The Press.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1859.

FIRST PAGE.—Notices of New Publications; Letter from "Occasional"—Etiquette and Society in Washington. FOURTH PAGE.—Personal; General News; The Courts; Marine Intelligence.

The News.

The fair of the Michigan State Agricultural Society commenced yesterday, and will continue for four days. The annual address will be delivered by Governor Banks, of Massachusetts. Horace Greeley is also expected to be present.

In the Court of Oyer and Terminer, yesterday, the trial of William Colton, charged with murder, in killing Charles Keon, on the 28th of July, by stabbing him on the left side of the chest with a pair of shears, at the corner of Fourth and Race streets, was commenced. The defendant stabbed several other persons at the same place, about the same time, and acted as if he was insane. The coroner, and coroner's physician, Dr. S. P. Brown, were examined as witnesses, as well as several persons who saw the defendant inflict the fatal wound. He was acquitted on the ground of insanity.

The Empire Fire Association of Lynn left this city for their homes yesterday morning. Three of their members were compelled to remain behind in consequence of injuries they received at the fire on Saturday last.

A lad named Arrison, about 12 or 13 years of age, a pupil of the Buttonwood-street School, ran before the cars of the Eleventh-street Railroad yesterday, was knocked down by the horses, run over by the car, and instantly killed.

There has been considerable excitement created at Havre-de-Grace, Md., recently, by a report that gold had been found near that place in a small stream and in a mill-race, at Swan creek, but so far the diggers who have been in search of it have met with but poor success.

The fall term of the Court of Oyer and Terminer commenced in New York on Monday, before Judge Roosevelt, when R. S. Macdonald, who shot Virginia Stewart at the Brandreth House, Broadway, was placed on trial, whereupon his counsel, Mr. James T. Brady, applied for the issue of a commission to Mobile, San Francisco, and other cities of the Union, for the examination of witnesses, whose testimony was material to Macdonald's defence. The court granted the application, and postponed further proceedings in the trial till the first Monday in December.

In Hayti another conspiracy against President Geffrard has been discovered. Having detected it in advance, he took efficient precautions to baffle the designs of the conspirators, but suffered their ringleader to embark for the country. While he was absent from his palace, one of the bloodthirsty assassins of the conspirators killed Madame Blanefort, the daughter of the President. The occurrence is thus described by a correspondent:

"On the evening of the 3d, Madame Blanefort, the President's daughter, was sitting in the saloon of the palace, reading, in company with a little girl, *when she was shot through* the head by a disguised Mulatto, through one of the open jalousies. The piece was loaded with twelve irregular bits of metal, several of which entered her head, and scattered her brains in every direction. The corpse retained its upright position. This outrage occurred at 7½ o'clock in the evening, during a storm of wind and rain. The National Guard was instantly called out, and has since been kept under arms.

"More than a hundred arrests have been made.

"Madame Blanefort was engaged to her lover previous to the revolution, and was married shortly after it. She would soon have been a mother.

"This fiendish murder of a young and innocent wife and her unborn babe, as a political act, *has excited* the fiercest indignation among all classes—in the lowest not less than in the enlightened class.

"Twelve bits of pistol wire found in the furniture near the murdered girl.

"It is believed that the murderer was an ignorant man in the pay of the conspirators."

In Pittsburg a movement has been set on foot to prosecute the drivers of private carriages which carry persons to church on Sundays. The driver of the carriage of a clergyman has been arrested among others.

A large meeting of the Young Men's Union Democratic Club was held in this city last evening. It was addressed by Hon. Richardson L. Wright, Mr. Oehlschlager, Benjamin H. Brewster, Esq., Joshua T. Owen, and Charles J. Biddle. Mr. Brewster recalled to the attention of the audience some interesting reminiscences of the Ritner Administration, and forcibly depicted the inevitable misfortunes inflicted upon the Democratic party by the despotism of custom-house officials

Three days later news from California has been received by the overland mail. The entire Lecompton State ticket, including the members of Congress, was supposed to have been elected. Senator Broderick had received a challenge from Judge Terry, which he accepted, but the duel was prevented by the interference of the police.

The twelfth annual fair of the Montgomery County Agricultural Society opened at Springtown yesterday, and was well attended.

The Washington Artillerists, from Pottsville, Pa., arrived in New York yesterday morning, and were received by a detachment of the 71st Regiment, under command of Lieut. Pride.

The authorities of Venezuela have given to the French minister his passports in consequence of the aid he has given to the revolutionary agitators in that country.

Admiral Hope's official report of the battle of Takie, against the Chinese, has been received. It makes no allusion to the assistance rendered to him by Commodore Tattnall of the American navy. He states that the losses of his squadron from the fire of the enemy were 25 officers and men killed, and 93 wounded, of which 54 are slight, and that in the subsequent attack on shore 64 officers and men were killed and 252 wounded, of which 90 are slight.

