The Press.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1859.

THE WEEKLY PRESS,

For Saturday the 19th, is now out. The contents of this number are of a varied character. Besides its usual attractions, it contains the LATEST FOREIGN NEWS; Editorials on the popular topics of the day; choice Literary reading, original and selected; Domestic and Foreign Markets, &c. Read the list of

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THE WEEKLY PRESS is furnished to subscribers at $2 per year, in advance, for the single copy; and to Clubs of Twenty, when sent to one address, $20, in advance. Single copies for sale at the counter of The Press Office, in wrappers, ready for mailing.

FIRST PAGE.—Napoleonic Ideas; The Free Quakers; To Texas and Back—No. 12; Personal and Political; Letter from New York; The Capture and Suicide of the Noted Burglar, Rouse.

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The News.

Nothing has yet been heard of the steamer North Star, now about seven days overdue at New York, from Aspinwall, at which place she had not arrived on the 4th, when the Daniel Webster left, although she sailed from New York on the 20th of October. Much anxiety is felt for her safety, but strong hopes are entertained that she has put into some port from which intelligence has not yet been received. The Daniel Webster was to sail from New York last evening, in search of the missing steamer.

Despatches from Madrid announce Mr. Preston's departure for home on leave of absence. Mr. Preston objected to returning, but was influenced to do so by ex-Postmaster Wickliffe, who deemed his presence in Kentucky, as one of the executors of the late Robert Wickliffe, absolutely necessary. He will resume his official post at an early day.

The Commissioner of Patents has issued to Lieutenant Hunter Davidson, U. S. N., a patent for a boat apparatus, invented during his late cruise as executive officer of the United States sloop-of-war Dale, off the coast of Africa. By means of this new apparatus, it is contended, a ship's boat, with its crew, can be lowered at sea by one man, with perfect safety, and without the slightest danger of swamping, however stormy the weather or dark the night. Secretary Toucey has ordered the apparatus for the gunboat-ship Plymouth, at Annapolis, and it is now being manufactured at the Washington navy yard. The cost of construction is trifling, not exceeding fifty dollars. Lieut. D.'s friends predict that, ere long, no vessel will venture to sea without this apparatus on board.

Died, at Lucknow, India, September 16th, Rev. J. R. Downey, of the Methodist Mission. He was a young married man, and of great promise. Thus early has one of the six men sent out by the Methodist Episcopal Church of this country fallen in the beginning of a most promising life of labor.

A few evenings ago, a meeting of the trustees of the Church of the Puritans, New York, (Dr. Cheever,) was held, when resolutions were adopted condemning the appeal for funds made to the people of England by Dr. Cheever and "a Miss Johnstone," and disowning all responsibility for the acts of Miss Johnstone as authorized by the society or its trustees.

The two Houses of the Mississippi Legislature met in joint convention on the 10th inst., and counted the votes cast for Governor at the late State election. The result is as follows: J. J. Pettus, (Dem.,) 34,559; H. W. Walker, (Opposition,) 10,308. Majority for Pettus, 24,251.

A noted citizen of Chicago was, last week, blessed by the birth of a son, who was instantly named John Brown, and, in a few weeks, will be publicly christened in that name.

The exact spot where the meteor fell, which so much alarmed the citizens of New York on Tuesday, could not be found during that day. The *Tribune* says: "The officers who, to the number of four or five, went in search of the spot where the meteor was supposed to have fallen, state that the excitement among the residents of that neighborhood, many of whom witnessed the occurrence, was very great, and that it was impossible to arrive at any correct conclusion as to the precise place where it fell, from the conflicting accounts given on that point. Mr. C. H. Reed, acting in the employ of the commissioners of the New Reservoir, states that he was at the pier foot of Ninety-first street, E. R., unloading lumber, when his attention was attracted by the singular appearance of a ball of fire shooting swiftly through the air, apparently in an E. S. E. direction. He called the attention of the workmen to it, who appeared to be struck speechless with wonderment. Officer Flynn, of the Central Park Police stated that he was patrolling the 'promenade' within the Park at the time, when he perceived what appeared to him to be a ball of fire having a long tail like a comet. He says he saw it disappear behind the trees, but thinks it fell within the Park enclosure. John Berry, one of the laborers in the Park, confirms the above statements as to the appearance of the object and the time specified."

