The Press.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1859.

First Page.—Macaulay's Life of William Pitt; The 4th of April Convention and the Lehigh Railroad; List of Patents Granted to Pennsylvanians; The London Times on the Slavery Question; The City; General News. Fourth Page.—Important News from Nicaragua; A Philadelphia Revolution Case to Decide; Ship News.

The News.

We have further advices from Mexico, and, like Mexican news generally, the rumors are of a conflicting nature. No reliance whatever can be placed on them. It is fair, however, that Miramon has sustained several defeats. He is reported to be collecting his forces at Orizaba, and the Vera Cruzans are full of hope that the army of Juarez will put him to flight when it attacks their stronghold.

Rumors are made in yesterday's *Press* to the outbreak in Chili. The latest advices by the Northern Light report it to have been entirely put down by the Government. The movement appears to have been very extensive, and at one time formidable. The insurgents last stronghold, which was a place named Talca, had, however, been taken, and most of the ringleaders have been arrested. The Government paper, *El Comercio*, accuses them of perpetrating great outrages and atrocities.

Advices received by the Northern Light state that the Legislature of Nicaragua has declared the Transit route open to all nations. We give particulars on fourth page.

By the brig John Boynton, arrived yesterday at New York, we have advices from Portau-Prince to the 15th of March. The place was quiet. There is no news of any importance.

The Hamburg screw steamship Hammonia, which sailed yesterday from Hamburg 16th inst., and Southampton 18th, with merchandise and 250 steerage passengers, arrived at New York yesterday.

The accounts from California and the Atlantic States by increasing the Northern Light, from Aspinwall, brought 870 passengers to New York; The Illinois brought 340. Total 1210. The low fares consequent on the opposition doubtless have much to do in stimulating the emigration from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

James Stephens, who was found guilty in New York of poisoning his wife, was yesterday sentenced to be hanged on the 20th of May. He received the sentence calmly.

The Kilkenny seem to be the order of the day everywhere now. The Kilkenny on the Morris Canal held another meeting Tuesday evening, and, in addition to their former rates of freight, fixed on $175 per ton to Paterson and $1.20 to Bloomfield, and that $3 per day be paid for demurrage after lying forty-eight hours in that water. At Cincinnati, the cabinet makers and upholsterers are on a strike.

William A. Alcott, Esq., died at Newton, Mass., on Tuesday, at the age of thirty-one years. Mr. Alcott was born in Connecticut, and is well known as the author of many volumes on physiology, hygiene, and practical education. He also lectured extensively on those topics. Among his books are—House I Live In; Young Man's Guide; Young Woman's Guide; Young Husband; Young Wife; Vegetable Diet Defended; Water Cure, &c. He was a man of many estimable qualities.

The steamship Circassian sailed from New York yesterday for Galway, with 41 cabin and 110 steerage passengers. She took out $37,000 in specie for St. Johns, N. F. The steamship Karnak also sailed for Havana and Nassau, N. P., with four passengers. She took out $38,000 for Havana and Nassau, N. P.

The anniversary of Mr. Calhoun's birth, March 18th, was celebrated by the students of the South Carolina College by public exercises. The Columbia Literary Society says, Wofford College celebrated the day in a similar manner.

In regard to the union of the Fejee Islands with Great Britain, the New York *Commercial Advertiser* says:

"There is something very singular in the conduct of these Islanders to Great Britain; by the chief, for the purpose of obtaining twenty-five thousand dollars to satisfy the claims made by the United States sloop-of-war Vandalia. We have had a report of this anomalous transaction before, and now have a confirmation, with the articles of the deed of cession. The matter requires speedy investigation by our Government. The Fejee archipelago is stated to be the most extensive and valuable in Polynesia. It contains an estimated area of more than twenty thousand square miles. Its climate, although tropical, is salubrious, its soil most fertile. Already it produces spontaneously and abundantly many of the most valuable of the plants of commerce. But not a hundredth part of its available land is yet under cultivation. For a cotton country it is said to be peculiarly adapted. Some years ago, a Mr. Wesley Dennis, who, if they could once be made to feel certain of enjoying the produce of their labor, would speedily send forth a large supply of this vegetable fibre.

"It appears by an official statement that $153,334 have been received of the sum of $200,000 required to secure the title to Mount Vernon, $150,000 of which has been paid in a little more than three months; $41,000, with interest thereon, is yet to be provided for, being the 4th instalment, and February 22d, 1862."

Since the beginning of the present month, Mr. Thomas Venice, of Lindon, Mo., has buried six children. The disease, which swept away nearly a whole family, was typhoid fever of a very malignant type.

The body of the Hon. John M. Ball, one of the victims in the Princess disaster, has been recovered, and the funeral obsequies took place on the 24th, at New Orleans. The body, says the *Crescent*, was discovered near Donaldsonville. It was not so much disfigured as might have been expected, when we take the terrible nature of the explosion into consideration.

