The Press.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1860

THE WEEKLY PRESS,

For Saturday the 18th, is now out. The contents of this number are of a varied character. Besides its usual attractions, it contains the LATEST FOREIGN NEWS; Editorials on the popular topics of the day; Choice Literary reading, original and selected; Domestic and Foreign Markets, &c. Read the list of

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

FIRST PAGE.—Queen's English; Eloquent Eulogies on the Death of Hon. D. C. Broderick; Personal and Political. FOURTH PAGE.—Letter from New York; Thoughts No. 1, on Annie Trevor's Thoughts No. 5; Marine Intelligence, etc.

The Almshouse.

Nobody likes to find fault with good deeds, or even with good intentions. Every one is ready and willing to acknowledge that the Guardians of the Poor, since the establishment of the present system, have done a vast deal of good, both to the city and to the poor entrusted to their keeping. But while they are justly praised by Councils for their economy, and while they have saved the treasury some sixty thousand dollars, thoughtful readers will be struck by appeals from Dr. BUTLER and the Rev. Mr. JONES, the physician and chaplain of the insane department, and the question will inevitably suggest itself, what gain is there in saving the city sixty thousand dollars, and calling on private citizens to supply the first requirements of a hospital for insane paupers? What merit is there in yielding to a cry for retrenchment and reform, in cutting down paltry extras, and in promising to save in quality, as they have already done in quantity, when the most helpless poor—the insane—are suffered to remain dependent upon the tender mercies of private charity? Every day we see and hear of the great results obtained by the establishment of public hospitals for the insane. Nay, we know that our own citizens have raised nearly half a million of dollars for the establishment and support of a new hospital for the insane, intended for the care and cure of a few hundred patients. We are all familiar with the details of many new and improved methods of arranging such a building, because the newspapers but a little while ago gave full and explicit accounts of them. Yet the Guardians of the Poor have, amongst a population of nearly three thousand under their care—[illegible] hundred insane entrusted to them—[illegible] condition are they? A few months ago [illegible] deplorable, and, while the Guardians may have been able, even with the exercise of severe economy, to benefit them very much, to lodge them and clothe them decently, to procure the services of a physician—they should go on in their reform. The tax-payers of Philadelphia will not complain of any expenditure made in the name of humanity, and on the behalf of the most helpless poor. Their chief solicitude in regard to the expenditures of the Almshouse does not arise from any aversion to legitimate expenses, but from their antipathy to shameless extravagance and wholesale [illegible]. They are willing to provide properly for the poor if they are not compelled to fill the pockets of plunderers. Every man who contributed to the funds for the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane would gladly see the Guardians spend a portion of their savings for the benefit of the insane inmates of our Almshouse. It is plain that a fit and suitable building is absolutely necessary, that a system of classification should be adopted, that a thorough and entire change should be made in addition to the few steps that have thus far been taken in the right direction. But no man would ask the Guardians to start out in this task, alone and unaided, and without the co-operation of Councils. Our city legislators should, therefore, give to this subject the consideration its importance demands.

The success that has attended the new system under which the Board of Health and the Guardians of the Poor now exist has been put beyond question by the comparison of the results thus far attained by them with the disgraceful history of their predecessors. But the very sins that produced, fortunately for the community, the exposure and downfall of the old system, had their origin in political partisanship. It is with regret, therefore, that we see even now traces of the same evil cropping out in the proceedings of the Guardians, in their warm debates over petty subjects, in their hot disputes for miserable appointments and in their decided separation on mere party lines. The remedy for this rests with the judges, and we hope that, in the exercise of their power of appointment, in filling the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. KEYSER, they will evince an earnest desire to forward the great interests of the city. Only men raised far above mere partisan influences can properly deal with such subjects as must soon come before the Guardians. They must decide upon the sale of the part or of the whole of their real estate, for it is now a vast weight on them, but may be made either a source of immense benefits, or a cause of infinite trouble. They must soon settle the question of a House of Correction, either within their own jurisdiction, or as a separate establishment, with new division of authority, and new risks of wastefulness and corruption. They must soon decide, whether or not they will act as the representatives of the people, as the appointed guardians of the poor, or as the mere agents of the City Councils, as subordinate instruments of political power—and, to give them firmness and strength to make the only true choice, the judges should appoint such a Guardian as they have just lost, a truly high-minded, trustworthy, and intelligent man.

"The Man in Black."

