The Press.

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1859.

FIRST PAGE.—Letter from New York—"Wanderer" in the Choctaw Region; Pennsylvania State Fair; Foreign Miscellany; General News. FOURTH PAGE.—Wholesale Incendiarism and attempt to Murder; Miscellaneous Items; List of Letters remaining in the Philadelphia Post Office up to 12 o'clock, P. M., Saturday, August 13; Marine Intelligence.

The News.

The New York Evening *Post*, of Saturday, has the following paragraph in regard to Hon. Daniel E. Sickles:—"It is understood that, upon certain conditions, which have been duly considered by his personal friends, Mr. Sickles will voluntarily surrender his claims to represent the Third Congressional district. His application for his seat must be referred to a committee, which will have also to decide upon the credentials of the other New York city members. On account of a clerical error in the endorsement of their ballots, no certificate has been issued to them. All the members elect, but Sickles, will be reported back forthwith; his case will be retained until he chooses whether to resign or contest. In the latter case, the vote of certain soldiers from Governor's Island and other irregularities will be put in issue. The fact that William Wise has failed to serve notice on Sickles of his intention to contest, will complicate matters, but in consideration of an agreement on the part of Sickles to resign, and of certain other high contracting parties to put an anti-Lecompton Democrat in nomination for the district, the plan is now to hold a special election in the Third Congressional district."

A singular and unaccountable noise was heard in the vicinity of Troy and Albany, on the 11th inst., which the wiseacres of those cities have concluded must have been the shock of an earthquake. The Albany Argus of the 13th inst. says:—"We are inclined to think that it was a gentle earthquake. Although we cannot learn that it was felt in this city, we have been assured by two or three subscribers from the towns of Guilderland and New Scotia, that they were out counting room yesterday, when the same phenomenon was experienced in those villages, soon after seven o'clock on Thursday morning. The heavy rumbling sound and vibration of the earth continued, they say, for two or three minutes, proceeding from the southwest, and dying away in the northeast. When they gave us this information they were ignorant that any such thing had been experienced anywhere else."

The steamship North American, passed Fisher's Point at four o'clock on Saturday morning. Her dates are the same as those by the City of Baltimore. Numerous disasters to American shipping are reported.

The number of interments in this city for the week ending August 13 was 240—94 adults and 146 children. The principal deaths were caused by the following diseases: Cholera infantum, 34; consumption of lungs, 30; convulsions, 12; dysentery, 10; inflammation of the brain, 9; inflammation of the stomach and bowels, 9; inanition, 13; marasmus, 19; still born, 12.

The steamship Vanderbilt arrived at New York on Saturday evening. The London *Herald* states that Mr. Dallas has recently placed in the hands of Lord John Russell a despatch from Washington, announcing that our Government have resolved to abandon the right of privateering. This is "important, if true."

A correspondent of the N. Y. *Times*, writing from Vera Cruz, Mexico, under date of August 4, says:—"The American Legation is sojourning at San Andres. Mr. McLane is awaiting the return of the Brooklyn, with advices from his Government in reply to despatches forwarded by that vessel on the 8th ult. It is generally understood, and there is but little doubt the general understanding is correct, that a liberal, and every way desirable treaty with the Constitutional Government could have been formed by Mr. McLane, but for the fact that the Administration at Washington insists that Juarez and his Cabinet shall sell Lower California to the United States. Mr. Buchanan is certainly mad, raving mad, on the subject of the extension of territory. He would swallow Cuba, Sonora, Chihuahua, the whole of Mexico, in fact, at one gulph, having no fears of a disordered stomach in the future. The sale of territory has never been one of the political principles of the Liberal party of Mexico. It is one of the cardinal points in their political platform *not* to sell territory. It is exceedingly unwise, therefore, to press the sale of territory at the present time at the expense of other points of negotiation of greater consequence. It is of more importance to the United States at the present moment to secure freedom of religion in Mexico by treaty, than to purchase all the northern frontier States of the Republic."

The intelligence by the Vanderbilt shows that the people of the Italian Duchies are still very much opposed to their former rulers. Thus the *Opinione* of Turin has the following article on the abdication of the Grand Duke of Tuscany:—

"The Grand Duke Leopold has abdicated in favor of his son, Archduke Ferdinand.

"He was called upon to abdicate by those who were less adverse to his dynasty than others, who would have prevented complications foreseen, and which eventually occurred.

"What does abdication signify now?

"The Grand Duke abdicates a power which he no longer possesses. He renounced in favor of his son right which never belonged to his, of which he has been deprived.

"He has understood that his restoration is impossible; but he wishes to save his dynasty.

"Tuscany has the right, and it is her duty, to give a reply. It is too late. She will have nothing more to do with Austrian rulers, princes and proprietors of Austrian regiments, vassals of Austria.