An Englishman, named Adams, walked seven miles in fifty-five minutes, the other day in New York, the match being to accomplish the task in one hour.

The Rochester (Ind.) *Gazette* states that about five years since, one of the men making a "raid" on Mormon property, in Nauvoo, where they purchased of Joe, at Brick's, apparently in a respectable manner, married a year ago, when Mr. Morgan died. The widow said that he had no heirs, but herself, and accordingly administered the property. About three months since she took a second husband, and everything was apparently going on well, when there arrived in Iowa two persons in search of a Mr. Alonzo Green, who had disappeared from the State of New York in 1854, and had not since been heard of. One of the strangers claimed to be Green's son, and stated that his father, had in the above year, eloped with a niece of his wife, Miss Emma Lenfield. The newly-married widow Morgan was at once identified as the young Miss L., and the identity of Alonzo Morgan and Alonzo Green satisfactorily established. The guilty woman was willing to make any settlement, and surrender notes and other property to the rightful claimant. Out of $3,000 taken by Green from New York, his family will recover about $1,200.

An Albany boy of eighteen has been sued by an old maid of thirty-three, for leading her from the path of rectitude.

The Evil Influence of American Corruption on English Politics.

The London *Times*, of a recent date, reviews the developments of the late Sherman Investigating Committee, and draws from its report the following conclusions:

"Now we take upon ourselves to say that, to whatever extent personal exculpations are to be admitted, it would be utterly impossible to find in England any such corruptions of system as have been thus exposed in America. No person can doubt, after reading the reports proceeding from the committee of investigation, that political influence was bought and sold in the most notorious manner, all other qualifications for the public service. Nothing in this country makes any approximation to the system there pursued. All the influence or intimidation here practised absolutely vanishes in comparison with an organised policy under which everything, from five to last, is returned to electioneering utility. In this point of view, the qualifications offered in the favorable report only make matters worse, for if they exculpate individuals it is only at the expense of the entire community, in which they describe a similar laxity of political principle. We may indeed well pause before we introduce into England institutions like these. They would certainly not tend to financial economy or to public morality, and from the illustrations here given it must be equally clear that they would not conduce to the freedom or independence of the people, or to a purer public what-

It will thus be seen that the corruptions of the Federal Government, exposed by the late report, are not only injurious to the cause of liberty in this country, but that they have also furnished arguments to the enemies of political reform in England, which are industriously used to prevent the extension of political privileges to the down-trodden people of that country. Mr. Buchanan may lay the flattering unction to his soul that not only has he been the most efficient enemy of Democracy in the United States that ever lived, but that he has inflicted deeper injury upon the popular cause in England than any champion of Aristocratic sentiment, Tory or Whig, in the country. It has heretofore been the hope and pride of the Democracy of the United States, that, without becoming active propagandists of liberal ideas, by the sweet, or by aggressive and complicated foreign wars, the example of our country, with her freedom and political purity, would shake to their foundations the thrones of the tyrants of Europe, and eventually destroy them. Mr. Buchanan has exemplified the reverse of all this, and rendered the politics of this country so obnoxious by the corruption which he has tolerated and practised, that our example has served as an argument to our enemies instead of the friends of popular rights, and to retard instead of advancing human progress.

The Guillotine again in Motion.

We understand that four of the occupants of the Appraiser's office in this city—Messrs. George R. Berrill and Samuel Pleasants, Appraisers, and Messrs. Tibbins and Mayberry, assistant Appraisers—were yesterday informed that their services would henceforth be dispensed with by the Federal Government; and it is reported that John A. Morrison, late examiner of drugs, has been appointed appraiser, and Reuben Hance, assistant appraiser. It is given out that the chief object of this change was to effect a more economical organization of the appraiser's department. If this is, indeed, the motive, we are glad to learn that the importance of economy is being appreciated by the National Government, and it is unfortunate that this consideration did not exercise greater influence upon its action previous to the election of last fall, when men were crowded by hundreds into the navy yard, when every vacant corner of the mint was filled; and when every possible pretext for making places to buy up voters was invented. Since the economical *foyer*, however, has seized possession of the Federal Government, we know of no place better worthy of its attention than the surveyor's office, where, in the present position of the commerce of the port, the official duties are merely nominal, and the chief employment of the surveyor consists in devising new edicts of proscription against the old friends of Mr. Buchanan, in weak and futile attempts to control city conventions, and in fulminating threats against all the officials of the Federal Government who will not bow in humble submission to his imperious will. The department is almost entirely useless for the public service. There are plenty of men quite equal in personal and political character to the present surveyor, who, for a salary of a thousand dollars a year, would be glad to perform every legitimate official duty pertaining to his office. Six thousand dollars per annum can readily be saved in that department alone, and Mr. Hamilton can thus be left entirely at leisure to indulge in exhibitions of his peculiarly-disinterested devotion to the President, whom he has spent a large portion of his political life in denouncing.

