The Press.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1860

FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS

Will be ready TO-DAY, at 2 P. M.

This paper is published expressly for CALIFORNIA CIRCULATION, And contains a complete summary of what has transpired in our City, State, and the Atlantic States, since the departure of the last steamer for California.

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FIRST PAGE—Literary Criticism; Religious Intelligence; Letter from Harrisburg; Letter from New York; The late Mr. Gilpin's Will; Weekly Review of the Philadelphia Markets. FOURTH PAGE—Adjustment of the San Juan Difficulty; Pickings from Vanity Fair; Marine Intelligence.

The American Embassy in China.

We have received by mail from Hong Kong a narrative of the American embassy to Pekin, in July, 1859, written by S. WELLS WILLIAMS, LL. D., one of the secretaries of the legation, and read before the China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society at Shanghae, October 25, 1859. The principal parts it relates are familiar to our readers from the accounts published when the intelligence of Mr. WARD's final ratification of the treaty first reached this country, but there are further details afforded which possess some interest. It is evident from the tone of this narrative that Mr. WILLIAMS is persuaded that the two imperial missionaries, KWEILIANG and HWASHANA, were anxious to carry out in good faith the stipulations of the treaties of 1858 with the American, French, and English ministers, and that the fortifications of the Teku forts were no strengthened, and the river rendered impassable, for the purpose of preventing foreign ministers from reaching the Chinese capital, but that the Chinese acted under the impression that they possessed the right to dictate and define the route by which foreign ministers should reach their capital, and however antiquated or illiberal this policy may be, in the eyes of France or England, it is by no means certain that their opinion was not well founded.

The route by which the American embassy proceeded to Pekin was one commonly travelled by the citizens of China, and if all the accommodations for their journey were not fully equal to those which modern inventions have furnished in more enlightened countries, they were at least equal to the ordinary Chinese methods of conveyance. The exact description given by Mr. WILLIAMS is as follows:

"The company landed the next morning, and were received by the escort, which had provided mules and carts to convey them across the country. These vehicles are drawn by one horse, or driven tandem; they are covered with canvas and oiled cloth, and both the horse and driver are protected by an awning. The body is destitute of springs, but the principal inconvenience to a foreigner is the want of seats; the passenger is usually expected to fit it with cushions, and arrange the inside as he pleases. An application had been made for bearers to carry two sedans, and they could doubtless have been obtained by waiting for them to arrive; but a few hours' experience of the road vindicated the reasonable objections of the Chinese to that mode of transportation over this muddy plain, for the coolies would soon have been knocked up."

The long discussions at Pekin in regard to the marks of respect to be shown to the Emperor were conducted in no unfriendly spirit. The Chinese attach to this subject more importance than the people of any other portion of the world. One great reason of this is explained to be their theory that their Emperor is the supreme sovereign of the earth; that it is he alone who makes, with Heaven and earth, the trinity of powers—Heaven, earth, and man; and that he, therefore, possesses a species of sacred religious, as well as political character. There was an anxious desire on the part of the Emperor himself, and that portion of his people who favor the policy of establishing friendly relations with foreigners, to secure an interview between the American ministers and the Emperor, and the whole subject would probably have been arranged amicably and satisfactorily if the pressure of the anti-foreign courtiers could have been completely resisted. As it was, she has fortunately a strong physical constitution, free from the delicate and sensitive organization that so often accompanies remarkable talent. There seems to be a necessity for these exhibitions to provide for the future support and education of the child, and I think Mrs. BURNS may, with propriety and safety, improve the opportunities afforded during the present winter, to appear in public and private with "little ELLA" (EVA BELL) as heretofore; and I would recommend that your Honor give to Mrs. BURNS the privilege of doing so, in this and the neighboring States, under such restrictions as may seem fit and proper in your judgment." Judge DAVIES immediately gave his consent to Mr. THAYER's proposition.

