The Press.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1860.

First Page.—Bird's-Eye View of European Politics; Harper's Weekly; Theatrical and Musical; Personal and Political; Large Fire in New York. Fifth Page.—Our Portfolio.

The Union Festivals in Louisville, Cincinnati and Columbus.

While in all the Eastern cities and leading towns, ample expression has been given to the Union sentiment which is deeply enshrined in the hearts of all true American citizens, the people of four of the great Western and South-western States—Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee—have also recently reattested, in a most significant and unmistakable manner, the ardor of their devotion to the Union and the Constitution.

At a series of festivals, commencing at Louisville, Kentucky, and extended to Columbus and Cincinnati, and various points along the route, participated in by the Governors, members of the Legislatures, mayors of the leading cities, or other distinguished official representatives of the four great States named above, a sufficient number of speeches expressive of a warm attachment to the Union, to fill a large-sized volume, have been uttered by men of all shades of politics—Democratic, Republican, and American—and received by the wildest exhibitions of enthusiasm, by audiences numbering many thousands.

Occasional bickerings will inevitably occur in the best-regulated families, and while a wide and unrestricted latitude of political thought and action is not only tolerated but anticipated and encouraged in this country, we can scarcely desire, and certainly not expect, to be always free from threatening political convulsions; but, despite all these storms, the American Union, and the heartfelt desire of the American people to perpetuate it, remain as clearly defined and as indestructible as a rock-bound coast against which the angry waves of the ocean expend their wildest fury.

These recent demonstrations have all been distinguished by the fervor and earnest sincerity which characterizes the people of the West in all their movements—whether social, industrial, or political—and they have been particularly significant on account of the important official position of the men prominently engaged in them, the list including Democratic Governors of free and slave States, a Republican Governor and ex-Governor of Ohio, and a large number of members of free and slaveholding Legislatures.

Italian Opera.

It is rather doubtful, we learn, whether the Ullman and Strakosch opera *troupe* will return to our Academy of Music in February, as was expected. Their success at Boston was a great deal greater than they anticipated, and Colson, Adelina Patti, Brignoli, Junca, Ferri, Stigelli, and Amodio never sang and played to more enthusiastic houses. To show how great was the success, we shall here mention a fact related to us by a friend who visited Boston the week before last. On Friday evening, January 20th, there was a crowded house at the opera. The next day there was a *matinée*, equally well attended, and on the following day (Sunday) the very fullest house of the season witnessed the performance of a Sacred Concert. *This*, in placid and serious Boston, where there has long been an objection to even theatrical performances on the eve of the Sabbath, must be taken as an event. The whole amount received on these three occasions exceeded $5,000.

The same company begin the operatic season at New York this week. The benefit of Signorina Patti, at Boston, was to have taken place last night, and an overflow was expected. Patti, who made such a favorable impression here, has considerably enlarged her *repertoire*. She is considered to have achieved her greatest triumph in the part of Elvira, in the "Puritani." The Boston *Journal*, a good critical authority, speaks of Patti and her performances thus:

"It may be considered something of an achievement for one so young, and comparatively unknown, to draw ten of the largest audiences ever assembled in the opera house in one season; and this verdict of public appreciation corroborates and sustains that of the critic. Patti's success on this occasion was beyond all anticipation. As an actress and vocalist, nothing desirable was left undone by her. In the *rôle* of Elvira, Bosio accomplished one of her greatest triumphs, and we can recall in none of her successors an approach to the success Patti achieved. Young and petite, she has just the physique to represent the character; herein lies a great portion of the success of Patti. Nothing can exceed the artless and innocent simplicity of her acting in the betrothal scene. It was nature exemplified by an intuitive and sympathetic understanding of the situation required an adoption of the joys and anxiety of the person represented. We shall not quickly forget the joyous murmuring of the song, 'Son Vergin Vezzosa,' in the first act, or the vivid picture of a mind bereft of reason which the climax of that act presented."

This success, we suspect, will prevent Patti's visit to Europe as early as was intended. No doubt, our opera-goers in this city would be glad to have a second visit from the Opera *troupe*. But the managers of that Company have strong, and by no means strange, objections to the best seats in the Academy being always reserved for Stockholders, from whom they (the Managers) receive no admission-money, while, they allege, there is not a corresponding reduction in the rental, as an equivalent. We know that this objection is strongly felt—so strongly that, while grounds for it continue to exist, the return of the Ullman and Strakosch *troupe* may be considered doubtful.

Public Amusements.

