The Press.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—Diary of the American Revolution; Kansas; Excitement in Kentucky; Personal and Political, &c. FOURTH PAGE.—Original Poetry; Our Portfolio.

THE PRESS.

A few words about THE PRESS and its prospects cannot be regarded as intrusive at the beginning of the New Year. THE PRESS was two years and five months old on the 1st of January, 1860. It was started immediately before the panic of 1857, and was compelled to struggle, not only with that great collapse in the financial world, but shortly afterwards to encounter the responsibility of a contest with the Administration of Mr. BUCHANAN—to which, in advance, it had been cordially and sincerely committed, on the basis of certain clear and well-understood Democratic principles. If it be true, as it is, that the public mind has not yet been cured of the panic which began more than two years ago, it is equally true that the proscription which succeeded Mr. BUCHANAN'S unexampled betrayal of his personal and political honor has gone on increasing from that day to this. We ought to feel, as we do feel, grateful, that, in defiance of both these influences, THE PRESS has not only maintained itself, but has secured a position and a patronage which have placed it beyond the reach of the changes of finance on the one hand, and the malevolence of besotted power on the other. Our ambition has been to CREATE a perfectly independent newspaper, and, while following principle with undeviating step to its logical conclusion, to avoid the error of becoming the organ of a single idea, or of consuming columns of space with more political harangues.

A great newspaper is, in some respects like a great party. It ought to profess and proclaim certain opinions which should be to it an unalterable gospel of faith, based upon eternal and unchangeable truth. There is nothing more injurious to a community, and more discreditable to a journalist, than a paper which sets its sails for every popular ebullition, and adopts and abandons its sentiments according to the prevailing prejudice of the hour. The popularity of such a journal misleads and destroys the vitality of more men than any other accepted agent of civilization. It teaches insincerity in politics, hypocrisy in the pulpit, cowardice on the bench, falsehood in private life, and fraud in trade. We have tried the experiment of a thoroughly fearless newspaper. While entertaining and expressing our own opinions at all times, we have never hesitated to do justice to the opinions of others—have never withheld from an opponent the tribute which is manifestly his due; and we are now happy to say that our experiment has been a rare business success.

THE PRESS, entirely independent of party organization, never seeking for the patronage of any administration, State, national or municipal—relying solely upon whatever merits it may possess—has attained such a circulation in Philadelphia, and throughout the country, as proves that a newspaper may be profitably conducted without being the mere echo of party leaders on the one hand, or the mere dependent of power on the other.

We trace our prosperity in a great measure to the fact that no merely partisan paper has ever succeeded, in any State, county, or city in the Union. The best newspapers have always obtained the best subscribers, and the best patrons. If a journal is itself acceptable, its readers care very little for the opinions of its editor. We have seen hundreds of thousands of dollars expended upon enterprises devoted to the advancement of the fortunes of politicians and statesmen, and they have all failed because the projectors have refused to consider that vast outside public who care for politics simply as an incidental pastime, and who only judge of a newspaper by its decorum and its consistency, by the vigor of its management, and the ability of its contents. If the secret history of the most successful journals of this country could be written, it would be found that every man who has put his own brains into a weekly or a daily paper, and devoted himself to the intelligent appetites of the community by which he was surrounded, has generally prospered, keeping all the time in view certain well-understood principles of popular policy, and never losing his respect for his political adversaries.

THE DAILY PRESS circulates in every part of the city of Philadelphia, and in all the leading towns of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland; in the cities of Pittsburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Reading, and Pottsville, and the boroughs of West Chester, Phœnixville, Chester, Media, Norristown, Pottstown, Doylestown, Bristol, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Stroudsburg Wilkesbarre, Mauch Chunk, Scranton, Tamaqua, Port Clinton, Minersville, York, Columbia, Mount Joy, Marietta, Middletown, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Lewistown, Bellefonte, Milton, Sunbury, Shamokin, Lewisburg, Danville, Lock Haven, Williamsport, Lewistown, Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Bedford, Greensburg, and, in fact, throughout all the interior of Pennsylvania. The circulation of THE PRESS in the Northwestern and Southern States is rapidly increasing—as our books will show. FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS is to-day an institution on the Pacific border, and is taken by thousands in California, Oregon, and Washington Territories.

The commercial community has always found in THE PRESS a steady and a reliable friend. It has represented no opinion antagonistic to the prosperity either of the merchants, manufacturers, or mechanics of Pennsylvania. After the panic of 1857—during the extra session of the Legislature of the State—THE PRESS was devoted to such wise and sagacious legislation as would protect the interests of many brave and responsible men who were at that time stricken by a great financial cholera. They were in suffering, and it came forward to defend them. Believing in the doctrine that "he deserves no consideration abroad who is not true to his own household," THE PRESS is devoted to the welfare of Philadelphia and of Pennsylvania, and therefore it recognises, in the recent Union demonstrations in this city, a declaration of war against every enemy of the confederation of these States—whether they come from New England or from South Carolina.