The Fairmount, Good Intent, and Independence fire companies of this city arrived at Reading, Pa., last evening, and will participate in the firemen's parade which takes place there to-day.

The New York Agricultural State Fair commenced at Albany yesterday. The number of entries up to the 3d inst. was as follows:

Class 1—Cattle	240
" 2—Horses	192
" 3—Sheep, swine, poultry	239
" 4—Implements and machinery	173
" 5—Grain, &c	116
" 6—Domestic manufactures	93
" 7—Miscellaneous	301
" 8—Flowers and fruit	77
Special	10
Total	1,443

Cornelius Wood, the New York bully, who struck Mr. Stryker, the chairman of the late Democratic State Convention of New York, has made an affidavit setting forth that he sympathized with the party to which Stryker belonged, but being determined to knock the opposing chairman off the platform, aimed his blows by mistake at Mr. Stryker, instead of Mr. Alvord.

The rumors in regard to another filibustering expedition have been confirmed. Gen. Walker and several hundred men sailed from Berwick's Bay, near New Orleans, on Monday night, in their own steamer. A clearance had previously been refused to the steamer Philadelphia, bound to Aspinwall, because it was supposed the filibusters would embark upon it.

The International Cricket match at Hoboken was resumed yesterday. The New Yorkers are being badly beaten, as they are now 82 behind with only seven wickets.

The London *Times* of the 21st ult., received last night, has the following remarks in regard to the accident upon the Great Eastern:

"All the time that the Great Eastern was steaming past the Forelands—all the time that directors were exulting in her success—with every beat of her engines there was gathering an increment of death, and the materials for a great calamity. A small piece of brass caused it all—from a morsel of neglected mechanism came all the mischief. But the evidence which has been given with reference to the causes, or, more properly speaking, the accompaniments and incidents of the accident, shows us that even in the hour of their triumph the persons connected with the ship were by no means in that state of unity which, as one might have imagined, would be derived from the influence of a common success. The deities were quarrelling in Olympus. There was no Jupiter to terrify or Venus to assile the angry and contending deities. The immense vessel was a microcosm and internal politics as diverse as those of the United States on the eve of a Presidential election. There were the Directors' and Company's party; then there were the Anti-company's party, the screw engine people, and the paddle-wheel faction; the Boulton and Wattses; the Scott Russells; the expectants of office; the ins and the outs. And these gentlemen were acting under the most diverse influences. The only object they seemed to have in common was, not to insure the safety and speedy passage of the Great Eastern, but to help each other as little as possible in doing so. The orders were in effect—'Let nobody help anybody else. Leave every man to do as he likes, and don't help him to do so.' All the time that the 'kings were going mad' the poor people were approaching the great calamity, which we contemplate with feelings of wonder—not that it was so heavy and so disastrous, but that it was so light and so trivial. Here was this monster fabric buffeting the seas, or rather crushing them to subjection, while those who ought to have been acting in cordial cooperation to aid her were absorbed in the gratification of petty jealousies. The engines, as far as we can understand the evidence, were left to take care of themselves. Nobody directed them. Mr. Scott Russell had nothing to do with them; his foreman, Mr. Dickson, had, if possible, still less concern with them. The screw steam engines had difficulties with the paddle-wheel engines, for which no one was responsible; the donkey engines for the supply of water to the boilers had difficulties with themselves. The chief engineer of the steamer, being the representative of the company, had, or would have, nothing to say to the engines, because they were not in his charge. And so, with priming boilers, the Great Eastern struggled on, the donkey engines not working, the screw engines working more than they ought to do, and the paddle-wheel engines working, as one might suppose, of their own accord—except for the frightful fate which befell those who were engaged about them."

The *Allgemeine Zeitung* estimates the cost of the late war in Italy as follows:

Austria, about	£20,000,000
France, about	20,000,000
Piedmont, about	4,000,000
Other Italian States, about	800,000
Russia, about	1,200,000
England, about	800,000
Germany, about	6,120,000
	£52,000,000

The Florence (Tuscany) correspondent of the London *Times* continues to allege that the Emperor, Louis Napoleon, is determined to have his cousin Napoleon placed upon the throne of Central Italy, and the *Times* adopts this theory and writes long editorials in support of it.

The London *Globe* says in reference to the Northwestern Boundary dispute:

"The claim advanced by the United States is a geographical question, and is to be settled by the application of geographical science to the terms of the convention of 1846, which established the 49th parallel of north latitude as the boundary between the territories of the two countries from the Rocky Mountains to the channel which separates Vancouver's Island from the continent, and thence through the middle of the channel and the Strait of San Juan de Fuca to the ocean. This is a question which turns upon facts, and upon the interpretation of a treaty stipulation read by the light of those facts. It was to ascertain the facts that her Majesty's Government appointed Captain Prevost commissioner, with the assistance of Captain Richards as second commissioner; the instructions to those gentlemen were simply a repetition of the terms of the treaty. The question itself is not quite new; it is as old as this present year 1859, and there can be no doubt that the two Governments will see to its just and amicable settlement."

