The Press.

PHILADELPHIA:
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—News of Literature; Letters from Harrisburg; Appalling Calamity, &c. FOURTH PAGE.—List of Letters; Marine Intelligence.

The Reading Convention.

The nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania, by the Democratic Convention, which met at Reading, on the 29th of February, and adjourned on the 1st of March, has been received with unusual demonstrations of approval in every part of the State. It would be folly to attempt to deny that which is so patent to all and so apparent on every side. The rejoicing resembled that described by travellers upon the breaking up of the ice, which, in far-off northern countries, had bound rivers and streams during a long and wearisome winter. The Democrats of Pennsylvania had been held in the chains of servitude to the Federal Administration for nearly three long years. Their voice had been suppressed, their conventions manacled, their wishes derided, their spirit crushed, their candidates defeated,—all to please a single man who had the audacity to conceive that his treason was right, and that his decree was omnipotent. Those who had revolted against such a despotism were declared to be out of the pale of the party, and those who attempted to applaud their courageous self-sacrifice were regarded as sympathizers with the "rebels." Neophytes in politics, the new men of yesterday, who had been expelled from other parties, had clamored into the lead, and rivalled each other in denunciations of the champions who had borne upon their broad shoulders the heat and burden of the fight for the last quarter of a century, and had stood its firmest and strongest pillars in the darkest hour of its adversity. We can well imagine, therefore, when a Convention which was supposed to be, and in a great degree was, packed by the dependants of the Federal Administration, suddenly broke loose from their trammels, and spoke at least something like independence and truth, that the masses of the Democracy should hail the issue as a sort of Providential deliverance from the official tyrants who had ruled and ruined them so long.

Much that the Reading Convention did does not meet our own approval. The ejection of JAMES F. JOHNSTON, of Philadelphia, from a seat to which, in our opinion, he was righteously elected, was a wrong put not alone upon a pure, upright, and distinguished gentleman, but upon the disinterested Democracy who had chosen him. The assertion in the resolutions, that the inalienable right of self-government in the Territories is to be absolutely referred to the Judiciary of the United States, and that that tribunal shall determine who shall and who shall not exercise that sacred franchise, is a doctrine, however defended, that cannot be too strongly denounced. The election to the National Convention at Charleston, of BIGLER of Pennsylvania; of the collector of the port; of the postmaster; and the naval officer of Philadelphia; of the postmaster of Lancaster; of the postmaster and collector of Pittsburg, and of others equally objectionable—not to mention several representatives who, in the last Congress, assisted to force the Lecompton Constitution upon the protesting people of Kansas—were alike inconsistent with the spirit that otherwise controlled the Convention, and in violation of the notorious wishes of the party itself. But let us accept what has been done as an auspicious augury. The defeat for Governor of the most intolerant representative of the heresies and proscriptions of the Administration; the overthrow of the plan by which the delegates to Charleston were sought to be chosen by a prepared committee, and then subjected to the confirmation of a majority of the Convention; the reference of the choice of delegates to the various district delegations, and hence the selection of a number of unselfish delegates to Charleston; the full endorsement of Governor PACKER, who had been insulted by the two last Conventions held under the auspices of the General Administration; the emphatic declaration in favor of the protection of the great staples of Pennsylvania by specific duties; and last, not least, the nomination of HENRY D. FOSTER, who has been regarded as among the most resolute in resisting the encroachments of the General Administration upon the creed of the Democratic party, and has recorded himself squarely in favor of the well-understood doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, being, as we understand him, free from all connection with the men who claimed to control the Convention, and living, as we know, in the midst of a community that *warmly sympathizes with the "rebels"* in all these were so many indications of a return of reason to our political rulers, or rather of the fact that the power of the peoplehad begun to operate at the right moment, and that the self-constituted dictators of the party must stand back, and give way to better counsels and to more honest leaders.

We may now look forward to a campaign in which each of the two great parties in the State will be represented by its best men. Taking it for granted that GEN. FOSTER will accept the forthcoming challenge of his competitor, COL. CURTIN, a series of discussions may be looked forward to, which will elevate and educate the public mind. COL. CURTIN is himself a gentleman of polished manners and fine education; a popular and fascinating speaker, and a citizen ardently and sincerely attached to the Union of those States, and to the interests of Pennsylvania. We understand that it is proposed, in some quarters, to open upon him a personal warfare. We trust, and we know, that General FOSTER, the Democratic candidate, will have nothing to do with this poor business. And, at the start, we invoke him, as well as his rival, to set such an example as will put to the blush all men—whether journalists or otherwise—who may attempt to subordinate vital issues in a miserable effort to ventilate private reputation. Happy for the State of Pennsylvania that two such men are the candidates for the highest office in her gift. No great harm can come to her if either should be chosen. The people will have their attention directed to principles, rather than to persons, and the end will be a united State, at least upon two things, viz: devotion to the Constitution of the United States, and to all its requirements, and devotion to every measure calculated to promote the prosperity and to strengthen the well-being of our good old Commonwealth.