☞ "Independent," the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *North American*, in his letter of the 30th ult., pays the following compliment to Hon. John Schwartz, representative from the Berks county (Pa.) district:

"Mr. Schwartz has been sick for three weeks, and in an unfit condition to attend the House. His physician and his friends have constantly urged him to remain at home, and to pair off. But, acting upon a stern sense of duty to his constituents, and of fidelity to his principles, he has consistently and decidedly declined to absent himself. No member of the House has been more prompt at the hour of meeting, and none more certain in his response on the right side, and that, too, under circumstances which would not only have warranted, but actually seemed to demand, his temporary withdrawal. His conduct and bearing in this contest have extorted the highest respect, even from those who entirely differ with his votes, while they have excited a generous sympathy and admiration on the part of every member of the Opposition. Such an example of upright and resolute devotion cannot be appreciated beyond its intrinsic merit."

☞ It will be seen by our advertising columns that the lumber business will hereafter be conducted by P. Mitchell, Jr., and Samuel Wilhelm, under the name of P. Mitchell, Jr., & Co., at the corner of York and Richmond streets, in the yard formerly occupied by Smith & Mitchell.

STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE.—This evening, at the Exchange, the stocks originally advertised for the 20th sale, will be sold at 7 o'clock, previous to the real estate. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements and pamphlet catalogues.

The Commercial Relations between the North and the South.

The propositions for non-intercourse, and a suspension of commercial relations between the Northern and Southern States, which have frequently been repeated in consequence of the recent excitement, continue to be the subject of much comment in the newspapers of all sections of the Confederacy. As this is a topic of vital importance to the whole country, and particularly to the people of a great manufacturing and commercial city like Philadelphia, it deserves to be freely and frankly discussed. Threats of a suspension of commercial intercourse with the Northern States are not of recent origin. They have been familiar as household words in the mouths of the exacting ultraists in the South for some years, and a number of political causes have heretofore prompted them to the advocacy of a destruction of the business relations between the two sections, and of a refusal on the part of the South to consume any articles of Northern manufacture or importation. In accordance with these views, Southern conventions have repeatedly met to organize great systems of Southern industry—to create by resolutions and pronunciamientoes a Southern literature, to build Southern ships and steamboats, to fill the South with manufactures of every kind, and to establish lines of steamships between Norfolk, Charleston, Mobile or New Orleans, and the great commercial cities of Europe. It is possible that, in some instances, these conventions have exercised a slight influence in inducing the people of the South to diversify their industry, and to increase the range of their avocations. But, after all, it is the influential spirits of the business world, and not the mere politicians—it is the operation of the great and moving cause of self-interest, and not mere political affinities or hatreds—it is the earnest purpose and trained talent of large bodies of intelligent citizens, and not the whims and caprices of a few noisy demagogues—which alone can change the course of trade, build up great cities, set the wheels of ponderous machinery in motion, give inspiration to inventive genius, and revolutionize the industrial development of vast communities, and the entire civilization of immense districts of territory.

It is true, that some practical, and so far as present appearances go, unfortunate results to Northern industry have occurred in consequence of the recent excitement. There has been a stampede of several hundred students from the medical colleges of our city, where great facilities for the advantageous pursuit of their studies existed, to comparatively new and inferior Southern schools. A number of orders for manufactured articles in our own and other Northern cities have been countermanded. Northern business agents travelling through the South have been rudely repulsed, and the determination has been expressed in some business quarters, that business relations with Northern men should be summarily suspended. It is perfectly natural, too, that persons and cities in the South now making struggling efforts to establish enterprises designed to rival those which are deeply rooted in the North should use every possible exertion to avail themselves of the present or recent excited feeling to advance their business interests—that Baltimore, Charleston, and New Orleans, for instance, should make an earnest appeal, partly based on the JOHN BROWN raid, to merchants in the interior to receive from them, instead of from the North, the imported articles they require. Nor will it be strange if, so far as the business facilities now existing in the South, or those likely soon to be established there, will be enabled to supply the demand for merchandise of various kinds, they should obtain orders hitherto sent to the North. But beyond this, and beyond a mere temporary and extremely partial suspension of business relations with the South, we see no reason to doubt that, for centuries to come, with possibly slight intervals, the trade between the North and the South will go on to an extent unparalleled in the commercial annals of the world. *The free trade enjoyed by the whole American people, who are located in many different latitudes, and possess facilities for the production of almost every imaginable article, is one of the choicest blessings ever vouchsafed to any nation, and this mutually advantageous privilege will not be lightly surrendered at the bidding of any body of agitators or political demagogues, now or hereafter.*

Trade carves out for itself its own channels all over the world, irrespective of political distinctions and diversities of opinion. When the wars of a great nation for a time retard and check it, all civilized countries deplore the calamity and desire the speedy restoration when commerce may be resumed.

