deal of difference, mark you, between rebellion in the South and rebellion in the North!

Little is said about the Sickles trial. The late day fixed for the trial has excited much surprise, especially when we consider that Mr. Sickles himself has not *asked for delay*. He quietly remains in his quarters, rarely complaining, and perfectly calm and philosophical. There is no doubt that, owing to the prudence with which he has deported himself, a very strong feeling has been awakened in his behalf in this community. Even the Washington *Star* has, within the last few days, ceased to assail him, and I cannot doubt that when the case is presented to the jury none of the animosities which that paper has attempted to excite against him will be found to exist.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from "Touchstone."

THE WASHINGTON BAR AND MR. SICKLES—NEW YORKERS LOOKING FOR OFFICE.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1859.

The telegraphic announcement in the New York *Daily Times*, that a meeting of the bar was in contemplation for the purpose of delegating one of their number to aid in the prosecution of Mr. Sickles, is a proposterous fabrication. Such a gross violation of gentlemanly feeling as well as professional dignity is not to be fathered on our bar. One or two legal gentlemen may have allowed what they thought the duties of friendship to overcome their judgment, but the bar, in a professional sense, utterly rebukes the idea or intention of taking one side or another. The peculiar position occupied by both Mr. Key and Mr. Sickles to the legal and social world here renders impartiality a matter of the most implicit necessity. With regard to the former, I especially find this feeling of silent charity paramount among those with whom he was professionally and socially connected. While there is no attempt made to justify the cause in which he received his death, the same honorable feeling prevents any desire to attack his memory or expose it unduly to attack. The paragraph in the *Times* was a very wanton *libel* on the character of the Washington bar, and this correction is made in justice to the very able and clever gentlemen who compose it.

New York is making a slight fuss here looking for place. Mr. George Taylor wants the Commissionership of Patents, and Mr. Israel Hatch is similarly affected to the Land Office. Mr. Taylor's friends press him. Mr. Hatch's friends are eloquent on his claims. Both being from New York, both can't get in; and the antagonism is, not that they are both looking for the one place—then it would be natural enough—but because they are looking for two places, one of which, according to the rules of distribution made and provided, can only be given to New York. Which will get in?—that's the point. Well, if I were a wagering man, I would bet on Taylor; not that he has any more talent than Hatch, but he has considerable audacity, and is, moreover, slightly unscrupulous. He was formerly accused of Know-Nothingism, and only carried his election for the Brooklyn district to Congress by the most strenuous exertions of some enthusiastic Irishmen, whom he, at the eleventh hour, got to take up his cause, by assuring them that he either had not been a Know-Nothing, or if he had entered a lodge, it was only for the fun of the thing. There were great numbers up to such fun in those days.

Mr. Taylor distinguished himself very early in the Thirty-fifth Congress by the introduction of the bill by which the mode of paying members of Congress was changed to the present scandalous system. He carried his point, both the House and Senate, with most indecent haste, voting themselves their pay before they had earned it; while, at the same time, they were passing a treasury-note bill authorizing the President to borrow twenty millions. To Mr. Taylor's bill much hasty and incomplete legislation is due, and will be due, unless the old system of compensation is reinstated. Now, these members who go to Congress as a matter of speculation, go to draw money, confuse the public business, and adjourn because they are not paid *per diem*, but receive a stated sum for being a Representative.

Mr. Hatch was sound on the great test question—Lecomptonism. I do not find that he made any great display orally; but his vote was ever in the shadow of the White House, as, indeed, was also Mr. Taylor's. They were both efficient soldiers of the infamy which, had it occurred in a European country, would have justly shocked the whole of America, and given us another reason why we should bless our system in contradistinction to despotism and its power of crushing the free will of a people.

It will be somewhat difficult for the President to decide between the respective merits of the gentlemen, but I dare be sworn, if either gets in, it will be the active Representative from the City of Churches.

The town is very empty, but has been gloriously full of sunshine—delightful substitute for Congress—for several days past. I must go out and enjoy it.

TOUCHSTONE.

Large Sale, Stocks and Real Estate, this Evening, by order of Orphans' Court, Executors, Assignees, and others. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements, auction head, *including five* handsome modern residences, North Front street, to be sold peremptorily. Valuable business location, Front street, thirty-six by one hundred and five feet; several other valuable business stands, and handsome and plain dwellings, ground rents, stocks, &c. See pamphlet catalogues and advertisements, auction head.

The Sale of Mr. Earle's Elegant Paintings will commence this morning at ten o'clock. See Thomas & Sons' advertisement, auction head.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

THE STEAMERS NIAGARA AND ALPS AT HALIFAX.

LORD COWLEY'S MISSION TO VIENNA.

Returning with Satisfactory Propositions.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REFORM BILL.