Several anonymous correspondents have written to us about this novel, by G. P. R. James, lately published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers. One writer, who gives his name and address, has also made a complaint, and we answer him. We praised the novel or romance in question, as one of James's best—with the exception of a few of his historical stories which we named. Our correspondent tells us that "The Man in Black" was published years ago as "A Story without a Name," and that we should have made the public acquainted with that fact. Never having seen a book called "A Story without a Name," we could scarcely have detected it to be "The Man in Black." We cannot act as a sort of literary detective—which would involve the necessity of reading all the books ever published. At the same time, we freely admit that the system of changing the names of books is reprehensible—it annoys readers and ultimately must injure any publishers who pursue it.

The Academy Ball.

As we anticipated, the pecuniary results of the Ball and Promenade Concert at the Academy of Music were considerable. The success, in all respects, was very decided, and it deserves to be recorded as the most brilliant fête in this city for many years.

☞ A letter, signed by Thomas W. Price, appeared in our paper yesterday, among the proceedings of the Controllers of Public Schools. It was furnished to us by him, as a part of the proceedings of the meeting held on Tuesday last. Several members of the Board have called upon us to say that no such letter was presented to, or received by, the Board at their meeting, and that it formed no part of their proceedings. We deem it proper to make this statement, and regret that the letter, which reflects upon several of our citizens, appeared in our column.

Dame Cobden's New Pupil.

The number of *Punch*, for January 28th, just received, contains a page-engraving bearing the above title. It represents Mr. RICHARD COBDEN, the great champion of Free Trade in England, habited as the mistress of a country school, busily occupied in knitting, while NAPOLEON, dwarfed down into a schoolboy, is intently occupied in taking a lesson from a book, open in her lap. Upon the first page of this volume are inscribed the words "Free Trade," which NAPOLEON is engaged in learning, and has actually conquered the first word, "F R, double E—free." COBDEN is looking down very approvingly upon his pupil, who seems most engrossingly occupied.

The leading conditions of the Commercial treaty between England and France are stated by a Parisian journal, the *Constitutionnel*, to be as follows:

"On and after 1st July next, the import duties on cotton-wool will be suppressed. English coal and coke will be subjected to the same duty as in Belgium. After October next a duty of seven francs will be substituted for the actual duty on iron. From December next duties on machinery will be diminished. From January, 1861, the sugar duty will be reduced. From June, 1861, prohibitions of the importations of thrands and hemp will be replaced by a duty not exceeding thirty per cent., and from October, 1861, all remaining prohibitions will be abolished."

The main point noticed, *per contra*, by the English journals is, that French wines, which now pay twenty-four cents per bottle when imported into England, will henceforth be admitted at four cents a bottle, which will tend to increase the consumption of claret, and diminish that of port and sherry, wines which are very greatly brandied, to increase their strength, and adapt them for the English palate, accustomed to strong wine. The substitution of claret for the fiery wines of Spain and Portugal, (not naturally so, but brandied for English drinkers,) will have a tendency to make Temperance fashionable in England.

In 1846, after Sir ROBERT PEEL had been compelled, or induced, to grant Free Trade in England, the magnificent sum of $850,000 was raised by subscription and presented as a sort of national gift to Mr. COBDEN, whose talent and perseverance had mainly been instrumental in raising such a general feeling against Protection, that PEEL dared not adhere to it any longer. A portion of that money Mr. COBDEN invested in purchasing the landed property which his father had formerly cultivated as a day laborer. The balance, it seems, was invested in the United States. The *London Athenæum* thus communicates the result, of which we had heard something before: "The public will regret to hear a rumor that Mr. COBDEN has lost nearly the whole of his private fortune by investment in American railway shares. They will rejoice, however, if the rumor should be true, to hear that the loss will be repaired to this useful servant of the public, in a manner at once splendid, delicate, and prompt. In a few days, if we are rightly told, names have been put down for forty thousand pounds—in sums from 500 to 5,000 each. The friendliness thus expressed is a most noble tribute to public virtue and public service." We do not precisely see upon what principle Mr. COBDEN, tempted by the promise of high interest—as was SIDNEY SMITH before him—to speculate in foreign railway shares, should have his losses made good to him by the British public, his countrymen. Of course, however, that is *their* look-out. All we can say is, that Mr. COBDEN, who may boast of having had two illustrious free-trade pupils—PEEL and NAPOLEON—is an especially lucky man to be a second time presented a magnificent fortune. The sum of two hundred thousand dollars (£40,000), subscribed for him in a few days, is the most tangible mark of respect ever given to a private citizen in England. Parliament paid PITT's debts, and pensioned the widow and children of PERCIVAL. The sum of £50,000 was voted by the Irish Parliament to GRATTAN—but here is COBDEN *twice provided for.*

No Parisian Congress.