The doctrine of free trade has always been one of the favorite theories of the South, and the best efforts of Southern statesmen have been made to fasten that policy upon the National Government. Next to the protection of their domestic institution, their most zealous efforts have been made to promote, as far as possible, an unrestricted commercial intercourse with the whole world, to diminish the taxes upon the products of all foreign countries entering into our ports, and to destroy every shackle by which our trade was fettered. It would be, indeed, singular if a section thoroughly imbued with this free-trade feeling on all questions affecting our intercourse with foreign countries could suddenly be converted into a champion of theories of an opposite character in regard to its relations with sister States, which are joint members of one confederacy, and it will be found, we think, by actual experience, that the same motives which render the Southern people restive and impatient under the restraints and exactions of a high tariff and heavy duties, will lead them to be equally hostile to any attempt to commit them to a settled policy by which the cost of the domestic articles of home consumption, now manufactured or imported in the North, would be materially increased.

The history of the intercourse between this Government and Great Britain affords a striking proof of the inability of mere political animosities to affect any permanent disruption of commercial relations. Before the war of the Revolution fairly commenced, the American people, animated by a spirit of patriotic hostility to Great Britain resorted to non-intercourse measures as a punishment for the tyrannical action of the home Government. It is true, that for a time they considerably reduced, and during the war entirely destroyed, our commerce with Great Britain; but, although the war resulted in a complete governmental separation of the two countries, and engendered such bitter feelings of hostility that it required many years to allay them, their international commerce has been steadily increasing until it now reaches an aggregate that is almost incredible. The business and political worlds, in ordinary circumstances, form two distinct and separate spheres, each acting independent of the other. In our foreign commercial relations, we never stop for a moment to inquire the political character of the country with which we are brought into contact, nor, except when some weighty political considerations absolutely compel us to assume a position of warlike antagonism to a foreign Government, do we allow our commercial relations to be interrupted with any country to which we can advantageously sell any of our products, or from which we can profitably buy any of the articles we wish to consume. We trade alike with the liberal monarchists of England, the subjects of the Czar of Russia, the people of despotic Turkey, the merchants under the dominion of the Emperor of France; with Spaniards, Italians, Austrians, Cubans, Chinese, the Japanese, Mexicans, Africans, and the inhabitants of South America. We buy and sell at any and every port that holds out to us superior inducements for trade or barter.

If a Southern citizen buys goods from a Northern merchant, mechanic, or manufacturer, the principal motive that directs him to the particular spot at which he makes his purchases is self-interest; and while this motive continues in operation as, in the natural course of events it does, and will, in most instances, he will have but little disposition, in a moment of cool reflection, to sacrifice his pecuniary interests at the bidding of demagogues. When men walk through our streets on business errands, and see thrown open before them the doors of commercial houses, one of which they consider offers superior inducements, in its assortment or its prices, they are not often deterred from entering it because its proprietor entertains political or religious sentiments contrary to their own. If they do allow such considerations to influence their business policy, they pay a tax for their prejudices so onerous that it soon becomes unendurable. The South possesses immense agricultural wealth, and has found agriculture so profitable that she has had little necessity or inclination to devote her energies to other pursuits. To construct a new frame-work of industrial organization within her limits would require much time, capital, and skilled labor, which she can employ more profitably in raising cotton, rice, and sugar. She will engage extensively in other pursuits, when a *business* necessity obliges her to so, and not merely at the call of a supposed political exigency.

Munchausens of the Press.

Some people have an ingenious knack of making mountains of molehills. Among the news-items supplied to the American Journals through the agency of the Associated Press, we find the following, brought over by the *Canada*, which left Liverpool on the 17th instant:

"A hastily-summoned Cabinet Council was held in London on the 15th ult. Ministers were summoned by telegraph from the country. The London *Advertiser* believes that urgent circumstances relative to the Congress were the cause, and thinks it not improbable that the arrogance of the Pope in claiming for his representative precedence over all the other Powers may have been one of the points for the Cabinet's consideration. Another Cabinet Council was held on the 16th."

Considering that the session of Parliament was to commence on the 28th ult.; that many important measures, including a new Reform Bill, are to be brought forward by the Palmerston Ministry; that a new war with China is on the eve of being commenced; that it may be necessary to establish a clear platform for the representatives of Great Britain at the Paris Congress; and that it is usual to hold frequent Cabinet meetings before the Parliamentary work is regularly commenced—it can scarcely be considered remarkable or alarming that the British Ministry had been summoned to London thirteen days beforehand, or that Cabinet councils should be held even daily until Parliament meets. On the contrary, the fact is, that if PEEL had been Premier at this crisis, instead of that *poco curante* old gentleman, Viscount PALMERSTON, the members of his Government would have been at work, in their offices, a month or six weeks before the Parliamentary Session, instead of less than a fortnight, as in the present instance.