But, after all, that which the Opposition Convention at Harrisburg has done, and that which the Democratic Convention at Reading has done, will be carried before their respective *National Conventions*, and upon the wisdom and patriotism of the action of these bodies will, unquestionably, depend the fate of the men who are to conduct the October canvass for Governor, for Congress, and for the State Legislature. If the Charleston Convention, for instance, is guided by the spirit which animated the Reading Convention—if the National Administration, and its cohorts are effectually annihilated there—the happiest consequences will ensue. Harmony and disinterestedness at Charleston will produce wise action and conservative conclusions at Chicago, precisely as the unity of the Opposition Convention at Harrisburg, on the 22d, taught to the Democratic Convention at Reading, on the 29th of February, the lesson by which, as we have seen, the latter has so sagaciously profited. For our own part, entertaining, as ever, the warmest attachment to the principles of the Democratic party, we sincerely trust that the day is at hand when the masses of that party will be permitted to come together on their old-fashioned doctrines, and when those who are to teach us our creed will see, not merely in the rapidly-recurring events of the recent past, but in the thick-coming events of the days before us, that everything will be lost and nothing gained by a surrender to theories which are only the seeds that must produce an inexhaustible crop of disaster.

SHERIFF'S SALE OF AN EXTENSIVE STOCK OF HARNESS, TRUNKS, &c.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, will sell this morning, at 10 o'clock, at southwest corner Sixth and Chestnut streets, the fixtures, tools, and materials of a harness and trunk-making establishment; and, on Tuesday, at the sales-room, 431 Chestnut street, the entire stock, comprising a full assortment of single and double harness, saddles, bridles, trunks, materials, &c.

☞ The annual election for ten directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, by the stockholders, will be held to-day at office, No. 2, on Willings' alley, west of Third street. The polls will be opened from 10 A. M. till 6 P. M.

Funeral Oration over Lecompton.

HON. WILLIAM MONTGOMERY, a Representative in Congress from the Washington and *Fayette* district, and a delegate to the Reading Convention from Washington county, took upon himself to play the part of Marc Antony, and to pronounce a funeral oration over the dead bodies of Lecompton and Anti-Lecompton, after the nomination of General FOSTER as the Democratic candidate for Governor. The speech of Mr. MONTGOMERY was able and to the purpose. He was followed by Senator BIGLER. The spirit that seemed to pervade the two speeches was to the effect that to be an anti-Lecompton Democrat was to be guilty of a crime, and the manner in which Mr. BIGLER, especially, forgave the anti-Lecompton Democracy was ineffably complacent. Pray, Mr. BIGLER, who constituted you a great Pope to forgive the sins of the anti-Lecompton Democrats? What has been their offence that you, forsooth, should come forward to absolve them? These proud men, having done no wrong, have no wrong to recant. They have contended against Federal power from the beginning, and they contend against it now. If to stand by the eternal truth, to uphold the imperishable idea that self-government is an incarnate principle in this republic, which can neither be divided nor delegated—if to say that the people of the Territories have the right to form and regulate their own institutions in their own way, and that no power on earth can force them to accept that against which all their sensibilities and all their convictions revolt—if these are sins, then we have read the ritual of our political gospel in vain.

So far from these men desiring forgiveness at the hands of any Convention, or any leader, they scorn the proposition as an insult. If the Reading Convention indicated any thing, it was a spontaneous deference to the anti-Lecompton Democracy. Even while the unprovoked taunt was thrown into the teeth of the gallant men who went to the mountains of Pennsylvania, and from Altoona flung out the flag of defiance to Federal power, inscribed with the *old-fashioned* principles of the Democratic party—without which there can be no unity at Charleston, and no success in November—in the Convention itself were scattered, like diamonds, the brave and bold men who adhere to the Altoona flag, and maintain the pledges then and there made. Without these men, as the Reading Convention admitted, there would have been no joy over FOSTER, no sincere cannon fired, no honest cheers raised; and when they approved the Convention felt, not that men who had been forgiven a crime had come forward, but that men who had been conceded their full rights had yielded to the Democratic nomination.

