The Press.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1859.

FIRST PAGE.—Books and their Authors; Letter from Lycoming County; General News; City Affairs. FOURTH PAGE.—List of Letters remaining in the Philadelphia Post Office; Ship News.

The News.

A most disastrous fire occurred at Pittsburg on Saturday, by which ten steamers were totally destroyed. The fire originated on the "Henry Graff," and in a short time that boat, as well as the nine others, was burned to the water's edge. The following are the names of the boats destroyed:—"The Henry Graff," "Paola," "Jennie Grey," "Council Bluff," "James Wood," "J. H. Conn," "Potomac," "Belmont," "Cremonia," and "Commerce." The amount of freight on the boats was not large, but some little on the wharf was destroyed.

James N. Dubois, a young clerk employed in the office of the Hamilton and Dayton Railroad Company at Cincinnati, presented a check for $7,000 at the counter of the Lafayette Bank, and received the money, with which he departed. The check was filled up, "Pay to April Pay Roll," and was signed by S. S. L. Hommedieu, President, and F. H. Short, Secretary; and, notwithstanding the check was presented some ten days before the usual time for drawing money for the monthly payments to the employees, the fact did not excite the suspicion of the bank clerk. The scamp had secured a check with a genuine signature of the president, but, as every check was printed across the face, "Not good unless countersigned by the secretary," it was necessary to forge the signature of Mr. F. H. Short, which was done, though not in a manner to escape detection, had it been subjected to scrutiny. The check was presented on Saturday afternoon, and paid, and the forgery was not discovered until Tuesday afternoon, the book not having been used in the meantime, when the pass book was taken to the Lafayette Bank to be balanced. Upon making inquiries, it was ascertained that young Dubois had not been at the office since Saturday, nor at his usual boarding place, and the forgery was at once traced to him. Further investigation developed the fact that he had not only perpetrated the crime we have described, which he must have had in contemplation for some time, but that in his subsequent flight from the city he had taken with him a young lady about eighteen years of age, the sister of the wife of a very respectable citizen. The guilty partner in the flight of the young forger is said to be handsome and well educated, and until this affair had borne an irreproachable character. She had been a resident of the city about six months, having come from New York city to reside with her brother-in-law. As soon as the fact became known that they had left the city, the telegraph was brought into requisition, in every direction, in hopes to intercept them before they got out of the country.

They had a grand tournament last Thursday, May 5th, at Columbia, South Carolina. The beauty and chivalry of Columbia were met the former to witness, and the latter to display the dexterity in knightly deeds. There were twenty-four knights entered, all mounted on gallant steeds, gaily caparisoned, and richly attired. There hard to tell what varied fortunes befell each gallant knight, but ere long it became manifest that he who bore the blushing honors of the knight De La Mancha was victorious. Receiving the crown upon the point of his spear, he dismounted from his Rosinante, and accompanied by his faithful Sancho Panza, he gazed upward at the fair throng. Having announced his choice with low obeisance, he crowned the blushing fair one, and the heralds daly proclaimed her Queen of Love and Beauty.

A batch of murderers were sentenced in New York on Saturday. Quimbo Appo, for the murder of Mary F. Fletcher, is to be hanged on the 22 of July. Jean Roquet, known popularly as "the man-monkey," for the murder of Matilda de Santas, was sentenced to imprisonment for life. Michael Flynn, for killing F. Quiting, is to be imprisoned ten years. John Glass, for the murder of William Decker, was sentenced to be imprisoned twenty years. James Higgins, for the same offence, suffers a like punishment. and John D. Pfromer, for sending the death of Chas. F. Sturges, was sentenced to the State prison for four years.

The U. S. frigate Sabine, and U. S. sloop-of-war Falmouth, were at Montevideo March 10 h, and would sail in a few days for the West Indies. Also at Montevideo same date, U. S. brigs Bainbridge, Perry, and Dolphin; U. S. steamers Metacomet and Atlanta repairing. The storeship Supply sailed March 16th for New York, and was seen by Spanish bark Emile, about the 19th, with loss of foretopmast and maintopgallant mast.

General Henningsen announces, in a letter to a Georgia paper, that he and several of his friends have withdrawn from the Arizona expedition first formed, and have entered into a new compact, associating themselves under the title of "Henningsen's Arizona Emigrant Association." The members of this company are to rendezvous in Georgia during the month of July.

A circular received from the Secretary of the Treasury, addressed to the heads of the different divisions of the New York custom house, requesting them to adopt some plan by which the present force may be reduced one-fourth, has created considerable excitement among the custom-house officials. There are now three lucrative vicecnsies in the New York custom house: Seizure clerk, $1,500; chief clerk, $1,500; assistant appraiser, $2,000.