It appears likely that, after the diplomacy used to accomplish it, the Peace Congress of Paris will not take place. Perhaps, under all the circumstances, this is the very best thing for Central Italy, which has ejected its Austrian rulers. England is pledged not to sanction any attempt forcibly to restore these sovereigns. Prussia will assuredly follow England's example. Austria, threatened with revolt in Hungary and in Venetia, and without cash or credit, is too busy and too needy to become the champion of Absolutism and Legitimacy in Italy. The Duchies have actually arrived to hold their [illegible] to submit themselves to the rule of the King of Sardinia. All they want is time, and that they will obtain by the delay in the sitting of the Congress. France, no less than England, is indisposed to force upon Central Italy a batch of obnoxious and justly-exiled rulers. Fears are apprehended that NAPOLEON desires to obtain Nice and Savoy from VICTOR EMMANUEL. Nice may be very convenient for France, but it rounds off Piedmont in the South. As for Savoy, it was the original appanage of the King of Sardinia's ancestors, and he can scarcely part with it.

It is declared that, in exchange for Nice and Savoy, the island of Corsica is to be given up to the Kingdom of Sardinia, by France. This appears highly improbable. France is not likely to part, on any terms, with the birthplace of the Great NAPOLEON. It was ceded to France, by Genoa, in 1768, a few months before NAPOLEON's birth, and France will scarcely part with it. At the same time, its geographical position—between Piedmont and the island of Sardinia—emphatically marks it as properly part of VICTOR EMMANUEL's territory. But we doubt whether, under any circumstances, France will consent to give it up.

Public Amusements.

THE ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY will commence a short season at the Academy of Music this evening. The opera of "Sonnambula" will be performed, with Miss Milner as *Amina*, Mr. Bowler as *Elvino*, and Mr. A. Cook as *Count Rodolpho. There will be a full chorus and orchestra. The* highest charge for admission, which secures reserved seats, is fifty cents

We have received letters from several correspondents, suggesting that Mr. J. E. Murdoch, now at the Walnut-street Theatre, should repeat his performance of *Hamlet*. Many who desired to witness it were unable to attend on Tuesday evening, and many who were present would gladly have it repeated. Mrs. Duffield is an admirable *Queen*, and Mrs. Cowell, who can sing as well as act, is now decidedly the best *Ophelia* on the stage.

Boucicault's sensation play, *The Octoroon*, is causing as much excitement at Arch-street Theatre as it did in New York, although the public do not now give it a political interpretation as they did, somewhat absurdly, in New York. It succeeds in drawing very full houses, and appears warranted to run for several weeks.

ANNIE LONSDALE.—This celebrated and accomplished *comedienne*, whose advent in Philadelphia has long been anticipated, will appear at the National Theatre, in the new Oriental spectacle to be produced this evening. The gay, dashing Annie, has been long renowned in the profession as the Dejazet of the English stage—that being the line of business in which she excels—a beautiful English blonde, with a merry, ringing laugh, and charming *espieglerie* of style, that would bewitch an anchorite. She wins the hearts of her auditors the moment she appears, and retains them by the talent she displays. Although the great original "Good for Nothing," in this country, she has been pronounced "Good for everything," (including hypochondria,) wherever she has appeared. Miss Lonsdale, and her sister Addie, who have been starring in the West, were to have appeared at the commencement of the season; but on their way hither by the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad, the train was thrown down an embankment, and both were seriously injured. Annie is now convalescent, but months will elapse ere her sister is able to resume her professional avocations. Meanwhile we feel assured the brilliant Annie will receive a warm and cordial greeting.

A NEW SPECTACLE AT DAN RICE'S.—This evening, the long-promised East Indian spectacle of the "Elephant of Siam," which has been in preparation for many weeks, will be produced at Dan Rice's, with entirely new scenery, costumes, and appointments; and it is said that the piece will surpass in magnificence anything of the kind hitherto attempted in America. Old residents will remember the *furore* occasioned by its representation in this city some thirty years since, when the famous elephant Madlle D'Jeck, since immortalized in one of Chas. Read's works, enacted the rôle of the sacred "Elephant of Siam." At that time there was a fierce rivalry existing between the Chestnut and Arch-street Theatres, and the exertions of the respective managers of those two places of amusement to secure the elephantine attractions, form a prominent incident in the annals of the Philadelphia stage. We are told that great care has been bestowed upon the scenery and dresses, which are taken from sketches furnished by celebrated travellers. The dialogue has been rewritten and modernized, and the entire strength of the double company will be included in the cast. The lively and fascinating comedienne, Miss Annie Lonsdale, will make her first appearance at the National on this occasion. A variety of ring performances, in which Dan Rice himself and the full troupe will appear, is included in the programme.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1860.