Thomas D. Cartaya, of Savannah, says he knew Mr. Estevan Santa Cruz de Oviedo well. As to the wealth of Oviedo, he will not say it is so great as the imaginations of many have made it, but he knows he is the owner of a sugar plantation with over a thousand slaves on it, and a coffee plantation with half as many more. He is a native of Havana, and is considered worth four millions of dollars.

General George Washington Dixon, formerly Duke of Yucatan, and now Earl of Poydras Market, New Orleans, was cowhided in said market on the 4th instant, by a woman, who insisted that he had twice insulted her in the market aforesaid. The woman went at him like a tigress, and, after he had received a few licks, he gallantly got out of the way, making neither resistance nor subsequent complaint.

John Mitchel writes a second letter of his series from Paris to the *Irishman*, counselling the "nationalists" of Ireland "to be prepared." He expects ere long to see Gibraltar, as the key of the Mediterranean, and San Juan, as the key of the Columbian Archipelago, wrested from "the swindler and usurper of nations," England; then he adds, on behalf of his brother "Celts": "Happy if we can but prepare ourselves to rise to our own feet, and stand erect upon our own soil, when the felonious gripe is loosened from our throats."

A letter from Paris in *Le Nord*, dated the 28th, states that Mr. Cobden had had an interview with the Emperor on the previous day. The same letter states that Lord Brougham was at Paris, and going to stay there a few days, on his way to Cannes, whereas on the 28th Lord Brougham addressed an evening meeting at Newcastle.

The Mozart Hall Democratic Mayoralty Convention met on Tuesday evening, and nominated Hon. Fernando Wood for Mayor of New York. It is understood that C. Godfrey Gunther, Esq., will receive the Tammany Hall nomination.

The latest returns of the New York election place Jones, (Democrat and American,) 1,042 ahead of Leavenworth, (Republican,) for the office of Secretary of State.

TERRIBLE AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—Last evening a horrible and fatal accident occurred on the 6.15 train, at or near the railroad bridge, on the Erie Canal, between Geddes and this city, by which a lady passenger was instantly killed, and her remains mutilated in a horrible manner. Her name was Mrs. Susannah Knight, and a widow woman, about 54 years of age. She was in company with her father-in-law, and had been visiting at his house in Arlington, Vermont, and was now on her last return home, about six miles from Girard Station, on the Cleveland and Erie Railroad, in the State of Pennsylvania.

As we learn the facts from the railroad men and her father-in-law, who was an eye-witness to the sad and horrible accident, they are these: On the arrival of the train from the East, as is customary, the last coach in the train, where Mrs. Knight and her father-in-law were sitting, was cut off, and the passengers directed to take the forward car. In accordance with instructions, they sought a seat in the next car forward, but finding none, they proceeded to the next, and so on to the next, without finding a seat. The train by this time was under good headway, and the old gentleman tried to persuade his daughter-in-law from going any further for a seat, but to wait till the conductor came along, but she thought she would try the next car, and, in attempting to cross the platform, she made a misstep, the night being dark, and fell between the cars, just as the train had crossed the bridge above-mentioned, and was immediately killed. Her head was completely severed from her body, and found about two rods distant from where the melancholy accident occurred.—*Syracuse Journal, 16th.*

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Robert T. Conrad.

Among the ambitions of the living how apt are we to neglect the merits of the dead! He who yesterday moved in health and power among his fellow-men, dying to-day and buried to-morrow, is soon forgotten, save by the few who recall his features and remember his virtues. It must be a great name that can outlive half a year. ROBERT T. CONRAD, whose sudden death we announced not many months ago, was singularly distinguished, not only for his graces of person, but for his extraordinary intellectual gifts. He combined in himself many attributes. He was an orator, a poet, a politician, and a lawyer. It was difficult to tell whether he most excelled as a public advocate, or as a tribune of the people, or when inspired by the muses he sat down to write those productions which continue to preserve his name from oblivion. He was a journalist of the highest order; and could leave his closet, throwing behind him Shakspeare and Milton, and mingle in the fray of politics as a leader and a partisan. No man had more exquisite tastes—few had broader human sympathies; and none was ever more ready to grapple with a great wrong, or to risk life upon his convictions.