If there is a necessity for expiation of past offences, it is not with the anti-Lecompton Democrats; not with the "rebels" at Altoona; not with the men who have fought JAMES BUCHANAN; not with the men who resisted the English bill; but with such men as WILLIAM BIGLER, Collector BAKER, and NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BROWNE, and those Federal officials and Administration dependants who went to Reading roaring loudly in the index, and returned home as gentle and as mild as sucking doves. The contrast between these men who reached Reading full of hope and flushed with anticipated triumph, and the loud shouts of the liberated thousands who rejoiced over *their defeat*, was significant of the fact that while the mercenaries in office may plot, the people, at last, when the former felicitate themselves upon the success of their plans, generally come forward to spoil their calculations.

But, taking it for granted that Mr. BIGLER was clothed with full powers to forgive the anti-Lecompton Democracy, and that Mr. MONTGOMERY was right in pronouncing a funeral oration over both Lecompton and anti-Lecompton, we now demand of these gentlemen whether they intend to be true to their declarations in their seats—the one in the Senate, and the other in the national House of Representatives at Washington? *Will* Mr. BIGLER *vote for the immediate admission of Kansas?* That Mr. MONTGOMERY will do so we do not permit ourselves to doubt; but will Mr. BIGLER—who is a sort of self-constituted candidate for the Vice Presidency—appeal to his Southern fellow-Administration men, and ask them to make good his declaration that Lecompton is dead? And they, in order to prove that it is so, must assist him in admitting Kansas into the Union before the expiration of the present session.

General FOSTER, the excellent Democratic candidate for Governor, has declared that he is for the admission of Kansas, irrespective of the English bill. He will run upon this issue in Pennsylvania. The Southern associates of WILLIAM BIGLER, in the Senate, have already intimated their determination to keep Kansas out of the Union, upon the poor pretext that she has not complied with the insulting requirements of that bill, when it is notorious that she has more than the requisite population. This is the way, gentlemen, to settle the Kansas question, and to bury Lecompton. If they desire to unite the distracted elements in the great campaign which has just opened, let Senator BIGLER appeal to his Southern friends in the Senate and in the House to forego their announced determination *to keep that State out of the Union*; because, while they are hailing the nomination of Gen. FOSTER as a peace-offering, it is a bitter comment upon such praise to attempt to embarrass him by forcing into the contest the Kansas issue in its worst possible shape. We think the best conclusion to this article is to copy the following letter, written by General FOSTER, in September of 1858, with the contemporaneous comments of THE PRESS upon it:

> Excepting Senator Bigler, Thomas B. Florence, and J. Glancy Jones, we cannot now recall a single Lecompton Senator in Congress, or a single Lecompton candidate for re-election to Congress, in the free States, who has not publicly, and in the strongest terms, repudiated the English bill, declaring his determination to vote for the admission of Kansas into the Union, regardless of the disqualifying clause, and which reference was made to the people. Every candidate for Congress in this State, with the exception named, has dared to take any other course. How those Democrats feel who were not in the last Congress, when this double fraud was perpetrated, and are yet called upon to meet an intelligent people as candidates against Republicans who opposed this fraud, the following extract from a letter written by Hon. Henry D. Foster, Democratic candidate for Congress in the Westmoreland district, in this State, will best outline. We printed a letter to Gen. Foster, a few days ago, signed by certain other citizens of Westmoreland county, who will doubtless be fully satisfied *with the ample and emphatic assurance herein contained:*
>
> GREENSBURG, Sept. 20, 1858.
>
> *Messrs. Leonard Blackburn, T. B. McGrew, Jesse Kingore, James Bigger, Samuel Freeman:*
>
> GENTLEMEN: I have received your favor of the 18th inst., desiring to know whether, in the event of my election, I would or would not vote for the immediate admission of Kansas, if that question should come before Congress.
>
> If the people of Kansas frame a Constitution, republican in form, and ask for admission into the Union, I would, if elected, without hesitation vote for her immediate admission, without regard to the *number of her population.*
>
> The Constitution of the United States provides that "new States may be admitted by Congress into the Union," but that instrument has not defined what the number of the population shall be to entitle a Territory to admission as a State. The determination of this question is left to the sound judgment of Congress, in view of all the circumstances; certainly, at this late day, it is not necessary to resort to any argument to prove that her immediate admission, if a majority of her people desire it, would be an act of the highest political wisdom.
>
> If it was right for Congress, at the last session, to entertain her application for admission as a slave State, it must be right now to receive her if she shall ask admission as a free State. If she does apply for admission, the act of Congress, passed at the last session, has no power to embarrass the question. Like any other law, it is subject to be repealed, and the admission of KANSAS as a State, by any subsequent law of Congress, would be a virtual refusal of that enactment, so far as that Territory is concerned.
>
> I confess this brief reply without adverting to the kind manner in which you have spoken of my nomination. My heart has always expressed itself more in actions than in words, but on the present occasion I cannot refrain from saying that the cordial and unanimous nomination tendered to me by the three counties of this Congressional district has excited in my bosom sentiments of the deepest gratitude, which I will cherish while I live.
>
> Respectfully yours, &c., H. D. FOSTER.