The appearance of Mr. Hickman, when he delivered his fine eulogy on Senator Broderick, in the House of Representatives, on Monday last, was exceedingly impressive. He had been spitting blood for some days before, and, indeed, has been in a most debilitated condition ever since the commencement of the session. His pale face, his flashing black eye, and his clear, ringing tones, touched with the deepest melancholy, were alike evidences of his heroic moral courage and his enfeebled health. His eulogy was a masterpiece of composition and of rhetoric, and, although the Southern members seemed inspired by a sudden motive to leave their seats almost in a body the moment the ceremonies commemorating the death of the illustrious Senator from California began, the galleries listened with breathless eagerness, and the House was stilled before the tributes of those who spoke of his fame, his fearlessness, and his patriotism.

It does not become me to comment upon the attempt made on Friday to put an indignity upon Mr. Hickman, because all parties seem desirous of hushing that event, of hiding it from the sight of day, and especially from the newspapers; but I could not help wondering whether the Southern men, as they saw the Representative from Chester and Delaware counties before them, did not feel that it was a sorry way to avenge his intrepid support of the rights of the North, by setting upon him the strong and stalwart men who deem it their special duty to uphold what they conceive to be the injured honor of the Old Dominion. The truths that Hickman speaks are stronger and mightier than the sword or the pistol, more irresistible than marching armies and thundering cannon, and more powerful than party combinations, because they sink into and are written on the hearts of the people. They are seeds which, once planted, can never be eradicated, because they are not only logical, but righteous, and because they are fortified by the history, by the tradition, and by the covenants of the Constitution and of the Democratic party.

Mr. Hickman departed for Chester county yesterday morning. He leaves behind him many warm hearts that beat proudly and high at the mention of his name; and when he goes back to the constituents whom he is serving here, amid inconceivable peril and at almost incalculable sacrifice, he ought to be received with open arms, for they have in him one who, unawed by power, unterrified in the midst of malignities of the most unprecedented character, has nobly persevered in maintaining what he believed to be right, and is even now ready to give up his life as an additional tribute to this fact.

The demonstration in the Senate a few days ago, when the Wyandotte Constitution was laid before that body by Vice President Breckinridge, clearly shows that it is a foregone conclusion on the part of the Administration and Southern men to keep Kansas out of the Union. It gives me great pleasure to inform the readers of *The Press* that Judge Douglas will insist on the floor of the Senate upon the admission of that State. I speak of this as I heard it, not from his immediate friends, but from the Republicans, and trust and believe that the sequel will sustain my declaration.

Among the visitors now at the national capital, I met, a few days ago, our old friend, once known so well in Pennsylvania as "Joe Williams," the far-famed clerk of the Constitutional Convention, which sat at Musical Fund Hall more than twenty years ago to reform the Constitution of our State. He is now a hale man of sixty, with a beard almost as white as snow, and bears a close resemblance to the pictures I have seen of John Brown, of Harper's Ferry *fame*. He tells some amusing anecdotes of the scrapes this resemblance got him into among the so-called border ruffians of Kansas, where he is now living and holding the important office of associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory, and where he is unquestionably among the most popular, successful, and impartial of officers. He still loves old Pennsylvania, and talks of it with the enthusiasm of youth. The life of such a man is almost a romance, and if Joe could be induced to tell how often he has sung himself into office, and how well, when he got there, he discharged its duties, people would open their eyes at the recital. He speaks in glowing terms of Kansas; says it is a magnificent portion of our national domain, and is blessed with a climate and soil, and with mineral and agricultural productions such as must make it in the course of time, an empire in itself. I am promised by one of his intimate friends a sketch of his career, which I will take care to embalm in the imperishable pages of OCCASIONAL.

Letter from "Ezek Richards."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, February 15, 1860.