It was our misfortune to differ much from him politically; but that very difference only served to knit together a personal friendship, which did not close at the grave on our part, but continues to be cherished in reverence for his intellect and his example. CONRAD served many men in this community. He helped many into office, and hundreds leaned upon his arm and were escorted into position. He died suddenly, and he died poor, and in the prime of life. We shall never forget the day he was buried. There was no great crowd present to accompany all that was left of earth to its last little home—more than one was absent who should have been there—but in the procession that followed his remains we recognized faces that seemed to believe that there was a life beyond the grave, and that he who had been called from among his brothers and his friends should not, and could not, be forgotten by them.

And CONRAD is not forgotten! Those who loved him in life intend to provide such a memento to his memory as will, at least, symbolize their appreciation of his many noble qualities. A handsome subscription has been voluntarily made to erect a monument to ROBERT T. CONRAD, which, when completed, will, we are assured, be worthy of the man, and of his troops of friends.

In this connection we are permitted to copy the following beautiful poem, from an unpublished manuscript of the lamented CONRAD, which is doubly appropriate, because, while paying an exquisite tribute to the immortality of the soul, it is dedicated to the close of the year:

A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

BY THE LATE ROBERT T. CONRAD.

[From an Unpublished MS.]

"Where, where is He? Thus spake the sages
Who sought their Saviour from afar:
The King—the God—the Rock of Ages,
Who hither led us with his star?"

Where is the King? But, star-forsaken,
They searched the palace halls in vain;
That Star of Hope its light was breaking
Over a low hut on Bethlehem's plain.

They saw—rejoiced—and knelt before him;
And was it strange that thus they bowed?—
When God's own Star was beaming o'er him,
And angel anthems hymn'd aloud?

"To God be Glory!" Spirit voices,
In Heaven attuned, now thrill the earth;
"And peace to man!" thus Heaven rejoices
Over the Man-God's humble birth.

Joy! For our orb's eclipse is over!
Joy! Earth grows green in Heaven's own breath;
With Faith around, and love above her,
Hope to the hopeless—balm to death!

Joy! Joy! With angel voices ringing
Over the earth, can earth be dead?
Let praise, and prayer, and joy, upspringing
From a world saved, the glory spread!

Joy! For the faithful shall not perish!
Christ lives to save, died to atone;
But let this truth each bosom cherish:
He saves the pure in heart alone!

Our Minister to Costa Rica.

We perceive, by latest advices from Central America, that the Hon. ALEXANDER DIMITRY, our minister to Costa Rica, was making—indeed had already made—a most favorable impression on the good people of San Jose. This does not surprise us, not will it surprise any one acquainted with the great natural and mental recommendations possessed by one who, as a distinguished writer of Louisiana said, "had the brain of MIRABEAU and the heart of ROBBY BURNS." The New York *Herald's* San Juan del Sur correspondent is inspired by his countryman's success, and chronicles, in a most enthusiastic paragraph, the effect of Mr. DIMITRY's presence in the Switzerland of the Central Andes:

"He has taken a house in San Jose, and will, of course, make that his place of residence. Mr. Dimitry, has gained an unknown-of popularity for so short a time, and his daughter receives the universal homage of all who have been fortunate enough to make her acquaintance; in fact, here was about the first name I heard on my arrival at Punta Arenas. She has taken the 'wind completely out of the sails' of Miss Ouseley, of whom I heard very little."