What the *Morning Advertiser*, of London, may believe upon any subject, foreign or domestic, is not of the slightest importance to any but its readers—namely, the ale-bibbers and dram-drinkers who haunt the gin-shops of London. Such a journal has not—cannot have, from its peculiar character—any exclusive information upon public matters. It rejoices in having a fling at the Pope, and it manœuvres to *make* information for the American public, to have its name quoted, as authority, in our newspapers. We repeat, for the hundredth time, that the agents or correspondents of the Associated Press, who complete the summary of news in England, are careless, or worse, in quoting the grog-shop organ as authority for any thing but the price of brandy and water, "hot with" or "cold without." We beg to say, once for all, that we do not pay the Associated Press a large annual sum for *mis*-information.

Unreliable, however, as is the particular news of the journal in question, it is accuracy itself, compared with that afforded by the *pseudo*-foreign correspondence of that Oracle of Truth, the *Herald* of New York. We suspect, from the internal evidence of this correspondence, that much of it is manufactured in the office of the *Herald*, and that interpolations are made for such portion of it as really comes from abroad. In yesterday's issue, a mass of foreign correspondence, as accurate and extensive as that of Solomon in "The Stranger," is headed by a letter dated London, December 18th, which is indexed thus: "*British Designs on the Integrity of the Union—England Says Our Federal Days are Numbered—Effect of Senator Seward's Presence in London—What Great Britain has to Gain—The Abolition Doctrines Upheld—An Anti-American Secret-Service Fund—Lord Palmerston's Views of North and South, &c.*"

This letter, whether written in London or New York, pretends to reveal English State secrets of the greatest importance, and boldly says: "No one should be surprised to learn that the British Government have determined to devote two hundred thousand pounds sterling (something less than a million dollars) during approaching Presidential canvass in fomenting the bad blood in the North and West against the South in the hope thereby of producing a dis-solution of the Union." The writer, who may be called Munchausen for shortness, then adds: "I know this to be the fact; for I have it from a person of undoubted credibility, and I am only prevented from giving his name from the certainty that it would involve him in the most serious difficulties, if not prove his ruin."

He winds up with this great flourish: "I would gladly give you the name of my authority, as to the employment of a million of British gold in the coming Presidential election, but I could not do so without ruining one of the very few Englishmen who are really friendly to the United States. Forewarned forearmed; I have discharged my duty in conveying to you these facts, and I leave to you the more responsible one of sounding the tocsin, to rouse all Americans, who love their country, to a true sense of the impending danger."

In the name of the Prophet—figs! No person of the slightest intelligence can be deceived by such an assertion as this. But some of the people who read the *Herald* may credit it. That letter, we doubt not, was written in New York, with the intention of being used as one weapon against Mr. SEWARD. In a day or two, in all probability, the *Herald* will have half a dozen leaden leaders upon this sheer bit of invention, got up to be used politically. England, we firmly believe, has not the slightest desire to have our Union dissolved; has not so much spare cash that she can spare even £200,000 to be employed in buying votes for the next Presidential election; has no feeling towards this country—her best commercial customer, supplying the raw and consuming the wrought materials—except good will, on the old live-and-let-live principle. So far from £200,000 being set apart from the Secret Service fund of England, to corrupt our millions of voters, the annual amount of that fund has not exceeded £25,000 a year since Sir ROBERT PEEL took office in 1841. Munchausen, had he written in London, could have learned this fact from the Great Unknown who discovered this great mare's nest for him.

Washington's Farewell Address.

We have before us a beautiful quarto edition of Washington's last words to the people of the United States—a timely and most propitious hit—and the taste of its exquisite embellishment is truly worthy of that immortal State Paper, which has especial consideration just now, when its noble teachings, amid the perplexities of these times, should be kept fresh before the public. Everybody should treasure that great valedictory, and this edition, so rich in its artistic fancies, must meet with signal success. The work is illuminated in rich mediæval letters, printed in colors on fine imperial plate paper, with recent views of Mount Vernon, altogether displaying great taste and artistic ability. The printing is done by B. Franklin Jackson, and is an admirable specimen of typographic art. Deveereux & Co., 132 South Third street, Philadelphia, are the publishers.

[For The Press.]

MR. EDITOR: I observe in your paper of the 31st ultimo an article by a correspondent, who signs himself "Stockholder," in reference to the approaching election for managers of the West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad Company. As "Stockholder" has named a person, I presume, for the office of president of the said company, and without undervaluing his qualifications in the least, I will take the liberty of naming another gentleman for the same office, and he is Mr. Marshall B. Hickman, of Chester county. Mr. Hickman is one of the present board of managers, a self-made man, a practical farmer, who has managed his own affairs well, which is some guaranty that he can be trusted to manage the affairs of others in the character of trustee.