FURNITURE, STOCKS, REAL ESTATE, &c.—Thomas & Sons sell every day this week. The residence and furniture, Penn Square, may be examined to-day. See catalogues and advertisements, auction head.

Valuable Walnut-street residence and furniture. Sale on the premises, 14th March. See advertisement, auction head.

SALE OF STEREOSCOPIC PICTURES, BOXES, &c.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, will sell this morning, at half past 10 o'clock, an attractive assortment of Langheim's best plain and colored views, fine English groups and scenery, revolving boxes, single stereoscopes, &c.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Dr. Joseph Kane, a well-known physician, who resided in Second street, between Catharine and Queen streets, died very suddenly on Saturday morning. He was out attending to his patients on *Friday* night. *His sudden death is attributed to* paralysis of the brain.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1860.

This day three years ago James Buchanan was inaugurated President of the United States. One year from this date he will retire to the classic shades of Wheatland; if, indeed, he does not fulfil the intimation he has more than once given out, of spending his last hours in the District of Columbia. They have been three years barren of good results to him and fruitful of bad ones for his country. I would not add a pang to his own remorse nor mingle another thorn with the galling chaplet that crowns his venerable brow; but, as a faithful historian, it becomes me to speak so that those who may follow him "will deceive no more men."

Every great project entertained when he came into power, every promise made, remains unaccomplished and unfulfilled. As he crossed the threshold of the White House, and as his heavy step mounted its stately stair, there was knocking at the door of the Union a young republic, radiant with the hope of admission, and ready for all the rites of initiation among her sister States. She is still knocking for admission. Then armed with all the power, and strengthened in the panoply of the people's confidence, he could, with voice *potential, have settled forever*, on a permanent basis, the tariff question. It remains unsettled. Then, proceeding upon the basis of a letter written by himself to the people of California, he could have inaugurated the magnificent enterprise of connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic by a continental railroad. That mighty scheme remains unadjusted. Animated by no elevated patriotism, he spoiled the prospect before him by allowing the narrowest prejudices to control his policy; by replacing unity with dissensions; by discarding friends for foes, and by prostituting his high office to the lowest uses of partisan proscriptions. In the year that is left to him he may repair much of the evil he has done; but he cannot, it is true, recreate the confidence he has lost, or carry forward the ennobling theory upon which he came into power. A Presidential Congress *is sitting almost within the* sound of his voice, and the first session is rapidly passing away in discussing the preparations for the choice of his successor. I regret to say it, that, while the two vast halls of the National Legislature ring with censures of his entire Administration, no voice is raised to plead against "the deep damnation of his taking off." Even the Southern Representatives refuse or fail to defend him, while the men from the North look upon him as the instrument of many of their misfortunes. Such is the lesson which is again taught to a faithless public servant. May it fall upon the hearts of our party leaders, leaving such an impression as time can never efface. Mr. Buchanan no doubt has done much for which he will be held terribly accountable in history, from good motives. I am not disposed to say that *all his acts* were malignant and intolerable. I do not believe that, in his crusade upon his old friends, he was animated solely by a desire to prove his ingratitude. Others have done so before, and others will do so after him. I am sure, too, that sometimes, as he calmly reviews the past, he will do justice to the men whom he has so mercilessly pursued, and whose blood is to others, *at least to his own consciousness*, that, in reposing confidence in those whom he ought to have repelled, he perpetrated a grand and irreparable mistake.