Some weeks ago we saw the child, for the second time, at the residence of a highly respectable family in this city. She appeared in rude health, and every way improved. When not reading or reciting, (assisted in the latter by Mrs. BURNS,) she flung herself, like a very child, as she is in age, into social enjoyment and companionship with the youngest little girl in the room—in whom, by the way, we happen to have a personal interest, and therefore more closely watched the brace of juveniles. She appeared very happy, and devotedly attached to Mrs. BURNS. Since that evening, little ELLA has read and recited at other respectable houses in this city—sometimes twice, sometimes thrice a week, never oftener.

We learned, with some surprise, the other day, that FRANCIS WHITTEN, the father, had resorted to the same legal process (a writ of *habeas corpus*) to obtain possession of the child, whom he surrendered to apprenticeship when she was some months under three years of age, and that the application had been made through Mrs. E. F. ELLET, of New York, a philanthropic old lady, of a literary turn—a very Don Quixote in crinoline—who, following the example of CERVANTES' great hero, gives herself considerable trouble about the affairs of other people, and showing great anxiety to redress wrongs—which do not exist. Yesterday Chief Justice LOWRIE adjourned the case until Monday, when it will be heard *in banco*. The child remains in friendly custody until the case is decided.

As "sub judice lis est" (the case is yet before the Court,) we offer no opinion on its merits. But we do say, from what we saw and know, that the child is evidently of sound health of mind and body, is not at all over-worked, takes an evident pleasure in the slight exhibition made of her, is a very child in her amusements, and is most carefully and lovingly cherished by Mrs. BURNS, for whom she has a daughter's affection.

Settled at Last?

The last news from London, bearing date February 2d, is extremely important—if true. It states, on the authority of *Le Nord*, the Prussian organ published in Brussels, that couriers had left London and Paris with identical instructions to the representatives of the two Powers at Turin, directing them to make known to the Sardinian Cabinet that the Governments of France and England see no objection to the annexation of Central Italy becoming "un fait accompli." If this be so, the Italian question may be considered as good as settled. The Duchies may have their will, and immediately become incorporated with Piedmont, under the liberal and constitutional rule of VICTOR EMMANUEL, and it will be only a question of time as to the Romagna being placed in a similar position.

The Pope is likely to lose his disaffected provinces, and his old supporter, NAPOLEON, who bears the courtesy title of "eldest son of the Church," seems in a fair way to cast off all nominal allegiance to Rome, precisely as HENRY VIII did, three centuries since, and as VICTOR EMMANUEL did only a few yr ars ago.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1860.

Another act of despotism is about to be attempted in the United States Senate. A committee has been appointed at an Administration caucus, composed of Messrs. Green of Missouri, Gwin of California, Bigler of Pennsylvania, Fitch of Indiana, and Chesnut of South Carolina, to report upon the subject of the protection of slave property in the Territories. This committee is intended to anticipate the action of the Charleston Convention; in other words, to construct a platform for the Democratic party, by which that Convention is to be guided and governed. The names of the Senators composing this committee indicate clearly that nothing will be submitted to the forthcoming caucus of the Senators that will recognize in the slightest degree the great principle upon which the Democratic party triumphed in 1856.

In the olden time, when the Congressional caucus regulated national politics, the result was a popular uprising, and the creation of what is now known as National Conventions. In those caucuses both the Democratic members of the Senate and the House participated. Now, such is the tendency of the Administration towards centralization, that they confine upon the Senate alone judicatorial powers, and take care to exclude from the committee to whom they refer the duty of making a platform for the millions composing the American Democracy, all men who sympathize with Judge Douglas. The course of Senator Bigler—who, after pledging himself to the popular sovereignty doctrine, in the most public, perseveringly, and pointed manner, on the stump and in the press, in Kansas, and in Pennsylvania, became, at last, its most offensive and noisy assailant, and who has been, by turns, for and against the Wilmot Proviso, and for and against the Nebraska bill—shows conclusively that he is willing to submit to any scheme that may be devised for the purpose of pleasing extreme men of the South, by still further humiliating the great State of Pennsylvania.