Liberal Provision for the Italian Exiles.

ADVANCE IN COTTON.

CONSOLS 96¾.

HALIFAX, March 27.—The Cunard steamship Niagara, and the propeller Alps, arrived about noon to day, (Sunday,) with Liverpool advices to Saturday, the 12th inst.

The Niagara reports having been detained off Halifax forty hours by dense fogs. She passed the steamer Africa, bound to Liverpool, on the 18th, off Tuscar.

The steamer Edinburgh, from New York, arrived at Glasgow on the 12th inst. The steamers Indian and Lebanon had also arrived at Liverpool.

The Niagara experienced strong westerly gales during the first eight days of her passage. She passed on the 12th inst, off Tuscar, the ship Emily A. Hale, bound out.

Lord Cowley had left Vienna on his return to England, and it was reported that he was the bearer of a satisfactory proposition from Austria; but notwithstanding this, the latest Paris correspondence is less pacific, and French funds had declined one per cent. on the Paris Bourse.

Sardinia still maintains a threatening attitude.

ENGLAND.

The House of Commons has rejected the Government bill, for the partial abolition of the church rates, by a large majority.

Lord John Russell has given notice of an amendment to the Reform bill, to the effect that no householder of the elective franchise will satisfy the House or the country which does not provide a greater extension of suffrage in cities and boroughs than is provided for in the bill presented by Mr. Disraeli.

Mr. Wilde also gave notice of an amendment providing for voting by ballot.

The Neapolitan exiles explain their conduct on board the ship David Stuart. They say that they simply threatened the captain with mutiny if he took them to America against their consent. They are being liberally provided for by the public. The London *Times* recommends a public subscription in their behalf.

Five of the young men, lately arrested in Ireland for connection with the Phœnix Club, are being tried for treason at Tralee. They are charged with conspiring to subvert the Constitution of the country, and establish in Ireland a Democratic Republic, with ramifications in France and America.

The London "Times" again refers to the defaulting States in the United States, giving a resume of their present positions to prevent the public being deluded by the constant flourishes of their Governors.

The Russian war bill was defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 254 to 171.

On the 10th inst., in the House of Lords, the subject of the future government of Singapore was debated. The ministerial plan was adopted; the lines below Quebec and throughout New Brunswick having been prostrated by a terrific storm which prevailed on Saturday afternoon.]

LATEST.

Arrival of the Overland Mail.

LATER FROM VICTORIA—AMERICANS NOT ALLOWED TO CELEBRATE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY—LAUNCH OF THE U. S STEAMER TOUCEY—MASSACRE BY INDIANS—PURSUIT OF A BAND INTO MEXICAN TERRITORY.

ST. LOUIS, March 28.—The overland mail arrived last night, with San Francisco dates to the 4th inst.

The dates from British Columbia are to the 25th ult. Gov. Douglas refused to permit the Americans at Victoria to celebrate Washington's birth-day, and much indignation was manifested.

The new U S steamship Toucey was launched from the navy-yard on Mare Island on the 3d inst.

The passengers by the mail confirm the accounts of the recent battles between the U S troops and the Comanches, near Fort Arbuckle. Upwards of twenty Comanches have been killed.

Several families in Dutton county, Texas, have been massacred by the Comanches, and their stock carried off.

Both the Comanches and the Apaches are committing depredations upon the mail company all along the route.

Lieutenant Read, of Fort Buchanan, had pursued and captured a band of thieving Pangoes in the Sierra Sonora of Santa Cruz, at which the Mexican authorities were highly indignant, and called the people to arms to resist the invasion.

The accounts from the Arizona silver mines are of a very favorable character.

From Salt Lake.

INDIAN DEPREDATIONS—RECOVERY OF STOLEN CHILDREN.

ST. LOUIS, March 28—Salt Lake dates to the 15th ult. have been received.

The Indians in the vicinity of Santa Clara had killed several white persons. Governor Cumming made a requisition on General Johnston for troops to chastise them.

Seventeen of the children who were captured by the Indians at the massacre of 150 emigrants on the Mountain Meadows, eighteen months ago, have been recovered.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

HARRISBURG, March 28, 1859.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 8 P. M.

Nothing but private bills were considered.

The following were passed:

A supplement to the act incorporating the Norristown and Germantown Railroad.

A supplement to the Chestnut Hill and Cheltenham Railroad.

An act to incorporate the Byberry and Andalusia Turnpike Company.

HOUSE.

The House met at 8 P. M.

A very few petitions were presented, although it was petition day.

On motion of Mr. Hamerslev, the bill relative to auction laws was considered, and amended so as to apply to Allegheny county, and then passed finally.

An act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth the powers and immunities of corporations for the protection of their property, was rejected. Twenty Secretaries granted, [illegible] nays.