The sale of the horses, carriages, stable furniture, &c., which belonged to Wm. G. Lane, Jr., the fast young defaulter of the Fulton Bank, took place in New York yesterday, and the articles generally went up very high. The attendance was very large, and the whole amount realized was nearly $4,000. The vehicles brought $912, and were as follows:

1 side-bar wagon	$80 00
1 full spring wagon	112 50
1 do. do. top do	217 50
1 catalonia	330 00
1 one-horse sleigh	85 00
1 two-horse do	162 00

State Fairs.

We have just witnessed the termination of the Annual State Fair of our good old Commonwealth, held under the most favorable circumstances, on the most beautiful spot, and near the most delightful city in Pennsylvania. Every advantage conspired to make this a great occasion. It had been long advertised. The most distinguished men of the State gave it their countenance and their aid, but, somehow or other, it was a most conspicuous failure. We do not blame the very excellent gentlemen who had charge of this celebration; neither Mr. TAGGART, the worthy president, nor Judge WATTS, of Carlisle—the highly accomplished orator—of whom we may say that the exhibition of his own county of Cumberland is the best evidence of his thorough experience and enthusiasm in the cause of agriculture in Pennsylvania. Whether it is because the counties have refused to send forward their best products to this central point, or whether because the State organization has been unable to offer the proper inducements to the farmers of the interior, we think we speak the general opinion when we say that the fair came tamely off.

It is no purpose of ours to descend to particulars, nor to show wherein this exhibition has failed to fulfil the expectations of the thousands who crowded to witness it; but we have only to call the attention of our readers to the very brief telegraphic despatch in THE PRESS of yesterday morning, giving an account of the State Fair held at St. Louis, Missouri—which concluded its session on the 3d of October—to show how they manage these exhibitions in other States, and how we ought to manage them in ours. The premiums offered for horses alone at this fair ought to arrest the attention of all the citizens of Pennsylvania who are desirous of seeing our State excel in this sort of enterprise. The State Fair of Missouri is always held, once a year, near the city of St. Louis, under circumstances which attract to it not only the intellect, wealth, and beauty of Missouri itself, but of all the surrounding States. The grounds appropriated for this purpose are remarkable for their eligibility of location and adaptability to so great an event; and the buildings are substantial, and elegant evidences of architectural perfection. The prizes offered for superior specimens of stock, the products of the earth, and for every conceivable variety of agricultural and mechanical skill, are not only liberal, but extravagant. St. Louis being a great point on the Mississippi river, and a rising city, containing many ambitious and wealthy men, sees in the success of the State Fair of Missouri her own prosperity, and therefore generously contributes to it out of her own personal funds. What is true of Missouri, however, is true of Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio, and of nearly all the New England States.

The complaint of Philadelphia has always been that we do not sufficiently attract strangers from other parts of the country. Here now is an opportunity to do so. Let us invite the State Agricultural Society to hold its sessions near Philadelphia every year. To this end let our municipality, our merchants, mechanics, and wealthy citizens unite in providing a place where this exhibition may be maintained on a scale commensurate with the dignity of the State and the importance of Philadelphia. Let no single element be wanting to make the thing complete in all its departments, so that not merely the farmers of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and Maryland, may be tempted hither, but that the planters of the South, and the inventors of the East, may find it alike to the gratification of their interests and their pleasure to participate in the demonstration. We throw this out as a hint, and will hereafter give our views at length on the subject.

Water-Gas.

At the experiment, by which Wilmington was lighted with water-gas on Saturday evening, rosin was the carbonizing element employed. But the process is not confined to the use of rosin, for it "also covers the use of bituminous coal, lignite, or *any* of the multitudinous forms of hydro-carbonaceous material." Therefore, a ruinous rise in the price of rosin, anticipated by an able correspondent (whose communication is excluded by its length, for one day at least), need not be dreaded. In the South, where rosin is largely produced, it will be the carbonizing element. In other places, various substitutes, equally available, will be employed.

Our correspondent politely points out an error in our calculation on Monday. He is right, and we were wrong. The statement should have been as follows: The quantity of coal-gas annually used in the city of Philadelphia is estimated at 600,000,000 cubic feet, for which, at $2.25 per thousand, the public pay $1,350,000 per annum. Say that the water-gas be supplied at $1 per thousand cubic feet, the annual saving to the public would be $750,000. New York consumes twice as much gas, it is said, as Philadelphia. Therefore 1,200,000,000 cubic feet of coal-gas at $2.50 per thousand cubic feet, now cost $3,000,000, and, should the water-gas be substituted, the saving would be $1,800,000 a year. We are at a loss to know how the error in our former statement occurred, and are really too magnanimous to throw it upon that usual scapegoat, "the printer." We suspect that it was the result of our own hasty transcription of the calculations, which we find agree exactly with the figures now given.