Senator Fitch, another member of the committee, has become renowned for his early assault upon Judge Douglas, in the Senate, and for the repetition of that assault not many days ago. His own State, at the late Convention of her Democracy, *took the strongest grounds adverse to his present position*, and there can be no doubt that he, too, will be found ready to acquiesce in the demands of Messrs. Green, Chesnut, and Gwin—the latter of whom, as the country will well remember, was among the first to approve the Lecompton policy of Mr. Buchanan, and among the most merciless in sustaining the proscription of the independent men who resisted that policy. His own State is now said to be contemplating his recall from the Senate.

These are the men who are to build up a platform, which will in reality be a scaffold upon which the great underlying and fundamental principles of the Democratic party are to be executed and destroyed.

The history of politics furnishes no parallel to this usurpation. While the masses of the Democracy all over the Union are being agitated in an earnest canvass to elect delegates to the Charleston Convention, while the States are closing up their columns steadily in favor of the doctrine of popular sovereignty, a few men here constitute themselves into a censorship, and deliberately proceed to hew down the noblest political edifice that have ever existed in this or any other country. They are, in fact, another star chamber, and as blind and deaf to the demands of the Democracy, and to the expectations of the people, as if they were clothed with all the prerogatives of royalty, and entrenched behind the divine rights of kings. So much indignation has been excited here by this movement that I might hope it would be abandoned, if the whole previous course of the Administration did not warrant me in the apprehension that it will be persevered in.

A grand display will take place in this city on the Twenty-second of February at the inauguration of the new statue of WASHINGTON by Clark Mills. Both Houses will participate in the ceremony, and if the day is fine a magnificent pageant will be exhibited to tens of thousands of delighted spectators. OCCASIONAL.

Letter from "Ezek Richards."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1860.

We have had a stormy time, and very stormy times indeed, a perfect hurricane in the House, to-day. The most exciting period during the days of the ever-to-be-remembered fight for Speaker was child's play, so far as clamor was concerned, in comparison. And yet no one said the Union was in danger. There was not a whisper of dissolution. South Carolina was not going out of the Union, nor was Kansas coming in. Governor Smith was not drinking egg-nogg. A pistol had not been discovered on the person of John B. Haskin. Mr. Horace Clark even had not arrived at the conclusion that he *would* take the responsibility. Porter had not accused his colleague, John G. Davis, with being more republican than the Republicans; nor had Cox openly thanked Thomas Corwin for gaining him some Democratic votes. In fact, nothing which could create a mortal combat or excite a sectionality of spirit from which the worst results might be anticipated. No, the Union did not "hang by a thread," nor did any member tread on the toes of any other member. No, the toil and trouble was all created by the introduction of desks and chairs on available spots of the floor by some dozen or eighteen gentlemen who were not satisfied with the present, to me, excellent arrangement. Mr. Forcher Miles, of South Carolina, chairman of the committee under whose auspices the change was made, took prompt grounds against the innovation. You could not have dreamed that out of this reasonable move such an unreasonable storm could have been produced. Gentlemen exonerated the door-keeper from the introduction of the desks, and vaunted their own responsibility in the matter. Resolution after resolution was introduced; points of order raised; decisions made; appeals taken; the chair sustained; fresh points of order instituted on the disorder not desisted from—confusion, special, individual, and multitudinous; noise, variable, but voluminous; until the matter, somehow or another was postponed, to Monday.

On motion of Hon. Lawrence M. Keitt, a joint resolution was passed, appropriating ten thousand dollars to defray the expenses of the inauguration of Clark Mills' equestrian statue of Washington. Mr. Keitt deserves credit for the incisive persistency with which he cut in between the contentious crowd and effected his purpose. The municipal fathers postponed action on the same subject, saying that if Congress did not think it worth while to contribute to the inauguration of the statue, they did not see why they should strain themselves or empty their coffers to pay even the respect to the Father of his Country. Some of our most desponding citizens, who are constantly deploring the want of patriotism of the present day, shook their head, pointed to the melancholy shaft of the unfinished Washington monument and said they would not be astonished if Congress entirely overlooked the statue. It must be candidly said that there is some reason for their foreboding. Why yesterday and to day, when Mr. Keitt brought forward resolutions touching this patriotic purpose, I was astonished to find men like Smith, of Virginia, and Florence, of your State, object, and make a fuss about the order of business, tending thereby to waste more time in disorder than was sufficient to pass the resolution.