The last portion of this paragraph is suggestive. Most of Mr. DIMITRY's official predecessors in Central America, though having families, did not take them on the mission; the consequence of which was, our ministers there did not have that social *status* which is indispensable in the diplomatic circle. The familiar interchange of good feeling, and those courtesies of civilized life which so smoothed its political and other paths, were entirely neglected; and no greater commentary on the usefulness of a different course may be had than in the almost immediate popularity of Mr. DIMITRY in the new scene of his labors.

He took his amiable and accomplished family with him, and has, to all appearance, laid the foundation of serviceable results. In connection with the above paragraph, the following sentence from the same correspondent, of a five days later date, is significant. He says: "Sir WILLIAM GORE OUSELEY is still at San Jose, *preparing to leave for England* in a short time."

☞ SAMUEL J. REA, Esq., clerk of the last House of Representatives of this State, will, we perceive, be supported for re-election by his party during the coming winter. Mr. REA made a capital officer last session, and while we have no disposition to interfere in the contest for office in his party, we freely express the hope that he may be retained. The members of the Editorial State Convention, which sat at Harrisburg in February of this year, will not soon forget his voluntary and generous attentions to them.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The fifth anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city will be held in Jayne's Hall this evening, commencing at 7½ o'clock, and will probably be the last public meeting held in that edifice prior to its being occupied for mercantile purposes. The arrangements are well calculated to insure an interesting occasion. An abstract of the Annual Report will be read, and addresses delivered by Rev. Henry Grattan Guinness, of Belfast, Revs. James W. Ormcraft, Reuben Jeffrey, W. J. R. Taylor, and John Jenkins, D. D., of this city. Tickets of admission can be had gratuitously during the day at the rooms of the Association, Chestnut street, above Tenth. The hall will doubtless be filled to its utmost capacity.

LECTURE BY REV. T. STARR KING.—This evening, at Concert Hall, the fifth lecture of the course, before the People's Literary Institute, will be delivered by Rev. T. Starr King, of Boston. His subject, as announced, will be "Personal Power and its Values." There is enough of the *fancy* and the metaphysical in this theme to give free scope to Mr. King's peculiar oratorical powers. He is already in town, and we advise all who can to hear him to-night.

A NEW AMATEUR COMPOSER.—We have received, from the author, a new fancy waltz, composed by F. Tiedemann, Esq., of this city. As an amateur effort, it evinces a fine musical taste, and possesses unusual merit. The young author deserves a cordial welcome to the music-loving fraternity of our city.

EXTENSIVE SALES REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, &c.—Thomas & Sons' forthcoming sales will comprise a very large amount and variety of valuable property, by order of executors, trustees, Orphans' Court, &c.

They sell regularly every week—two sales a day—contributors having the choice of twelve o'clock noon, or seven in the evening.

ELEGANT AND VALUABLE LONDON BOOKS and philosophical apparatus to be sold this evening—now arranged at Thomas & Sons' auction rooms for examination, with catalogues. See advertisements.

DEATH OF A WITNESS OF THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE.—Amos Way died at Norristown, on Friday, November 4th, in the ninety-fourth year of his age. He was about eleven years of age when the battle of Brandywine was fought, and was, probably, the last survivor of the neighborhood who remembers witnessing any portion of that event. On Monday last his remains were deposited in the Friends' burying-ground, in Birmingham, the very ground he had seen occupied by the British in 1777.—*American Republican.*

Judge Black on Constitutional Law.

The occasional mention of the name of Judge BLACK, the present Attorney General, as a person who is patiently waiting for the death of one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, with a view to fill the vacancy, suggests an inquiry into the fitness of the aspirant. The public care little about the *political* antecedents of a judge. But they ask a sound knowledge of the LAW and a good repute for honesty. Bearing on the first branch of this proposition, we place before our readers a specimen of the judicial character of Judge BLACK's mind.