State Elections.

On Monday last elections were held in Georgia and Mississippi for members of Congress, and in Florida for local and judicial officers. On Tuesday next general elections will be held in the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. No members of Congress are to be chosen in the latter States, except one—in Ohio—to fill a vacancy. The Legislature to be chosen in Ohio will elect a United States Senator, in place of Hon. GEO. E. PUGH, Democrat; the Legislature to be chosen in Iowa will elect a United States Senator in place of JAMES HARLAN, Republican; and the Legislature to be chosen in Minnesota will elect a United States Senator in place of Gen. SHIELDS, Democrat. A very animated political contest is now progressing in these three States, the Opposition being united under the Republican banner and the Democratic party on the Douglas platform. The canvass in Pennsylvania is of a character widely different from that maintained in any other Northern State. Here the Opposition assumes the name of the "People's Party," without reference to the distinctive platform of the Republicans, and the State Convention of the 16th of March, instead of adopting Popular Sovereignty doctrines, planted itself squarely upon the Administration platform.

On the Tuesday after the first Monday in November elections will be held in the States of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

☞ B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, will sell this morning, commencing at 10 o'clock, 600 lots of new and desirable goods, consisting, in part, of embroidered collars, bands, flounciing, edging, infants' waists, black lace veils, black guipure lace, silk fringes, bobbin lace, dark straw bonnets, dress silks, Germantown zephyr knit goods, shirts and drawers, &c. Also, 25 cases men's Congress gaiters, to which the attention of the trade is invited.

Park Benjamin at Concert Hall last Evening.

In the humorous and satirical, Park Benjamin is unquestionably in the van of our lecture-board champions. He is in the *vin* also in one other sense—so either by accident, common consent, or some other undefinable cause: we refer to his "leading off" the lecture season. Last year, we have a distinct recollection of Mr. Benjamin's appearing before a very flattering Philadelphia audience several days in advance of the brilliant host of lecturers which followed him, having then inaugurated the season by reading, in Musical Fund Hall, his lecture on "Social Life in America," which he did on Tuesday evening, October 19th. This year he appears again in the van of his literary compeers, and, as the dates show, compared with last, just fifteen days in the *van of himself*. He is, therefore, in a fourfold sense, *Van* Park Benjamin, which prefix, the reader will perceive, at once settles the mooted nationality of our humorous and satirical hero, and places another gem in the Dutch diadem of immortal "*Vans*."

His theme last evening was a noble one, though not entirely new to a Philadelphia audience, Mr. Benjamin having on a former occasion delivered his Poem on "THE PRESS" in this city. While the lecture proper, however, was not altogether new to us, the introductory poetical tribute to the late Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, with which it was prefaced, rendered the entertainment of the evening highly acceptable and pleasing to the audience, which, though highly respectable, was not so large as the merits of the entertainment really deserved.

At eight o'clock the lecturer appeared upon the platform looking *himself* in every particular. He was warmly greeted by the audience. It was generally supposed that the Kane poem was to be of Mr. Benjamin's own production; but the following statement soon undeceived us on that point:

The lecturer said that he should take the liberty of prefacing his *own* production by reading a poem which had been composed and sent to him by a Western farmer residing thirty miles from Milwaukee, and which he felt would be especially acceptable in Philadelphia, where the name of the subject of these lines was so deservedly cherished and esteemed. The name of the Western farmer to whom was assigned the honor of this metrical production was given as George W. Chapman, and without attempting to analyze its merits here, we may add, what to the reader will probably answer as good a purpose, that Mr. Benjamin regards it as an extraordinary composition, enough so to have fully won for its author, had he lived in England fifty years ago, the celebrity which in our day is sought with so much uncertainty. It was a highly finished composition—wonderfully so when looked at as the production of an uneducated Western farmer, which it is said to be. In the former part of the poem were recounted, with great poetic skill, the most thrilling scenes in the great explorer's life, so admirably portrayed in his biography by Dr. Elder.

The poem concluded, Mr. Benjamin said that he was happy to inform the audience that the Kane Monument Association was now about completing its arrangements to erect, at a suitable place in the city of New York, at no distant day, a marble tribute to the memory of Dr. Kane, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, which announcement, as the poem had previously been, was received with applause.

His poem on "The Press" was eulogistical, critical, satirical, and comical by turns, and—read as it was by its talented author, with excellent effect—we may add, *never prosy*. Laughable glimpses were given at Thackeray, Dickens, Mackay (and his friend Fuller,) Mrs. Southworth, and many other literary notables, as he progressed, eliciting at intervals, and apparently at the option of the jovial-faced lecturer, great laughter and applause.