As I approached my desk to day, I espied a very dainty cream-colored envelope upon it, and remembering that it was Valentine's—the era of human sweetness and billet-doux—a thrill of delight excited my fingers to unusual haste in grasping the missive. I had almost pressed it to my lips, when the heart, I was far advanced beyond the age usually selected by the fair to shower their favors upon. I opened the letter, and behold its contents:

"NEW YORK, Feb., 1860.

"EZEK RICHARDS, Esq.—*Honored Sir*: We beg to present to you a bottle of Spalding's Prepared Glue, with the hope that you will find it conducive to, in the humble department of household economy, but also in the patriotic work of cementing together our glorious Union, which is being so shaken by sectional passions and interests, and whose preservation is so important to the welfare of civilization and humanity.

"With the best wishes for your health and happiness, we remain, dear sir, your obedient servants,

"HENRY C. SPALDING & CO."

I had scarcely read this politic and patriotic epistle, when, raising my eyes, I found every man in the House—every Representative on the floor, and every reporter in the gallery—perusing just such another piece of looking-glass-paper. I am not mistaken, for a proclamation issued by W. D. Shepherd—who was kicked out of office for being a Douglas man, and made way for Pete Hale, who lately made a way for himself and decamped as a defaulter—announces that at this moment the President of the United States, the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the members of the Cabinet, the members of the kitchen Kitto, the Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled, the lobby members of ditto, the editors and duly accredited correspondents and reporters, are presented with a bottle of this glue, to enable them to stick together for the benefit of the public welfare; and also that the foreign ministers and *diplomatique* corps are furnished with the same, to enable them to stick to their own affairs. The announcement seems to have been thoroughly carried out. At this moment Spalding's glue is cementing the question of Post Office appropriation, the abolition of the franking privilege, or the House printer. It is in the mouth of every Representative, but fails to stick *their* lips together.

Green Adams, of Kentucky, presented to-day the certificate of the delegate from Jefferson Territory, and the memorial of the provisional Government begging the usual legislation preparatory to the admission of Jefferson as a State of the Union.

Two ballots were taken for printer to the House. The voting was close, Defrees being one ahead of Glossbrenner, and only lacking one of a majority. During the balloting, Colonel Florence made very judicious objections to members crowding round the tellers' desk. He had several occasions of renewing and insisting upon his objections, gentlemen, on both sides, not being able to withstand the promptings of curiosity which the closeness of the vote inspired.

After the second ballot, Mr. Bouligny made a motion to adjourn, which was followed by notices of various kinds and general noise and confusion. After considerable parleying, another vote was agreed to, which is now being taken.

The day is dull—a heavy snow-storm outside; and inside, to make amends for the dullness on the floor, we have the *gas* (at 2 o'clock) overhead. The seats are more than half empty. The members are engaged in chat and the newspapers. The whole air of the place is that of a reading room, to which the aroma of coffee and cigars would be a natural and decided improvement.

It was amusing to witness the solemnity with which Emerson Etheridge delivered his vote every time for "Gales & Seaton," as though he could elect *two* printers. The vote on the third ballot, to-day, has just been announced, and resulted as follows: Votes cast, 182. Defrees 91; Glossbrenner 90; Gales *and* Seaton 1.

EZEK RICHARDS.

MORE ABOUT THE HAWESVILLE TRAGEDY.—The Hawesville correspondent of the Louisville *Democrat* says that the excitement in that place has somewhat subsided since the death of Dr. Davidson. The deceased left two or three wild and extravagant letters, which conclusively show that he was insane. He regarded the fearful act by which he destroyed his own life as a means of removing "a withering curse" which had overhung for more than "a quarter of a century the land of his birth." A coroner's inquest was being held, but, at last accounts, no new facts had been elicited.

PETERSONS' COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR.—The semi monthly number for February announces the issue of ninety-five new counterfeits since the middle of January—chiefly, as usual, upon banks in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. There is a page containing fac-similes of all the coats of arms of every State and Territory (Kansas excepted) in the Union, which will be found useful in detecting counterfeits, where a note of one State is altered to one of another State. They are very neatly engraved and constitute a new feature.

☞ No less than 107 pamphlets have appeared in Paris on the Papal question, and a new one appears every day at Dentu's, the publisher of pamphlets. If Louis Napoleon does not speedily decide the question, the price of paper will quadruple in value except to trunk-makers and pastry-cooks, who hail with delight the appearance of every pamphlet.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, Feb. 15.