"And in favor of whom does he wish to abdicate? Of Prince Ferdinand, who, on the 24th of June was present at the battle of Solferino in the Austrian army, hoping to see the defeat of the Italian troops. His brother, Prince Charles, is the man who made the noble proposal to bombard Florence.

"And men fancy that national questions are to be settled by such expedients—public opinion calmed and nations tranquillized!

"Tuscany has not asked for the abdication of the Grand Duke, but has decreed the overthrow of his dynasty, and she must see that her decree is respected.

"Farini, the Sardinian Commissioner in Modena, in his address announcing his retirement, said:

"The tumultuous clamors of those who doubt and fear would not be benefiting in you. Civilized Europe has recognized the right of nations to regulate for themselves, and in internal order. Prepare to exercise this right worthily, and *rest assured that princes whose banishment has been decreed by the nation will not be restored against the will of a noble people.* I am certain that in the Modenese province there will not be afforded any pretext of calling in the implacable Austrian. Go, people, Italy, testing that in your words and your writings, in your counsels and your resolutions, you will act in such a manner as not only to attract to yourselves praise and esteem, but even to do honor to the entire nation and to enhance the good reputation of your whole race."

On the other hand, the Emperor of France appears to very decidedly favor the restoration of the banished Dukes. A Paris letter in the *Nord* of Brussels says:—

"The envoys of the provisional governments of the Duchies have drawn up a very detailed note on the complaints of the people against the dethroned princes, and the motives which ought to prevent their return. This note has been left in the hands of Count Walewski. I am able to confirm what I have before told you, that the Emperor, in taking leave of the envoys, and while assuring them against any armed intervention, recommended them to advise the people to recall their princes, who are ready to carry out all the reforms called for by public interest and the progress of civilization. Count de Reiset, who is furnished with instructions from the Emperor, will support by his influence the language which the envoys of the provisional governments will not fail to use."

The first letter of "Wanderer," who has, finally, after a toilsome and somewhat eventful trip, reached the Choctaw Reservation, one of the most interesting theatres for intelligent observation and comment within the limits of the Republic, appears in THE PRESS to-day. It is the intention of our able correspondent to send us graphic sketches of this tribe, which, after the Creeks and Cherokees, is the most progressive and intelligent of the rapidly-disappearing aborigines of our country.

PUBLIC SALES OF REAL ESTATE AND STOCKS.—Messrs. Thomas & Sons' sales at the Philadelphia Exchange will in future be held at 12 o'clock noon. First sale on Tuesday next, 16th instant. See advertisement.

SINGULAR.—On last Saturday week, Mr. Milton Trullinger, who lives about three miles west of Drakesville, Iowa, was returning home in his wagon, accompanied by a little son of Mr. W. A. Fleming, who was standing between his Trullinger's legs, holding an open umbrella, as it was raining very hard at the time. A bolt of lightning *descended and struck Mr. T.* on the right shoulder, passing through his coat and shirt, one current passing down his right side and out at the hip through his pantaloons, the other going at right angles across his breast, and passing out through his shirt and coat on the left side. Mr. T. remained insensible for several hours, but has recovered, and is now going about as hale. His shoulders and hips are very much bruised, and his hair all singed from his breast. The boy was considerably shocked, but recovered in a few moments, and took the reins and drove home. Neither the horses nor the wagon were injured in the least.

NEW GIFTS TO AMHERST COLLEGE.—At the Commencement of Amherst College on Wednesday last, it was announced that Samuel Hitchcock of Plainfield, who gave $10,000 a few years ago, now offers a similar sum, to be devoted to scholarships. Another, but as yet unknown benefactor, gives $4,000 more. These, with the $2,500 for the gymnasium, will make $16,500 toward the $25,000 required by the State grant. The Springfield *Republican* says Mr. Hitchcock, who thus duplicates his original gift to the college, is the shoe man in Hampden county, probably in Western Massachusetts, yet is hardly known out of his own town.

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING last two fishermen of Little Nut Island, Long Island, discovered on the shore a young whale. It had strayed too far in shore, and the receding tide left its body suspended between two small rocks, where, before it was seen, it had struggled its life away.

Repudiation.

There is no example more hurtful in a Government which depends almost exclusively upon a healthy public opinion, than that of a refusal to pay debts legally contracted. We have already expressed our opinion in reference to the Allegheny bonds; and, while conceding much to the objections urged against the manner in which the debt which these bonds represent was originally contracted, we recognise no reason that can invalidate this obligation, in view of the fact that hundreds of our citizens have purchased these bonds, and have relied upon their ultimate and honorable payment. We can understand, too, how honest men, in a community like that of Pittsburg, particularly after the failure of the enterprise to assist which this debt was contracted, should revolt at being compelled to assume the responsibility put upon them by their agents, and we know how demagogues have taken advantage of this feeling, and have succeeded in increasing it. But if a whole-some public opinion does not stop in to arrest such examples as these, our whole system must become corrupt and unsafe, and repudiation begun with municipalities and sustained by intellectual men, ambitious to help themselves, or paid for their opinions, must extend itself to individuals to the utter destruction of all confidence between man and man.