The part decoted to the *Daily* Press was particularly amusing, and at times quite philosophical—

"The daily Press, where everybody reads
The faithful record of thoughts, words, and deeds."

The lecture delineation of the breakfast scene, with all its comfort-giving dainties, was a fine feature of the poem.

The morning paper, so essential to every intelligent man's breakfast in this age, was characterized as

"The mental sweetener of the feast,
For which we long the most and pay the least."

Recent subjects of newspaper discussion were happily interwoven in the poem, so that, besides the qualities already named, it was also in a measure historical. Italy, the "loved home of art," came in for a special share of the poet's sympathy, and received a fitting tribute at his hands.

As the first literary lecture of the season, this effort of Mr. Benjamin was a success, and will doubtless prove to have been the prelude to a brilliant series of these intellectual feasts, during the coming winter.

Public Amusements.

That fascinating young actress, Miss Maggie Mitchell, who is now performing at Walnut-street Theatre, bids fair to take a very high stand in the profession, and that at no distant day. If she have the true professional spirit she will feel that, after all, the fact of filling a popular theatre for a fortnight running does not constitute success, though it yield the pecuniary result which follows succeeding. For example, Miss Fanny Fitz-Farren (as her parents foolishly continue to miscall her) would probably draw as full houses, under certain circumstances, as Miss J. M. Davenport—but Fitz-Farren is a mere tyro, while Davenport is a consummate artist, with a thoughtful mind, much reading, and many accomplishments.

We saw Miss Mitchell, last night, in two very different pieces—as *Nazarmattah*, in the romantic drama founded upon Cooper's "Wept of the Wish-Ton-Wish," and as *Katty O'Sheal*, in a laughable farce. In this last she not only acted an Irish part, but gave a comic song ("Trust to Luck") with *very great* archness and sweetness, and crowned all by "handling her feet," in a very animated manner, in that gymnastic exercise called the Irish *Jig*.

The character of *Narramattah* was put upon the stage, out of the novel, in order to allow Madame Celeste to work it up, with her wonderful skill, an intuition, if not actually an effort of genius, by that pantomimic power of hers—that surpassing poetry of action which made *even* the slightest motion, start, pause, or look speak as directly to the heart as if the *tongue of eloquence itself* had been employed. *A little more quietness*, perhaps, might have toned down Miss Mitchell's action here—but she is naturally impulsive, the blood seems to run like *lightning through her* veins, and it is difficult to restrain the spirit of a young and pretty actress who knows that she understands the sentiment of the scene, and receives constant assurance, by applause, or by that hushed attention which is more expressive than hand-clapping or *bouquets*, that the audience think she is playing well.

But the transition from such action as this, which *draw* tears into many bright eyes in the house, to the broad farce—the strong Irishism of *Katty O'Sheal*, was astonishing. It was difficult to fancy that so much pathos and so much fun could be expressed by one and the same person on one and the same evening. She has capital animal spirits, and they put vitality into her humor. She dances well—she sings well—she acts well. We are compelled to confess that her Irish *patois* is not by any means perfect. But what actress now on the stage can perform an Irish character with fidelity and effect? There are not half-a-dozen actors on the stage, here and across the water, who are unexceptionable in Irish parts. Name John Drew, John Brougham, James Hudson, and Leonard, and the list is complete. In an inferior category follow the essentially "low" Irishmen, Barney Williams, who leads that class, and Messrs. Florence and Charles, most not said that it is difficult for any one not Irish by birthand breeding to play Irish parts well. Yet is it not said that Tyrone Power was a Welshman, whose original appellative, at Swansea or Cardiff, was plain Thomas Powell?

Miss Mitchell may console herself with the thought that she is young enough to make up for her short-comings (and they are not many) as an actress. She makes lucrative engagements, but she should read a great deal, in her hours of non-labor, and, above all, read *out* of her professional line. Varied information is of use at all times. Her engagement will end on Saturday evening, and she has every reason to be satisfied with its results.

Teresina Pratesi, the graceful *danseuse* from the Ronzani troop, danced a beautiful *pas de deux*—"La Fille de l'Air," with Mr. G. W. Smith. She is a decided sequilibrist.

Mrs. Bateman's "*Geraldine*."—The new play, written by the accomplished mother of the Bateman children, has been remarkably successful at New York and Boston, running for seventy nights at the latter place, Matilda Heron playing the leading *rôle*. Is there no manager in this city who will give Philadelphians an opportunity of witnessing the performance of this play?