He is highly esteemed by his neighbors as a sober, honest, industrious, reliable business man. His name has been talked of in connection with the office above mentioned to some extent among the stockholders and bondholders, but not through the newspapers. This notice of him has been written without his knowledge or consent. In conclusion, I will say to the stockholders and bondholders that before you vote, or give your proxies to other persons to vote for you, inquire who Marshall B. Hickman is, and whether he can be confided in, with a good Board to assist him, in conducting the road to the best advantage with the least possible expense, and I think they will answer that he WILL.

AT DAN RICE'S GREAT SHOW, last night, the veteran tight-rope dancer, Herr Cline, made his first appearance, and quite a number of entirely new acts were introduced in the circle. Dan Rice is now regularly officiating in the ring as humorist—a fact which those with a taste for unadulterated fun will do well to bear in mind.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, January 2, 1860.

Of all sentiments, there is none that so abounds in revolting features, and yet that wins more triumphs from the judgments and consciences of men, than that in favor of duelling. However condemned by public opinion, it requires a man of more than ordinary self-reliance to refuse an appeal of this kind of personal arbitration. Even in the free States, a resentment of this character is pretty generally justified, while a refusal to accept the responsibility is censured. In the South, the deadliest conflicts are commended by public opinion, and very few men—unless they have manifested a disposition to fight on former occasions—can escape a severe odium if they refuse to accept a challenge. In these remarks, I do not pretend to blame Mr. Grow, because he declined to recognize the code duello, for, in doing so, he signified his determination to protect himself if assailed. Mr. Branch, the challenger, is one of the most amiable men in the House, and his course in calling Mr. Grow to account for words spoken in debate, after he (Branch) had severely criticised Mr. Grow, is only another evidence of the fact I have stated. I do not know a more courteous, modest, and self-poised gentleman than Lawrence O'B. Branch, and yet this apparently moderate man has somewhat persistently pushed his challenge upon Mr. Grow, and is supposed at the present time to be very anxious for a conflict with him.

The truth is, the bitterness of some of the Southern extremists since the beginning of Congress, whatever effect it may have had upon representatives from the North and West, has greatly affected conservative men such as Mr. Branch, and has compelled those who are known to be strongly opposed to the practice of duelling to become nearly as much excited as their more fiery colleagues. I have been surprised that more ill blood has not been displayed before this; and will be still more surprised if, prior to the organization, some unfortunate collision does not take place. It is folly to suppose that Northern men will always sit under goads and sneers. Human patience may at last be tested beyond prudent limits, and many who are flattering themselves with the belief that the great body of the representatives of the people of one section will always bear insults may find themselves ruefully mistaken.

The Democrats of Mississippi, in their late State Convention, passed the strongest pro-slavery resolutions; and the organ of that Democracy—the Jackson *Mississippian*—sums up the action of the Convention as follows:

"The fact is not now to be questioned that the Democracy of Mississippi will accept nothing less at the hands of the Charleston Convention than the full recognition of the power and the duty of the General Government to protect slavery as well as other property in the Territories, and wherever its jurisdiction extends; and that *they indignantly spurn any candidate for the Presidency who does not stand squarely upon this platform.*"

From this you will perceive that while certain of the Northern men are willing to take the Cincinnati platform, pure and simple, without explanation, the South are rapidly uniting upon the declaration that they will not support any candidate nominated by that Convention unless the strongest assurance is given that slavery shall be protected in the Territories in violation of the popular will.

Apropos of James Gordon Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, a friend encloses to me the following extract from the Washington correspondent of the New York *Courier and Enquirer*, of the 16th of September last. Comment is unnecessary.

THE TWO J. B.'s.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.

The States, some days since, contained an attack upon the editor of the *Herald* so severe that the inference was the Administration had broken with him. The following is one of the most complimentary paragraphs of the article:

"*The Government has shut the doors in his face. The President and Secretary Cass refuse to recognize him. It pledges his deep-seated villainy. All here in authority shun him as they would shun a leper. He will make little by his visit; perhaps, the destruction of some young and simple being, who will hereafter find out the treacherous leper. Let the viper leave—let the city be emptied of him.*"

At the very time of this statement, the *Tribune* of your city contained the following:

"Mr. James Gordon Bennett, the editor of the New York *Herald*, has been entertained by the President at the Soldiers' Home every day during his visit to this city, which he seems to love dearly.

I have taken pains to investigate the matter; and the result is, a conviction that there is no truth in the assertion that Buchanan has repudiated Bennett. On the contrary, he treated him while here, with distinguished consideration and attention; and it is said that Mr. Bennett left with a promise from the President, that he would invite him to a foreign mission in readiness for the assembling of Congress, provided Bennett could produce evidence that the Senate would confirm him! This Bennett will be able to do; but I doubt whether, even with such evidence of the willingness of the Senate to confirm, James Buchanan will ever redeem his promise to Bennett. True, Buchanan himself is of Scotch descent; but we doubt whether even that tie of fellowship will induce him to act as he has promised, and yet, if any man is entitled to his gratitude it is the proprietor of the *Herald*. But the States shall write. The parties are as loving *cronies* as ever; only the older B. will try to humbug his friend. J. R.