Arch-Street Theatre.—Last night, Miss Jane Coombs made her début at this theatre as *Julia*, in "The Hunchback." We have rarely seen this play so well performed. Mr. Wheatley is, beyond all comparison, the best *Sir Thomas Clifford* on the stage. Not much of a part—resting, almost entirely, with the action to fill it up. Mr. Gilbert, taking a new idea of the character of *Master Walter*, giving it a domestic and natural air which, to our taste, is Sheridan Knowles' actual imagining of the part. Mr. Dolman, as *Modus*, very able in his rendition. And, then, Mrs. John Drew's *Helen*—the most womanly, delicate, delicious (*that's* the word), and natural of all Helens. Why do we mention these before we name Miss Coombs? Simply because they played better, each and all, than she did. This lady has youth; good looks, graceful action, and a charming figure, but—that word *but* seems intonation is very bad. She gasps after every third word. Thus, "I call you Clifford and you call me Madam," she speaks thus, "I-ah-call you-ah Clifford-ah, and you-ah call me-ah Madam-ah." This is a terrible defect—the result of bad habit, and we are free to acknowledge that, if she play one fortnight at this theatre, and be taught by the performers there, she will leave Philadelphia a much better actress than she was when she entered it. At present, she is, most unfortunately, full of mannerisms. She has great dramatic capabilities, and we suspect that she has been spoiled in the West, where the ranting of Miss Fanny *Fitz*-Farron is accepted as something a trifle better than Siddonian genius. She has marked ability—she does not over-act—she evidently understands the author and the business of the play, but that perpetual gasping militates decidedly against her. Let her get over this, and speak *naturally*, and she will succeed. This evening she appears as *Pauline*, in "The Lady of Lyons."

Drayton's Parlor Operas.—Was ever Concert Hall more crowded than it was last night? Perhaps so. But we have not seen it. Mr. and Mrs. Drayton are artists, in the fullest sense of the word:—artists in acting; artists in singing. Nay, Mr. Drayton, who wrote the two pieces played last night, is also a dramatic artist. By the way, Mr. Drayton is the better performer of the two. At the same time, the lady is very good. The wonder is how two persons can give so much variety. They duplicate and triplicate characters, individualizing in them so well that one is tempted to fancy there are six or eight Draytons in the company instead of two. In one word, the *Draytons* have achieved a most undoubted success, and we have not the slightest doubt they will continue to draw crowded houses as long as their other engagements permit them to remain. Last night's performances will be repeated this evening. As pretty Annie Trevor would say, "Won't there be a crowd?"

Verbum Sapienti!—At the Academy of Fine Arts, the exhibition of those two splendid paintings, "Parasini," and "The Pilgrim Fathers leaving England," will close on Saturday.

Cosmopolitan Art Union.—At noon this day, Messrs. E. H. Hunt & Co., corner of Fifth and Chestnut, close the subscription-book of this Art Union. The drawing of prizes will take place at New York, this evening. We hope to report a whole shoal to Philadelphia.

Mr. Gladstone.—In reply to the inquiry of a correspondent, we have to say that Mr. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer in England, is a younger son of the late John Gladstone, of Fasque, in Scotland, who realized a large fortune as a merchant at Liverpool.

Orphans' Court.—Executors' and trustees' sales of real estate, this day, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Exchange, including elegant residence, irredeemable ground rent, bank and other stocks, &c. Thomas & Sons' thirty-fourth fall sale. See their advertisements and pamphlet catalogues.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

Washington, Jan. 30, 1860.

Hon. John L. Dawson and Hon. W. H. Witte, of Pennsylvania, are both on the ground, rallying their friends preparatory to the Reading Convention of the 29th of February. Time was when Democratic nominations were made by the delegates of the masses, in the States. Now they are made in Washington. What one man desires shall be done must be done. As the President takes snuff, all his followers must sneeze. As he accepts, or rejects, or changes an opinion, they must follow his example. The deluded politicians of Pennsylvania, who think they are acting for themselves, are only carrying out his orders, expressed through his janizaries in office. Not only is the gubernatorial candidate to be indicated from here, but the delegates to Charleston, the electoral ticket, the candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, and the twenty-five candidates for Congress. This is a very tempting list, and some skill is required to get through with it successfully. Mr. Buchanan has sent for all the peculiar leaders of his party to assist in the work. Among others, W. B. Reed is here, and has been for some days. You know that this smooth and silken courtier is supposed entirely to control your Collector Baker. The ex-minister captured the collector at an early day—or, to use the witty expression of a venerable oil-line Whig, of Philadelphia, "absorbed" him. This fact doubly endears Mr. Reed to the President, the latter having his doubts lest Baker, under certain circumstances, might indulge an occasional impulse towards the Lancaster "rebels." It was essential, therefore, to secure a reliable sentinel to act the part of adviser and friend to Mr. Baker, and who better than W. B. R.? But he is fitter for higher service. The President requires his talents in other departments. In the matter, for instance, of filling the official slate with such names as will satisfy the majesty in power, no man could be found at once more really useful or more ably unscrupulous. To maintain such a relation to an Administration is precisely according to Mr. Reed's tastes. He has served a faithful apprenticeship to the business, and well knows the secret ways and winding paths that lead to power; knows the mettle and the measure of men; knows who can be used and who abused; and, above all, knows the jealous, and envious, and malignant heart, even to its inaudible throbbings, that beats in the Presidential bosom. Under that smiling and graceful exterior there is an amount of intrigue and skill—a combination of selfishness and scholarship—an industrious malevolence and a cultured cunning—that go to make up a most dangerous adversary, as well as a most super-serviceable ally.

