The Press.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—London Theatres, &c.; What Garibaldi Gains; The Pryor-Potter Imbroglio; The Baltimore Recuperator; The Irish in America; An Impostor. Fourth Page.—Letter from Italy; Japan and its Foreign Policy; Marine Intelligence; &c.

The Japanese Embassy.

The arrival of the Japanese Embassy at San Francisco has given an air of certainty and of reality to our diplomatic relations with that country; and there is little reason now to doubt that all the advantages we can hope to obtain from extensive trade with Japan are clearly within our reach. Our history furnishes no parallel to the industry, perseverance, and skill with which, for seven long years, our naval commanders and diplomats have striven to induce that country to relax its rigid policy of non-intercourse, but from present indications complete success is about to crown their efforts; and American enterprise will eventually reap a reward which will be an ample compensation for the labors of our representatives.

Japan bears to Asia a relation not unlike that of Great Britain to Europe—in her strong insular position, her independent attitude, the industry and courage of her people, and their comparatively advanced civilization and knowledge of the useful arts. Possessing a population of 40,000,000, she is capable of furnishing many articles which will form a basis for extensive and profitable commerce; and if our present advantages are properly followed up, there is no good reason why we should not obtain a much greater amount of profitable trade with her than any other nation.

A long succession of difficulties have in turn been surmounted by our Consul-General, Mr. HARRIS, and it is not long since he stated in one of his communications to the Secretary of State that there was a strong disposition among the Japanese to evade the provisions of the treaty, and that it was, therefore, to be feared that but little practical advantage would be derived from it; but he seems to have recently been successful in inducing them to adopt a more liberal policy, for by the Japanese corvette Candinmarrah, which arrived at San Francisco, a circular was received from E. M. DOBB, United States consul at Kanagawa, stating that Mr. HARRIS had obtained a new pledge that the treaty of Yeddo should be carried out in all its integrity, and it was specially agreed: "1st. That the free purchase of all kinds of Japanese produce shall no longer be obstructed. 2d. That all Japanese articles may be exported without limit as to quantity, except rice, wheat, copper coin, and Japanese gold and silver uncoined. 3d. That Japanese officers should not act as the sellers of any article, nor interfere in any business transactions. 4th. That the exchange of money should be carried into immediate effect. 5th. The quarter to be occupied by foreigners to be immediately settled."

Much may depend, however, upon the nature of the impressions received by the large embassy which recently arrived at San Francisco, and will soon visit the national capital. It is the first embassy ever sent by Japan to any Christian Power, and entirely unprecedented in the history of that country, although in the sixteenth century ambassadors were sent by the princes of a portion of the present Japanese empire to POPE GREGORY XII. If it gives a favorable account of its visit to the United States, our commercial intercourse will be immediately established upon a stable foundation; and the day-dreams which have long been indulged in, of establishing on our Pacific coast a great Asiatic traffic, will become substantial realities. The citizens of San Francisco appear to have been fully impressed with the importance of pleasing their guests, and have spared no pains to gratify them. The officers of the Powhatan have also been extremely courteous; and the Japanese will doubtless find our dignitaries at Washington, as well as the citizens of Philadelphia and New York, equally anxious to extend to them a hospitable greeting.

Mount Vernon.

It is not necessary, at this time of day, to say that THE PRESS has shown a lively interest, from the first, in the success of that gigantic undertaking—at the commencement considered only an effort of wild enthusiasm—the purchase of the Home and Grave of WASHINGTON, by an Association of American gentlewomen, under the leadership of Miss ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM. We are glad to learn that Mrs. MARY CHESNUT, mother of the Senator for South Carolina, has consented to act as vice-regent of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association for that State. The *National Intelligencer* says, "This lady, now eighty-five years of age, has the proud happiness of being able to say what few living *can* say, that she had a *personal acquaintance* with General WASHINGTON. In the spring of 1789 WASHINGTON visited Trenton, and was received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations by the people, especially by the ladies. A 'triumphal arch' was erected on the bridge over the Assanpinck Creek, at the entrance of which six young girls strewed flowers before him and sang a song of welcome. One of those girls is now Mrs. CHESNUT. And she who in the dawn of life sang the song of triumphant welcome to 'The Hero,' now in its wane joins those who are endeavoring to pay the noblest of tributes to that Hero's memory. We cannot imagine a more beautiful commencement and close of life. Who will not unite with us in the earnest hope that *that* life may be prolonged to witness the full accomplishment of this noble object?"