It was expected that Wm. Gillmore Simms, of South Carolina, the novelist and historian, would have delivered the oration on the occasion. He has declined, however; and Hon. Thomas S. Bocock has been chosen. It is a very proper compliment to that gentleman, who was the Democratic first and last choice for Speaker, all the others having been brought forward in the shape of expeditionists more than as having the direct confidence of all the Democrats. Mr. Bocock is an excellent speaker, clear, finished, and suggestive, and will be certain to add another leaf to his laurels, and those of his State. I have not yet seen the statue; but Clark Mills, who, the other evening, gave me a most entertaining account of his first efforts in art, the yearning ambition which fired him, and led the almost untutored artist to dare the construction of the equestrian statue of Jackson, considers the Washington as superior to his previous effort.

An attempt to refund some $2,000 to Captain Hartsteine, for expenses incurred when sent to England to present the bark Resolute to Queen Victoria, was temporarily defeated by the objections of Governor Smith, of Virginia, and Judge Alfred Wells, of New York. Small affair!

By a resolution introduced by Mr. Forcher Miles, Capt. W. C. Shubrick was permitted to receive a sword presented to him by Urquiza, the President of the Argentine Confederation.

A distinct Senate bill abolishing the franking privilege was brought up, and, as might be expected, was not received with much unanimity. Vallandigham hoped—and it was a sensible hope—that the bill would be referred to a select committee, in order that a report might be made on it. The subject had not been discussed from the year 1791 until within the past few days. Many members made motions, until several got so jammed that gentlemen did not know who had or who had not the floor. EZEK RICHARDS.

DAN RICE'S GREAT SHOW.—This afternoon a day representation of the new spectacle of the "Elephant of Siam" will be given, at Dan Rice's, for the accommodation of the fast-increasing portion of the community known as "Young America." Those who wish to see young eyes protruded in astonishment, and young faces animated with emotions of wonder and delight to any extraordinary degree, may be gratified by visiting the National on this occasion. The acting-elephant, Lalla Rookh, will appear afternoon and evening as the royal elephant of Siam, and the entire strength of the double company will be brought forward on both occasions. At night a variety of astonishing acts in the ring will conclude the performance.

PEREMPTORY SALES—STOCKS, GROUND RENTS, REAL ESTATE, &c., on Tuesday next, at 12 o'clock *noon*, and 7 in the evening, by order of executors and others. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements and pamphlet catalogues, issued to-day.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.

The Senate is not in session to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. FOUKE, of Illinois, introduced a bill to incorporate the United States Agricultural Society. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. MILES, of South Carolina, rose to a privileged question, saying that the House, during the last session, had appointed one hundred and twenty-five persons to be removed from the Hall; but, notwithstanding this, he noticed to day that in contumacious disregard of the order, the floor has been blocked up with the reproduction of the chairs and desks. The doorkeeper had no right to bring them, and he called on the Speaker to enforce the rule. This bending of both systems had his advantages of neither, but the disadvantages of both.

Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee, asked whether Mr. Miles was willing that the sense of the minority should be expressed without interposing further objections?

Mr. MILES was perfectly willing.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, as one of the "squatter sovereignty" adherents, said he was responsible for bringing in the seats and desk he now occupied.

Messrs. RUST, of Arkansas, CONKLING, of New York, and MCCLERNAND, of Illinois, severally made similar declarations as to now seats and desks. These seemed, together with Mr. Harris, of Maryland, explained that no blame rested on the doorkeeper, and assigned as the reason of reintroducing the desks and chairs, that there was not accommodation for one-tenth of the House at the large tables outside of the bar.

Mr. MILES was happy to exonerate the doorkeeper from blame, though he was sorry that any gentleman had proceeded indirectly to set aside the plain and explicit rule of the House. He thought, however, that the door keeper ought to have sternly resisted the importunity of the members.