One thing Mr. Buchanan may yet do, and do it well. It is all the compensation he can make to his country; and that is, now, when a better state of feeling begins to pervade all parties, and when love for the Union may be said to fill the bosom of most of the political leaders, he might appeal to Congress to signalize its present session by agreeing upon such a revenue system as would make good the abundant premises of his entire life to the suffering interests of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and other States, and forever remove an irritating issue from the conflicts of the day. He might appeal to the South by his sacrifice for them to yield this much to him. The representatives of his own State in both branches of Congress, however divided as to other things, are united upon such a revenue system as would give general satisfaction. The Republican party itself would not oppose it. The Republican platform of 1856 is nearly the same ground, and, I believe, with the South Americans. All that is required to carry some such a project into a law is a vigorous and prompt effort on the part of Mr. Buchanan to induce enough of the Southern Democrats to yield alike to the necessities of the Treasury and to the demands of those great industries which continue to languish under a financial collapse for the want of wholesome and reasonable legislation. Mr. Hunter, who is the chairman of the Committee of Finance in the Senate, will not, I think, oppose such a modification of the present system as would satisfy the great manufacturing interests of the country. Mr. Hunter is a candidate for the Presidency, and is formidable one. He has friends in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and other States that look eagerly to Congress for a judicious tariff, and, I think, without at all dislocating his record, he might acquiesce in the bill which Mr. Sherman is perfecting at the head of the Committee of Ways and *Means* in the House. Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, an old Whig, will not, I am sure, fall back of his record. Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana, has his sugar interests to take care of, and he, too, will assist, particularly as the President is known to favor a liberal and constitutional arrangement of the difficulty. In fact, the leaders in the Senate, on the Democratic side, are all more or less in a situation to meet the tariff question in the statesman, not like sectionalists. They will admit that upon the decision of Pennsylvania, in November of this year, will depend the election of the President. This is a suggestion that ought to weigh well with General Joe Lane, of Oregon, Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, Hammond, of South Carolina, Pearce, of Maryland, Bayard, of Delaware, Bigler, of Pennsylvania, Breckinridge, of Kentucky, Douglas, of Illinois, Rice, of Minnesota, and others. Now is the fitting time to begin and finish the good work. Will the President put his hand to the plough, and refuse to look back until it is accomplished?

The Administration men are by no means satisfied with the result of the Reading Convention. They claim that they have been overslaughed. It would seem that Mr. Tyler has been compelled to take a back seat. The compliment to the President in the resolutions, cold as it was, is more than nullified by that to Governor Packer, and what makes the matter a good deal worse is, that the delegation, which was telegraphed here as entirely Administration, turns out to be a very anomalous concern. Even some of the office-holders on the list to Charleston are doubted, and the friends of Breckinridge and Douglas are equally persistent in claiming a majority of the fifty-four. Marshal Yost's presence at the Reading Convention, and his opposition to Collector Baker and Postmaster Browne, are being used to effect his removal, and probably this will be accomplished, unless Mr. Witte should be able to prevent it. Yost was really the obstacle in the way of the other Administration men at Reading, and these latter will clamor for his head with due portinacity.

OCCASIONAL.

Public Amusements.

This week is likely to be lively, in the way of public amusements.

At the Academy of Music, the Italian Opera Company will give a few performances, commencing, this evening, with the "Barber of Seville," the latter cast, take it for all in all, than it has been given in this city: Adelina Patti, Brignoli, Amedio, Susini, and Ferri. Patti's *Rosina* has given great satisfaction elsewhere. She is indeed a very surprising vocalist—so young and yet so richly endowed with a fine voice, much musical feeling, and great expression. By and bye, she will probably become a dramatic artist. Be it remembered that she is not yet "sweet seventeen," and that she has not been more than a few months on the lyrical stage. "Der Freischutz" to-morrow evening.

Of course Messrs. Wheatley & Clarke know their own business best, so we shall only give an opinion that they are scarcely right in withdrawing "The Octoroon" at the close of this week. It would draw large houses for a month to come, for the desire to see it continues unabated. The great hits of the piece are in the personations by Mrs. John Drew and Mr. Clarke. The fun of the latter gentleman has amplest field for exercise, and he revels in it, immensely to the amusement of the audience, but the fine acting of Mrs. Drew, as the *Octoroon, so touching, and yet so dignified*, is a thing to see, to admire, and to remember. That the play is not here looked upon as sectional, is evidenced by the fact that nineteen-twentieths of the Southern visiters in the city, and there are many, have witnessed the performance, and make no objection.

At Walnut-street Theatre, a new play, dramatized from a story in one of the New York papers, will be produced this evening. It is called "The Hidden Hand," and the principal *dramatis personæ* are Mrs. Anna Cowell, Mr. Chanfrau, Mr. Keach, and Mr. Shewell. It has been very successful in New York, where, we believe, it was first performed. The eccentric farce, "The Model of a Wife," in which Mr. Chanfrau really is effective, will precede it.