It is very questionable, however, whether economical reasons were really the cause of the removal of the late appraisers. Messrs. Pleasants and Mayberry, were found, we believe, not particularly active or enthusiastic in their political support of the Administration, and, although they may have discharged their official duties efficiently, under the existing system the officers of the Federal Government are held as hostages for the precincts or wards in which they live, and if they cannot strike down the public will in their districts and smother by fair or foul means the existing indignation in the Democratic party against the tyrannies and iniquities of the National Administration, they must expect that their heads will be brought to the block. Berrill and Tibbins, it is said, were suspected of loving Rome more than Cæsar, and of caring more for the future success of the Democratic party than the exaltation over its ruins of the Federal Administration. A sin like this was, indeed, unpardonable. They are said to have acted somewhat independently in the City Convention called to elect delegates to the State Convention of March, 1858. They also co-operated in opposing the policy which Mr. John Hamilton, Jr., considered expedient in the City Convention of the fall of 1858; and, if we are not misinformed, as a last and never-to-be-forgiven provocation, they sympathized to some extent with the movement by which the peculiar friends and endorsers of the Federal Administration were beaten in the election of delegates to the late City Convention. Quick upon the heels of this last offence retribution has overtaken them; and if there are any more *men in office* rebellious enough to believe that the Democratic party and its interests have a higher claim upon their affections than the weak and wicked men who have disgraced it, let them be warned in time, or the hand of power will fall heavily upon them. The era of Democratic liberty has passed away, and a despotism as searching and relentless as ever prevailed in Russia or Turkey holds supreme sway. Let no man dare to think for himself, or to act as may become a freeman; for all such the guillotine is eager to welcome as its victims.

It is announced that Dr. John A. Morrison is to act as the leading appraiser of the port hereafter. We are not aware that he has any qualifications whatever for the peculiar duties of his post. He is a druggist, and specially fitted, or should have been, by his profession, for the office which he lately held, of examiner of *Drugs*; but he is not a merchant, nor accustomed to the examination of either dry goods, groceries, or hardware. He possesses, however, what is far more important—the servility, the baseness, and the grovelling, truckling spirit which is prized above all other things by this Administration. He is ready to stoop to any political infamy it demands—to become its servile instrument in warm meetings, and city and State Conventions; and as a crowning glory, he was one of the vilest and most venomous traducers of the gallant Hickman during the noble struggle in which he manfully and triumphantly defeated the cohorts of the Federal Administration.

When these facts are considered, the public will readily understand how much the consideration of economy had to do with the removals in the appraiser's office, after millions have been squandered upon contractors, supernumerary employees, and in various other ways.

The Late Democratic City Convention.

The significance of the action of the late Democratic City Convention in Philadelphia can scarcely be appreciated by our distant readers. This is the stronghold of Federal power, and the men in the employ of the Federal Government are counted by thousands, nearly all of whom are compelled by their head officials to strain every energy to control the organization of the Democratic party, and to extract from it a reluctant and hypocritical expression of approval of the tyrannies and corruptions of the Federal power. But with all this machinery at work, the friends of the National Administration were in a minority in the late City Convention; and although no public evidence of this fact is given in the proceedings, all acquainted with its secret history are aware of it. It is true that Mr. John Hamilton, Jr., surveyor of the port, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, but he did not dare to imitate the example of the late Office-holders' Convention at Harrisburg, by introducing into the Convention resolutions endorsing the National Administration, for he knew perfectly well that if he had done so they would have been voted down. Practically, therefore, the Democracy of the city of Philadelphia, in City Convention assembled, have already ignored the action of the late Office-holders' Convention at Harrisburg. From the feeling now evinced, we believe that the reign of the janizaries of the Federal power over the Democracy of Philadelphia has virtually ended. This defeat of the National Administration has galled its peculiar representatives here terribly, and they have already had some of their official associates, who refused to harmonize with them in their usual efforts to control the party, guillotined.

We see no good reason, therefore, why any Democrat who is satisfied that the nominees of the City Convention would make capable and honest officers should withhold his vote from them, as the suffrages they receive cannot be construed into an endorsement of the Federal Administration.

The Democratic Ward Ticket.

We publish this morning a list of the Ward Tickets recently nominated by the local Democratic Convention. We have not yet had an opportunity of examining closely all the nominations, but are glad to notice among the gentlemen presented many who are in every way well qualified for the posts for which they are designated, and who are eminently worthy of the support of our citizens.

English Pictorial Journals.—To Callender & Co., South Third street, we are indebted for the *Illustrated London News* and the *Illustrated News of the World*, of March the 12th and the 19th. They contain the history of a fortnight, elucidated by fine engravings. The *News of the World*, continuing its steel engravings, gives biographies and portraits of Brunel, the engineer (who built the *Great Eastern* steamer,) and of John Bright, M. P. for Birmingham, and now one of the foremost among English politicians.