A debate ensued upon various points of order, amid much confusion.

Finally, a special committee of three was ordered to inquire into the expediency of removing the benches and replacing the chairs and desks, to report the cost of making the change and the time it will occupy.

Mr. KEITT, of South Carolina, from the joint committee to make arrangements for the inauguration of Mills' equestrian statue of Washington, reported a joint resolution appropriating $10,000 to defray the expenses. Passed.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, moved that the election of printer be further postponed till Monday. Agreed to—yeas 90, nays 82.

The House passed the Senate resolution giving the consent of Congress to Captain Shubrick to accept of the sword from President Urquiza, of the Argentine Confederation as a mark of appreciation of the distinguished character of that officer.

The Senate's bill to abolish the franking privilege was read.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, moved that it be referred to a special committee, so that the House may have all the facts.

Mr. STEVENSON, of Kentucky, preferred that the bill should be put on its passage now, but would have no objection, should it take the usual course, that it be referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, said the bill involved no new principle, and desired to keep it in operation when a vote could be had on it. He moved that its consideration be postponed for three weeks, during which time it could be referred to the Committee on Post Offices.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, moved that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REYNOLDS, of New York, moved to lay it on the table. Negatived—yeas 72, nays 99.

A motion to refer to the Judiciary Committee was lost.

Mr. MONTGOMERY, of Pennsylvania, moved to lay the bill on the table.

A parliamentary struggle ensued between these gentlemen as to what disposition shall be made of the bill. The House refused, by a majority of 31, to refer it to the Post Office Committee. Finally, it was referred to a select committee of five.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

From Washington.

THE POPULATION OF KANSAS, &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb 17.—The vote to-day on the motion to table the Senate's bill to abolish the franking privilege was not effective, in consequence of the absence of the House on the subject, as some of the members who recorded their names in the negative would have voted differently rather than let the question of the passage been presented. Although Mr. Colfax, the chairman, and the majority of the Post Office Committee are understood to be in favor of abolishing the franking privilege, but not to interfere with the present law in regard to the circulation of newspapers, by virtue of an indenture thirty-one majority, refused to give the bill that direction. Mr. Florence, a Democratic representative, moved by a gentleman who had publicly expressed his opposition to the proposed measure.

In order to show that Congress has the requisite population under the law of Congress to entitle her to admission as a State into the Union, the clerks of that State, after certified copies of the registry and census taken last year, had forwarded to the Secretary of Interior about last year. They have not yet been forwarded by the Secretary of the Territory to the State Department here. Copies of the papers in question have been, however, obtained from the clerks of some of the counties in Kansas, who concur with Judge Green and others in the opinion that there are over 100,000 inhabitants within the boundaries prescribed for Kansas in the Wyandotte Constitution. In Allen county, which is the New York Indian Reserve, there are over 2,000 persons. In Linn county, which includes the Miami Reserve, there are over 1,500 registered voters. These are two of the extreme southern counties, and, owing to the troubles growing out of the claims of the Indians to citizenship, Judge Arny says their settlement has been retarded.

The Board of Medical Examiners for Kansas have reported favorably on the respective ambulances of Surgeons Finley, Coolidge and Wright. Seven of each kind are to be placed in service with a view that their practical advantages may be ascertained. The boxes also made important improvements in the medical supply for general and post hospitals, etc.

Among the recent confirmations by the Senate are Wm. R. Parrish, as District Attorney for Southern Illinois, and John H. Lewis, as Marshal for Wisconsin.

The receipts at the Treasury during the last week amounted to $2,000,000, the payments $1,400,000; the balance on hand subject to draft is $19,000,000.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Among the resolutions adopted by the House of Representatives yesterday, was one presented by Mr. Vallandigham, calling on the President to communicate a recent letter from the French Emperor on the subject of commerce, and, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate any such letter to the Senate. This was the first intimation that the Emperor on the subject of commerce and free trade, if any had been transmitted to the State Department.

Legislative Visit to the State Normal School at Millersville.