In the House, Mr. O'Neill read in place an act to give power to courts to confirm parts of auditors' reports to which no exception has been filed. It declares, that in any case where the report of the auditor appointed to make distribution of moneys paid into court, subject to its decree, has been filed, and exceptions taken only to parts of it, it shall be lawful for the court, at any time, to confirm so much of it as shall appear not to have been excepted, and to decree payment accordingly, provided, that in the opinion of the court this may be done without prejudice to the rights of claimants in the residue of the fund.

Mr. Preston, a bill taking out of the hands of the Supreme Court the appointment of the three members of the Board of Health, and the three members of the Board of Guardians of the Poor. These boards consist of twelve members each; three appointed by the Common Pleas, three by the District Court, three by the Supreme Court, and three by City Councils. The act has been in operation only a year, but it has worked admirably. The plundering and corruption that characterized the acts of these boards, when Councils appointed the members, has been effectually stopped. Then, why this change? Have there been any petitions from the citizens of Philadelphia? None that have been seen. Nor could there be any doubt about the fitness of the gentlemen appointed by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Wiley, "a supplement to an act incorporating the Oxford Park Association," approved March 29, 1856. It gives them power to mortgage $20 per member, each share of stock, and if not paid within six months it is to be forfeited. They are also authorized to hold exhibitions to improve the breed of horses, and for this purpose are authorized to pay premiums.

Mr. Turner, "an act to incorporate the United States Arsenal and Navy Yard Passenger Railway Company." Corporators—John Aspach, Jr., Geo. Scargeant, John M. Butler, J. S. Snowden, Joseph Enos, Robert Clark, Benjamin Lewis, Lewis Cartlidge, Jenkins M. D., John M. Gummey, Wm. H. Mathews, B. A. Brown, and Wm. B. Turner. Route—Single track through Carpenter and Federal streets, and to unite on Front and Broad, with the right to extend and use externally from Front street, upon Swanson, along Prime and Washington avenue, or along such other streets, eastwardly from Front street to Swanson, as the City Councils may authorize, for the purpose of carrying out the true intent and meaning of the act.

Mr. O'Neill, an act to incorporate the Junction Railway Company. Corporators—J. E. Thompson, Wm. B. Foster, C. M. Felton, Ass Whitney, J. Dutton Steele, N. B. Hickman, H. J. Brooke, and M. S. Wickersham. Route—From a point on the Reading Railroad, at or near Peter's Island bridge, to a point on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, at or near Peter's Island bridge, to connect with any other railroad on the west side of the Schuylkill, between the points before named, provided that the said road shall be located entirely upon the western side of the Schuylkill, and shall not place "An act relating to the taxing of mineral rights." It provides that, in all cases where the right to mine iron ore, coal, or other minerals, is owned by any person or corporation within this Commonwealth, it shall be the duty of the assessors and assistant assessors, to assess, rate, and value the same, in the name of the owner thereof; and that the tax assessed shall be collected in the same way that tax assessed on real estate is now collected.

Mr. Blood read in place "An act repealing the act entitled 'An act regulating the rate of interest,'" approved May 28, 1858. That act permitted a contract to be made for a greater rate than six per cent., but left the legal rate of interest as formerly when no contract was made.

Senator George Connell has been absent from his seat for several days, caused by paralysis of his limbs. He discussed the matter of his proposed removal, and did not appear to be in a forgone conclusion on the part of the Administration and Southern men to keep Kansas out of the Union. It gives me great pleasure to inform the readers of *The Press* that Judge Douglas will insist on the floor of the Senate upon the admission of that State. I speak of this as I heard it, not from his immediate friends, but from the Republicans, and trust and believe that the sequel will sustain my declaration.

Among the visitors now at the national capital, I met, a few days ago, our old friend, once known so well in Pennsylvania as "Joe Williams," the far-famed clerk of the Constitutional Convention, which sat at Musical Fund Hall more than twenty years ago to reform the Constitution of our State. He is now a hale man of sixty, with a beard almost as white as snow, and bears a close resemblance to the pictures I have seen of John Brown, of Harper's Ferry *fame*. He tells some amusing anecdotes of the scrapes this resemblance got him into among the so-called border ruffians of Kansas, where he is now living and holding the important office of associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory, and where he is unquestionably among the most popular, successful, and impartial of officers. He still loves old Pennsylvania, and talks of it with the enthusiasm of youth. The life of such a man is almost a romance, and if Joe could be induced to tell how often he has sung himself into office, and how well, when he got there, he discharged its duties, people would open their eyes at the recital. He speaks in glowing terms of Kansas; says it is a magnificent portion of our national domain, and is blessed with a climate and soil, and with mineral and agricultural productions such as must make it in the course of time, an empire in itself. I am promised by one of his intimate friends a sketch of his career, which I will take care to embalm in the imperishable pages of OCCASIONAL.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVITH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.