Last Thursday, the people of New London, Connecticut, held a town meeting, or, what is understood in this vicinity as a town election, for the purpose of *rescinding* the following resolution, which had been previously adopted:

"*Voted*, That John Bishop, Leonard Hempstead, and Charles A. Gurley, be and the same are hereby appointed a committee on behalf of the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and freemen of said city, with full power to take such legal and proper measures as they shall deem best, to test and exonerate the city from a claim brought by the Society for Savings, a corporation having a place of business in Hartford, to the Superior Court, and also to take such other measures as said committee shall deem proper to exonerate said city of New London from the payment of script, or certificates of debt, to the amount of $100,000, claimed to have been issued by said city, and delivered to the N. L. W. & P. Railroad Corporation."

On the reconsideration the whole number of votes cast was 915; of which 421 were in favor of the resolution to rescind the above, and 494 against it; and it was accordingly declared to be lost by 73 majority. The meeting then adjourned.

Much excitement has resulted from this action of the people of New London, and the end is not yet. In this connection, and as pertinent to the feeling which prevails in the western part of our State on this subject, the following remarks of a member of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Hon. ARTHUR MCARTHUR, may not be inappropriate:

"But there are two methods of repudiating our just public debts, and both of them entail an equal inheritance of shame: one is by openly refusing to pay, and the other is by doing nothing to pay. A State can never settle its debts by repudiation. *Its obligations will live as a perpetual disgrace, depriving us of all respect in the world and exiling us from association or credit with our neighbors.* If we are told that the people of the towns and cities who have voluntarily voted their public credit will not and cannot bear the necessary taxation, let them be assured that if they fall into the putrid gulf of repudiation, they will have more grievous burdens to bear than high taxes. The scorn of mankind and the moral sense of the world will sink us into universal infamy.

"The benefits derived from the loans exceed even immaterial wealth a thousand fold the amount that would be sufficient to save our credit and our character, and but a tithe of what we have already realized would amply enable us to pay the interest as it falls due. It is easy to lose our reputation, and extremely difficult to regain it. A little self-sacrifice and self-denial at the proper time will preserve us from degradation. No one ever lost a character but he regretted in the bitterness of despair that he had not resorted to the means of retaining it. So with States. It is needless to say that only these municipalities will be blighted who have proved recreant. The world regards a State or community in the concrete, and no pause is made to discriminate the members from the whole.

"When a public crime is committed, in public judgment *the condemnation extends to the entire body. The public faith is in the keeping of the whole community. The character of the State is its noblest treasure, and no man with self-respect will desire to come here unless that character is good.*

"Whenever the brand of *dereliction from good* faith has stigmatized a State, that State has always been outlawed as a traitress to her sister communities, and shunned in their common intercourse *long after the original cause of condemnation had* been fully expiated. Mississippi earned not only the scorn of all honest men, but the indignation of every honorable State in the Union. The mere suspicion that attached to Pennsylvania will not be forgotten until we cease to blush. On the other hand, a faithful observance of foreign and domestic pledges has ever upheld the credit of nations and silenced anarchy at home."

The Great West of the Present Era.

One of the most noteworthy features of the present era, is the rapidly increasing importance of the vast region of country which lies between the Pacific Ocean and the States *immediately west of the Mississippi river.* Ten years ago, this immense territory, with the exception of a small population in California, a *few scattering settlements in Oregon*, and a recent Mormon establishment in Great Salt Lake City, was peopled only by the aborigines, and remained in its primitive condition. It was a rare occurrence to obtain from it any tidings whatever, and it was only when some adventurous explorer published an account of his perilous journey through some new portions of it, or when discoveries of the California miners attracted attention, that the American people were reminded of the vast Western possessions belonging to the Confederacy.

Since that period, however, this region has immeasurably risen in national importance, and it now commands, in some shape or other, the constant solicitude of the whole country. California, Oregon, and Minnesota, have been admitted into the Union, and their political action will not unfrequently decide the policy of the Federal Government. Democratic in their instincts, it has been the misfortune of the Democratic party to elect so repulsive and unjust a President, that there is great danger they may be driven into the Opposition ranks. In Minnesota the Republicans have gained a very substantial foothold, and against the Administration and its doctrines they could command an immense majority. In Oregon, heretofore supposed to be intensely Democratic, the late election for Congress has been a very close one, with the chances decidedly in favor of LOGAN, the Republican nominee. In California, the Democratic party is divided into two camps intensely hostile to each other—the one faithful to the principles of the party, the other crazy only in its attachment to the spoils.

Kansas, which six years ago scarcely contained a single white inhabitant, has convulsed the nation to its centre by the exciting scenes enacted upon her soil, and by the food for continued agitation which the foolish and wicked attempt of the Administration to defraud her inhabitants of their political *rights* has furnished.