Sale of Elegant Furniture, Pianos, Cotton Furniture, Silver-Plated Ware, &c., this morning at 10 o'clock, at Thomas Birch & Son's Auction Rooms, No. 914 Chestnut street.

The English Reform Bill.

In November, 1830, when Grey, Brougham, and other Liberals, who had passed nearly a quarter of a century in opposition, came into office, promising a full measure of Parliamentary Reform, against the Duke of Wellington, who had set his face against any change whatever, the people of England became enthusiastic beyond their usual practice, and hailed the promised advent of a new Magna Charta. Excitement abounded and increased, greatly aided by the Political Unions and their hired emissaries, and expectation arose so high, that Lord Grey, to avoid becoming unpopular, was compelled to consent to a Reform Bill much more extensive than, "good, easy man," he had originally contemplated. He was urged to this by his son-in-law, Lord Durham—the same who, a very few years later, made such a series of administrative blunders in Canada, of which he was Governor-General. On March 1, 1831, the new Reform Bill, which gave a wholesale disfranchisement to all pocket-boroughs owned or influenced by *Tories* (while it kindly spared all *Whig* property of that description,) was introduced, by Lord John Russell, a serious little man who, some seven years before, had written, aye, and published, a book elaborately showing that the rotten boroughs were the main foundation, the great safeguard of the British Empire. That bill was defeated, was re-introduced in a new Parliament, but did not finally pass, in 1832, until the city of Bristol had been burned and plundered, the Castle of Nottingham burned, and the town of Derby besieged by infuriated mobs.

There is now another Reform Bill before the British Parliament. It is introduced by a Ministry which, albeit Conservative in heart, *sees* the necessity of improving the Whig measure of 1832. Other Ministers had *promised* to do this. Lord John Russell has been profuse in promises almost every year since 1851. Lord Palmerston promised a new Reform Bill in 1857 and again in 1858. Mr. Bright has propounded a scheme, which, if practicable, would improve Parliamentary Representation in England, by infusing a small degree of *good Democracy* into it. As yet, however, only one plan of Parliamentary Reform is before the House of Commons—that proposed by Mr. Disraeli on February 28th, and which was to have been brought up for a second reading on March 21st. Russell does not like this scheme, nor Bright, nor Roebuck, while Palmerston gives no opinion upon it. But Russell means to oppose it by a motion condemning it for not sufficiently extending the suffrage among the industrial classes. In fact, Lord John wants to be Prime Minister again, and, Aristocrat though he be, will promise a very liberal measure, provided he can oust the Derby-Disraeli Bill. Lord John cares more for the little finger of his brother, the Duke of Bedford, than he does for ever did, or ever can care for the whole body of the People.

In 1831-2, a man going in with an amendment in favor of largely extending the suffrage, would have been rapturously, if not riotously, backed by the country. In 1859, there is no popular *furore* upon the question. Here and there, a few public meetings have been held, but the *People* seem not to mind them much. These are party, not national manifestations.

The new Reform Bill is by no means a sweeping measure. It partially disfranchises fifteen boroughs, and distributes the members thus gained, among three populous counties and several towns which have risen into importance since 1832. It extends the suffrage, by lowering the qualification, and it permits *Education to vote, even without Property.* It is a compromise, and with a little piecing and patching will be cobbled up by Parliament, so as to stave off further legislation on the subject for the next ten years.

Mr. Roebuck, who may be described as the Thersites of Parliament,

"Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue,"

evidently does not want to help Lord John Russell into office. He proposes that the principles of the measure shall be affirmed, in a series of resolutions, and the details worked out, in Committee, as the Indian Bill was. This would allow Ministers to concede points and make alterations, and would keep them in office. The Whigs, who hate an impracticable man, though honest, would cheerfully imprison Roebuck for life, for this move, if they had the power.

Admit that the Derby-Ministry are defeated on this Bill, the next step will be a Dissolution of Parliament, "to take the sense of the country." After that, the Ministry must be beaten again, ere they retire. Who would succeed? Russell would have neither the support of the Old Whigs, led by Grey; nor of the Peelites, headed by Gladstone; nor of the Liberals, led by Palmerston. A London paper says he would give the Cabinet appointments to Messrs. Roebuck, (!) Bright, Milner Gibson, Ayrton, and Horsman. Mr. Roebuck is out of the question, and as to the rest, we remember the historic fact, that in June, 1846, when Lord John Russell became Prime Minister by the aid of Mr. Cobden, all he did was to offer him a subordinate office in the Board of Trade. The Russell pride would not stoop to sit, in the Cabinet, with a Manchester cotton-dyer!