Allegheny County Morality.

A few years ago the people of Pittsburg and Allegheny county obtained an act of the Legislature, by which violations of the fourth commandment, in that district, are punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars; while in all other parts of the State the penalty is but four dollars. This is just what was to be expected from the high character for honesty and morality which distinguished them—a character that they, no doubt, are determined to maintain, but which some impostors have recently been endeavoring to destroy. It was only a few weeks ago that some persons, who must have fraudulently represented themselves as citizens of Allegheny county, appeared at Harrisburg, and obtained another act of the Legislature, which, if signed by the Governor, would strip the Supreme Court of its power to enforce the payment of debts due by Allegheny county and the city of Pittsburg. This act of infamy, so adroitly calculated to damage the character of the people it was to affect, was arrested by Governor PACKER, who has withheld from it his signature, and thus an opportunity is afforded for the citizens of Allegheny to obtain from the next Legislature an act consistent with their views of justice—which, doubtless, will be to impose upon themselves, for non-performance of duty, a penalty six and one-quarter times as great as exists in other parts of the State.

"By Adams' Express."

The frequency of an occurrence has a tendency to check surprise at what it may have accomplished. It has become an ordinary event, though still an agreeable one, for us to receive New Orleans newspapers, by Adams' Express, in three and half days. By mail, the time occupied by the transit of a newspaper from New Orleans to Philadelphia used to be seven days. It has latterly been done in five days, but the quickest rate is some 20 to 25 hours slower than the time taken for like purpose by Adams' Express. The energy, reliability, and certainty of this conveyance cannot be too highly estimated nor too warmly acknowledged.

New Music.

Mr. Louis Dela, of this city, has written a very pretty song, relating and dedicated to his wife—and if the portrait on the title-page present a correct likeness of that lady, the poet ought to be a happy man. It shows a lovely and loving face. Carol Clifford has adapted the words to a appropriate music—the poetry being a song of home affections, which many a heart will echo. The song is published by W. H. Centner, North Eighth street.

LADIES' AUCTION SALE OF BOOTS, SHOES, AND BROGANS.—See Advertisement. The attention of purchasers is invited to the large and valuable assortment of Boots, Shoes, Brogans, Leghorn, braid, and palm leaf hats, &c., comprising 750 packages, a new assortment, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, on a credit, commencing this morning at 10 o'clock, by Myers, Claghorn, & Co., auctioneers, No. 232 Market street.

Dr. Cahill's Lecture at National Hall Last Evening.

The lecture by Dr. Cahill, delivered at National Hall last evening, on "Ireland," was in all respects a remarkable lecture-board success. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather and the lateness of the season, that immense hall, including platform, galleries, and standing room in the aisles, was filled to its utmost capacity, and when the distinguished lecturer made his appearance, attended by a large number of the Catholic clergy of this city, the scene presented from the platform was really one of thrilling enthusiasm. Uplifted arms, handkerchiefs and hats were waved all over the hall, and for full five minutes the vociferous applause of the audience could have been heard for at least a square in every direction.

Dr. Cahill was introduced by the Rev. Nichols, Cantwell, of St. Philip's Church, after which he came forward and commenced his lecture. The enthusiasm with which he was received was, if anything, increased step by step as he proceeded. He is an original genius, and possesses a fund of humor, which he has evidently trained to do his bidding. We have, indeed, rarely heard any public speaker so gifted in this particular. Although maimed in one of his limbs, he is a tall, noble specimen of an Irish gentleman. He is about fifty-three years of age, of commanding presence, with a high intellectual forehead, an aquiline nose and eagle eye, and without being marked as an eloquentist, is nevertheless, as all must admit, a great natural orator. His lecture last evening was an entirely extempore effort, and in many parts seemed, in fact, to have been wholly unpremeditated.