The omission of Mr. Buchanan to refer to his probable action when Kansas presents herself for admission into the Union before the present Congress, in his annual message, is regarded as significant of his purpose to await the events of the times. I have no doubt that, notwithstanding Kansas will appear at Washington under the most favorable circumstances, she will be kept out of the Union, if the extreme Southern men can effect this result. The next Presidential contest will be a close one, and the vote of Kansas may decide it. But would not the refusal of the Administration party in Congress to admit her, add new fuel to the sectional flame? And yet I am convinced, by daily experience, that nothing could gratify certain Southern leaders in the Senate so much as the precipitation of the calamity which is so eloquently deplored in the President's message—the calamity of the overthrow of the Union of these States. Many of these men are really sincere in the belief that such an event would be a God-send to the South. They are as fanatical as Wendell Phillips, Gerrit Smith, or William Lloyd Garrison. They are arguing themselves into the opinion that disunion would make of the South a perfect Elysium; that they would then be troubled by no outside barbarians, and that they would go on prospering to the end. OCCASIONAL.

Revolt of the Oregon Democracy.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

SALEM, Oregon, Nov. 19, 1859.

The Democratic State Convention met at Eugene City on the 16th inst., to elect delegates to Charleston.

Had the Convention been fairly apportioned upon the Democratic vote cast at the last regular election, it would have instructed for Senator Douglas. But the Lane faction were resolved to sustain his farcical pretensions to the Presidency, though they should involve the disruption of the party.

All the Federal appointees and expectants were employed to pack county conventions and send up delegates corresponding to the vote cast at the late special election. In this they succeeded so well as to secure a majority in organising the State Convention, and adopt the "Stout basis," as it is termed, by a vote of thirty to twenty-one. The entire delegations from eight counties then withdrew and organized a committee of correspondence with one member in each county in the State. More than two-thirds of the Democracy sympathize with this movement, and nearly one-half will urge it on to any extremity of revolt. Caucus supremacy is an efficient and honorable bond of union, so long as those who wield it are responsible to the people. But when it falls into the hands of a power outside the State, whose mercenary instruments are not dependent upon the public for honor and emolument, and who do not scruple to cheat the popular will by any means, no man of spirit or patriotism will be bound by the decisions of the party.

Of the eleven counties remaining in the Convention, one had instructed for Douglas and one for Dickinson, making two counties out of nineteen in the State which declared directly against General Lane and the Federal influence.

This opposition is not a mere contempt for his aspirations or preference for another candidate, but an unyielding hostility to him and the Administration, which he has used for personal ends. Not content with appointing corrupt and inefficient officers among us, he has compelled them to debauch and disgrace the Democratic organization, and consign it to defeat and ruin for all time to come.

Two-thirds of the Democracy stand committed to a principle which they will never yield, and Stephen A. Douglas is their choice for President. To have their vote, trifling though it be, in the National Convention, snatched away from him, is an insult they will never brook.

The Oregon delegation consists of five Federal officers, and one needy applicant. Three of them were opposed to Gen. Lane, until *convinced* by a little Federal salary.

If any candidate is nominated representing their views, his only support here will arise from the expected spoils of office, and that kind of electioneering is in very low repute with the people. It requires little ingenuity to forestall Conventions and precinct meetings, but at the polls tricks avail nothing, and the Democracy must have a Democratic candidate, or they will not vote for him. They everywhere demand something more of the Charleston Convention than to christen some vengeable dotard "their nominee," and adopt the general appropriation bill as a platform.

Popular sovereignty of the most radical stamp was always the rallying point of Oregon Democracy until the power of the present Administration overshadowed our councils and subsidized a portion of our press. Since that time our majority has dwindled down to nothing, and our race as an organized party is run. Still, however, the Democratic element is strong, and will be put forth for the right candidate and in behalf of the right principle. H.

DURING the year 1859, there have been one hundred and fifteen fires at Chicago; the estimated loss, $750,000; on which there were policies of insurance amounting to $314,825.

The Apprentices' Library.

The Apprentices' Library Company took its rise in the year 1820. The idea of such an institution had originated some time previous in the minds of several public-spirited citizens, who believed, to quote from the preamble to the charter (obtained in April, 1821,) "that many benefits would arise from the establishment of a library of suitable books for the use of apprentices; that it would promote orderly and virtuous habits, diffuse knowledge and the desire for knowledge, improve the scientific skill of our mechanics and manufacturers, increase the benefits of the system of general education which is now adopted, and advance the prosperity and happiness of the community."

The first meeting of the company was held in a room on the west side of Carpenter's court, (running south from Chestnut street, between Third and Fourth,) occupied by the Carpenters' Company. The first library room was in the second story of Carpenters' Hall, at the end of the same court. This building, the place where our first Continental Congress met, we have had occasion to allude to more than once. It is pleasant to see that, after being occupied as an *auction mart*, &c., for years, it has recently been put into complete order by the Carpenters' Company, and is now preserved with due care.