SENATE.

The Chair said that the reading of the journal having occupied the morning hour, the first business was the special order, being the bill to prohibit the issue of bank notes of a certain denomination in the District of Columbia.

Mr. MASON, of Virginia, from the Harper's Ferry Investigation Committee, reported a resolution that Hon. President of the Senate be authorized to issue warrants for the arrest of *Messrs. Sanborn*, John Brown, Jr., and James Redpath, who had refused to attend on the summons of the committee to testify, and to bring them before the Senate to answer for contempt.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, said he would vote against the resolution, believing that the Senate had no power to compel the attendance of these men.

The resolution was adopted, by a vote of yeas 46; nays 4. Those voting in the negative were Messrs. Bingham, Hale, Fumney, and Toombs.

Messrs. Seward and King both voted affirmatively.

Mr. TOOMBS, of Georgia, made an explanation of his remarks yesterday. He had not said that if the fugitive slave law was unconstitutional the action of Wisconsin was right. It did not depend on that. A State court could not interfere with the decision of a United States court having jurisdiction.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, said he would argue the question at the proper time. He regarded it as an absurdity to say that a United States court had jurisdiction on a law which was unconstitutional.

Various reports, petitions, and bills of a private nature were presented.

Mr. O'NERON, of Pennsylvania, moved to take up the bill for the relief of the widow of Gen. Persifor F. Smith. Agreed to.

The bill proposes to place Mrs. Smith on the pension roll at fifty dollars per month.

Mr. TOOMBS said he would oppose it, and its further consideration was then postponed.

On motion of Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, Mr. Davis' resolutions were made the special order for Monday next.

The CHAIR presented the memorial of some of the municipal authorities of Georgetown, protesting against the passage of the bill to prohibit the circulation of paper money in the District of Columbia.

Mr. HUNTER moved to postpone prior orders, in order to take up the Post Office deficiency bill. Carried.

The bill was then taken up, the House refusing to concur in the amendment of the Senate abolishing the franking privilege.

Mr. HUNTER moved that the Senate recede from its amendment. He was unwilling to attempt to force legislation on the other House.

The motion was agreed to—yeas 42, nays 11. So the Senate receded.

Mr TOOMBS moved to reconsider the vote. He was opposed to the Senate receding. In the debate in the House there was at *one opinion expressed* in favor of the franking privilege, but they were opposed to legislation being incorporated in the appropriation bill. Now, in this bill there was no general legislation. The amendment regulated the printing of the Post Office Department, and it was a proper amendment. Yea and nay the gentlemen concurred in. He therefore moved a reconsideration.

The motion to reconsider was lost—yeas 24, nays 27.

Mr. GWIN, of California, moved that the Senate do proceed to the consideration of the bill to abolish the franking privilege. Agreed to.

The first amendment was concurred in the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, was that the law abolishing the privilege should not apply to those to whom it was granted by name.

Mr. DOOLITTLE moved an amendment, that during the session of Congress, and thirty days before the commencement of Congress, and thirty days after its adjournment, the President and Vice President, heads of departments, and members of Congress, be allowed to send and receive free-mail matter not over two ounces *weight*.

Mr. GWIN said the object of the committee was to abolish the franking privilege. If other legislation was necessary, it could be done at another time.

Mr. MASON, of Virginia, opposed the amendment.

Mr. DOOLITTLE wished to relieve the Post Office Department of the heavy burdens imposed upon it.

Mr. HAMLIN, of Maine, moved to strike out all of the bill except the few lines abolishing the franking privilege. He wanted to abolish the system in toto. He did it on the ground of public economy, and did not advocate it as a measure of economy. He believed that if the Government had the expense of the franking privilege abolished, they would not get one subscription more. The railroad and steamboat would take every cent they could get from the Government. It made no difference whether they carried a ton of matter or a trunk-load. The overland mail contract absorbed $600,000 in carry civilization to the backwoods. He desired to see the embarrassment of the Post Office Department arose from the franking privilege.