When the cheering had sufficiently subsided, he said he did not know whether to address them by saying "Ladies and gentlemen," or "Gentlemen and ladies." He saw so many more gentlemen than ladies, that he was almost inclined to use the latter. He was, he admitted, accustomed to addressing large assemblies, and had been, for the past seven years, in England, Ireland, and Scotland, but he must confess that nothing had ever come so near overpowering him as the reception with which he was then greeted. He had been warmly welcomed in New York, but a gentleman had there told him to wait and see his Philadelphia reception before expressing an opinion, and true enough the scene before him was unprecedented in his experience.

He spoke in opening of his intimate acquaintance with Ireland, physically and historically, and said that he must be a bad painter indeed if he could not make a pretty faithful picture of what he had been looking at for many years with a sad heart. He had, he said, shaken English Cabinets, in his time, but was not now disposed to enter much into politics, in discussing the theme he had chosen. He was to speak to American gentlemen and ladies, and this he would say in advance, that he meant not to say one word offensive to our people. The "General Character of Ireland, in her Religious and Civil Associations," would be the theme of his remarks, and he wished only to give them historical facts. In one sense, the history of Religion in Ireland might be said to be the history of Religion all over the world. To read the history of Ireland as a scholar, it was at least necessary to go back centuries, and study the history of the race through many generations.

Religion, said he, was, ever since the fall of man, a hard profession. Who was the man that could subdue himself? Most likely it was he who had been most subjected to the discipline of toil and want. And therefore it was that the Almighty had appointed seven such men, from Adam to Moses, to govern mankind for those twenty-five hundred years. Following this, the men selected to govern for fifteen hundred years more were from the shepherds of Egypt.

In this we saw that God did not come to teach man from his lips, but rather to carve his will upon whole nations of men. In due time, when the Saviour came, He, too, had shared in this humble origin, and had asserted his royalty, not with a brilliant diadem, but a crown of thorns. All this was exactly contrary to human expectation. In the land where the Saviour sojourned, wherever we should expect every flower to speak of Paradise, we now found all lying under the blight of Mahommedanism. So strange, indeed, had been the changes wrought, that the eye, in resting upon the many sacred spots in Palestine, almost refused to believe their identity with those once hallowed by our Lord's presence. Following the train of the apostles, we should find a similar exhibition. Going first to Athens and throughout Greece, where the Gospel was first proclaimed, and we should find the Cross of Christ almost forgotten, and as we came down to modern times, we beheld still greater changes everywhere being manifested.

He here pictured the gradual decay of religion all over the world, with the downfall of empires and the erasure of cities. But, said he, in the midst of all these changes, there was one territory still existing unchanged; one people that retained the characteristics of the true people of God. That territory, that kingdom, that throne, was *Rome*. All other cities around about her had either fallen, disappeared, or been greatly changed. Babylon was a marsh; Memphis, and every other ancient city was gone. Upon these he looked in retrospect and said to himself: How many fond hopes have been there in time gone by! How many millions have there lived and died! They had passed away, and of them all, *Rome* alone stood fresh and young to-day as ever. There was in this clearly the finger of God marking out these as his own chosen people.