The library remained in Carpenters' Hall for several years, and was then removed to the rear of the building at the northeast corner of Seventh and Carpenter (now Jayne) streets, between Chestnut and Market streets.

Its next quarters were in the building on the east side of Seventh street, not far below Arch, occupied for many years previous to the present marble edifice up Chestnut street (commenced in 1829) by the United States Mint. The library had here, on the first floor, a more eligible room than that occupied by them in Carpenter street.

In the early part of the year 1841, the Free Quaker Society gave the use of the second story of their meeting house to the Library Company, at a nominal rent of fifty dollars per year, and this to be returned to the library as a gift from the Free Quakers. The necessary alterations were made, and the library opened in this room, which it still occupies on similar terms to those first agreed upon, on the 17th of July, 1841.

In this and the following year the plan of a library for girls was discussed, and at length determined upon. It met with marked favor, and its benefits have been all that could have been anticipated.

At first the girls' library was kept in the same room with the boys' and opened with a different librarian on alternate days. But both libraries had so increased that the room could hardly accommodate the two. Application was therefore made during the past year to the trustees of the Free Quaker Meeting House for the use of the whole building, and the request was kindly granted. The girls' library now occupies the lower, the boys the upper story.

During the past year there were added to the girls' library 227 volumes, to the boys 389; making in the former a total of 4,576, in the latter of 11,650 volumes—in all, 16,226. Its benefits were enjoyed at the time of the last report by 650 boys, taking out during the year 16,404 books, and 580 girls, taking out 15,921—in all, 32,325. The rooms are opened for boys on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, and for the girls on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons.

The expenses of the library are met by subscription on the part of its friends, two dollars constituting one an annual, twenty-five dollars a life member of the company. The books are loaned "to such apprentices, and, at the discretion of the managers, to such other young persons as shall furnish satisfactory security for the safe and punctual return of the same."

The books are carefully selected, so as, while interesting to the persons for whose use they are designed, to be quite unexceptionable in their character. It is hoped, as the means at the command at disposal will permit, that the rooms may be opened daily, by which means its advantages would no doubt be widely extended; but at present, the additional compensation to the librarian required would be more than could be well spared.

The whole history of the institution has shown the beneficial influence of a system of kindness and confidence. Several instances in illustration of this might be cited. It was thought necessary for a while to have a janitor stationed at the door to see to the conduct of the boys while going down stairs. The person alluded to was rather officious, perhaps not unnaturally so; and when one of the boys tramped down on the boards, making a little more noise than necessary, the offender was sure of a scolding, or if little, and not very spry, a hearty shake. The result was, that the next time the offence (such as it was) would be repeated, and the well-intentioned old man was worried half to death by tricks played on him. Some of the managers were convinced that the system was a bad one, and when a vacancy shortly afterwards occurred in the janitorship no successor was appointed. The noise and confusion at once ceased almost entirely; the boys had no object in making a racket.

Again, it was thought that getting so many boys together was likely to have a bad tendency, so the chairs were taken out of the room, and boys were expected to get their books and go. But this did not seem quite satisfactory and a reform was effected. The gas-fixtures were altered so as to make reading comfortable, and one of the managers, the next time the room was opened, spoke to the boys of the change, and hoped they would find it pleasant, and then asked who would help him out with the benches which were stored away in a lumber room. "I! I!" exclaimed each present, and soon the seats were well arranged and doing their duty. Since then, we have been informed by one of the gentlemen in charge that the managers, sitting in an adjoining room, would sometimes think the boys were all gone away, but on looking in would find perhaps as many as twenty diligently reading and "as quiet as mice." Each one feels that he is bound in honor not to disturb the rest.

The "bread cast upon the waters" *sometimes* does not require many days to be brought to light. A company of rowdy boys used to meet at a corner in Seventh street and make night hideous with their yells and disturbances. But after a while a gentleman residing in the neighborhood noticed a sensible abatement, and soon an entire cessation of the evil. At first he did not know how to account for the change, but happening to pass the Apprentices' Library, he met the boy and asked him what he was doing there. He learnt that the boy had, in some way, heard of the library, and, as he said, "would rather read any time than run the streets." He had now, for some time, been taking books from the library, and had brought many of his companions with him.

An aged woman came one day and applied for a book. She was asked why *she* came; it was intended for boys and girls. Said she, "I have a grandson at home who is fond of running the streets, and I can hardly keep him out of bad company; but if I have a nice book for him to read to me, he is contented to stay in the house, and does so much better."

It is pleasant to learn how the benefits of the library are, in after days, remembered with gratitude and affection by the recipients. Some years since the managers received a note, an extract of which may here be not unacceptable:

"As I am about leaving the city, I have felt it my duty, before doing so, to return my sincere thanks for the many benefits I have derived from your library.