Mr. Black, United States Consul at the city of Mexico, who, according to report, has been ordered to leave the country, by General Miramon, has acted as consul in that city for more than twenty years. He is now an old man, and very infirm.

The steamship Costaocaleos, of the Tehuantepec line, has arrived at New Orleans, with advices from San Francisco to the 20th ult., nine days later than the accounts received by the overland route, but we have received no particulars of the news brought by her.

The Black River woollen mills, at Watertown N. Y., were consumed by fire on Friday last, and two persons killed outright, and thirteen severely injured.

The Vanderbilt steamer Ariel, Captain Jones, left New York on Saturday for Southampton and Havre, with two hundred and fifteen passengers, and $390,723 21 in specie.

The City of Washington also left the same port on Saturday for Liverpool, with one hundred and twenty four cabin passengers, and one hundred and eighty in the steerage, and $660,915 33 in specie.

Six of the midshipmen implicated in the late "tar and feather affair" at the Annapolis Naval Academy have been dismissed from the institution. They are all from Pennsylvania.

Senator Seward left New York for Europe on Saturday. Quite a little ovation was gotten up by his friends on the occasion. He will be absent until December.

Captain English, of the schooner Frances, just arrived at New York, states that it was reported at Port-au-Platte that the Dominican Government has negotiated with an American company to work the gold mines of that country.

There were one hundred and eighty-one deaths in this city last week, an increase of seventeen over the previous week's report.

Three hundred and sixty-seven deaths occurred in New York last week, but one more than the week previous.

Henry Owen, of Philadelphia, of the United States Navy, recently died in the Seaman's Hospital at St. Helena.

As account of the dedication of the Union Tent of the Young Men's Christian Association, corner of Twelfth and Filzwater streets, on Saturday, will be found in another column.

Philadelphia the Great Reservoir of Domestic Trade.

Lying as our noble city does, so that the trade of the lakes and of the mighty rivers of the West and South, and of all the domains which they drain, must necessarily be poured into her lap, it follows, that her position is daily becoming more interesting to all sections of the country. The Wilmington (North Carolina) *Journal*, of the 5th of May, in discussing the propriety of constructing more than one main line of railway through that State, uses the following language in reference to the railroad rivalry now going on between New York and Pennsylvania:

"The merchant of the interior must depend upon the fact of these lines forming a link in the great chain connecting the centres of production with those of exchange, as the lines by Chicago to the lakes, and the New York railroads do, or as the Pennsylvania or Baltimore and Ohio Railroads do with the Ohio country, and the whole Mississippi valley. So with other lines of this character. But even the great Empire State herself cannot make money on her *two* lines. At the one end of the Pennsylvania Central is the great city of Philadelphia, its rival, the thriving and now large manufacturing city of Pittsburg, and the head of navigation on the Ohio, with railroad communications rapidly multiplying; yet the fact is that it goods and passengers are transmitted between New York and the West did not take the Pennsylvania route, the road would not and could not pay interest on the cost of construction.

"The State of Virginia has the same tale to tell.

"Now, with all these facts before our eyes, ought we in North Carolina to be precipitated or allow ourselves to be hurried away by feeling. Can we, ought we to think of *two* mountain crossings in close proximity to each other, when the great State of New York cannot sustain two lines to the lakes at paying interest?"

Dedication of the New Union Tent of the Young Men's Christian Association.

SERMON BY DR. BRANTLEY—STATEMENT BY GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ., ETC.

The dedication, on Saturday afternoon, of the new *Union Tent*, erected for missionary purposes, by the Young Men's Christian Association, on the lot corner of Twelfth and Fitzwater streets, was an occasion of impressive interest.

This Tent is of the same size as the one dedicated in May, last year, though its interior construction, we think, has been much improved upon, and presents, in whole, a much more inviting appearance. The benches with which it is supplied are all covered with green oil-cloth, instead of the rag-carpet coverings used in the former, which were, besides being dismal in hue, liable to the disadvantage of retaining moisture, which the oil-cloth is calculated to resist. The settees on the ample platform are also painted green, and a large curtain, of the same color, is festooned across the inside, capable of being let down, we presume, so as to enclose the stage alone, for less numerous assemblages, when the whole Tent itself is a superior article of duck, covered with a preparation to withstand rain.

At the appointed hour, 3½ P. M., Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., who occupied the chair, announced that the exercises would be commenced with prayer, by the Rev. James Pratt, rector of the Church of the Covenant.

The prayer, the first hymn, commencing, "All hail the power of Jesus' name!" was read by the Rev. John J. Murray, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was then sung by the congregation with great spirit, the open character of the place in which they were imparting to the sacred song a peculiar charm. The prayer was offered by a minister of all classes, from the sturdy laborer driving his dray to the fancy young man who passed that way on their Saturday-afternoon drive—many of whom halted for several minutes as the service progressed.