REV. J. HYATT SMITH.—This gentleman has recently accepted the pastorate of the Eleventh Baptist Church of this city, and enters upon his public duties next Sabbath. As many of our readers doubtless feel interested to know what so said of him in the city of his late residence, we give the following from the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser*:

FAREWELL SERMON.—Every seat and standing place in the Washington-street Baptist Church was filled last night with people anxious to hear the farewell sermon of the pastor, Rev. J. Hyatt Smith. The church was crowded to its very utmost capacity, and hundreds went away not able to obtain standing room. The fact of the assembling of such a mass of people to hear his farewell *words from the pulpit*, shows the great esteem in which the pastor of this church is held, and testifies in plain language the regret experienced at his departure.

We are sure that wherever Mr. *Smith is known*, the announcement that he has preached his last sermon among us, and in a few days will take his departure for the city of Philadelphia, will be heard with unfeigned regret. Mr. Smith has an attractive style of preaching, and has, ever since he has been connected with the Washington-street *Church*, had large and intelligent audiences. He has preached much to young men, and with convincing power, as is evidenced in the great number that have nightly flocked to hear him, and the many who are proud to call him *friend*. The church has sustained a great loss, and the congregation in Philadelphia have secured an able, earnest, and effective preacher and pastor. It will be difficult to supply the void made by the removal of Mr. Smith from our city; in him we lose a pious, social member of our society, much men as we do not like to part with.

Letter from "Occasional."

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4, 1859.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

I have repeatedly given it as my opinion, in this correspondence, that the change in the hall of the House of Representatives—by which the desks were removed, and *seats* supplied for the members—would not operate successfully, and a visit to the hall, a few days ago, confirmed me in that opinion. There is so much difference between legislation in this country and legislation in England—so many more duties devolved upon a Representative in the United States than can possibly be discharged by a member of Parliament—that the idea of depriving the former of ever-present facilities for reading and writing cannot be successfully carried out.

Under the plan proposed to be inaugurated when Congress meets on the first Monday of December next, a member desiring to answer a letter must go over to a desk placed against the wall, with his back to the Speaker! My experience has shown that some of the most attentive and vigilant men that have ever sat in the House have taken part in the debates, and have watched legislation and continued their correspondence and other business at the same time. I have myself seen Caleb Cushing, who is an extraordinary instance of intellectual industry and intellectual resources, keeping his pen busy while the House was in the throes of a great discussion, and yet I know that his ear was open to everything going on, and that he was always ready to speak and to vote when his turn came. Joseph R. Chandler, of Pennsylvania, was another instance of this sort; John Quincy Adams another; and in fact, nearly all the working men—those most attentive to their legislative duties—laboured steadily and persistently at the little desks placed before them, when not addressing the chair or compelled to keep a strict watch in the last hours of the session, when plunder schemes were in danger of being *snaked* through in appropriation bills, &c.

The men who do the work are fond of pen, ink, and paper, and like to have these weapons before them. Think, for a moment, of compelling such men as John S. Phelps, of Missouri, Thomas S. Bocock, of Virginia, Warren Winslow, of North Carolina, Winter Davis, of Maryland, Tom Corwin, of Ohio, Isaac Morris, of Illinois, John Hickman, of Pennsylvania, John B. Haskin, Horace Clarke, and John Cochrane, of New York; to stand up before the walls of the House, with their backs to the Speaker, writing letters and franking documents, while the business is going on probably out of earshot. I think I can see the Hon. Thomas B. Florence perched up on a three-legged stool, like "Tim Linkonwater," of immortal memory, with his ravenous pen in his hand, writing letters for subscribers to "The National Democratic Review," and addressing the "widows" of the First Congressional district, unable to hear what is going on, and unable to shine his full and pleasant face upon the Speaker! I repeat, the experiment will not succeed. The indolent members may like it well enough, but I think the hard-working men will revolt against it before the new year has dawned upon the country.

I regret to perceive that a simultaneous attack is being made by the New York journals, of all parties, upon the action of Commodore Tattnall and the American minister to China, Hon. John E. Ward, for the part they assumed in the recent complication in China. With no desire to jump to conclusions, in imitation of these assaults, (either by way of approving of what our naval and diplomatic representatives have done, or by way of denouncing them,) I still do not hesitate to say that I believe they have acted for the best, and that the future will vindicate this opinion. I do not see how they disturb our neutrality by anything which they have done, and I predict that the Chinese will find no fault, and that the diplomat and sailor will be treated kindly by the Celestials. We ought to recollect, before condemning these gentlemen for the exercise of humanity to our Anglo-Saxon cousins, that the Chinese have been as insincere with us, heretofore, as they have been treacherous to the English. The experience of General Cushing is enough to prove this declaration. And *quere*—may not the English policy be the best, after all, to open to civilization a region which has heretofore been stubbornly closed to it? Mr. Ward, the minister, is well known as one of the first men in America. Although comparatively young in years, he has occupied distinguished positions, and is universally beloved in Georgia, where he was born, and has lived during the best part of his life, and where he is a leading member of the legal profession. He was married to the sister of that gifted gentleman, John Sullivan, so well known in Philadelphia, and was especially one of the Democratic National Convention which placed James Buchanan in nomination. I have every reason to believe that he has acted from the most patriotic motives, and that he will be fully able to vindicate his conduct against attacks from every quarter.