On the 14th April, 1851, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act prohibiting the sale of spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors, on the Sabbath, in Allegheny county, and authorizing an alderman or justice of the peace of the county to convict and impose the penalty of fifty dollars, for the offence, and seize the goods and imprison the body of the accused, *without giving him the right of trial by jury, by appeal, or otherwise.* A conviction under this act was removed to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in the case of VAN SWARTON vs. the Commonwealth, reported in 12 HARRIS' Reports, page 131. It was objected that the act of 1851 was unconstitutional because it took away the trial by jury. Judge BLACK, on delivering the opinion of the court, quoted the provision of the Constitution of the United States which declares that "in suits at *common law*, when the value in controversy exceeds twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved." The Judge then proceeded to say that "this is sufficiently answered by saying that the case before us is not a *suit at common law*, but a *criminal proceeding* under a *special statute.*" And this is the only answer which all the legal learning of the judge could produce, in order to take the case out of the Constitution of the United States. He seems to have been entirely ignorant of the well-known doctrine that the United States Constitution applies only to suits in the United States courts, and that it has no application to suits in the State courts, founded on State laws, except when the States are named, or the object is to preserve from violation some of the enumerated powers granted to the Federal Government. The correct doctrine on this subject is familiar to every law student. It is found in many decisions. Chief Justice MARSHALL states it in BARON *vs.* The Mayor of Baltimore, 7 PETERS' Reports, page 243. Judge BLACK, if he had known enough of his own profession, might therefore have saved himself from taking a ridiculous position, in order to avoid the force of the United States Constitution. But he does not seem to have been aware of the true relations which the States bear to the Federal Government. Ignorantly believing that this provision of the Federal Constitution regulated *suits in the State courts*, he was driven to remove it out of his way by the assertion of a principle which would be alarming, if it were not too absurd to gain converts among men of even the most limited capacity. He tells us, in substance, that the great constitutional right of trial by jury is protected by this clause of the Constitution of the United States, and that the clause applies to suits in the State courts; but that the State Legislatures may evade its provision and deprive the party of his constitutional rights, by simply directing that the *form* of the charge shall be changed from a "*suit*" to a "*criminal proceeding*," and that this proceeding shall be *under a "special statute"* and not "*at common law.*" The Judge was evidently ignorant that the moment the "*suit*" was changed into a *criminal proceeding* there was *another clause* in the Constitution which would operate upon it, if that instrument applied at all to the case. The same instrument that guarantied the trial by jury in "*suits*" is still more explicit in securing the same inestimable right in "*all criminal* prosecutions." Enough of this. The clause in question had no application whatever to the case before the court, and we are mortified that the ignorance of the Judge should have driven him into an argument so utterly frivolous and unsound, and so entirely subversive of all constitutional right.

But the *State* Constitution, which did apply to the case, declares that "the trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof remain inviolate." How does Judge BLACK get over this provision? In this most remarkable way: He says that "every class of cases triable by jury in 1790 are still liable in no other way." But "there is nothing to forbid the Legislature from creating *a new offence* and prescribing" *what mode of trial they please.* And to justify himself for this extraordinary and alarming position, he cites the instances in which a sovereign State, in the collection of her revenue, or in exercising the power of *eminent domain*, settles her accounts with her agents by auditors and appraisers, damages by commissioners and viewers? As no sovereign State can be sued against her own consent, every lawyer knows that the trial by jury does not exist in claims against the State, except where she herself prescribes it. These cases have, therefore, nothing whatever to do with controversies between man and man, or with a proceeding in which the Government seeks to convict a citizen of a crime. According to Judge BLACK, the right of trial by jury exists only when the indictment or charge is for some offence *existing at the time the Constitution was adopted! The Legislature may create as many new offences as they please, and prescribe what mode of trial they please!*

According to this doctrine, the Legislature may declare that every man who drinks a glass of liquor or smokes a cigar, or kisses his wife on Sunday, may be hung, or shot, or burnt, without trial by jury, at the mere will of a single alderman or justice of the peace! The railroads, the telegraphs, the daguerreotypes, the steamboats, and a thousand new branches of business, which have arisen since the Constitution was adopted, present a large field for *new offences* and *new modes of trial*, disregarding the trial by jury. If Judge BLACK's doctrine be sound, the great palladium of human rights, which we have heretofore relied upon to protect life, liberty, and property from the encroachments of power, is an empty bauble. According to Judge BLACK, the great principle of Magna Charta—that no man shall be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, except by *the judgment of his* peers, and due process of law—amounts to nothing. We are grieved to say that this case is only one out of many, abounding in our Law Reports, tending to show the infirmities of a powerful but singularly eccentric, ill-balanced, and poorly-furnished mind.