It would not be just to an excellent actor and a thorough gentleman in and out of his profession, to let Mr. E. F. Keach, stage manager of Walnut-street Theatre, return to Boston without such a valedictory as he deserves. If the public feel as we do, they will give him a farewell benefit, and thus substantially signify their sense of his merit. Mr. Keach is a very good actor, who has held the reins *of government* behind the curtain since Mr. Peter Richings retired. He has not pushed himself unnecessarily forward, as he might have done, as an actor—wisely thinking that as stage manager he had quite enough to do. In conjunction with another gentleman, he has leased the Boston Museum from Mr. Kimball, and assumes its management at the end of the present season. The Boston *Transcript* says: "The rent of this establishment, including the express offices, lawyers' offices, &c., on Court square, is twenty thousand dollars per annum."

Mr. Keach, although a young man, is an old favorite in Boston, and with his good business habits, histrionic ability, and assured steadiness, is entering upon an undertaking which will probably make him independent.

Apparently the Sphynx was not a greater puzzle to the Egyptians than Mdlle. Ella Zoyara is to the *habitués* of the National Theatre. Mr. Rice has fairly put public curiosity on the *qui vive*. First, is it the real Ella Zoyara?—or is it a double?—or *has she the power, like Sir Boyle Roche's famous* bird, of being in two places at one time? Does she perform at New York and Philadelphia at once? Which is the true Ella?—If there be a pair of them, as would appear. Mr. Dan Rice, it is understood, stands up for the genuineness of *his* equestrienne. Secondly, is there a doubt of the sex? On these points we cannot pronounce. But Mr. Rice's Ella looks like a woman, dresses like a woman, moves like a woman,—aye, and a good-looking woman, too. Several points favor the impression that she is feminine. None but those who have seen it, can understand the earnestness, the *abandon*, the daring, and the impulsive dash of her performance. She is extremely agile, has great skill, and performs most wonderful, because most difficult, feats on horseback. The most effective of these is a succession of leaps, the horse running at fullest speed, through a succession of at least a score of balloons, every time alighting, with remarkable certainty on the horse's back. But—and all the rites of initiation among her sister States. She is still knocking for admission. Then armed with all the power, and strengthened in the panoply of the people's confidence, he could, with voice *potential, have settled forever*, on a permanent basis, the tariff question. It remains unsettled. Then, proceeding upon the basis of a letter written by himself to the people of California, he could have inaugurated the magnificent enterprise of connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic by a continental railroad. That mighty scheme remains unadjusted. Animated by no elevated patriotism, he spoiled the prospect before him by allowing the narrowest prejudices to control his policy; by replacing unity with dissensions; by discarding friends for foes, and by prostituting his high office to the lowest uses of partisan proscriptions. In the year that is left to him he may repair much of the evil he has done; but he cannot, it is true, recreate the confidence he has lost, or carry forward the ennobling theory upon which he came into power. A Presidential Congress *is sitting almost within the* sound of his voice, and the first session is rapidly passing away in discussing the preparations for the choice of his successor. I regret to say it, that, while the two vast halls of the National Legislature ring with censures of his entire Administration, no voice is raised to plead against "the deep damnation of his taking off." Even the Southern Representatives refuse or fail to defend him, while the men from the North look upon him as the instrument of many of their misfortunes. Such is the lesson which is again taught to a faithless public servant. May it fall upon the hearts of our party leaders, leaving such an impression as time can never efface. Mr. Buchanan no doubt has done much for which he will be held terribly accountable in history, from good motives. I am not disposed to say that *all his acts* were malignant and intolerable. I do not believe that, in his crusade upon his old friends, he was animated solely by a desire to prove his ingratitude. Others have done so before, and others will do so after him. I am sure, too, that sometimes, as he calmly reviews the past, he will do justice to the men whom he has so mercilessly pursued, and whose blood is to others, *at least to his own consciousness*, that, in reposing confidence in those whom he ought to have repelled, he perpetrated a grand and irreparable mistake.