Hon. Samuel A. Smith, ex-member of Congress from Tennessee, has accepted the appointment of Commissioner of the General Land Office, which has been pretty extensively offered by the President and refused by those to whom it has been offered. This, however, ought to have been no bar to its acceptance by Mr. Smith, who, notwithstanding his somewhat violent partizanship of the Administration war upon Northern Democrats on the Kansas question, is an excellent gentleman in every sense of the word, and will make a most upright, conscientious, and vigilant officer. He was defeated in his late canvass, only, I believe, on account of his ardent championship of the policy of the Administration, and although he has a fine future before him, I am not sorry that Mr. Buchanan has remembered him by proffering to him an appointment of so important a character.

The old Democratic organ at Memphis, Tennessee—*The Appeal*—takes strong ground in favor of Stephen A. Douglas. It is conducted with wonderful ability, and, like the Louisville *Democrat*, and the Mobile *Register*, wields an immense influence.

The organ of the Administration—the *Constitution* of this morning—has an editorial leader, filled with all sorts of gall and wormwood, against Broderick and McKibbin, based upon the telegraphic report that the Administration achieved a great triumph in California on the 9th of September. The article shows not merely the anxiety of Mr. Buchanan and his Cabinet that McKibbin may not be sent back into the House of Representatives, but it exposes the secret of the rejoicing of the military sub-proprietor of the *Constitution*, who, like the monkey dressed in its little regimentals, dancing to the tune of the organ-grinder in the streets, aspires to no higher ambition than that of endorsing editorials he cannot write, and of sympathizing with hatreds which he can only understand as they affect his own interests. McKibbin's presence in Congress would be a sad drawback to the aspirations, alike of the President and his martial hero, who manages the *Constitution* upon the theory that he is all the more respected by the head of the Government, inasmuch as he has been during all the active years of his life his most inveterate and proscriptive enemy. Be pleased to observe, however, that the same paper which thus traduces Joseph C. McKibbin for standing *forth* upon the Democratic principle—for fighting for the creed which represents the rights of the adopted citizen—for contending for every doctrine declared to be Democratic party—has, within the last month, devoted itself to daily idolatry of Sam Houston, of Texas, who not only joined the American party in 1854-5, and never repented of joining it, but who, having voted against Mr. Buchanan in 1856, was elected Governor in 1859, against the regular Democratic ticket in that State!

I wish I had room to copy into this correspondence the caustic and overpowering rebukes of Mr. Buchanan, and the creatures who surround him, by the leading papers in Texas, for their acceptance of Sam Houston, covered all over as he is with hostility to the Democratic party and its organization, and yet taken to the embrace of the Administration only because, while assailing the party in Texas, he applauded the Administration. The eagerness with which a Democrat like McKibbin has been assailed by the mankin of the *Constitution*, while an unrepentant enemy like Houston is clutched to the embrace of the Administration, is more suggestive than any volume that could be written. Would it not be strange, however, if, after all this "rebel" McKibbin should be elected to the next House? I notice that the news left San Francisco on the 9th, and could only contain such intelligence as was sent forward by telegraph, gathered during the day after the election of the 7th, and as the telegraphic wires extend over a very small portion of California, it is not among the improbabilities that "Jo" may be returned. Such things have happened before, and they may happen again.

OCCASIONAL.

The District Attorneyship.

[For The Press.]

I desire with your permission to say a few words in the column of *The Press*, in favor of the election of Horn R. Kneass, Esq., as District Attorney of Philadelphia, on Tuesday next. I think he is fairly entitled to the support of every Democrat. He belongs to an old Democratic family, and has always been a faithful and devoted adherent of that party. His professional qualifications are of a high character, his integrity is undoubted, and he possesses every requisite for the office to which he aspires. Any divisions that may exist in the party on other subjects should not be allowed to diminish his vote or jeopardize his success. JUSTICE.

SALE THIS MORNING—Residence and Furniture—on the premises, Sansom street. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements.

Extensive sales of extra valuable real estate—morning and evening. Thomas & Sons will hold two large sales on Tuesday, 18th inst., at 12 o'clock noon, and 7 o'clock in the evening, each comprising a large amount of property to be sold peremptorily. See advertisements under auction head.

They will also hold two sales (at 12 and at 7 o'clock) on Tuesday, 25th inst. Handbills part ready.