In the report of the case of VAN SWARTON vs. The Commonwealth, it is stated that the opinion was delivered by BLACK, *chief-justice*, on the 18th of December, 1854. But, as Judge BLACK's term, as chief-justice, expired on the first Monday of December, 1854, it is evident that there is a mistake in the date. On inquiry, we find that Judge BLACK was a candidate for election as *associate* judge of the Supreme Court, in October, 1854; that at that period of time the temperance excitement was raging through the State; that this case of VAN SWARTON's came on for argument *along with a great number of similar convictions under the same law, in the month of September before the election!* This simple statement of facts furnishes a sad commentary upon the value of an elective judiciary.

Judge BLACK was elected, owing to a division in the ranks of the Opposition. They were divided between Judges Savage and Baird. If the Opposition votes had been concentrated on a single candidate, Judge BLACK would not have been elected. He succeeded without receiving a majority of votes.

THE PORT SARNIA TRAGEDY—TYLER CONVICTED.—Wm. S. Tyler, the deputy United States marshal, who killed Capt. Jones, of the brig Concord, at Port Sarnia about a year since, was convicted of murder in the second degree, in the Circuit Court of St. Clair county, Michigan, last week. The brig Concord was owned in this city, and Capt. Jones had formerly resided and was very well known here. A great deal of interest was felt in the case here. The Concord, on her way from Lake Superior to this port, put into Port Sarnia, Canada, to avoid being attached by the United States marshal at Detroit. Wherein she had violated the United States laws we do not remember, though we believe the case was clear against her. Deputy United States Marshal Tyler and his aids cut the lines which secured the brig to the Canada shore and boarded her. He was met by Captain Jones, who ordered him ashore. Angry words passed between them, blows ensued, and in the melee the deputy marshal shot Captain Jones with a revolver. The Canadian authorities claimed the right to try Tyler, alleging that the cutting of the lines did not take the brig from their waters—their jurisdiction; but their claim was not recognised, and Tyler was tried in the United States District Court in Detroit. He was fined one thousand dollars and costs, and ordered to be imprisoned for a short term. The State of Michigan then stepped in, and the grand jury of St. Clair county indicted him for murder in the first degree. The jury convicted him as above stated. It is hardly probable that the United States Court at Detroit will allow itself to be snubbed in this way without remonstrating. We shall see what will be done. Capt. Jones was a most estimable man, and public feeling has been very strong against Tyler.—*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

Iron Bridges.

As the question of having an iron bridge over the Schuylkill is now under discussion in Councils, it may be of some interest to the members to read THOMAS PAINE's memorial to Congress on the "Construction of Iron Bridges." In a note dated Burlington, N. J., June, 1808, Mr. PAINE says:

"As bridges, and the method of constructing them, are becoming objects of great importance throughout the United States, and as there are at this time proposals for a bridge over the Delaware, and also a bridge beginning to be erected over the Schuylkill, at Philadelphia, I present the public with some account of the construction of iron bridges. The following memoir on that subject, written last winter at the Federal City, was intended to be presented to Congress. But as the session would necessarily be short, and as several of its members would be replaced by new elections at the ensuing session, it was judged better to let it lie over. In the mean time, on account of the bridges now in contemplation or began, I give the memoir the opportunity of appearing before the public and the persons concerned in those works."

In the memorial Mr. PAINE states that he had deposited in the Patent Office two models of iron bridges, one in pasteboard, the other in cast metal, but that he did not intend any patent right. We quote a few paragraphs:

"As America abounds in rivers that interrupt the land communication, and as by violence of floods, and the breaking up of the ice in the spring, the bridges depending for support from the bottom of the river are frequently carried away, I turned my attention, after the Revolutionary war was over, to find a method of constructing an arch that might, without rendering the height inconvenient, or the ascent difficult, extend at once from shore to shore, over rivers of three, four, or five hundred feet, and probably more.