Mr. CHANDLER, of Michigan, said the expenses of the Post Office Department were owing to the system of lobbying which prevailed.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, said the Federal Government expended more than all the States. The enormous amount of its expenditure, if raised by direct taxation, would not be borne for a moment. The Government expended only ten millions as we would never hear of the "impending conflict," which was merely a conflict for the spoils. The system of franking was merely making the Government pay the postage of members of Congress.

Mr. SIMMONS, of Rhode Island, thought the abolition of the franking privilege would not remedy the evil. He would stop the printing of books, that overload the mail.

A colloquy ensued.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, thought that it might be well enough to take the privilege from ex-Presidents and their widows.

Mr. Hamlin's motion was carried.

Mr. MASON moved to add "that hereafter nothing shall pass free by mail." Carried.

Mr. POWELL, of Kentucky, proved to amend that *persons now enjoying the franking privilege shall be* excused from the payment of postage, the bill to take effect on the 15th of April.

Mr. IVERSON, of Georgia, was opposed to this amendment, as it tried to reconcile gentlemen to it, and he wanted them to have the privilege of writing.

Mr. CLAY, of Alabama, wanted to see the letters, in consequence which were flooded upon members of Congress. He had received notices of patent rights, patent office documents, etc., without number.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, was in favor of the total abolition of the franking privilege, or of none.

Mr. HAMLIN objected to the amendment of the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. POWELL withdrew his amendment, except that portion fixing the time, the 15th of April for the bill to go into operation. This amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Doolittle's amendment was rejected.

The question recurring on the amendment of the committee, it was then agreed to.

Mr HAMLIN moved to strike out the proviso continuing the franking privilege to those to whom it was granted by name.

Mr BENJAMIN, of Louisiana, said Mr. Polk had been granted the privilege as a compliment.

Mr. HAMLIN proposed to withdraw his objection if she was the only person named.

Mr. O'NERON, of Pennsylvania, thought it better to strike out one.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. POWEL, it moved to amend the substitute of the committee, that the provisions of the act shall take effect on the 15th of April. Agreed to.

The substitute of the Post Office Committee was then agreed to.

Mr. BAKER moved to add that hereafter nothing shall pass free in the mail.

Mr. HAMMOND moved an amendment, "except diplomatic and patent bonds."

Mr. SEWARD said he would lay the amendment on the table, if it would facilitate the passage of the bill.

Mr. HAMMOND said he would accept the modification.

Mr. CLAY thought the [illegible] and increased circulation to the New York [illegible] *Herald*, which do not do much to improve the morals of the community.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, of Kentucky, moved an adjournment. Not carried.

Mr. MASON withdrew his amendment.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved to add a proviso, that the publishers of newspapers be allowed to print on the same the date of subscription. Not agreed to.

The bill was then read the third time and passed—yeas 34, nays 2. The latter were Messrs. Hemphill, of Texas, and Wilkinson, of Louisiana.

Mr. BROWN offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to attend at the inauguration of the Washington statue. Objected to.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. ADAMS, of Kentucky, presented the petition from the delegate from Jefferson, and the memorial of the Provisional Government of that Territory, asking that he be recognized as such.

Also a memorial from the inhabitants thereof, asking for authority to call a Convention to form a Constitution, preliminary to their admission into the Union. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

The rule of the House was called preliminary to proceeding to vote for printer.

Mr. WINSLOW, of *North Carolina*, moved that the election of printer be postponed till to-morrow.

Mr. BROOK, of Virginia, had hoped the gentleman may let the election was to take place to-day. He wished to know whether that was a general agreement or only on one side.

Messrs. SHERMAN, of Ohio, and BARKSDALE, of Mississippi, severally said it was the general understanding.

Mr. Winslow's motion to postpone was disagreed to, and the House proceeded to a vote.

BALLOT FOR PRINTER.

Whole number of votes	181
Necessary to a choice	91
Mr. Defrees	50
Mr. Glossbrenner	89
Messrs. Gales & Seaton	1

Messrs. Etheridge and Gilmer voted for Gales & Seaton.

The House again voted, and the result was the same as before.

Mr. Etheridge alone cast a vote for Messrs Gales & Seaton.

If this had been thrown for Mr. Defrees, he would have been elected, and if for Glossbrenner there would have been a tie.

Mr. JOHN C. CHRANE, of New York, suggested a postponement.

Mr. HILL, of Georgia, not hearing of any absentees who were likely to arrive, stated that there be one more vote to-day.

Mr. STANTON, of Ohio, remarked that he had parted off with Mr. Scott. He now terminated that arrangement, and would vote