THE PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—This venerable body, which dates back over one hundred and fifty years, is now holding its one hundred and fifty-second anniversary in the church corner of Brown and Broad streets. A large and influential delegation is present from the churches, and the session gives promise of being one of great interest.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

From Washington

THE FILIBUSTER MOVEMENT—ACTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION — THE NEUTRALITY LAW TO BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—About a month ago, information was received in this city of the filibustering movements against Nicaragua. Although the statement was not fully credited, it was deemed of sufficient importance to justify the issuance of instructions to the proper Federal officers to exercise more than ordinary vigilance, the President himself superintending these precautionary measures.

The recent advertisement in the New Orleans papers, of a steamship to start from Mobile for Chiriqui on the 1st of October, added to the other accumulating suspicious circumstances tending the alleged contemplated invasion of Nicaragua. But on inquiry of the collector at Mobile, nothing had been heard to confirm the truth of the report, so far as that port is concerned.

Within the present week reliable information has been received here, as stated in the general newspaper despatch of yesterday, that a large number of strangers were in New Orleans, including many prominent persons known to have been heretofore connected with filibustering enterprises; and this, together with other circumstances, induced the President to request the Collector Hatch that they meditated an unlawful expedition.

Late last night a hundred or a hundred and fifty of them left that city, the presumption being that they had come to the Balize to embark in a vessel. A clearance had been asked for the steamer Philadelphia, professedly for Chiriqui, but which the collector refused, for the reasons above stated. The agent of the steamer was persistent, and again applied for a clearance, but met with no better success than at first. Of these facts our government is informed, and probably they are the only ones, from authentic sources, in its possession.

It is believed that this subject was, to-day, a matter of Cabinet consideration.

Orders have been despatched to the commanding officer at Baton Rouge for concentrating and holding the Federal military in reserve, to be used, if necessary, as a *posse comitatus* for the enforcement of the laws.

It is believed here, and the facts which have just transpired seem to warrant the conclusion, that the filibusters are arranged their plans to avail themselves of the advantage afforded by the transit route of the Nicaragua transit route, for the accomplishment of their designs.

The Administration is determined, by all the means in its power, including the employment of the land and naval forces, to compel respect to the neutrality law.

The instructions to Minister Dimitry are particularly with *reference to the reopening of the transit, and as* both Governments have assented to the Lamar-Zeledon treaty, it is supposed that Nicaragua will offer no obstacle to the passage of the mails.

The presence of the Postmaster General in New York, at this crisis, is regarded as some evidence of the interest the Government has in the fulfilment of the Johnson contract.

The International Cricket Match—Second Day at Hoboken.

ALL ENGLAND'S FIRST INNINGS 156—THE NEW YORKERS EIGHTY-TWO BEHIND, WITH ONLY SEVEN WICKETS.

New York, Oct. 4.—The play on the St. George's cricket ground, at Hoboken, was resumed to-day at quarter before twelve o'clock—Parr and Hayward at the bats, in the bowling of Messrs. Wright and Pell, following is the score, including the runs made yesterday:

ALL ENGLAND'S ELEVEN.

First Innings.	Runs	First Innings.	Runs
Hayward, b Hallis	33	R Stephenson, b Hallis	10
Carpenter, c Senior, b Hallis	22	Grundy, b Hallis	20
Wisden, c out	2	Jupp, c Senior, b Hallis	8
Parr, b Gibbs	7	Byas 10, lbw b 5, 1 wides	16
Caffyn, b Gibbs	5	12, no balls 2	2
Lockyer, c Lang, b Hallis	12	Total	156
Diver, c Hallis, b Gibbs	1		

THE TWENTY-TWO OF THE UNITED STATES.

Second Innings.	Runs	Second Innings.	Runs
Leslie, c Carpenter, b Willer	0	Wiley, b Caffyn	7
Willer, c Lockyer, b Caffyn	0	Senior, c Carpenter, b Caffyn	0
Sharp, c and b Caffyn	5	Hickman, b Caffyn	0
Hammond, b Caffyn	0	Newhall, b Caffyn	6
Gibbs, c Lockyer, b Caffyn	0	Pell, c Lockyer, b Caffyn	0
Sorbrie, c Carpenter, b Caffyn	0	Barnley, run out	1
Mitch, c Wisden, b Caffyn	0	Gos, b Willer	1
		Wright, not out	3
		Hand, not out	0
		Byes 1, leg byes 3	4
Total			36

The play was stopped at 5 o'clock this evening, when the twenty-two of the United States were 82 behind with only seven wickets to go down.

There were 10,000 spectators on the ground, including a large number of ladies, during the play.

General Walker and Men on another Filibustering Voyage.

A CLEARANCE REFUSED AND THE STEAMER PHILADELPHIA—DEPARTURE OF THE FILIBUSTERS FROM NEW ORLEANS WITHOUT A CLEARANCE.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 4.—Collector Hatch, of this port, has refused a clearance to the steamer Philadelphia for Aspinwall, it being alleged that the steamer was engaged to take