"The principle I took to begin with, and work upon, was that the small segment of a large circle was preferable to the great segment of a small circle. The appearance of such arches, and the manner of forming and putting the parts together, admit of many varieties, but the principle will be the same in all. The bridge architects that I conversed with in England denied the principle, but it was generally supported by mathematicians, and experiment has now established the fact.

"In 1786, I made three models, partly at Philadelphia, but mostly at Bordentown, in the State of New Jersey. One model was in wood, one in cast iron, and one in wrought iron, connected with blocks of wood, representing cast iron blocks, but all on the same principle, that of the small segment of a large circle.

"I took the last-mentioned one with me to France, in 1787, and presented it to the Academy of Sciences at Paris for their opinion of it. The academy appointed a committee of their own body—Mons. Le Roy, the Abbe Bossou, and Mons. Borda. The first was an acquaintance of Dr. Franklin and Mr. Jefferson, then minister at Paris. The two others were celebrated as mathematicians. I presented it as a model for a bridge of a single arch of 400 feet span over the river Schuylkill, at Philadelphia. The committee brought in a report, which the academy adopted, that an arch on the principle and construction of the model, in their opinion, might be extended 400 feet, the extent proposed."

Mr. PAINE goes on to state, that in order to ascertain the truth of the principle, he had constructed at a foundry at Rotherham, in England, a rib of 90 feet of span and caused it to be erected. It was a success. He closes his memorial with the request "that this memoir may be put on the journals of Congress, as an evidence hereafter that this new method of constructing bridges originated in America."

The memoir is printed in full in the 1st volume of the Political Writings of THOMAS PAINE, page 417.

Public Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The second operatic night of the Signore Natali found the house crowded to excess. The great success of the first representation had brought many who had pretended to disbelieve in any opera that was not under the supervision of a renowned Impresaria and under the protection of protocol advertisements half a column long. The opera began with Lucrezia Borgia as far as it could be done by the four principal characters. In this Signora Agnese Natali surpassed in dramatic force the promise she had given in *Leonora*, and sang better than we have ever heard her. Agnese Natali will be a great artist in a few years. She has now, indeed, many inferior to her on the Italian stage, and few above her. Though Ardavani has a fine voice, and is an artist, he did not prove himself an actor in the part of the *Duke*. The orchestra, too, went wrong—nay, came to a stand-still, till Anschutz set them right with the piano. Miss Heron, however, proved herself an artist by not being put out, and by taking up the them in the midst of this confusion, and getting triumphantly through her part. Miss Francesca Natali sang the Brindisi to the general satisfaction of the audience. It is difficult to please in any thing so hackneyed, but she made some very novel and effective embellishments. The Spanish duet, in costume with Rocco, was a most finished piece of singing and acting, full of character, and far superior to Mlle. Gazzaniga's vaunted Narangera.

The selections from the "Elisire" were excellently executed. Miss Francesca made a charming peasant boy, and sang Una Furtiva with exquisite grace and sweetness, and Signor Rocco, as *Doctor Dulcamara*, has proved the best buffo actor in this country, and, as a basso, stands with *far superiors*. His make-up was excellent. This operatic season has been a decided success. We had the honor of hearing a young lady from New York, who sat behind us, say that it was far better than Ullman's opera. Mr. Ullman or Mr. Strakosch should take the hint of the New York young lady, and, secure, if possible, the sisters Natali, as they would be a great card to any manager.

There will be a matinée on Saturday, and then no more? The stockholders have not given forth their oracles.

WOLFSOHN AND HORNSTOCK.—These two distinguished pianists will give the first of a series of Classical Concerts, in the foyer of the Academy of Music, (an admirable concert-room,) which will be a great treat to all lovers of real true music, such music as is not found on the programmes of the concerts of the present day. This will be music of the mind and soul, and not of the fingers merely.