The vagaries and alleged enormities of the Mormons have made them the cynosure of all Christendom, and under the direction of the Administration a semi-comic military crusade has been instituted against them, which would be ridiculous enough through the meagreness of its results, had it not saddled upon the nation a frightful expenditure.

At the last session of Congress, no one subject attracted more attention than the proposed Pacific Railroad. *Although this project will necessarily involve the expenditure of vast sums of money, it will evidently become, at no distant day, a necessity,* and either by public or private enterprise, or more probably by a combination of both, be constructed.

The Pike's Peak gold mines have attracted many thousands of emigrants to one of the most inaccessible and apparently uninviting portions of the continent.

Questions connected with routes through Central America and Mexico to our possessions on the Pacific have, for some years past, occupied a very large share of the attention of our Government.

The leading political question of the day applies to the management of the Territories of the Union; and the method of regulating their government, and all these Territories are situated in the region we have referred to.

Nations have particular duties imposed upon them, at certain periods, and considering the nature of the political agitations in this country at the present time, and during the last five or six years, it is evident that the great business of this Union, latterly, has been, and for some years will continue to be, to mould the government and provide for the settlement and the development of the resources of the region between the Pacific and the States lying west of the Mississippi. The acquisition of Texas and California, and the settlement of the Oregon boundary question, turned the footsteps of national progress in that direction. And until the destiny of this vast region is fully determined, so far as the action of the Federal Government can determine it, it will continue to furnish the prominent topics of national politics. The Mormon problem, the Pacific Railroad schemes, the great doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, will rise up again and again, to demand the attention of the nation, until final conclusions in reference to the questions they involve are attained.

Another Postponement of the French Invasion.

On the tenth of May, NAPOLEON left Paris to join the Allied army in Italy. On the 11th of July, he signed the Treaty of Villa Franca, by which peace was concluded with Austria. Thus the stirring events of the war in Italy were compressed within two short months, and the nations of Europe, having been practically taught that in this era many great deeds can be performed in a very limited time, are still in a state of tremor, notwithstanding the conclusion of peace. When a man beholds a companion quietly standing by his side, suddenly killed by a stroke of lightning, it is natural that his own heart should be filled with apprehensions, and when Europe beholds the speck of war collect in a cloudless sky, break with terrific force, and pass away, in a period more limited than that usually allotted to preliminary diplomatic conferences, we cannot much wonder that she should fear the repetition of such a scene.

It appears to be a settled part of the policy of NAPOLEON to form firm friendships with his antagonists after his battles are concluded. Like Col. Dumas, after his duel with Claude Melnotte, he says of Russia and of Austria: "It is astonishing how well I like these people since I have fought with them." And now, the fears of future difficulties are evidently between Austria and Prussia on the one hand, and between France and England on the other; but we can scarcely believe there is good cause to apprehend actual hostilities at any early period, in either case.

The fears of a Napoleonic invasion which are periodically expressed, and evidently sincerely entertained in England, have a great tendency to degrade the national character of that great country in the eyes of the world. Her inherent *strength* should place her above such a weakness. But if we are to judge from the tone of her journals, and their repeated alarms, the dreaded filibusters never inspired more terror in Nicaragua than the rumors of the hostile designs of NAPOLEON create in England. The true interests of both countries can, doubtless, be best served by a permanent peace, for both would have much to lose and nothing valuable to gain in a war. Ancient animosities, and modern ill-feeling, engendered by the repeated attacks upon NAPOLEON, in the British press, are the only causes that can precipitate a conflict between them. As it is, while the English journals, being free, indulge to an unlimited extent in denunciations of NAPOLEON, and while the English Government cannot be held responsible for these attacks, which it cannot prevent, any reply in the French journals, which are subjected to a censorship, is paraded before the English public as a direct or indirect emanation from the Emperor himself. Thus, in the newspaper war between the two countries, the English have an immeasurable advantage. They fire their paper bullets with utter recklessness, and with no sense of responsibility to check their hostile ardor, while the French newspaper batteries are silenced by the restrictions to which they are subjected. It is not impossible that NAPOLEON may yet be goaded into a war with England by the very accusations which are constantly hurled against him of contemplating one. For the present, however, we rejoice that the official announcement in the *Moniteur*, of his intention to disarm, has quieted the apprehensions of England, and that, for the hundredth time, those who habitually cry "wolf," "wolf," have been compelled to acknowledge that he is not yet at their doors.

New Books.

"A First Lesson in Natural History," by Actæa, discourseth delightfully and instructively upon Sea-Anemones and Corals, Coral Reefs, Hydroids and Jelly-fishes, Star-fishes and Sea-urchins. It has been prepared under the direction of Professor Agassiz, and will be of wonderful assistance to children who would learn, and parents who would teach, all about that branch of Natural History which is here especially made clear. The illustrations are very neat. Indeed, the whole getting up of this small volume is extremely neat and attractive. Published by Little, Brown, & Co., of Boston.