He did not aim to entertain his hearers with brilliant flashes of eloquence; but what he had here drawn with a pencil was of infinitely more importance for his hearers to remember—namely, that Rome had continued youthful and blooming amid all the ruin of surrounding nations. And what was of the greatest importance in the subject was, *that Ireland has always clung faithfully to Rome*. His thus bringing Rome and Ireland in contact elicited the most unbounded applause, and the naming of England by the speaker immediately after elicited an equally vehement demonstration of hisses. He believed that Ireland had, however, suffered almost as much from the Catholics of England as from her Protestants. He said that from the year 1558 to 1793 the fidelity of Ireland had no parallel in the history of the world. The persecutions which they had endured for their conscientious opinions during this period of two hundred and fifty years was beyond the power of description. Tyranny never was more cruel in its demands than during this period, and all in consequence of their patient adherence to the faith of their fathers. Seventy thousand of their people had been put to death, and taken all in all, these persecutions had surpassed the most bloody feats of any battle-field on the face of earth. His question, whether they would give up the faith for which their fathers died? was received with a deafening "no!" all over the house. The clergy, the priests of Ireland, he said, would never consent to live upon English gold while one link of slavery pressed upon the limbs of their flocks. It was not to be wondered at that, speaking as he did from his heart, he should set his hearers all on fire; it was not hard to see that they all thought he did. Speaking of the long antipathies existing between England and Ireland, he said that nations could not be cured in a second. A wound upon a whole nation required centuries to heal it. England had tried to reduce the poor of Ireland, as she had sought to bribe her clergy, but without success. In speaking of the result of England's tyranny upon his countrymen, he said that he should always feel grateful towards America for giving them a home. Wherever he met American gentlemen he felt like taking off his hat and thanking them heartily for their kindness in giving to Irishmen a home when driven from their country by the tyranny of England. He added, facetiously, however, that he did not think that America had been the loser in this. We had given them a home, it was true, but they had, in return, given to us their labor and *their services as good and faithful citizens*. We had given them our bacon and beef, but what was that to the fine Irish girls which they had given us in exchange? and what was the tobacco and smoke which they had received from Americans in comparison with the religion and morals which they had lavished upon America? The Doctor multiplied these illustrative interrogatories to a considerable length, being interrupted with shouts of applause at every period. But having spoken an hour, he was disposed to desist, as he found himself growing hoarse. He thanked his audience repeatedly for this unexpectedly flattering reception, and said that he should deliver three more lectures in this city during the present week, after which he expected to visit Baltimore; but he hoped again to return to Philadelphia in the course of a month or so, and preach in our Catholic pulpits. The demonstration, upon the whole, was the nearest an ovation that has probably ever greeted any popular lecturer in this community. The hundreds who were obliged to remain standing, closely packed, during the hour, were apparently as eager and earnest to have him continue as those who were comfortably seated.

THE DETECTIVES AND THE DUEL.—Thursday night, warrants for the arrest of Hons. J. F. Potter and R. A. Pryor were *issued* by Justice Donn and given to Detective Officers Allen, Keese, and Basher. They kept a strict watch around the dwellings of the gentlemen and their friends, till a late hour, when they heard that the duel was to come off on Friday morning, at Oxen Hill, opposite Alexandria. They immediately left for that locality, and remained there till six o'clock. They then got a boat and rowed over to Alexandria, where they got information which led them to believe that Mr. Pryor was at the house of Colonel Suttle.

Keese went to Justice Price, was deputized as an officer, and got a warrant for Mr. Pryor, whose friends tried to throw him off the track, one starting a report that the fight had come off, and the officers say that a judge stated he would dismiss the parties if brought before him. About eleven o'clock, Mr. Chipman got off a steamer at Alexandria, and was arrested by Allen. He laughed, and remarked that they were behind time, and taking the officers aside, exhibited to them the papers connected with the settlement of the affair. The officers, finding there was no probability of a duel, returned home.—*Washington Star, April 16.*

Historical Sketch of the Society of Friends.

BY GRAYBEARD.

As the annual and most important meeting of the Orthodox branch of the Society of Friends is now convened in this city, a brief history of the origin, practices, and distinctive principles of this denomination of Christians may be a matter of interest. The limits of a newspaper article will, of course, not warrant any extended allusion to the peculiar state of things in England in the early part of the seventeenth century, to which the ultimate development of this new family in the sisterhood of religious societies is popularly ascribed by its members.