It is rather singular that both the *Times* and *Punch*, which operate largely upon public opinion in England, though in very different ways, simultaneously ridicule the opposition to the Ministerial Reform Bill. If the People went with that opposition, the Thunderer of Printing House Square, and the Hunchback of Fleet street—both of which are notorious time-servers—would not dare *to argue or laugh at* the measure. *Punch* for March 12, has a picture called "Who will rouse him?" representing the British Lion in the act of being poked at with long poles, on each of which the word "Reform" is inscribed, the weapons being, respectively in the hands of Lord Derby, John Bright, and Lord John Russell. Poke him how and where they may, the Lion will *not* be stirred up. There is a song, *to illustrate* this cut, describing how each of this political trio attempts to rouse the sleeping animal. It concludes thus:

They tight to the old British Lion in vain;
The Lion does nothing but snore:
He won't wag his tail, and he won't shake his mane,
And they can't get the Lion to roar
But you may make him roar and his jaws wide expand,
Just pressure on his pacific mood,
You may then find it hard to supply the demand
Of the roused British Lion for food.

In a later number, *Punch* exhibits "The Last Pantomime of the Season." John Bright appears as *Harlequin*, Lord Palmerston as *Clown*, and Lord John Russell as *Pantaloon*. Disraeli is coming out of a doorway bearing a monstrous "Reform Bill," under the weight of which he bends. *Harlequin* and *Clown*, in quaint attitudes, stand close by the door. *Pantaloon* has thrown himself across the doorway, and Disraeli is just stumbling over the obstruction. In the letterpress of *Punch*, since the *resumé* of the new Reform Bill was made public, there are numerous severe hits at Bright, Russell, and the ultra-reformers.

The West Point Academy.

A young friend who has had the good fortune to receive the appointment of a cadetship at West Point, writes to know something about the institution itself, and what kind of qualifications are necessary in those who are permitted to enter it. We answer, that the Military Academy was established by Congress in 1802, and is now wholly supported by the General Government. The education given is gratuitous, so far as money is concerned; but each cadet must give eight years' service to the Government, unless sooner released. The corps of cadets must not exceed two hundred and fifty at any one time, and the candidates for *admission must not be under sixteen*, or over twenty-one years of age. The corps must spend three months of each year in encampment. The course of study, which is full and thorough, in mathematics, and all that appertains to the military art, embraces *five years. There is the most* rigid impartiality exercised; no family connections, no political considerations, no favoritism, are ever allowed to screen an offender, or to shield the incompetent. Strict attention to duty, earnest application, punctuality, and genteel deportment, are virtues that will be sure to win consideration at the Academy, and to lay the foundation for eminence in after life. A number of students are annually dropped from the rolls at West Point who fail in these essentials, but no young man need be intimidated or discouraged so long as he cultivates the rules herein laid down. Any lad who has passed through the usual branches of an English education, especially if he has a good knowledge of mathematics, may be regarded as fitted to commence a course at the Military Academy.

The receipts of the Wesleyan Missionary Society of England, for 1858, are put down at £130,000, (about, $650 000)—a much larger sum than any previous year.

War or Peace in Europe?

News from Europe pours in upon us with fulness and rapidity. We have English papers to the 19th of March inclusive, by the mail-steamer *Persia*.

Respecting the war question, there continued to be various speculations. The British Government have repeated their declaration, in both Houses of Parliament, that they still saw no reason for apprehending that the Emperor Napoleon would break faith, and precipitate a war in Italy. Lord Cowley, the British Ambassador at Paris, had brought with him full assurances from Vienna that the Emperor of Austria would act only upon the defensive. This might be expected; *he* is more likely to be attacked than to attack. All that he demands, or expects, is full power to rule Austrian Italy just as he pleases.

Prussia and England, should hostilities commence, may be expected not to interfere, unless their own interests are assailed. Prussia has no location whatever in the South of Europe; while England, though with no Italian possessions, has such resting places as Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands. Time was when a sword could not be drawn nor a shot fired in Europe but England was *certain to bristle up*, like an *irritable bull-dog*, and rush into the contest, scarcely caring on which side she fought, so that she fought, and reckless of the cost, though when she came to pay the bills her people grumbled terribly, and protested that never again should the mere thirst of what is called "glory" lead them into such an expensive scrape.

Russia is said to have intimated that her policy, unless *forced* to deviate from it, will be strictly neutral. Yet it is reported that the Czar has strictly prohibited the sale of horses; which, as Austria wanted to purchase, shows no very friendly feeling. Austria, France, and Sardinia are undoubtedly strengthening their armies, and making great preparations—to be ready in the event of hostilities breaking out. It is stated, from Paris, that on the recent marriage of Prince Napoleon with the Princess Clotilde, a secret treaty was made, whereby France promised to support Sardinia against Austria, whatever should happen, *securing* to Sardinia all conquests in Lombardy, providing that Savoy and Nice be transferred to France. The doubtful thing about this is, that the particulars of such a treaty, if it had been made, would have been kept very secret.

New York and the Monument to the Signers of the Declaration.