The Governor has signed the supplement to the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company.

An act to incorporate the Richmond and Schuylkill Passenger Railway.

A supplement to the Citizens' Passenger Railway Company.

EVENING SESSION.

The House met at 7 P. M., and proceeded to the consideration of the act to establish a general banking law.

Two sections of the bill were considered and discussed, pending which the House adjourned.

xtent of the African Slave Trade.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—From information received here, it appears that the business of importing Africans is far more extensive than has heretofore been supposed, and that the arrangements for that purpose are very ingeniously devised.

Small boats are employed to relieve slavers of their cargoes, and bring them into the Southern States.

Our Government has been informed of some of the movements, and has taken efficient measures in the premises.

Public Buildings at Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury, and Commissioner of Patents, were to-day engaged in making out instructions to the agent of Philadelphia with regard to the Custom House, Post Office, and Court House building in that city.

Unless there shall be a disappointment in making a sale of the lots which the law authorizes, the work of construction will rapidly progress.

Unfounded Report of the Death of Gen. Cass.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—About one o'clock this afternoon, the community was startled by a report that Gen. Cass had died suddenly. It was soon ascertained to be untrue, as he is in the enjoyment of his usual health, and now engaged in the transaction of business at the State Department.

The Right of Visiting Supposed Slavers.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The project submitted by the French to the British Government merely proposes a friendly visitation where there is good cause for suspicion that the vessel is a slaver. To this our Government has no objection, so far as vessels sailing under the American flag are concerned, but will hold the visiting parties responsible for any misconduct or violation of maritime rights.

The Reported Cuba Expedition.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—It is not believed here that any filibustering expedition is now ready to start for Cuba, as recently reported. The most reliable advices are altogether contrary to the probability of such a movement. The story is an idle to the programme of General Rousan, promulgated months ago.

The New Minister from Peru.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Don Pegarra, the new Minister from Peru to this Government, was to-day formally presented to the President by Secretary Cass. The usual friendly assurances were interchanged.

Sale of the Government Organ.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—General Bowman, Superintendent of Public Printing, has purchased the Union newspaper establishment, and will take possession in about two weeks. Perhaps its name will be changed.

United States Steamer Metacomet.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Navy Department learns that the steamer Metacomet, of the Paraguay expedition, arrived at Maranham, Brazil, on the 31st of January.

The Boston Post Office.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—It is said that the Boston post office will be restored to State street when the Government shall have fixed the bonds, which the representatives of the remonstrants are now awaiting here to execute.

BOSTON, March 28.—The Merchants' Bank, Suffolk Bank, and the Merchants' Exchange Corporation have subscribed $30 000 to the bond of indemnity, securing the Government from loss, if the post office is removed to Sate street.

From Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, March 28.—The camphene factory of Ingle Boston & Co., on Mill street near Pratt, was burnt at noon to-day. The loss amounted to $3,000, on which the there is no insurance. A large portion of its stock was saved.

The steamer Patapsco, from Charleston, which arrived to day, picked up, on Saturday, the boat of the ship Gamemnon, containing the captain and four of his men. When the Patapsco came up with the vessel, she was drifting at the time. A few minutes after he had been taken into custody a pursuing party came up. The horse and vehicle were stolen from Bethlehem, and were the property of Henry Weenland, who keeps a livery stable at that place. The accused acknowledged the theft, and said he wished to obtain money to enable him to visit his father, who is residing in Wisconsin.

A YOUNG MAN, named Michael Ferris, was committed by *Alderman Shoemaker, yesterday, for a* further hearing, to answer the charge of robbery. He had been employed as a porter in the store of Mr. John Pindar, on Chestnut street, and was arrested by the Seventeenth ward police upon the charge of having robbed Messrs. Lee, Richardson, & Tunis, of several pieces of cloths, cassimeres, &c. He had also stolen a number of shawls and pieces of silk from Mr Pindar, and at other stores where he had been employed. Some of the property was found upon his person.

THE SECOND BOILER of the sloop-of-war No. 1 has been taken on board, from the navy yard, safely. The two boilers, together, weigh seventy tons. The engines of this vessel are to be of no great power (1 000 horse) as those of the frigate Lancaster. The power of the sloop is made the greater in proportion to size, because it is not designed to *use sails except in* cases of emergency. It is believed that a speed of fifteen miles an hour will be attained with the great power of her engines. The sloop will be got ready for sea with all possible despatch.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON a party of men went to the lager-beer saloon of John Weisman, at Aramingo, and demanded beer. Upon being refused they set to work and smashed the windows of the house. Upon the proprietor making his appearance he was fired at by one of the party, and the ball very narrowly escaped striking him. Three of the young men were arrested and committed to answer. They gave the following names: James Lucas, John Griffith, and William McDougall. The first-named is charged with having fired the shot.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

WHEATLEY & CLARKE'S ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—"Douglas"—"Black-Eyed Susan"—"The Lady and the Devil."