The first trouble, however, of Mr. Reed and the President is, how to dispose of the nomination for Governor. Dawson has lately loomed up in large proportions. Before this was evident, the powers that are were unmistakably for Witte. Your Marshal Yost was, and is, his most devoted backer. *But Dawson's friends have somewhat changed the* condition of affairs, and Witte fumes at a great rate. He says he has from seventy to ninety delegates, and demands the support of the Administration, on account of his ready and consistent support of its entire public conduct. There is really no comparison between these men—Dawson being the most competent, and the most unexceptionable in every way. In the *melee*, however, what is to become of Col. Sanderson, of Lancaster; Hon. Jacob Fry, of Montgomery; Hon. Hendrick B. Wright, of Luzerne, an old and devoted friend of the President, and thus labors under a great disadvantage with the Administration?

The Opposition Convention, which is to meet at Harrisburg on the 22d of February, will have some trouble on its hands. I am not yet behind the curtain in regard to this movement, but am promised an inside view.

The eloquent son of Captain Tyler (Robert) is in Washington consulting with the President, Mr. Reed, Mr. Baker, Mr. Napoleon Bonaparte *Browne, the postmaster of Philadelphia*, and others in reference to the Reading Convention. Tyler, as I understand, is extremely anxious that the Convention should adopt an ultra slave-code policy, and this proposition is warmly backed by the Southern members of the Cabinet, particularly those who are hostile to Judge Douglas. Mr. Postmaster Browne, however, who has a heart as good deal of a freesoiler, and who has heated himself in Western Pennsylvania, he was disgusted, he was to go so far, and hints in private conversation at a sort of pious fraud in the resolutions which will recognise the Dred Scott decision, as construed by the President, and will be tapered off by a strong resolution in favor of the whole policy of the Administration. Meanwhile the struggling candidates for Governor, who are looking not merely to the nomination, but to an election, are all imploring that the powers that be should defer somewhat to public opinion in favor of the doctrines of the Little Giant. These men know well that if Mr. Tyler's views prevail at Reading, the only person who will be gratified will be the President himself, while the great mass of the party will look upon such an enforcement as a personal insult, and will treat it accordingly.

Mr. Reed is desirous of becoming a delegate to Charleston, and Mr. Buchanan is anxious that he should go there as his fugleman. On the other hand, Hon. Josiah Randall, highly respected in Philadelphia, and extremely popular with the extreme South, remembering his efficient aid to Mr. Buchanan at Cincinnati, while Mr. Reed was quietly and coolly awaiting the result, and recalling numbers of pleasant acquaintances he made whilst entertaining, with generous hospitality, the friends of the Pennsylvania candidate for President at the Burnet House, would regard his own election as a Senatorial delegate to Charleston as a high compliment. But Mr. Reed seems to be afflicted with a singular kind of envy of Mr. Randall. In fact, the latter, so well known for liberality, warmth of heart, and patriotic intentions, and so tindly remembered by the Democratic party for his gallant support of the Administration of James K. Polk during the Mexican war, is an object of the greatest uneasiness in the eyes of Wm. B. Reed, and nothing would give the ex-minister to China more distress than to hear of the election of Mr. Randall as a representative of the Democratic party in the Charleston Convention. Mr. Randall's views are not my views. I have said he goes the *full length of the Southern* session, but I cannot forbear this allusion to the man, when I recollect that he was a Democrat during the days of Simon Snyder, and that even while opposing the Democratic party he was all the time a frank and magnanimous adversary, differing in this respect vastly from the city, industious, and unforgiving leader of the Opposition forces, Mr. Reed, the Richelieu of the present Federal Administration.