Dr. R. C. *French*, Dean of Westminster, has the reputation of standing among the most learned, rational, and practical of British philologists. J. S. Redfield, of New York, who has published the preceding works of Dean French, has just issued "A Select Glossary of English Words used formerly in Senses different from their Present," by the same author. *He might have advantageously added* a chapter showing the different meaning of words in daily use, even now, in England and the United States. There is the word *Clever*, for example, which is used, in England, to denote intellectual ability—sometimes to indicate mechanical skill. Thus, it is said "he *is a clever* writer" or "a *clever* artist"—meaning that he excels in authorship or art. Or it may be said "that carpenter is a *clever* workman," to *show the favorable opinion* of his skill. In this country, on the contrary, its meaning in these senses has been abandoned. It is used here to denote a good-natured fellow—such as "He is a *clever* waiter," which he may be, in the American sense, without possessing brains. Were we to go through Mr. Bartlett's "Dictionary of Americanisms," of which a new and greatly enlarged edition has lately been published, or through Dr. Elwyn's "Glossary of Supposed Americanisms," we dare say that we could pick out fifty words in ordinary use here, which have a meaning very different from that which they have conveyed in England, for centuries. Dean French shows much research, ingenuity, and learning in his new book. Some of our politicians, who are ambitious of popularity, may be astonished at Dr. French's showing that *Popularity* formerly was the wooing, not as now the having won, that favor. The word which is passive now was active then. Dr. French adduces examples, from early English authors, to prove this, and also that a man's being "popular" showed not that he had acquired, but was laying himself out to acquire, the favor of the people. Dr. French, we notice, though he has the word "*wretched*" on his list, omits saying that "wretch" was once a term of endearment. Pepys uses it very often in this sense when writing about his wife. At present, it means a person who is unhappy or sinful.

From J. Pennington & Son, the agents here, we have received the July number of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, the oldest periodical, not in England alone, but in the world. One article in it is a "slashing review" of a foolish and coarsely-written book on the "Manners and Customs of the English Nation, by John Brookes." Among the memorials, in this book, of things not generally known, is the following, by the author: "In the year 1770 an act was introduced into Parliament against *hoops*, false hair, high heels, and matrimony. Its provisions ran thus:—"That all women, of whatever age, rank, profession, or degree, whether virgins, maids, or widows, that shall, from and after such act, impose upon, seduce, and betray into matrimony any of his Majesty's male subjects, by the scents, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, *hoops*, high-heeled shoes, &c., shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanors, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void." Inasmuch as unhappy husbands *are now precluded from the comfort of their wives* leaning, wife-like, upon their arms, as in former days, it might be well to look up this act of Parliament, and see whether it ever passed into the statute book. As English law continues to rule in this country, where the decisions of English judges are accepted as preferable even to the law which *they misinterpret, the anti-hoop portion of the* community could readily sue for the infliction of the punishment here laid down, and the nullification of the marriage. Q. E. D.

By far the best book written, for many years, upon the external and internal life of the French metropolis, assuredly the most attractive city in the world, is "Ins and Outs of Paris," by Julio de Marguerittes, published in this city four years ago. No better handbook of Parisian society can be found. The accomplished authoress has now made another volume, a companion or sequel, entitled "Parisian Pickings, or Paris in all States and Stations." This consists of over three-score short stories, properly called novelettes, in which the inner life of Parisian society is laid bare with considerable power and an evident desire to represent it fairly. *Those show great constructive power*, and the incidents are worked up, and the characters developed with considerable dramatic effect. They do not generally convey the most favorable view of Parisian society, and herein consists much of their value. Those who, having visited Paris, were enchanted with its brilliant aspect, and fancied that Vice did not exist there, because it did not impudently strut openly in the glare of publicity, will have their opinions greatly changed by the truthful revelations in "Parisian Pickings." They will show, more particularly, what is Woman's position in Parisian Society. They "show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure." Published by J. S. Colton & Co., Chestnut street.

This month witnesses the conversion of the *Dental News Letter*, after a career of twelve years, into a periodical called "*The Dental Cosmos*," edited by Dr. J. D. White, Mr. J. H. McQuillen, and Dr. George J. Ziegler. It is published by Jones and White, Arch street. Considering that there are six thousand dental surgeons now practising in the United States, it will be admitted that Dentistry requires a publication devoted to its own interests, and particularly addressing itself to collect, condense, and present information from all quarters, so as to assist the good cause of professional advancement. Thereby the science of Dentistry will be greatly benefited. New facts and observations are constantly arising, and it is for the benefit of the science that these should be widely extended. The present number of "The Dental Cosmos" contains practical essays on the science; reported proceedings of Dental Societies; Correspondence; Editorials; Reviews of Dental Literature and Art, (very well done); and Periscope of Medical and General Science. We think this publication worthy of success, if it be continued in the spirit with which it has been commenced, and strongly recommend it to all dentists, and other medical men.

Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society.

The Ninth Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held, in this city, on the four last days of next month, under the Presidency of David Taggart, Esq., Northumberland county, twenty-five Vice Presidents, and five additional members of the Executive Committee. Mr. A. O. Heister, of Harrisburg, will act as Recording Secretary, and Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, also of Harrisburg, as Corresponding Secretary. Until 26th September, the Secretary's and Business Office will be at the room of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, Chestnut street, below Seventh. The cost of Annual Membership is one dollar. Exhibitors must be members of the Society. The book of Entries, by Exhibitors, will be open on and after the first day of September. During the four days of the Fair, the grounds will be open to the public, at an admission of 25 cents to each person. The Annual Address will be delivered at 2 o'clock P. M., on Friday, the thirtieth of September; and immediately after the Address, the reports of the Judges will be read, and the Premiums awarded and distributed. The competition for prizes is not confined to *citizens of* Pennsylvania, but open to all the Union.

The Executive Committee have greatly enlarged and improved the old administrative system. Among new regulations, the following are worth notice:

Stock and Articles Exhibited and not sold will have freight money *refunded*. Exhibitors at the Fair bringing articles or stock over the railroads to Philadelphia, will be required to deposit the usual fare with the Agent at the local station, or the Agent at Philadelphia: upon *returning* the articles the certificate of the Secretary of the Society must be obtained and shown to the Railroad Company's Agent in Philadelphia, when the articles or stock WILL BE REFUNDED FREE; and upon obtaining the voucher of the Railroad Agent of the station whence they were originally sent, and to which they shall have been returned, the money deposited with the Railroad Company will be refunded to the Exhibitor.

There will be a public sale of Stock, Implements, and Farmers' and Gardeners' Books only, under the direction of the Officers of the Society, every day during the continuance of the Exhibition.

For each of the leading articles exhibited, Sweepstakes premiums will be permitted. Exhibitors are *informed that it is entirely* optional with them whether to enter under this head, or for the usual premium offered by the Society, or both. To illustrate the idea of the Committee: A, B, and C, each enter an animal or article for the Sweepstakes premium—Entry $5. The successful party takes the whole sweepstakes fee, except ten per cent. to be retained *by the Society for postages, custody*, and other incidentals, and may also take the premium offered by the Society.

The judges of Stock are directed not to give premiums for over-fed cattle, that is for bulls, cows, or heifers which appear to be fattened for the butcher. Thus this Exhibition will be based upon a sounder principle than that of the Smithfield Cattle Show (in England,) where animals so unwieldly with fat as not to be able to stand, far less to walk, are eligible for the Premiums!

It is announced that cash premiums will be paid by the Treasurer immediately after the reports of the judges have been announced, and during the whole of the week following the close of the Exhibition, at his office in Philadelphia, room of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, Chestnut street, below Seventh.

Among other arrangements, we have to state that a tent will be provided for editors and reporters for the press, and every facility will be afforded them to obtain information and transact their business. We have already to thank Mr. Williams, assistant to the Secretary, for information supplied to us.

The premium list is a voluminous affair, occupying forty pages octavo. We have not space for a summary of it to-day, but notice that it includes *articles and descriptions* not hitherto taken special notice of. Either by accident or for amusement, the bench of the Supreme Court constitute the jury on Bacon and Hams, viz: Walter H. Lowrie, Pittsburg; Geo. W. Woodward, Philadelphia; James Thompson, Erie; and John M. Read, Philadelphia. Curiously enough, too, the committee to decide upon Jacks and Mules consists of *ex-Speakers of* the Senate, viz: John Cresswell, Jr., Hollidaysburg; William H. Welsh, York; Jacob Turney, Greensburg; D. A. Finney, Meadville; N. B. Browne, Philadelphia; William M. Piatt, Tunkhannock; and William M. Hiester, Reading.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1859.

In my letter of the 5th inst. I embodied a brief article which appeared in the Richmond *Enquirer* of the 29th July, reflecting on the conduct of the General Post Office in relation to the decrease of the mail stages from Bonsacks to White Sulphur Springs, in Virginia. The allegations in that article were of a serious character. On Friday last the *Constitution* contained an entire column of editorial (less five lines) devoted to the defence of the General Post Office. It is doubtless the *official* defence, carefully prepared, and presents the case in the most favorable manner that the General Post Office possesses the ingenuity to do, but still it is a most shabby and incomplete defence, and it exhibits *in a striking light the total absence of ad*ministrative ability in that office. The pretence set up for all the delinquencies of the General Post Office, that they are attributable to the failure of Congress, at the last session, to pass the General Post Office appropriation bill, augments the flagrancy of the neglect and abuse charged. This ridiculous defence is interposed to shield the General Post Office from the imputation of neglect to give prompt and civil replies to persons writing to the General Post Office on business! The old stereotyped excuse for laziness and inattention, "*an unusual press of business*," is put forth, and the ridiculous assertion is ventured that this "*unusual press*" was caused by the *failure of Congress to pass the appropriation bill!* Everything is laid to the *failure of Congress to pass the appropriation bill!* Lest I should be accused of misrepresentation, I quote a single sentence from the article in the *Constitution*:

"It is well known that the Post Office Department has had an *unusual press of business* thrown upon it by reason of the reductions rendered necessary by the *failure of Congress to provide means to carry on the usual operations of the postal service*; and an intelligent public will make due allowance if every communication has not been answered as promptly and as much at large as might be practicable under other circumstances."

A man of common sense would suppose that the "*reduction*" of the mail service alleged to be imperatively required by reason of such failure would *reduce*, in a corresponding degree, the "onerous labors" of the clerical stipendiaries at Washington. In addition to this excuse, the editorial makes sundry statements, which I am assured, by Virginia gentlemen from the vicinity of the route, are variant from or perversions of the truth, and that the same will be so made to appear at the next session of Congress. Your friend, the Hon. * * *, requests this notice of what he denounces as "a flagrant and disgraceful transaction," or I should *not select this from the thousand worse cases* that have occurred throughout the country since February last.

From all that is disclosed here, I have no doubt that at the next session of Congress partiality and favoritism of a flagitious character will be brought to light with reference to the discontinuance and decrease of sundry mails, and the continuance and establishment of others by no means so serviceable, and more extensive and expensive than those abolished. The Postmaster General will be strenuously defended in both houses of Congress by certain members who have been personally benefited by his action, but it is said that the exertion of some of these influences in his behalf will, under the peculiar circumstances surrounding the parties, do him more harm than good. I will, in a future letter, *at the proper time, explain all these circumstances.*

You will recollect that the Administration organ here, in puffing what was called the astonishing administrative and financial ability of the pet Postmaster General of the President, and so also the semi-official telegraphic despatches sent throughout the country, of the same character, stated that the General Post Office, in its efforts to relieve *mail contractors* from the difficulties consequent upon *the failure of Congress*, to pass the appropriation bill, would give contractors *certificates of indebtedness*, by which they could readily raise money from banks and capitalists till Congress did make the needful appropriations. I am informed the departmental certificates from the General Post Office, and from other departments, for *enormous amounts*, have been given, and that it has been sought to negotiate them in your city and in New York and elsewhere, but that a large discount was demanded. I learn it was 20 per cent., besides interest. The brokers are not easily caught napping. A certain section of a certain act of Congress, passed in 1853, stares them in the face. It is in these words:

"*An Act to prevent frauds upon the Treasury of the United States*," *passed February 26, 1855*:

"SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all transfers and assignments hereafter made of any claim upon the United States, or any part or share thereof, or interest therein, whether absolute or conditional, and whatever may be the consideration therefor, and all powers of attorney, orders, or other authorities for receiving payment of any such claim or any part or share thereof, *shall be absolutely null and void*, unless the same shall be freely made and executed in the presence of at least two attesting witnesses, after the allowance of such claim, the ascertainment of the amount due, *and the issuing of a warrant for the payment thereof.*"

The second section of this act prohibits all officers of the Federal Government from being the agent of or concerned in claims against the United States; and the third section prohibits members of Congress from meddling in such claims, and makes such act a misdemeanor, punishable by one year's imprisonment in the penitentiary and $5,000 fine. By other acts members of both houses of Congress are prohibited, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, from being concerned in mail contracts or other public contracts, and all such contracts are declared void.

What defence can this Administration make for their thus suggesting and inviting to the violation of this act of Congress, as I have stated? But this is not the sum of the enormity of its conduct in relation to the transactions of the General Post Office since June last. *It has usurped unconstitutional and illegal powers, and substituted itself for Congress, and tried the experiment of carrying on the Government by Executive or Administration edicts, without Congressional direction or aid.* Why did not Mr. Buchanan call an extra session on the failure to pass the Post Office appropriation bill? Many constitutional statesmen regard the questions to be presented at the next session in this respect as the most important that have been mooted for many years. Since June, so far as regards the General Post Office, the legislative branch of the Federal Government has been *ignored*, and the entire concern resolved into a dictatorship, unrestrained by law, and without law; and from the example set, it is to be presumed if Congress, from want of confidence in an Administration, should refuse to make the appropriations it demanded as to any or all of the departments, those in executive office would, disregarding legislative action, constitute themselves into an *Octonarian* oligarchy, and dispense with Congress altogether! I learn, too, the Sub-Treasury law and the law prohibiting advances have been nullified by departments. And even the sacred Constitution of the United States, which all are sworn to maintain inviolate, has been trampled under foot. The seventh clause of the ninth section of the first article declares that "*No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law*," &c. It is notorious that enormous sums have been disbursed or advanced, or allowed to remain uncalled for in the hands of certain officers, contrary to law, upon certain understandings, and some disbursed by receiving officers by departmental sanction, *and moneys* (in effect) *drawn from the Treasury without appropriations by law.* The quibble, that such money had not been paid into the Treasury, but withheld to evade the constitutional provision quoted, adds to the heinousness of the offence. There are rumors of intended impeachments, for these and other malfeasances.