We are very sorry that the Governor of the great Empire State, which proudly claims preeminence in wealth and population over all other members of the American Confederacy, should have condescended to recommend to her Legislature that the $50,000 voted as her quota towards the erection of a monument in honor of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, in Independence square, should be withheld from that noble object, and the act authorizing its appropriation repealed. This retrograde step was advocated on account of existing financial embarrassments; but, surely, New York cannot be in so destitute a condition as to render such an act of bad faith (for it would be an act of bad faith to the other nine States of the Union, which have made similar appropriations, partly in consequence of the co-operation of New York) necessary. Independent of the original merit of this project, the proposal of Governor Morgan wears an air of repudiation, which his State should be the last to countenance. We are glad therefore, that the Legislature of New York has disregarded his recommendation on this subject.

A Voice from Blair County.

The undersigned, Democrats of the borough of Altoona, send their names to be added to your published call for a *pure* Democratic Convention, at Harrisburg, on the 13 h of next month. The Democratic party here (more than nine tenths of it) stand without reservation on the Cincinnati platform as to popular sovereignty. In this *free* land we think the *will of the majority* should govern; and we *repudiate*, *with scorn and contempt*, the action of the late Harrisburg Convention—a convention of pensioners on the General Administration, at Washington, of paid hirelings. We desire to show our condemnation of the course pursued towards our gallant and honest Governor, Wm. F. Packer. His unimpeachable integrity whilst it has brought on him the hatred of the office-holders under the General Administration, urged on by James Buchanan, has endeared him to honest men of all parties. We heartily join you in saying, let him be sustained by such a convention as never before assembled in our State Capitol.

Altoona, Blair Co., Pa., March 28.

John Wood,	John George Potts,
Alex Vaughn,	Louis Plack,
John Sowtney,	John Bagle,
John Nicholas Pater,	John Richards,
John M. Divitt,	Thomas Hughes,
John McConnell,	John H. Rotz,
Frank Sagro	R. W Hudson,
Thomas James,	John A. McDowell,
J. McClelland,	Daniel Lantz,
J. Deero,	George Leonard,
Lawrence Rinehart,	John Condo,
Jas. McIntosh,	William Noel,
Joseph Carney,	John B Schoegiel,
Samuel Black,	J. hn James Martin,
Matthias Otto,	John C. Donnell,
William O'Neil,	Richard Smith,
R. A. O. Kerr	Wm Barr,
Roman Railenad,	Albert Schultz

Samuel Daubenspeck.

From Butler County.

The undersigned, Democrats of Butler county, approve of the call for a State Convention, to be held at Harrisburg, the 13th day of April, 1859, for the reasons stated in said call:

John H. Negley,	James Bredine,
Edward M. Bredine,	J. J. Cummings,
Jacob Walters,	Jos M Bredine,
I. G. Munts,	John Pollock,
Geo C Roessig,	Stephen Bredine,
Isaac Double,	Alex Buchanan,
Th. H Tolly,	John J. Kelly,
Wm. L. Bartley,	Thomas Stehley,
Wm. S. Negler,	Saml Patterson,
Thomas Joseph,	Adam Troutman,
R. B. Maxwell,	Robert Hogg,
R. M. Harbison,	Thompson Kylo.
James McNair,	Richard J. Crozier,
A. M. Neyman,	James Johnston,
John Donaldson,	Francis McBride,
Wm. Hall,	Joseph Greer,
James P. Cornahan,	Frazier Wallace,
Wm. Surrena,	I. S Jamison,
Wm. Gilchrist,	George McCandless,
Joseph Wiles,	I. S. Neely,
Joseph Bailey,	John McKinney,

Samuel Daubenspeck.

Letter from Montgomery County.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

Limerick, March 30, 1859.

A thirty-miles ride along the Schuylkill valley has afforded me proof no less positive than the calendar, that "the winter is past." Impatient farmers are praying for the time also when, following the quotation, they may add, "the rain is over and gone." The time of the singing of birds is come—and they are *singing*; also, the voice of the turtle is heard in the land, and curiously enough, with this genial return of our vernal paradise is resuscitated the ophidian type of that subtle fiend whose fangs have wrought such fearful havoc in the moral world. In my ramble to-day I crushed the head of a five-foot racer, a feat which in the estimation of timid serpent-haters, this early in the season, would, less than three thousand years ago, have placed its hero among the gods! But not to enlarge: The general appearance of the country through this section is favorable. The open character of the winter, though inferentially unfavorable to winter cereals, has evidently not resulted seriously, as the carpets of living green which mark the grain fields, and especially the more elevated of them, are remarkably even and luxuriant for the season. Most of the fruit trees are budding, and many are already sufficiently forward to suffer material damage by severe frosts, than which, in fact, a bed of *snow would be far less detrimental* to the prospective fruit crop. The writer has very excellent reasons for remembering that on the 19th of April, 1839, a drifting snow of unusual depth fell in this locality; yet, so little are people in the habit of noting the peculiarities of weather from one year to another, that probably few would entertain any more idea of future snowstorms during the present season, than if the sun had already crossed the summer solstice.