To complete this dish of Pennsylvania politics, I have received almost direct information from the White House that your excellent townsman, Mr. Richard Vaux, whose numerous friends are looking forward to his nomination as the Democratic candidate for Mayor in the spring, is being splendidly "bamboozled," to use a word made immortal by Colonel Benton. Mr. Vaux is a delegate to the Reading Convention, and his seat in that body is most unjustly contested. In order to propitiate him, certain promises have been held out, among which is one that no opposition will be made to his taking his seat in the Convention, if he will go here and humbly accept the dose now being concocted for him by the doctors in the laboratory at the other end of the avenue." They have been intimated to him, it is said, their disposition to accept him as a candidate for Mayor, if he will be a good boy at Reading, but nothing is more certain than that they intend to deprive him of the nomination. Postmaster Browne has taken occasion publicly to say in this city that Mr. Vaux was out of the ring, and that he could not and should not be the nominee.

One of the objections to Mr. Vaux is that he happens to be supported by a large number of the rank and file of the Democratic party—by the very men, in fact, who contributed so essentially to Mr Buchanan's election in 1856—those, in a word, who were so violently persecuted by William B. Reed while he was District Attorney, and against whom that most adroit manager cherishes intense hatred.

A favorite trick of the party managers here is to seize hold of every popular man and try to commit *him to their atrocities. As an instance, I find that*, while they are assailing Mr. Vaux, they affect the greatest possible attachment for Major Charles J. Biddle, whom they are putting forward as their candidate for Mayor, forgetting that everybody is always damaged by such support. Mr. Buchanan a few days ago pronounced a warm eulogy in favor of Major Biddle, and among other jesuitical things, said "that he ought to be nominated, because he would get the votes of 'Upper Tendom.'" It is due to Major Biddle to say that he was one of the earliest to denounce the Lecompton policy of the Administration, that he regarded the entire course of the President and his Cabinet on the Kansas question as an outrage, and that he has never hesitated to express the strongest sympathy in favor of the movement which rebuked their proscriptions; but the President has an idea that because Major Biddle and Mr Reed are warm personal friends, therefore the former can be controlled in the event of his election. My prediction is that they will catch a very distinguished Tartar if they make the experiment.

Occasional.

Letter from "Ezek Richards."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

Washington, January 30, 1860.

After I closed my last, John Cochrane, of New York, Morris, of Illinois, Vallandigham, Cox, and Pendleton, of Ohio, and many others, changed their votes for Smith, of North Carolina, and that gentleman's vote was run up to one hundred and twelve, as you are aware, leaving him minus three of the Speakership.

During the protracted ballot in which the changing of votes took place, the House presented one of the most excitingly-interesting scenes. The combination effected between the Democrats and Americans, it was thought, would prove a *coup d'état*. As member after member defined his position, "pitched into" the "Know-Nothings," patriotically determined to lay his heart on the altar of patriotism, and, finally, paying a compliment to the gentleman for whom they had voted, changed to Mr. Smith, bursts of satisfaction broke from the Democrats, and the "other side" looked rather confounded. So certain was the anticipation of Smith's election that the *Evening Star* gave the probable fact, and, as I am informed, guns were fired at the City Hall in honor of the supposed quasi-triumph of the Democracy, albeit they accepted the nominee of the American party. It was not until late in the evening of Friday that the city, *not* concentrated about the hotels, actually, and for a reality, was made aware that a Speaker was not elected, and that Mr. Smith, about whom everybody was anxious to know something—was not elevated to the third office in the Government.

That gentleman at one time was elected—that is he had sufficient votes—but you should have seen the effect when Junkin changed his vote *from* Smith to Sherman, and was followed, as the exigency demanded, by Scranton, Jay Morris, and Nixon, of New Jersey. This turned the tables completely, and the effect was startling. With breathless emotion the crowded galleries awaited every move, and they did not hide their feelings of approval or dislike. On almost every face you could read an expectation that the struggle would be ended, and the general feeling was in favor of whoever would be elected, without reference to politics; consequently there was no lack of grumbling as the vast multitude disgorged itself on the Avenue after the adjournment.

To-day the Capitol is like a hive. The corridors, lobbies, and doorways are crowded to excess. The ladies found themselves on the floor, or rather were introduced there by ex-Governor Smith, of Virginia, and other gallant gentleman; but they were forced out of it by the speeches of Garnett, Ashmore of North Carolina, and others, who protested against the unfairness of allowing a portion only of the fair on the floor.