WHEATLEY & CLARKE'S ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—The last nights of "Dot" have come. Its career has been a long success. Every performance has been a memorable occasion, not only for the exceeding beauties of delineation and fine artistic effects of the drama, but also for the crowds of spell-bound spectators, and their exciting tributes of praise. Having fulfilled its mission in charming the play-going public, "Dot" must be withdrawn, and all its pleasant features change to memories. It will be impossible to see it again after to-morrow night. Of course, the house will be incapable of accommodating all who desire to take advantage of these last chances, and it is unnecessary to urge early attendance.

As this star sets another rises. There are no lonely lights in the theatrical firmament of Wheatley & Clarke. Their attractions are constellated. The new sensation will be "Fast Men of the Olden Time." This comedy took New York by storm, and crowded Wallack's Theatre for a long time. A merrier play, said the best critics and the public, had not been seen for many a day. They applauded it with all their might, because it combined those elements which the day demands from the drama. People, in these laboring times, go to the theatre to forget their cares and vexations, the disappointments of business, and the sorrows that so often cluster about the hearthstone. They want to relieve their hearts with careless, happy laughter. They want to let out the wrinkles that steal upon their faces in the hot hours of trade. A piece of fun, as has been proved over and over again, is the piece for the public. This, in an eminent degree, is "Fast Men of the Olden Time." It is crowded with mirth-moving incidents and situations. They follow each other with amazing rapidity. Not for a moment does the lively interest flag. The piece will be presented in unique style, and with a perfect cast. It will be another addition to the long list of successes of Wheatley & Clarke.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—The tragedy, which is indeed a tragedy, "Bertram," which proceeded from the gloomiest brain that ever wrote, was the play chosen by Mrs. Waller last evening. It is strange that this should be a favorite play with all actors; it is nothing but horror upon horror, and does not in any way touch the sympathies of the audience. Mr. Waller made his appearance for the first time this season. We have spoken, on former occasions, of this gentleman's performance. His fine presence, his deep, mellow voice, are two great advantages he possesses; and we should indicate, but as a defect, a tendency to exaggeration—if we may say so, an over-earnestness, for Mr. Waller, like his wife, is in earnest on the stage. Perhaps it is impossible not to be exaggerated in a character so false as that of "Bertram." Mrs. Waller's *Imogene* was marked by some stupendously fine effects. Her remorse was appalling: her fall at the death of her husband was perfectly a new stage effect. Her mad scene, too, was free from all stage insanity and tricks, with touches of wild tenderness that were deeply pathetic. Mrs. Waller was admirably costumed, especially in the two last acts, where her admirable form was displayed to the greatest advantage. To-night, by most especial desire, "Meg Merrilies" will be repeated. It is impossible for those who have seen it once not to see it again, yet to go again is like the fearful curiosity which leads one to brave some haunted church-yard where one fears yet longs to gaze on beings of another world.

ACCIDENT TO A GUNNER.—Jeremiah Blackburn, a shoemaker by trade, was severely injured yesterday, by the premature discharge of his gun while hunting for ducks at Red Bank. He was walking through the woods when his fowling piece came in contact with some briers. It suddenly went off, the load taking effect in his right arm. The wounds inflicted are of so dangerous a character that amputation will be necessary. The unfortunate man was taken to the hospital last evening.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16, 1859.

I am happy to say that, after a long and confidential interview with one of the immediate friends of Mr. Buchanan, we have finally concluded that he is the only man who can unite the Administration party North and South, in 1860, and that it will be the bounden duty of the Charleston Convention to put him forward for re-election. I do not say that this is my *confrere*, Jinks—although he is well known to be profoundly impressed with the same idea—but if the Administration party is to be saved, who else can save it? Has not Mr. Buchanan done everything in his power to destroy the Democracy, and to elevate his Administration? And have not the extreme Southern leaders come forward and accepted the treacheries he has presented to the Northern Democracy as the true test of political orthodoxy? I told you long ago, when he wrote to Judge McCandless, in reply to Col. Barr, of the Pittsburg *Morning Post*, stating