Rev. J. F. Berg, of the Reformed Dutch Church—whose name was set down on the programme for that portion of the exercises—being absent, Rev. James Gibson, of Belfast, Ireland, was assigned the duty of reading the Scriptures. The beautiful and impressive portraiture of "Christain Charity," as contained in the 13th chapter of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, was the portion selected.

The dedicatory prayer—earnestly offered, and very appropriately framed—was next made, by the Rev. George Duffield, N. S. Presbyterian, at the conclusion of which another hymn was read, by the Rev. Goldsmith D. Carrow, Methodist, and sung by the congregation, led by Mr. Jas. E. Bird, the accomplished leader of the choir in the Church, Broad and Spruce streets, of which Rev. Dr. Wylie is pastor.

The next step in order was the main feature of these opening services, the preaching of the dedicatory sermon, which was assigned to the Rev. Wm. T. Brantley, of the Baptist Church, Richmond. *Before naming his text he said he had heard these services announced as "dedicatory," and yet he did not feel himself called upon to preach a dedicatory sermon. He believed the work of dedication had already been performed. It had been dedicated to the service for which it was intended in the very act of its erection, and in the services which had preceded him.*

The Word of God from which he would address them, however, was contained in the 15th verse of the 24th chapter of Joshua, viz.: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

The discourse which followed was an earnest and lucid exposition of Scripture, with special reference to its power and application to the souls of the unconverted. He was free to say that it was not in *his power to convert a single soul*; nor was it in the power of all the ministers in the world to convert a soul. That work belonged to God, and to Him only. It was God's work which must seek and arrest the sinner and commence the good work in his heart, and it was God's grace alone that could carry it on after it was commenced. Yet it was true, that in a very important sense, every man had something to do towards obtaining his salvation. Every man, for example, could choose whether he would read such books as were more likely, under the blessing of God, to lead him to salvation in Christ.

The speaker proceeded at some length to argue the unreasonableness of abstaining from God's service. The terms upon which salvation was offered were eloquently dwelt upon, as being such in their freedom as none could reasonably reject. And in view of this, he cautioned all who heard him not to make a fatal decision. There was no neutral ground in this matter. "He that is not for me is against me," was the standard by which such decisions are tried, and if any man said within himself, "I will neither be for God, nor against him," he *deceived himself. The longer, too, that* this decision was deferred the more rapid became the stream which was bearing the sinner down to the gulf of perdition, until, finally, the day would come when salvation would be out of the question.

The history of the Church of Jesus Christ proved that the great majority of those who composed its membership had been brought to the truth in the morning of life. The speaker here introduced certain college statistics to prove that from sixteen to twenty years of age was the most propitious time for the new birth. There might be, and were, he know, many cases of conversion at a much later period in life; yet there were facts enough to supply the fearful probability that, unless they chose the service of God in the morning *of life, they were most likely not to do so at all.* "Choose ye *then* this day whom ye will serve" was his earnest admonition.

Another point which should not be overlooked, as a mighty reason for acting promptly in this matter, was, that "*to-day*" "now" is the day of salvation. The present moment alone was ours; we had no lease upon the future.

At the close of his sermon, Mr. George H. Stuart, president of the Young Men's Christian Association, made an address full of interesting statistics.

Salvation, it was true, said Mr S., was of the Lord; yet, it was also true, that at all times and in all ages, God had condescended to bless the humblest efforts of his children in their endeavors to extend his kingdom. In his brief and interesting statement respecting this tent movement, we learned that much good had already been accomplished by it. The first tent was dedicated on the 1st of May, 1858. For six months it had remained in this city, during which time it had been pitched in six different localities; and it was a remarkable fact that, at every one of the services held in it, from first to last, there had been souls awakened.

During that interval, 416 meetings had been held in it, of which 325 were in the English language, and 91 in German. There were sermons preached during that time by 105 ministers, and 100 others had either exhorted, prayed, or taken some other part in the religious services, and in which all the Evangelical Churches in America had been represented. From an estimate made, 170,000 souls had been preached to during the summer in that tent, and of that number some two hundred were hopefully converted, one of whom (Mr. G. J. Mingine) had been selected by the Young Men's Christian Association as the superintendent of the new tent they were then dedicating.

This new tent, Mr. Stuart said, had been built with the contributions of twenty-five gentlemen in this city, (who subscribed fifty dollars each), of *different Christian denominations*.

The collection (to meet certain expenses incurred in fitting up the interior of the tent) was taken at the close of Mr. Stuart's address, during which an exhortation of extraordinary vigor and pun-

The Canvass in Kentucky.