The fact was, the floor was crowded with a motley multitude. All kinds of people—men, women, and children—were there, and it was somewhat difficult to recognize the Representatives. The efforts of many gentlemen by motion were directed to sift the elements, and, after some very persistent efforts of Hickman, Cochrane, and as the song says, "several hundred more," all the snugly-seated fair ones were displaced, and, with as little rustling of silk as possible, moved out. *Some*, but by no means all of the men intruders, followed.

After some protracted discussion anent the pairing of the couple of absent members, a ballot was ordered. The absentees are Clark B. Cochrane of New York, John A. Stallworth of Alabama, and John Y. Brown of Kentucky—who is here, but ineligible to vote in consequence of tender age.

Mr. Sherman, amid the stretching of necks, and cries of "down in front," "sit down," arose to address the House. His speech was very brief, but, like a Roman sword, it was strong, unwavering, and equal-tempered *from hilt to point*. Alluding to the eight weeks' fidelity of his friends, he thanked them; and believed they won not only his high respect, but the esteem and approval of their constituents. They had stood together while their ancient enemies—their only enemies—were scattered and disunited. They had stood faithful to their duties to the Constitution and the Union, amid threats of secession and disunion. Again thanking his friends, he thought they could present a stronger candidate than himself, and earnestly advised them to move in solid phalanx, and in one unwavering line, for whatever candidate the Republican party would present.

The choice of that party was soon indicated by Charles F. Adams, of Massachusetts, the first name in the roll, who, in answer to his name, announced William Pennington, of New Jersey. Adrain, whose name is third, also voted for him, and at once gave his colleague from New Jersey an advance on the vote of Sherman.

The voting was close and determined, the *Administrationist and American* combination voting in a solid body for Smith, and the Republicans little for Pennington. There was a cheer as Winter Davis voted for Smith, he having from the first, and until Friday, voted without the slightest variation for Gilmer. The three men who could have elected Smith on Friday still scattered their votes. Thus, John G. Davis voted for Allen, who returned the delicate attention by shouting, "John G. Davis, of Indiana;" and Holman's voice was still for Bocock. The result was: Pennington 115; Smith 113; whole number cast 234. Smith voted for Briggs, to nail the latter to the mast, and Pennington went for Corwin. Another ballot is now being had. So far the vote is as before.

Ezek Richards.

Mr. H. A. Perry.—The *New York Programme*, a theatrical publication, to which we are indebted or a good deal of information respecting music and the drama, states that Mr. H. A. Perry, late of the Walnut-street Theatre, sailed for California, from New York, on the 20th inst. It was about the best thing he could do, as his intemperate habits had shut him out of further engagements in the Northern and Western cities. At one time, he was one of the most promising and popular young actors in this country, and always commanded a high salary.

The Boston journals record the death of Mrs. Eliza Lee Follen, at Brookline, Mass., on Thursday, of typhus fever. This lady was the widow of the late Rev. Charles Follen, professor of history in Harvard University, who was lost when the steamer Lexington was consumed by fire on Long Island Sound about twenty years since. Mrs. Follen was a daughter of Samuel Cabot, once a distinguished merchant in Boston. She edited for many years an admirable serial for children, called "The Child's Friend," and published "Selections from Fenelon," and a work entitled the "Well-spring of Hour," which latter obtained a wide-spread popularity. She was an intimate friend of William Ellery Channing, and was well known in the Unitarian body as a zealous advocate of his views.

The funeral of Armistead Walker, a colored preacher, of Fredericksburg, Va., a few days ago, was attended by over one thousand slaves and four hundred whites, including many ladies. The deceased was a slave, and by his respectful behavior won the esteem of all.

Thanks.—Purser Smith, of the steamship Keystone State, which arrived yesterday from Charleston, is again entitled to our thanks for papers in advance of the mail.

Sale of Elegant Furniture.—A large assortment of elegant household furniture will be sold this morning at 10 o'clock, at T. Birch & Son's *auction store, No. 914 Chestnut street.*

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Harrisburg, Jan. 30, 1860.

SENATE.

The Speaker laid before the Senate the annual statement of the accounts of the Six-Penny Savings Fund of Philadelphia.

Mr. Palmer read in place a bill for the better security and distribution of the public moneys by the State Treasurer.

The bill to incorporate the Brownsville and Delaware Bridge Company was considered and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Schuylkill County Transportation Company being under consideration, Mr. Marselis moved an amendment to come in as a new section, making the stockholders individually liable, but it was disagreed to—yeas 8, nays 15—and the bill then passed.

The bill relative to special acts passed first reading, after some discussion, and was then laid over.

Several private bills were considered and passed, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

A large number of petitions were presented upon a great variety of subjects.