Properly, it dates its rise with the commencement of the ministry of George Fox, in 1648, who was a native of Drayton, Leicestershire, England. Fox was at this time twenty-four years of age. He was the son of a zealous advocate of the Presbyterian doctrines, and, although comparatively without the advantages of education, was, from his youth, a close, devout student of the Scriptures. After several years of studious, and almost monastic retirement, he commenced the public proclamation of his views at Manchester, England. Popular excitement and a succession of imprisonments were the result, but he was not deterred from his purpose. No sooner was he set at liberty than with fresh zeal he continued the public advocacy of his new "revelations," making numerous converts wherever he went. The term "Quaker" was first applied to his followers at Derby, in 1650, as it is said, either from Fox's telling Justice Bennet, before whom he had been brought, to "tremble at the word of the Lord," or the *tremulous* tones in which they were accustomed to speak. Five years after this Fox was carried to London a prisoner, and examined before Cromwell, who not only released him, but declared his doctrines and conduct harmless, and protected him from persecution. Having preached in England, Ireland, and Scotland, in 1671 he visited and preached in nearly all the American colonies, returning to England after two years, where he was again imprisoned for refusing to take the oath of supremacy, but was released in a few months, when he proceeded to Holland, where he also preached with considerable success. If he lacked scholastic advantages, it is quite evident that he possessed, in a high degree, the more important essentials in a Christian minister of meekness and genuine piety, and it is no mean tribute to his genius as a theologian that men of acknowledged erudition, as were Penn and Barclay, have borne their testimony that he had an extraordinary gift of opening the Scriptures. His missionary life extended over forty years, having died in London, January 13, 1691.

The doctrines he advocated are substantially those held by the Orthodox Friends at the present day, and may be summed up as follows:

They have no creed or confession of faith to be subscribed to by their members. The views which they hold, however, respecting the doctrines of Christ's divinity; man's fall; redemption through Christ; the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, and the final resurrection, are in general harmony with the faith held by denominations styling themselves Evangelical. They believe in the *essential* immortality of the human soul, and that the lost will be consigned to everlasting torment; but they do *not* believe mankind punishable for Adam's sin until they themselves become transgressors. They reject the title of "*Trinity*" *as being unscriptural*, although they acknowledge the divine, uncreated Three; nor do they apply the title, "Word of God" to the Scriptures, holding that to be only appropriately applicable to the Son of God.

They believe, also, that Christ's having "tasted death for every man" renders salvation a matter of voluntary acceptance or rejection on the part of all men. Their views concerning the "indwelling of the Spirit" are, somewhat, peculiar. They hold that the divine Spirit is implanted, in greater or less measure, in *every human soul*; that to some extent the light of the Spirit of Christ enlightens every man that cometh into the world, whether in Christian or in heathen lands, and that the leading object of this gift is to quicken the soul, and raise man from a state of sin to a state of holiness, which is, however, made dependent upon a man's making a proper use of this universal gift. They also believe that some superadded manifestation of the Spirit is given to every true member of the Church, to fit him for the part assigned him. But they do not hold that this "immediate revelation" is, under any circumstances, to supersede the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, which they receive as a divine revelation.

The point in which they may be said most essentially to differ from other denominations is, their spiritualizing the ordinances of Baptism and Lords Supper, for which they assign this reason: The water baptism which John employed they look upon as purely typical, taking the ground that under the Christian dispensation there is but *one* baptism, and that the *baptism of the Spirit*, by which conversion of the heart is known, and the sinner is brought into the family of God's children, through faith in Christ. So, too, the spiritual *communion* with Christ, which the believer has, either alone or in fellowship with the brethren, they believe to be the true "Supper of the Lord"—the *spiritual* eating of his flesh and drinking of his blood.