Every great project entertained when he came into power, every promise made, remains unaccomplished and unfulfilled. As he crossed the threshold of the White House, and as his heavy step mounted its stately stair, there was knocking at the door of the Union a young republic, radiant with the hope of admission, and ready for all the rites of initiation among her sister States. She is still knocking for admission. Then armed with all the power, and strengthened in the panoply of the people's confidence, he could, with voice *potential, have settled forever*, on a permanent basis, the tariff question. It remains unsettled. Then, proceeding upon the basis of a letter written by himself to the people of California, he could have inaugurated the magnificent enterprise of connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic by a continental railroad. That mighty scheme remains unadjusted. Animated by no elevated patriotism, he spoiled the prospect before him by allowing the narrowest prejudices to control his policy; by replacing unity with dissensions; by discarding friends for foes, and by prostituting his high office to the lowest uses of partisan proscriptions. In the year that is left to him he may repair much of the evil he has done; but he cannot, it is true, recreate the confidence he has lost, or carry forward the ennobling theory upon which he came into power. A Presidential Congress *is sitting almost within the* sound of his voice, and the first session is rapidly passing away in discussing the preparations for the choice of his successor. I regret to say it, that, while the two vast halls of the National Legislature ring with censures of his entire Administration, no voice is raised to plead against "the deep damnation of his taking off." Even the Southern Representatives refuse or fail to defend him, while the men from the North look upon him as the instrument of many of their misfortunes. Such is the lesson which is again taught to a faithless public servant. May it fall upon the hearts of our party leaders, leaving such an impression as time can never efface. Mr. Buchanan no doubt has done much for which he will be held terribly accountable in history, from good motives. I am not disposed to say that *all his acts* were malignant and intolerable. I do not believe that, in his crusade upon his old friends, he was animated solely by a desire to prove his ingratitude. Others have done so before, and others will do so after him. I am sure, too, that sometimes, as he calmly reviews the past, he will do justice to the men whom he has so mercilessly pursued, and whose blood is to others, *at least to his own consciousness*, that, in reposing confidence in those whom he ought to have repelled, he perpetrated a grand and irreparable mistake.

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Death of Wm. B. Foster, Jr.

The sad intelligence of the death of this valuable citizen, which was circulated through our city yesterday, caused universal regret. His demise was sudden and unexpected. On Saturday morning he felt slightly unwell, but during the afternoon took a walk, and on his return announced that he was much better. During the night he awoke, and finding himself in a suffering condition, medical aid was speedily summoned, but the efforts of his physicians were unavailing, and he expired about four o'clock on yesterday morning of apoplexy of the heart. Mr. Foster was born in Pittsburg about fifty years ago, and was a cousin of Hon. Henry D. Foster, the recently nominated Democratic candidate for Governor of this State. At an early age he acquired a complete knowledge of the science of civil engineering, and was actively employed in assisting in the construction of the great Pennsylvania *main line of improvement*. Throughout his life, since, he has been prominently identified with the management of these works. He was one of the Canal Commissioners of the State for three years, ending in January, 1845, and his eminent professional abilities were conceded and applauded by all familiar with his character and strict devotion to his duties. As soon as the construction of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad was commenced, he became actively identified with the management of that great improvement, and has ever since been one of its most useful and valuable officers. At the time of his death he was vice president of the road, and had long discharged the onerous duties of the position with a degree of ability and efficiency which cannot be too highly commended. He also was a member of the Select Council of the city, from the extent of the district he represented, for the present incumbent, Mr. Wotherspoon. The remains of the deceased were removed to the residence of John Edgar Thomson, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, last evening, and will be conveyed to Pittsburg on Tuesday evening, as they are to be interred in that city, where a son and daughter of Mr. F. now reside, on Wednesday.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, March 3, 1860.

SENATE.

Mr. SMITH presented the following communication from A. S. Ashmead, which was read:

PHILADELPHIA, February 25, 1860.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen: In view of the probability of the State Capital being removed to Philadelphia, the undersigned has been authorized to offer to the Commonwealth as a donation, the gift of ten acres of land, in the Twenty-fourth ward of the city, on condition that the Legislature shall accept the same within sixty days after the offer shall be made. The land hereby offered is easy of access, and all portions of the city, is most commodiously and beautifully situated, has spring and running water upon it, and is unsurpassed in point of healthfulness by any other site within the boundaries of the city for the use proposed. The Pennsylvania Railroad runs through part of the estate, and the extension of the Hestonville, Mantua, and Fairmount Passenger Railway is now being constructed, will bring it into close connection with almost every passenger railroad in the city. These facilities render it as available as if in the very centre of the city, without any of the disadvantages attendant upon such a situation. If you or your honorable body think favorably of this proposition, I shall be much pleased to show the property to any committee that may be appointed.

Very respectfully, &c.,
ALBERT S. ASHMEAD,
Agent for the Owners.

The undersigned being all the owners of the land herewith offered to the State, do hereby agree to convey the same, provided the conditions are accepted by the State as proposed.

John M. Coulston, H. K. Harnish,
Wm. H. Kern, Jas. Hunter,
Isaac M. Ashton, John Hunter,
N. W. Carr, Samuel Shrigley,
John M. Riley, Albert P. Boileau.