Bills in Place.—Mr. Crane read in place a bill to increase the capital stock of the West Branch Bank to $300,000; also, a bill to allow the taxation of costs on taking depositions.

Mr. Gordon read in place a supplement to the act to allow justices of the Supreme Court to hold circuit courts in this Commonwealth; also, a bill relating to the service of writs and notices in certain cases.

Mr. Gray, a supplement to the act relative to the development of mineral lands.

Mr. Rouse, a supplement to the general banking law.

Mr. Caldwell, a bill to extend Fifteenth street, in the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. Preston, a supplement to the act incorporating the Germantown Savings Fund.

Mr. O'Neill, a supplement to the act relative to the militia of this Commonwealth, passed April 21st, 1858.

Mr. Aker, a bill to abolish the franking privilege of members of the Legislature.

Mr. Pressley moved that the House proceed to the consideration of the bill relative to taxes and rates and levies in the city of Allegheny, which was agreed to, and the bill passed.

Mr. Varnum called up the bill from the Senate, supplementary to the act incorporating the Pittsburg Gas Company, and it was considered and passed.

The bill from the Senate, incorporating the Pemberton Marine Insurance Company, was taken up, on motion of Mr. O'Neill, and passed.

Mr. Abbott presented a memorial from Mrs. Mary Goul, praying for a divorce. Adjourned.

A Family Poisoned.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 30.—The family of Hon. James O. Pettenuill was poisoned yesterday at Adam's Basin with strychnine. The family consisted of Mr. Pettenuill, his daughter Mrs. Marshall, and Mrs. Lewis a nurse. The latter is in a dying condition. The others may recover from the effects of the poison. The servant of the family has been arrested on suspicion of having committed this heinous act.

Death of Dr. Addison Alexander.

Princeton, N. J., Jan 30.—The Rev. Joseph Addison Alexander, D. D., author of Oriental Literature in the theological seminary of the Presbyterian Church in this place, died on Saturday last, after a very short illness. Prof. A. was one of the most learned men in the country, and justly recognised as one of the most eloquent divines of the Presbyterian Church. He was the author of several valuable commentaries which have become text-books in various theological institutions. He was the brother of Dr. Jas. W. Alexander, who died a few weeks since.

New York Affairs.

The Cosmopolitan Art Association, New York, Jan. 30.—The grand distribution of paintings at the Dusseldorf Gallery, by the Cosmopolitan Art Association takes place to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock. The books close at Philadelphia at noon to-morrow.

New York Bank Statement.

New York, Jan. 30.—The Bank Statement for the week ending on Saturday shows:

A decrease in loans of	$757 000
" " circulation	30 000
An increase of specie	830 000
" " deposits	19,000

Non-Arrival of the America.

Halifax, Jan. 30. 9 o'clock P. M.—The steamship America has not been signalled below. She is now much over-due, having seventeen days out.

Death of a Land Office Register.

Leavenworth, Jan. 30.—Eli Moore, register of the Kansas land office, died in this city on Saturday.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. Capitol, Washington, Jan. 30.

SENATE.

Sundry memorials and petitions were presented.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, presented a petition in favor or the homestead bill.

Mr. Grimes, of Iowa, corrected a statement of Mr. Toombs, that Iowa had passed unconstitutional laws. The Republicans had had possession of that State for five years, and yet the General Assembly had never passed laws in contravention of the fugitive-slave law, or in derogation of the rights of the people of the Southern States.

Mr. Toombs hoped the Senator was right in his correction. He expressly said that he had not the abstracts before him, and made the statements on information he had received.

Mr. Brown's (of Mississippi) resolutions coming up,

Mr. Wilkinson, of Minnesota, moved an amendment, declaring that the Territories are the common property of the people of the United States; that Congress has power to pass all necessary laws for the Territories; that it is the duty of Congress so to legislate as to protect the interests of free labor in them, and that the Constitution of Territories be instructed to insert a clause in the bills organizing Territories prohibiting slavery therein.

Mr. Nicholson, of Tennessee, then proceeded to address the Senate upon the "irrepressible conflict" doctrine.