The irresistible popularity of Stephen A. Douglas, and the evidences that he is every day breaking down the opposition to him in the South, and concentrating the Democratic *masses of the North* around his banner, are compelling the General Administration, through its organs and adherents everywhere—to resort to all kinds of expedients and impostures for the purpose of arresting the tide in his favor. Orders have been issued (I repeat, upon distinct information) to the office-holders of the different States to use every name in every locality that can be used for the purpose of injuring Judge Douglas. While the Democratic people see in Stephen A. Douglas the only sign by which they can conquer in 1860, the Administration are resolved, with the power still remaining in their hands, to cover the Democracy with defeat, rather than that victory should be secured by Stephen A. Douglas. Hence, the largest liberty is extended to the office-holders to divide and *destroy the Democratic party. They are au*thorized to seize upon any candidate but Douglas. If they find the name of Seymour useful for New York, then they are directed to use it—if Guthrie, then Guthrie—if Breckinridge, then Breckinridge—and in Indiana the name of General Joe Lane is to be held up as a rallying point. A new series of candidates will also be improvised, and, in order to make confusion worse confounded, the troops of the Administration in Illinois are commanded to *double-set* the Illinois delegation to the Charleston Convention, going, as that delegation will go, pledged to Mr. Douglas. In this latter aspect it is a little curious to read the homilies of the *Constitution* in regard to Governor Wise. The sin of Governor Wise is, that he should have suggested, in a certain *contingency, the double-setting of delegates from New* York, and this is held up by the organ of Mr. Buchanan as a crime to be punished by instant and ignominious execution. But where does this idea of double-setting at Charleston come from? Who invented it for the Convention of 1860? Unquestionably James Buchanan and his satellites. Long before Governor Wise suggested any such remedy against alleged injustice in New York, the President and his creatures had issued orders to Messrs. Ike Cook & Co., in Illinois, to double-set that State, and in a formal address they read out of the Democratic party the masses in favor of Stephen A. Douglas, in Illinois, and excommunicated them in advance from all control or recognition in the Charleston Convention. Gov. Wise spoke as an individual, but James Buchanan and his *backers acted with all the enormous power of the* Federal Administration in their hands, and inaugurated a policy which, if objectionable in the case of Gov. Wise, was ten thousand times more injurious and objectionable in those who are clothed with high Federal power, and armed with ninety or one hundred millions of annual patronage, to carry out their nefarious schemes.

Our friends throughout the Union should keep it steadily in mind that the first attack upon a *regularly organized party*, the first attack upon regular nominations, the first attack upon the accepted principles of the Democracy, came from here, and no subsequent denunciations of others will be able to wash this black spot from those who were guilty of the original sin. I am authorized to say that there is a letter of Judge Black's in Illinois at this moment, which has been seen by others, in which the Attorney General called upon Democrats to rally against Judge Douglas for United States Senator, and to assist in electing the Republican candidate, Mr. Lincoln, by defeating the regularly nominated Democratic candidates for the Legislature pledged to Mr. Douglas! What is the remedy? How is the preference of ninety-nine Democrats out of every hundred, in the free States, and large numbers in the South, to be respected? I repeat, *by our friends keeping their eyes steadily fixed* upon Douglas, by refusing to be misled by the machinations of the Administration, and by cherishing the great, main, absorbing thought, *that we must have Stephen A. Douglas in 1860, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, or surrender the Administration for four years to our opponents.*

Gen. Caleb Cushing was with us two or three days last week. The General is an intellectual wonder, an orator, a linguist, a splendid writer, a man of science, a first-rate judge of poetry, a diplomatist, and a soldier. No man can do or endure more labor. He will deliver a lecture on the State of French politics or on Chinese antiquities; he will write an editorial article against the Republicans; he will pronounce an agricultural oration or weave a legal argument with equal facility and correctness. While in the House of Representatives he was distinguished for his order, and for his habit of collecting information on every conceivable subject, great and small. A good story is told of Cushing, by one of his admirers in Boston, who, being asked one day where the General was to be found, said "he had gone into an adjoining library. When he got up, this morning, he was startled at the discovery that there was *something* he did not know; he has gone over the way to find it, and you may be sure that he will be successful." Such a man as Cushing is not to be slighted, and, of course, the long arm of the Administration is stretched out for him. You will see by the *Constitution* of yesterday that the General has been offered the double-headed mission to the mulatto Republics of *