The bill to equalize the taxation of salaries, and the bill to regulate the taxation of corporations, were reported with a negative recommendation.

The resolutions offered by Mr. Bell, to invite the Legislature of Virginia to visit Pennsylvania, were reported with a negative recommendation.

The House resolution for a final adjournment of the Legislature on the 27th of March was reported favorably.

HILLS IN PLACE.—Mr. PALMER read in place a supplement to the act to confer on certain associations the powers and immunities of corporations, and to confer upon certain other corporations, and to confirm charters heretofore granted.

Mr. PENNEY, a bill relative to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.

Mr. KETCHUM, a bill to incorporate the Lehigh Room Company; also, a bill for the relief of the Select Council of Philadelphia.

Mr. STRONG, a bill for the security of the School Fund of the State of Connecticut.

The agreement to the charter of the Pittsburg and East Liberty Passenger Railway passed.

A bill to regulate the act relative to certain corporation taxes was discussed and lost—yeas 10, nays 16—but the vote was reconsidered and the subject laid over for a week.

The bill to increase the pay of the members of the Legislature was discussed, but no vote was taken.

Mr. PENNEY read in place a bill to incorporate the Bethel Cemetery Company.

The Senate then adjourned till Monday, at 3 o'clock.

HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. JACKSON, the bill passed yesterday, authorizing the State Treasurer to pay certain money to the commissioners of Chester county, was reconsidered, and the bill was then recommitted to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. STRONG offered a resolution requesting the Auditor-General to inform the House as to the number of banks incorporated and doing business, the number that have failed, the loss sustained by such failures, and the amount of revenue received by the State from taxes on dividends.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion, the bill relative to a system of free banking was made the special order for Wednesday afternoon next.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

HARRISBURG, March 4, 1860.

SENATE.

Mr. CLARK, of Committee of Ways and Means, reported, as committed, an act relative to the Powelton estate in West Philadelphia, held by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The Judiciary Committee (local) reported as committed, a supplement to the county bridge law.

Mr. STRONG offered a resolution requesting the Auditor-General to inform the House as to the number of banks incorporated and doing business, the number that have failed, the loss sustained by such failures, and the amount of revenue received by the State from taxes on dividends.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion, the bill relative to a system of free banking was made the special order for Wednesday afternoon next.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

HARRISBURG, March 5, 1860.

SENATE.

Mr. CLARK, of Committee of Ways and Means, reported, as committed, an act relative to the Powelton estate in West Philadelphia, held by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The Judiciary Committee (local) reported as committed, a supplement to the county bridge law.

Mr. STRONG offered a resolution requesting the Auditor-General to inform the House as to the number of banks incorporated and doing business, the number that have failed, the loss sustained by such failures, and the amount of revenue received by the State from taxes on dividends.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion, the bill relative to a system of free banking was made the special order for Wednesday afternoon next.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER AFRICA.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Annexation of Savoy.

OPPOSITION TO THE ENGLISH BUDGET AND FREE TRADE.

Lord Elgin's China Mission.

COTTON STEADY.—CONSOLS 94¾@94⅞.

NEW YORK, March 4—The Cunard mail steamer *Africa* arrived to-day, with Liverpool dates to 18th ult.

The steamships Teutonia, Circassian, and Nova Scotia all arrived out on the 16th ult. The steamship Fulton arrived at Southampton on the 17th ult.

Lord Granville announced in the House of Lords that France will take no action in relation to the annexation of Savoy, without consulting the Great Powers of Europe, and obtaining the consent of the inhabitants of the territory most interested.

The attention of the people of England is concentrated on the budget, recently submitted by Mr. Gladstone. Meetings in relation to it are held in all directions, some of which are in favor, and others opposed to it. The Conservatives show increasing hostility to both the budget and the commercial treaty.

Lord John Russell, stated in Parliament that the question in relation to Lord Elgin's proposed mission to China had not yet been definitely arranged.

Lord John Russell also stated that a correspondence was in progress with the American Government, in relation to the free participation of British shipping in the American coasting trade with California.

The British Army estimates show an increase of nearly two millions sterling.

It is stated that Austria has as yet replied to the English precaution on the Italian question. It is reported that Russia accepts the propositions.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The iron masters of Glasgow have agreed to keep all their furnaces out of blast for another fortnight.

The death of Doctor Murray, the Bishop of Rochester, is announced.

The land forces of the British army are fixed by the army estimates at 143,000, being an increase of nearly 5,500. This is in addition to the East Indian army