Mr. Nicholson, of Tennessee, read the resolutions of the Tennessee Legislature denouncing the "irrepressible conflict" doctrine as threatening the existence of the Union. He said the language of the resolutions was severe, and coming from one of the most conservative States, was particularly significant. He attacked Mr. Seward's theory, and contended that there was no irreconcilable conflict between the interests of the two sections. He charged Mr. Seward as the author of the doctrines which had caused the John Brown foray, and has made the present alienation between the sections, and may yet cause the destruction of the Union. He contended that there was no such conflict between slave and free labor, as claimed by the Senator from New York. He thought the language more like that of a highwayman than that of a wise statesman. The products of free labor and slave labor were entirely different. There can be no conflict between cotton and the manufactures of the North, but the exchange of products is a mutual benefit to each section. The Senator from New York claimed universal abolition, for the benefit of the free labor at the North. He protested, in the name of the free laborers at the South, who constitute a large majority, and were ready to repel any assault with strong arms. Free labor was successful at the North, but slave labor was the true system for the South. Why not let them enjoy peace? He contended that slavery was not a curse to the South, and quoted statistics, comparing five of the Southern States with the six New England States, the comparison being favorable to the South. Labor had been supplied to how to the exactions of capital in the North, as everywhere else, notwithstanding the assertion of the Senator from New York. Free labor complains as if their condition was no better than slavery. Free labor has a conflict at home with capital; therefore it was in no condition to enter into a conflict with slave labor. It was a mere political expedient by the capitalists to divert the free laborer from the true conflict. There is conflict, politically, between the two sections. One side maintains that slavery is a moral wrong, the other side that it is a moral right. One State has no right to arraign another on this moral question. Slavery is confined to the sovereign States by the Constitution. Matters of religion must be kept separate from political. The Constitution must be the highest law of political men. There was a strong anti-slavery sentiment in the Convention that formed the Constitution, yet the statesmen that framed the Constitution left the question to the States. The fact that there is a conflict proves that the Constitution has been violated. The policy of the South is defensive, never aggressive. He would frankly concede that there was an antagonism to slavery among the fathers of the Republic, but they did not allow their moral belief to control their political action. He claimed that the Supreme Court had decided in favor of the South. The opposition to slavery was the vital principle of the Republican party.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Nicholson said, in the case of Kansas, which was the last Territory that was likely to be organized for some time, if ever, the people had decided against slavery, the South had the empty triumph of the laws in her favor, while the North had a substantial triumph. He further said that the Republicans and Abolitionists only differed as to the mode of reaching the same end. The result to the South was equally disastrous whether the abolition of slavery was accomplished by the slow process advocated by the Republicans or by the mode desired by the Abolitionists. He would not proceed to indicate what the ultimate stringency would justify a dissolution of the Union. It was too momentous a question to be hastily determined. If our appeals are disregarded, and our wrongs are not redressed, we are justified himself to seek independence, the antecedent action should be marked with prudence. He would have no words uttered by Southern men which could be interpreted as a menace to the North, but, at the same time, if all our wrongs are disregarded, he was in favor of independence. He urged moderation on the part of the South, and expressed a hope for the preservation of the Union.

Mr. Fessenden, of Maine, moved to postpone the subject till half past one o'clock on Wednesday.

This motion was carried and, after an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The galleries are more densely crowded than at any former period of the session. By 11 o'clock this morning not a seat was to be procured. Crowds are wedged in the various doorways, while the lobbies are alike uncomfortable with persons of both sexes.

The seats specially set apart for the diplomatic corps, with the exception of the front der, are occupied by ladies

The members and others are gathered in groups on the floor, and the general scene is characterized by unusual excitement.

Many strangers have arrived in the city since Saturday, to witness the proceedings consequent upon the election of Speaker.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hannard, in the course of which he implored the Almighty to come to the deliverance of the country from the present excitement and danger which threaten it, and to renew the bond of confidence which formerly existed as to our Confederacy.

The Clerk stated the pending question to be on the motion made by Mr. Winslow, of North Carolina, on Friday, to proceed to a vote *viva voce*.

Mr. Davidson, of Louisiana, asked leave to offer a resolution directing the doorkeeper to exclude all persons, not entitled to the privilege under the rules of the House, from the floor, except the employees actually engaged in the hall.

Mr. Clemens, of Virginia, gallantly asked Mr. Davidson to except the ladies from the operation of this resolution.

Mr. Davidson said there were more outsiders on the floor than members

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, also desired that the ladies now on the floor should be permitted to remain.

Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, remarked that if they were permitted to remain here the others would claim a similar privilege

Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, said if persons were here contrary to the rules, they are liable to expulsion by the doorkeeper, but it is too late now to exclude the ladies, as they have been invited here.

Mr. Davidson repeated that there were all kinds of people on the floor. The time had come when this should be stopped.

Mr. John Cochrane, of New York, moved that the ladies be excepted from the operation of Mr Davidson's resolution. This was a higher privilege than was accorded to the male sex. [Laughter]

Mr. Olin, of New York, reminded the gentlemen that this body had no rules.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, replied that we have the parliamentary law to be guided by.