There are many other interesting peculiarities in their practices that are not unworthy the serious consideration of every thinking mind, whatever may be our views. They have certainly been among the most consistent and successful opponents to "Church Rates." The imposition of tithes they regard as a relic of Judaism, and in spirit unchristian. As Christ said to his disciples, "Freely ye have received, freely give," they believe that imposing a tax upon worshippers, in any form, or under any pretext, is a substitution of human power for divine authority. They therefore repudiate a paid ministry, as they also do any ministry deriving its qualifications and authority from human learning and ordination, assuming that the Scriptures teach that Christ alone has the immediate disposal of the *gifts by which his disciples can edify the Church*. Their ministry is hence in no case limited to number or sex, their women being allowed to speak as moved by the *Spirit*, which, they quote the Bible to prove, was poured out upon "servants and handmaidens." A distinction between *clergy* and *laity* is not recognized as any other than a mere human invention.

Under their discipline, the poor of their own society are cared for, and it is no unmeaning comment upon the character of their Christianity that their members, in this and every other community where they are found, are among the foremost and most active in works of practical benevolence. They have also exhibited an exemplary spirit of toleration. They did not flee from oppression abroad, to a refuge in the wilds of America, to become in turn oppressors themselves with a change of circumstances. It is said that at one period more than four thousand of their number were shut up in noisome prisons in England, chiefly for meeting to worship God in such a manner as they believed He required them, and for refusing to swear, which they do on account of the command of our Lord, "Swear not at all." In New England they suffered martyrdom; yet, when raised to power in the province of Pennsylvania, they upheld that liberty of conscience for the want of which they had themselves suffered.

That they are now somewhat singular in dress, and manners is doubtless mainly attributable to the fact that they wished to avoid everything not in strict accordance with entire simplicity. To follow the fashions of the world was at variance with their principles, and so we find them to-day adhering to the style of dress which prevailed in England two hundred years ago. Their anti-war sentiments are founded upon a literal reception of the command of Christ, "I say unto you that ye resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." They believe in but one *fast*, and that a fast from everything of a sinful nature. The observance of one day in the week as being more holy than the rest, they dissent from as a superstition; yet, as the early disciples met together on that day for worship, they see no impropriety in following their example; nevertheless, they meet habitually on other days in the week, also for that purpose. They have ever since the days of Fox, and in accordance with his teachings, made war, slavery, intemperance, litigation, extravagance, and profanity, subjects of their most solemn protest, and participation in them the ground of censure and admonition, and perseverance in them a cause of expulsion. Such, in brief, is a meagre outline of the principles of a Society, whose founder Mr. Macaulay, for some unaccountable reason, saw fit to caricature as unworthy of being placed, morally or intellectually, above Ludowick Muggleton, who, the same distinguished author tells us, if I remember correctly, taught his disciples that the Almighty was just six feet high, and that the sun was only four miles from the earth!

The yearly meeting, of which more will be said in a succeeding article, like all their other meetings for discipline, is composed of representatives, although it is open to any members of the society, and to them alone. The men and women are convened separately. Of the four meetings established for discipline, and universally observed by the society, the *yearly* meeting only is legislative in its character. *The discussions on these occasions* are not, as in most ecclesiastical assemblies, about theological dogmas, but mainly have reference to the enforcement of a moral discipline in the discharge of the most essential duties of social life.

EXTRA VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—Two large sales to-day, at 12 noon and 7½ in the evening, at the Exchange, by order of the Orphans' Court, executors, assignees, and others, including valuable residences, Walnut street, Spruce street, and Pine street; smaller dwellings, country seat, valuable mill, &c. The evening sale includes twelve small brick dwellings, to be sold separately and without limitation, by order of assignee.

☞ Sale of the "Williamsport and Elmira Railroad" property to-morrow at 12 noon.

☞ Sale at Mount Airy on Thursday.

☞ See Thomas & Sons' advertisements of the four sales. They sell every week, at the Exchange.

POCKET PICKED.—Yesterday morning, a lady, while riding in a railroad car, had her pocket picked of a gold watch.

Atlantic Monthly for May.