As you are doubtless aware, this is the "banner district" of one of the staunchest Democratic strongholds in Pennsylvania; a *district* in which disloyalty to party amounts *to* as nearly the unpardonable sin—politically, I mean—as in any other in the State. You will understand, therefore, in what estimation the present Administration at Washington is held when I tell you that I have, in all my intercourse with the Democracy of this district, not found a single man who does not denounce the late acts of the Office-holders' Convention at Harrisburg as a most contemptible procedure, and only worthy of the minions which, from the hot-bed of corruption at Washington, is penetrating with *bold effrontery every section of* the Union.

Your article in *The Press* of March 19th, calling upon the people to rise in their strength and "secure the golden banner of Democracy from the disgrace which subservient courtiers would imprint upon it," finds a *universal response* here with all except the few miserable hoirtons that are in the immediate pay of the Administration, and such of their personal friends as choose to remain neutral on their account. From what I learn, old Satan himself could not have acted more *consummate subtlety than was evinced* by the satraps of Mr. Buchanan in their management of the late delegate elections through this region, in order to *misrepresent* the voice of the people in the county Convention. You need not be surprised to hear *of old Montgomery meeting in her strength between this and the approaching* Convention on the 13th of April, and protesting in thunder tones against the late proceedings at Harrisburg, the doings of which the Norristown *Register* has the forthardiness of eulogizing, to the great disgust of its readers, many of whom *are growing loud*, in their *demands for a Democratic* journal in the county that *deserves the name.*

Graybeard.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

Washington, March 31, 1859.

I have long been haunted with a desire to fathom the mysteries of the *Union* newspaper, and the news the other day of its sale put me into a perfect fever to discover the whole transaction I have at last succeeded in getting from a lively, but *perfectly reliable* quarter, the facts. As you stated in *The Press* several days ago, the *Union* has really been made over by Wendell to Gen. Bowman, who has officially announced himself in its columns as the purchaser and future proprietor, and has promised in a short time to tell the world what editorial course he intends to pursue. Of course, the whole world and the rest of mankind are anxious to know what he will do and I will therefore try to throw a little light on the subject before he dispels the darkness and mystery which at present enshrouds the future of the *Union*. Nothing will go into the *Union* hereafter that does not bear the personal imprimatur of the President, James the First. Therefore, you need expect no more attacks on the *Herald*, the one which appeared the other day being a Parthian arrow shot into the camp of the enemy of the Democracy by Mr. Hughes, of Virginia, the late editor, as he was driven forth from under the shadow of the Federal Administration. The President will sneak through Mr. Bowman to the public on the 11th of April next. When asked the other day what General Bowman would do for editorial articles for the organ under the new management, Mr. Buchanan is reported to have said complacently, "we will write them our selves," meaning by "ourselves," himself, Judge Black, and Bowman.

The sale was an odd enough arrangement Wendell has been suffering terribly for months under the load of debt which the publication of the *Union* entailed upon him, the President, who suspected him of worshipping after false gods and of being opposed to his renomination at Charleston, having refused to allow him the usual printing patronage heretofore enjoyed by that paper. This patronage consists, I am told and believe, of upwards of $150,000 per annum, including the post office blanks and the binding of executive documents. The profit on this work is from twenty-five to thirty per cent for some forty or fifty thousand dollars a year. The sale, as I understand from a person who obtained it from the fountain-head, was simply this: Wendell allows Bowman to assume possession of the *Union* establishment without paying any purchase money, and in consideration thereof, *the President stipulates to give the contract for the post office blanks and the executive printing to Wendell, or some one he may designate.* Wendell agrees in turn to pay $20,000 of the profits of these jobs, in monthly instalments of $1,666 The residue of these profits, amounting to $20,000 or $25,000 *per annum*, he is to retain as the purchase money of the *Union*, and is also to discharge some political debts incurred by James I, chiefly in Pennsylvania, in forcing Lecompton through the House of Representatives, and in the election of October last. If, however, the contracts should ever be taken from Wendell, by Mr. Buchanan, then the sale of the *Union* becomes void, and of no effect, Bowman dissolving from the public view as proprietor and editor, and Wendell again taking possession of the newspaper property as the rest owner. You will see therefore, that there is really no sale of the property of the *Union*, but that it has only been rented to Mr. Buchanan, through General Bowman, by Mr. Wendell, Mr. Buchanan having stipulated to pay the rent (twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars a year) out of the public treasury, in the way of contracts.

There is a private arrangement between Mr. Buchanan and Gen. Bowman, that out of the $20.000 received by the latter from the profits of the contracts given to Mr. Wendell, $12,000 is to be paid to sundry pensioned paupers of Mr. Buchanan's in Pennsylvania, the balance, $8,000, being reserved to conduct the *Union*. Bowman's chief reliance upon making a fortune, under these circumstances, is by being elected Senate printer next winter, as the head of the official Government organ, in which case Wendell and he will have another contract for a division of the spoils, as Wendell will necessarily have to do the work.