LANCASTER, Feb. 17.—The members of the two Houses of the Legislature, have accepted the invitation to visit and inspect the workings of the State Normal School, at Millersville, arrived here, at ten o'clock this morning, via special train from Harrisburg. The company numbered nearly two hundred, and was accompanied by one hundred and sixteen members of the Legislature, a number of editors from different parts of the State, reporters, &c. Hon. Henry C. Hickock, Superintendent of Common Schools, accompanied the party. The City Councils of Lancaster had made arrangements for the reception of the guests, and on the arrival of the train they were welcomed to the hospitalities of the city, by Major Sanderson, in a neat and appropriate speech, to which Senator Bell on the part of the members of the Legislature, responded, thanking the authorities of Lancaster for the cordiality of their reception, and referring in terms of eulogy to the progress and prosperity of Lancaster, and the advance which the last few years had marked in the educational system of the State.

The party, after partaking of a collation, were escorted to commencement, which had been prepared for them and were in waiting on Manor street. The following was the order of the procession: Pennsylvania Brass Band; Lancaster Councils; C. Plum Dunham; Jackson Rifles, Captain Hambright; Mayor of the city; Select and Common Council members of the Senate and House, and other visitors; committee of escort from the trustees of the State Normal School; ex-Congressman Roberts, and others.

The party left about 1 o'clock, for Millersville, much pleased with their reception. They will return to this city to-night.

Later News from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE KANGAROO.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The steamer Kangaroo, from Liverpool and Queenstown, arrived during the night. From Queenstown she brings the following despatch from London, received by telegraph:

LONDON, Monday morning, Feb. 13.—*Le Nord* says that on Monday courriers left London and Paris with identical instructions to the representatives of the two Powers at Turin, directing them to make know to the Sardinian Cabinet that the Governments of France and England see no objection to the annexation of Central Italy becoming "un fait accompli."

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* infers that the British Cabinet will be decidedly opposed to the annexation of Savoy to France, and also Prussia, Austria, and probably Russia.

A general commanding one of the divisions of the French army is said to have received orders last week to prepare to move with his troops to Italy, but the orders were countermanded the next day.

The severity of the weather in Paris has been terrible. At Moscow the thermometer was forty-four degrees below the freezing point.

The money market was tight; the best commercial papers meeting no discounters at 12 per cent.

Disorderly Scene in the New York House of Representatives.

ALBANY, Feb 17.—In the Assembly chamber, to-day, before the meeting, Mr. Milliken, a member, was approached by Hugh Allen, the secretary of the Clinton League, and who is said to be the person who was charged by the Speaker with asking $100,000 to beat the *Pro rata* bill. Milliken denounced Allen as a scoundrel, to which the latter replied with a blow. Allen was immediately arrested.

The House has appointed a committee to investigate the charge made by the Speaker.

From Pike's Peak.

THE CLAIM DIFFICULTY SETTLED

LEAVENWORTH, Kansas, Feb. 17.—The Pike's Peak express arrived to-day, seven days from Denver city, bringing $9,000 in gold dust.

The claim difficulty mentioned by the last arrival had been adjusted.

The Virginia Democratic State Convention.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 17.—There were no further proceedings last night, except the appointment of a committee on the congratulatory despatch from Connecticut.

This morning the vote on the resolution offered last night, to admit as delegates all the Democrats now here from counties not represented, was decided in the affirmative. This was a triumph for the friends of Wise, and the announcement was received with great enthusiasm.

Hon. Chapman introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that Henry A. Wise is the choice of the Democratic party of this State for the Presidency.

Mr. W. D. Wallach offered the following as a substitute, viz:

Resolved, That this Convention pledges itself to support any national ticket which may be nominated according to the usages of the party.

Another substitute was introduced to the effect that the Convention deemed inexpedient to declare any preference for any of the distinguished men who have been named in connection with the Presidency; but it is expedient, in the name of the Virginia Democracy, to pledge the vote of the State to the Charleston nominee.

The resolution and substitutes were discussed, but no definite action was taken upon them.