NEW WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—"The Crown Diamonds"—"Your Life's in Danger."

NATIONAL CIRCUS.—"Cinderella"—"Lent's Circus Company"—"Equestrian, Gymnastic and Acrobatic feats."

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS.—Bartholomew's Statue of "Paradise Lost; Or, Eve Repentant."

MCDONOUGH'S GALLERIES.—Selections from Plays, Gems from Operas, Pantomimes, Dancing, and Singing.

THOMSON'S VARIETIES.—"Gems from Operas, Negro Eccentricities, Farces, Singing, and Dancing."

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS.—Signor Blitz.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE continued its sessions, yesterday morning, in the Greenstreet Church, at eight o'clock. Bishop Scott presided. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. M. Massey, and the minutes of the previous day were adopted.

John F. King was elected to fill a vacancy in the Board of Trustees of the Contingency Fund, and C. Bleskell a vacancy in the Board of Trustees of the Education Fund.

The question, Who are the supernumeraries? was resumed. The Bishop explained that a supernumerary, according to the Discipline of the Church, must live within the bounds of his Conference, and be subject to any call that may be made upon his services. The case is different with a superannuated minister, who may live without the bounds of his Conference.

J. H. Alday was made effective. Father Willstbire urged the claims of one of the members to a continuance, and added a few characteristic remarks, referring to his extreme age and enfeebled condition, and asking charitable contributions from his brethren of the Conference to ease his declining days.

The eighth question Who are the superannuated or worn-out preacher? was next considered. Some discussion arose as to the claims to continuance on this list of a minister who is able and accustomed to preach once a fortnight.

The case of the Rev. J. D. Long came up. He asked for the continuance of his superannuated relation, his health being still precarious. He had sometimes been able to speak twice a week, and sometimes not at all for a month or more. In response to a question from one of the members of the Conference, he received no pay for his lectures on Abolitionism, he affirmed that his only profits from the Anti-Slavery cause were those derived from the sale of his book, "Pictures of Slavery." The question was put, and Mr. Long was continued on the superannuated list by an almost unanimous vote.

The following persons compose the list of those preachers who remain supernumerate: Geo. Whitaker, M Sorin, J D Long, P. Hollowell, J. H. McFarland, Kilphalet Read, and John Bell.

The list of effective elders was taken up. On motion, the withdrawal of the gentlemen under consideration was dispensed with, unless objections should be made to them.

The Rev. P. Coombs, presiding elder, made a statement concerning the North Philadelphia district, which he reports in a flourishing condition. At Attleboro, Bucks county, there has been a most amazing revival. Richmond circuit has been signally visited by God's blessing, and throughout the district there is peace and prosperity.

A long personal statement was made by the Rev. Dr. Townsend (Port Richmond) in response to an intimation of the Rev. P Coombs that he had united the necessary 10 years in the ministerial profession. He said that he did not put on the sign of an M. D., until he found, beyond a doubt, that the people of his charge were unable to support him. Actually the practice of medicine had always been made secondary to his pastoral duties, which he had on no occasion neglected. The medical profession was not dishonorable. The example of One who healed the sick was before us, and he exhorted Dr. Townsend declined the genius of Methodism to be "self-sustaining," and went on to a profane statement of his own pecuniary resources and expenditures, which caused much confusion, and his own great disgust. He argued that he was perfectly justified in practising medicine.

A long debate ensued, much of which was very exciting. Many of the speakers opposed the union of any secular duty with the calling of the Gospel while others thought that a man's and a minister's duty was to his family. He did not look out for that he was worse than an infidel.

Finally the debate ended, and the character of Mr. Thompson passed.

John A. Wood (Bucklton) was placed on the supernumerary list by reason of ill-health, and inability to perform effective work. The supernumerary relation was also assigned to W. W. McMichael, (Holmesburg,) the same grounds.

The Rev W. Cooper made a statement of the condition of the South Philadelphia district, of which he is the presiding elder. It is in a most prosperous condition, and the work of God was being every day made manifest. He narrated some of his experiences during the four years of his service in this district. He was assaulted with a knife, and was fearfully cut, and about the head, and nearly lost his life at another time from a runaway.

The response of Mr. Cooper, as the names of the preachers in his district were called, afforded great amusement from their variety and aptness. His encomiums were very flattering to those concerned.

The resignation of Mr. Wallace, of Hummelstown, Pa., from the ministry of the M. E. Church, was offered and accepted.

The Rev J. Cunningham, presiding elder of Reading district, gave an account of the work there. The district is about thirty miles in extent. There has been an increase of eight appointments in four years, and they