The canvass in Kentucky has become a most exciting one. The Administration organ, the *Courier*, at Louisville, conducted by a recent convert to the Democratic party, bitterly denounces the doctrine of non-intervention, and declares, in its article of the first of May, that the position of intervention *for* slavery, first by the Territorial Legislature, and if they should fail, next by the Congress of the United States, and no intervention against slavery—Territorial or Congressional—*is the only position that can be successfully maintained in the South*."

Mr. MAGOFFIN, the Democratic candidate for Governor, takes exactly the opposite ground, and is sustained by Vice-President BRECKINRIDGE, Hon. J. W. STEVENSON, who is a candidate for re-election to Congress, the Louisville *Democrat*, the Frankfort *Yeoman*, the Lexington *Statesman*, and by a large body of the most influential men and newspapers in that State. The *Courier*, the organ of Mr. BUCHANAN, declares that this course on the part of the Democratic candidates for Governor and his friends, against the doctrine of intervention for slavery, "has excited widespread disaffection, and, unless checked, will inevitably result disastrously to the Democratic party." As showing the position occupied in this contest by the masses of the Kentucky Democracy, we ask our readers to peruse the following distinguished authorities:

The central organ of the Kentucky Democracy, the Lexington *Statesman*, which journal is understood to reflect the views of Vice-President Breckinridge, has the following remarks upon the new intervention dogma, which is being contended for by the opposition in Kentucky:

"To look to Congressional interference is to subvert political principles which we may have learned to regard as the fundamental doctrines of the Democratic party, to inaugurate a domestic policy in direct conflict with that theory upon which alone there seems to be a hope for the permanent adjustment of our sectional difficulties, and finally to concede a power which, if exerted to its legitimate extent, would place the extension of slavery within the absolute control of an Abolition Congress. Congressional legislation in protection of slavery in the Territories irresistibly carries with it the power to legislate for its exclusion. The duty or right of Congress to protect cannot be maintained without maintaining the power to abolish. If Congress can intervene for our purpose it can for another. The South cannot assert a principle and expect to reap only its advantages. We must abide to full enforcement."

The Democrats of Campbell county, Kentucky, on Monday week, held a meeting; and, among others, passed the following sound Democratic resolutions:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Campbell county repudiate the doctrine, whether it comes from the North or South, that Congress should legislate for or against the introduction of slavery into the Territories of the United States, or for or against its maintenance therein: believing as we do, that it is a question that should be left solely to the bona fide inhabitants of said Territories to settle for themselves.

The *Enquirer* says:

"Hon. J. W. Stevenson having been called upon, addressed the meeting at some length, giving an account of his course in Congress, and vindicating the National Administration from the unjust aspersions of its enemies. He took occasion to allude to the question of enactment of a slave code for the Territories, and, to use his own words, *'it set his face like flint against it.'* We will not attempt even a synopsis of the powerful reasoning by which he established the correctness of his position. Suffice it to say, that his arguments were convincing to his auditors, among whom were several intelligent members of the Opposition party, who expressed their intention, because of the issue thus raised by the Opposition leaders, to vote with the Democracy at the coming election."

The Charleston Convention.

[From the Charleston Mercury.]

THE MATTER SETTLED.—*The Press*, published by Mr. Forney, in Philadelphia, undertakes to answer the anxious inquiries of the Washington *States* as to the designs and policy of the Douglas squatter sovereignty party in the North. The Washington *States*, amongst other questions, asks—"Do they pledge themselves to support the nominations of the Charleston Convention?" *The Press* answers as follows:

"3. If the nominees of the Charleston Convention shall be the representatives of the principle of non-intervention and popular sovereignty, as accepted, advocated, and understood in 1856, as explained and defended in 1858, by Stephen A. Douglas and his associates, and as applied by leading Southern statesmen, then do we pledge ourselves to support the nominees of that Convention with all our zeal. But if, on the other hand, that convention shall be committed, in any shape, to the theory so eloquently denounced by *The States*—that this Government is to be dedicated "to the propagation of slavery"—then we shall unquestionably oppose its nominees."

This is plain enough, and just as any one might have expected from the previous course of this paper. If the nominees of the Charleston Convention must be the representative of the principle of non-intervention and popular sovereignty, as accepted, advocated, and understood in 1856, as explained and defended in 1858, by Stephen A. Douglas and his associates, and as applied by leading Southern statesmen, then do we pledge ourselves to support the nominees of that Convention with all our zeal. But if, on the other hand, that convention shall be committed, in any shape, to the theory so eloquently denounced by *The States*—that this Government is to be dedicated "to the propagation of slavery"—then we shall unquestionably oppose its nominees.

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