The committee on the Connecticut resolutions reported the following reply, which was unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Virginia received, with heartfelt gratification, the kind message of the Democracy of Connecticut and in response, express that they hope that the time is not far distant when we shall be enabled to preserve the Union from the lawless assaults of fanaticism. Virginia cordially reciprocates her sister State on the selection of a true and gallant Democratic standard-bearer in the person of Thos. H. Seymour.

The Convention then adjourned till 4 o'clock P. M.

The proceedings were more orderly than yesterday. The Wise men have manœuvred skilfully.

EVENING SESSION.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 17.—Eleven o'clock.—The session thus far has been occupied in the discussion of the resolution of preference in the choice for the President and the substitutes offered therefor. Much excitement prevails.

It is a vote should be taken to-night, it will be a scale vote, which will take a very long time, and the result will not probably be announced till morning.

Inauguration of the Statue of Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Congressional committee appointed to make arrangements for the inauguration of Mills' statue of Washington have to-day arranged an extensive programme. A special invitation was extended to lieutenant General Scott, who, by telegraph, says that he cannot be present, owing to physical indisposition. A sub committee has in charge the military arrangements, and will invite the military of some of the principal cities to be present; among others, it is said, the Seventh Regiment of New York. It is intended, as far as the brief interval for preparation will admit, to make the occasion one of much interest.

Major General Jesup is to be grand marshal and commander-in-chief. Places are provided in the procession for the Judges of the Supreme Court, members of the diplomatic corps, officers of the army and navy, the President, and members of his Cabinet, the orator of the day, Mr. Bocock, the artist who constructed the statue, and for the officers and soldiers of the Revolution, uniformed, mounted, and others.

Destructive Fire at Brantford, Canada.

LOSS $150,000.

BRANTFORD, Canada, Feb. 17.—Twenty-three buildings, in Colborne street, were destroyed by fire this morning. The loss is estimated at from $100,000 to $150,000. Amount of the insurance is unknown.

BRANTFORD, Feb. 17, P. M.—The following is a list of the principal sufferers by the fire this morning:

Stone & Co., wholesale grocers; Mackenzie, commission merchants; Murphy, jeweller; McLean & Co., dry goods dealers; Hamilton, druggist; Allen, grocer; R. M. Lean, grocer; Wilkinson, jeweler; Brawout, jeweller; Gorman, boot and shoe dealer; Long, saddler; Smith & Co., grocers, and Mr. Stewart's, Mr. Stewart's, clothier.

On Market Street—Ritchie & Russell, grocers; Ford & Bro., grocers; the *Brantford Courier* newspaper office, and others.

Fire at Branford, Connecticut.

BRANFORD, Conn., Feb. 17.—The manufactories of Squires & Parsons and Grifley & Perkins, in this place, were destroyed by fire this morning. The loss of the former firm amounted to $60,000, and of the latter $10,000. Insurance $34,000.

The Augusta Races.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 17.—The races to-day was not of much importance. The rain fell heavily over the course and took the purse, having no competitor.

Conflagration at Tarrytown, N. Y.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Eight or ten stores at Tarrytown, N. Y., were destroyed by fire last night. The loss amounted to $12,000.

Obituary.

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—George W. Wilkins, connected with the firm of Joy, Greene, Wilkins, died this morning, of congestion of the brain.

W. W. Cheserman, of the firm of Whitney & Colled, yesterday.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, February 17.—Flour dull; no sales; Howard street, Ohio, and City Mills held at $6.87½. Wheat firm at $1.30@1.31 for red and $1.45@1.50 for white. Corn—sales of 5,000 bushels yellow at 75c; prices are a shade better; white 70@73c; yellow 74@76c. Pork firm at $18. Whisky firm but quiet at 25c. Exchange on New York 1-10 per cent. premium.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Broad and Locust.—"Der Freischutz."

NATIONAL THEATRE, Walnut street, between Eighth and Ninth.—Dan Rice's Great Show.—"The Elephant of Siam; or, The Fire King's Vow."

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE, corner Walnut and Ninth.—"The Robbers"—"The House Dog."