"I shall ever look back with pleasure to your kindness and liberality, which has held out to me, and others, so many means of improvement; and I am sorry to say that my circumstances are such, at present, that I can do nothing more than return you my heartfelt thanks and most lively gratitude; hoping that my condition may be such, at some future day, that I may be able to aid you in this noble enterprise."

Some time afterwards a donation of seven dollars was forwarded to the library from Wilmington, Del., and the statement accompanying it was, that a young man, the same whose letter we have just quoted, had, in his spare time, made an elegant carpet-bag and placed it for sale at a fair, designating the proceeds as intended for the Apprentices' Library.

Perhaps a no more hearty, though since the means were larger, a more valuable, present was received, anonymously, about two years since. A confidential communication to the head of the firm of Lippincott & Co., in this city, read as follows:

"When a boy, and not able to obtain books in any other way, I received much pleasure and instruction from those which were then loaned to me by the Apprentices' Library of Philadelphia. Success in life has not made me unmindful of early benefits, and I desire, in part, to pay back the debt I owe to the above institution. I wish you, therefore, to furnish to the trustees of the Apprentices' Library, books to the value of $1,000, selected from the newest and best standard literature of the day."

The books obtained by this donation are kept in a case by themselves.

The income of the society is small, and, as the managers state, it is a *principle* with the Apprentices' Library Company to avoid the burden of a debt, unless it be a debt of gratitude. They have some invested funds whose interest defrays, in part, the necessary expenses; for the purchase of books, &c., they must rely mainly upon annual contributions and donations. It is believed that they have strong claims upon our citizens, even if looked at as a matter of policy merely. Prevention is better than cure, and how much destruction of property do you suppose is prevented by employing profitably the leisure hours of so many young people, to say nothing of the moral advantages to those who will soon give tone to the character of the city!

In our next we will endeavor to give a sketch of the history of the Society of Free Quakers, by whom, as we have mentioned, the use of this building is freely granted to the library. We had intended speaking of them and their meeting-house first, but we have been delayed in obtaining some desired information in relation to it.

☞ Only thirty-seven out of one hundred and sixty-nine members of the South Carolina Legislature have been willing to unite in a recommendation that that State be represented in the Democratic National Convention at Charleston next April. There is much feeling in the State against any representation in any partisan Convention. As there is no Democratic party organization in South Carolina, these thirty-seven members of the Legislature unite in calling Conventions to select the delegates.

An Irishman Scourged and Tarred and Feathered.

[From the N. Y. Tribune, Jan. 3, 1860.]

The Charleston *Mercury* of the 19th inst., has the following paragraph under its Columbia (S. C.) correspondence:

"A workman on the new State House named Powers, has been uttering seditious sentiments here without concealment, and on more than one occasion, expressing his entire approval of Brown's invasion. He was apprehended by the Mayor, and subjected to examination in the presence of the commissioner of this circuit. The proof of his incendiary language and feelings was abundant and conclusive, although not of any attempt to tamper with slaves. He was, therefore, yesterday ordered to be escorted from prison to the outskirts of the city by the marshals. As threats of rescue had been made by other stone-masons, he was carried through the town at 11 o'clock A. M., and through the State-House yard, where these men were at work, a crowd, of course, in attendance. No attempt at rescue was made, and at the Charlotte junction of the city, the Vigilance Committee took him in hand, stripped him to the waist, inflicted twenty-nine lashes and a coat of tar and feathers. Hence he was forwarded by railroad to Charleston."

The same journal has this paragraph under the head of its leading articles:

"THE TARRED STONE-CUTTER.—The tarred stone-cutter, alluded to in the *Mercury's* Columbia correspondence, duly arrived in this city, consigned to the Chief of Police. He walked to the guard house voluntarily in his usual dress. He relates his adventure in the simplest manner, concluding with the assertion that he don't care a d—n for the tarring and feathering, but the rope he had thirty administered to him was a little tight.

On Tuesday last there called at the office of the *Tribune* a very good-looking young man, presenting himself to be James Power. He had arrived here in a steamer from Charleston on Monday, the day before. He showed his scars and blood marks. He told his history in a very simple, straightforward way to the effect, after denying the editor's statement that he did not care for the tarring and feathering:

He was born in Ireland. He came to this country and settled in Philadelphia. He learned the trade of a stonecutter. He was working with Mr. Waters, West Chestnut street, Philadelphia, a year since; but dull times, growing out of the financial revulsion, caused him to leave there and seek employment elsewhere. He went down the Ohio and Mississippi, but could not at any of the towns find work. He, however, saw blacks employed. He went to New Orleans, Mobile, Augusta, and other places, but was still unsuccessful. Arriving at Columbia, S. C., he found work on the State Capitol and building there.

Among the workmen were Irish, English, Germans, and Americans; but only one South Carolinian as he recollects. At his boarding-house, accustomed as he had been to speak his mind, he, among his brother mechanics, spoke on more than one