Judge or Attorney General Black drew up the papers in this flagrant bargain. The rest of the Cabinet were ignorant of the whole transaction. When it was discovered, their feelings, it is said, were awful, but only found vent through Hughes, the outgoing editor, who, Samson-like, tried to pull down the house, which Jamie is building, by taking a tug at James Gordon Bennett, his pillar and chief story.

This arrangement has reference to the Charleston Convention. The other day Mr Buchanan read the resolutions of the Office-holders' Convention at Harrisburg to a number of his confidential friends, and advisers (not admirers,) and laying great stress on the resolutions endorsing him, remarked, "You see I have a necessity to the Democratic party." "Phaugh the cheelicks" of the *Presidential aspirants who surrounded him.* Under the circumstances, it is not improbable that a Cabinet organ will be started in opposition to the Executive organ; though there is so much personal ambition among the different members that it will be hard for them to agree upon an exponent of their views. Of course, each member cannot have an organ, and here the President has the advantage

The sale, or rather renting of the *Union* would have been effected months since, but for the keen scent of Senator Cameron, who tried to frighten the President from it by making an exposé of the manner he has heretofore distributed the post office blank printing among his personal friends, and asking a committee of investigation in the United States Senate. The committee, owing to some curious delay in bringing up the resolution, was not voted, and the arrangement has now been consummated—the President being assured that Cameron will refrain from making the charges.

The refusal of your city Convention to endorse the Administration of the General Government, and to rebuke Governor Packer, has excited the President and his parasites beyond measure. Hugh Clarke, chairman of that body, and John Hamilton, Jr., (surveyor of the port,) resolution-maker, were the leaders of the Administration forces in the Convention; and proper leaders *they were. During all my experience in Pennsylvania* politics as the friend of Mr. Buchanan, I have never known two men to denounce and slander another man more violently and recklessly than Clarke and Hamilton have slandered James Buchanan. Theirs was not mere political opposition, but personal hatred; and hence it was proper that *they* should be put forward to applaud a President whom, as a private citizen, they had so long attempted to destroy. No other men could be found willing to undertake the task in Philadelphia. The old Democracy, as I am informed, stood aghast at the attempt, and the work was confided to the two willing instruments referred to. Yet with the power of the Federal Administration, in the navy yard, the mint, the custom house, and the post office, Clarke was elected chairman of the Convention only by promising to sacrifice the Federal Administration; and Hamilton as chairman of the Committee on Resolutions did not *dare* either to endorse Buchanan or to censure Packer. Had he attempted to do either or both, there would have been a break out equal to the explosion of one of Dupont's powder mills. I obtain this information from a delegate of the Convention, now in this city, who assures me that the President is incensed beyond measure at the cowardice and inefficiency of his dependants in Philadelphia, and that he is deliberating whether it would not be better to have another city convention for the purpose of announcing his policy as the gospel of Democratic salvation.

As an evidence of the indignation of the President at the action of your Convention, I have to announce that the Treasury Department has determined to make a grand revolution in a portion of the custom house, in your city—that portion of it, by the way, the appraiser's office, which has given the most offence to the President and the Cabinet, because it has been the only department of the Federal Government, in Pennsylvania, which has even indirectly resisted its tyrannical and shameless policy. You may expect to see this reform placed upon the ground of economy, but I *hope you people in Philadelphia will not be deceived* by any such delusive pretexts. The idea of saving money by cutting down small offices was sufficiently condemned during the late session by Senator Toombs and others; and while I am in *favor of such a reduction of the expenses as may* be within bounds, I am not in favor of allowing great abuses to continue, and of applauding power for putting honest men out of office because they will not agree with all that power may command, *especially when their removal from place is put* upon the pretext of economy. The most useless office in Philadelphia is that of surveyor of the port, and yet this supernumerary is continued, while hard-working appraisers are turned out, on the pretext of *saving* money.

You will find that the New York office-holders are retained simply and solely because they have obeyed the behests of the Federal power; but you in Philadelphia, who have, comparatively, but few custom-house officers, are to be deprived of your share because some of your officials have dared to be freemen.

Occasional.

Gon's Protection of Young Deer.—An old Canadian hunter declares that the reason why the wild deer were not all killed when young (as they breed once a year, and are always surrounded by other animals which prey upon them, as dogs, wolves, bears, panthers, etc.,) is, that "no dog or other animal can smell the track of a doe or fawn, while the latter is too young to take care of itself!" He stated that he had often seen it demonstrated. He had taken his dogs over the ground where he had just before seen them pass, and they would take no notice of the track, and could not be induced to follow when taken to the spot, while they would instantly discover the track of any deer not having young ones. This is but one proof of the adaptation of the natural laws to preserve life when it most needs protection.

Public Entertainments.

Walnut Street Theatre.—The New Orleans English Opera troupe repeated "The Bohemian Girl," last night, to a crowded house. Miss Durand takes her benefit this