Mr. Montgomery, of Pennsylvania, said that some weeks ago the House adopted a resolution for the preservation of order, and the doorkeeper could enforce order if he pleased.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, said the seventeenth rule excludes ladies, and all but those to whom special reference is made.

Mr. Kilgore, of Indiana, was in favor of excluding all persons not privileged to the floor.

Mr. Craige, of North Carolina, said the confusion, moved a call of the House.

Mr. Traceer, of Ohio. If you exclude the lady, I will offer to amend the resolution.

Mr. Burnett, of Kentucky, said it was the duty of the doorkeeper to exclude all not entitled to the privilege from the floor. He had as much gallantry as Mr. Cochrane; but if the doors were thrown open to all, it would be impossible to transact business. The hall was already crowded. To admit a part of the ladies would be dealing unjustly with the remainder of them; to favor the former would only make the latter mad. [Laughter.]

After further conversation,

Mr. Stanton offered a resolution that the doorkeeper exclude all persons not members of the House, "and any women." [Laughter.] "Except the ladies! Don't put them out!" This plan seemed agreed to, but the fact was doubted by several gentlemen.

Mr. Ashmore, of South Carolina, yielded to no man in gallantry, but he did not understand Mr. Stanton's resolution to except the ladies.

Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, objected to the call of the House being postponed until all the outsiders were excluded from the floor.

The Clerk replied that it was not in the power of any member to arrest the call of the House

Mr. Ashmore insisted on the enforcement of the rules against unprivileged persons were excluded. The House was here as a mob. If the ladies now on the floor be not excluded, the wives and daughters of others could claim similar courtesy.

The Clerk said that he had no power over the doorkeeper.

[The ladies, about forty in number, here began to retire.]

Mr. Curtis of Iowa, said something could the confusion, to which Mr. Garnett replied that there should be a strict and impartial execution of the rule.

Mr. Killinger, of Pennsylvania, said that as the ladies had been turned out, the men not here by privilege should be put out.

Mr Ashmore. I go with you.

Mr Hickman, of Pennsylvania, as a remedy for the pressure, suggested that all the members withdraw for five minutes. Let the floor be cleared, then the doorkeeper could distinguish, as they severally returned, who were members

A Voice. That would be the best way.

Mr. Briggs, of New York, saw no necessity for such a course. If all the members take their seats, it could easily be ascertained who were not privileged here.

The roll was then called. The only absentees reported were Mr. Brown, of Kentucky, Clark B Cochrane, of New York, and Stallworth, of Alabama.

Mr Vanwyck asked the Democratic members from the city of New York to afford a pair for Mr Clark B. Cochrane.

Mr. Craige, of North Carolina, suggested that Mr Cochrane be paired with Mr. Stallworth.

Mr. Vanwyck objected to this as a precedent, and gave his reasons. Mr. Stallworth has never been here.

Mr. J. Cochrane, of New York, said he could not consent to a pair with his colleague unless it could be shown that he was under some peculiar personal obligation to do so. He felt that a superior obligation of party, as well as patriotic considerations, prevented him from lending himself to a pair.

Mr. Delano, of Massachusetts, referred to the fact that he on a former occasion paired with Mr John Cochrane for three days, understanding the latter was not able, from sickness, to attend. He thought the same courtesy and humanity should be extended to Mr. Clark B. Cochrane from the Democratic side.

During these proceedings the floor was cleared of ladies and many unprivileged persons of the other sex.

Mr. Clemens, of Virginia, in consideration of the courtesy always extended to him by the Republican side, was willing in a spirit of magnanimity to pair off with Mr. Cochrane, if the Republicans would furnish a pair to Mr. Stallworth.

No understanding was arrived at on this subject.

The House decided to proceed to the election of a Speaker.

Mr Sherman, of Ohio, rose amid a profound silence everywhere. He said, throughout this prolonged contest he had been supported by a large plurality of his *friends*. They, till now, had adhered to him with a fidelity and devotion which he respected, and which he believed had received the applause of their constituents. They had stood here undismayed, amid threats of disunion and disorganization—conscious of the rectitude of their intentions, firm in their adoration of the Constitution and the obedience to all laws. They have been silent, firm, and manly. On the other hand, they have seen their ancient and national adversary broken into fragments. They have seen some of them combined by a written agreement to prevent a majority of the House from prescribing rules for the organization of this body. They have heard others proclaim threats of disunion—that Congress has power to pass all necessary laws for the Territories; that it is the duty of Congress so to legislate as to protect the interests of free labor in them, and that the Constitution of Territories be instructed to insert a clause in the bills organizing Territories prohibiting slavery therein.

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