WHEATLEY & CLARKE'S ARCH-STREET THEATRE, Arch street, above Second.—"Colleen."

McDONOUGH'S GAIETIES, Race street, below Third.—Entertainments nightly.

CONCERT EXHIBITION ROOM, Jayne's Commonwealth Building, Chestnut street, above Sixth.—Thiodore's Museum of Art.

CHINESE MUSEUM, northeast corner Tenth and Chestnut streets.—Signor Blitz.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, 1025 Chestnut street.—Church's Painting, "The Heart of the Andes."

INTERESTING PROCEEDINGS IN THE COURTS YESTERDAY.—THE JUVENILE SHAKSPEARIAN READER, "ELLA BURNS" IN PHILADELPHIA.—THE BENNETT DIVORCE CASE.—A day or two since, we informed our readers that the lawyers' squabbles in the adjacent city of New York over the infantile phenomenon, little Ella Burns, were about to be repeated in this community, and our readers have seen the proceedings in the Court of Common Pleas Supreme Court yesterday, with Justices Woodward, Strong, Thompson, and Read, upon the bench.

At the opening of the present week, Mr. Francis Whitten, a resident of Cincinnati, applied, through his counsel, James S. Johnston, Esq., on behalf of Mr. Bennett, claimed the situation of the child, as well known throughout the country as "Ella Burns," a child who has made some sensation in New York, by the talent displayed by her, particularly in recitations and black-face readings. The child was brought before New York courts during the past summer, and, as the result thereof, is set forth in the return, we make no further reference to the case, but to the petition filed before the Supreme Court, is set forth that he is the father of Eva Bell Whitten, a child of the age of six; that he has placed her to live in the custody of Martha Pollock, otherwise known as Martha Burns, in the seventh ward of Philadelphia, where, he says, she is wrongfully and illegally restrained and deprived of her liberty without any warrant or authority of law, and for any criminal or other improper purpose. The petitioner therefore prays your Honor for relief; that you will issue a writ of habeas corpus, directed to the said Martha Burns, commanding her forthwith to produce before your Honor the body of your petitioner's child, the said Eva Bell Whitten, and to abide such order as your Honor may make touching the custody of the said child, and to do and receive what your tribunal shall order and adjudge concerning the said child, and that such order may be made in the premises as to your Honor seem meet and proper.

In testimony whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, this eighth day of August, A. D. 1856. FRANCIS WHITTEN, [SEAL.] MARTHA POLLOCK. [SEAL.]

Attest—D. K. CADY, JR.

ENDORSED.

Indenture of apprenticship of Eva Bell Whitten to Martha Pollock.

Recorded and recorded August 18th, 1856. Book No. 1, page 97. THOMAS WRIGHT, City Clerk.

Eva or Ella Burns was present in court, surrounded by a number of ladies and gentlemen, who seemed to take great interest in her, and received every word which fell from her child-like lips as so many pearls of inestimable value.

Subsequent to the proceedings in court, Mrs. Ellet filed upon our table a petition for the production of what purports to be the copy of a letter from Francis Whitten, relator, to Martha Burns, respondent, as follows:

CINCINNATI, Jan., 1860.

MRS. BURNS—Madam:—Your letter has pained and distressed me more than I can express. You not only refuse to answer my repeated inquiries about my child and whereabouts of my child, and say you will give me no further information; but you now your determination to "separate her future life from the past, so as to bring to her of the past," and to train her, so as to "widen the difference already existing between her and her family." As it will be impossible for you to blot out from her recollection the fact that she has a father, you can only "widen the difference" by teaching her up to despise and hate her father. And wrongfully, madam, would you exercise the power which is in this country there is no disgrace in being colored to labor; and I know not anything that I have done to forfeit the respect and affection of my child. When in extreme poverty, and harrassed by misfortune, I entrusted her to your care, believing that you would treat her as my own child. I did only what many other parents have done, and what I felt was their feelings, for what I hoped, would be my child's welfare. I never dreamed of my child being made a show of in public from place to place, for purposes of money, and that she would be dragged about from place to place, for purposes of money, and that she would be