Growing into years, for this is No. XXXI., the *Atlantic Monthly* (of which we have proof-sheets in advance from Ticknor & Fields) puts forth its strength like a giant rejoicing to run its course. One of the best articles is the editorial review of Lord Vernon's new edition of Dante. Another, very knowingly written, is a comparison between the rival Dictionaries of Webster and Worcester. The Professor's Story is not as lively as usual—caused, perhaps, by the reaction after Colonel Sprowle's great party. A wholly satisfactory paper upon Mary Somerville, member of the Royal Society of England, is written by Miss Maria Mitchell, of the Observatory, Nantucket. E. P. Whipple, a critic clear-headed and honest, presents us with a fine mind-portrait of Nathanial Hawthorne. Miss Prescott, author of "Sir Rohan's Ghost," has a powerful story called Circumstance. W. W. Story, in his Roba di Roma, gives some amusing anecdotes of American character. Mrs. Stoddart has a prose-sketch called My Own Story, which is rather of the forcible-feeble line. Nor must we forget that J. G. Whittier has a poem called The Playmate, with, strange to say, only one set of bad rhymes, (which Whittier seems to delight in,) namely, *bloom* and *home*. Other articles in this forthcoming number are Instinct, by Leonard A. Jones of Boston; Urania, by John D. Stockton, Philadelphia; General Miranda's Expedition, by F. Sheldon; and a poem called *Thredneedle, addressed to Alfred Tennyson*, condoling with the Poet Laureate, in rather a common-place manner, on the death of Lord Macaulay. Upon the whole, however, it will be seen that the new number of the *Atlantic Monthly* is a very good one.

Inauguration of the Clay Statue at New Orleans.

The N. O. *Picayune* of the 13th inst. contains a long description of the inauguration of the Clay statue on the 12th inst. It attracted a larger gathering than any previous event in the history of the city. The oration was delivered by Wm. H Hunt, Esq. The scene at the time the statue was unveiled is thus described:

"THE STATUE UNVEILED.—After the procession had certainly not been disposed of, by the Grand Marshal, the national salute was fired by the Washington Artillery. The first gun was the long-expected signal. The crowd stood silent and breathless, its thousand eyes fixed on the shrouded statue with a mingled expression of curiosity and fear: Curiosity to see if the noble form hidden by that cherished flag would meet their anxious expectations; fear that some accident might happen to the statue.

"We looked at Mr. Hart, as he stood near the orator of the day, in front of this, the work of his genius, which was soon to meet the judgment of his fellow-citizens; with compressed lips and fixed eyes the talented artist stood, looking confidently at the monument, but his cheeks somewhat paled by the emotion natural on such an occasion—the impression of a life-time was at stake; but when immortal fame is to be the reward of his successful genius.

"One more gun—the broad flag slowly opens its folds at the top—even the breathing of the crowd is inaudible—the flag drops swifily as if pulled by a magic hand, and the human voice, so long contemned, bursts in one long, loud burst of admiration. It rends the air, drowning the sound of the brass bands that have struck up together and even the roar of the cannon which thunders forth a few hundred feet farther down the river. No eye ever had that effect; it sent a thrill through the veins, not of fear, but the sensation felt upon being relieved of the painful weight of suspense, a mixture of pain and pleasure, that brings a smile on the lips and a tear to the eyes—something indescribable.

"Shout after shout followed, proclaiming again and again the love borne for the memory of Henry Clay by the people of New Orleans, and their acknowledgment of the talent of Joel T. Hart, the artist who has so faithfully represented the well-known features and noble mein of the great statesman. Long did the hats and handkerchiefs wave, accompanying the hurrahs; men looked at each other and smiled, and shook hands as if rejoicing about some great event, whilst many a quivering lip told of secret and powerful emotions.

"When the excitement had subsided, and silence was restored, the Grand Marshal proclaimed that the dedication would now be performed by the Masonic fraternity.

Letter from Lake Superior.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

SUPERIOR, LAKE SUPERIOR, April 6, 1860.

The Democracy of Douglas county, Wisconsin, have again defeated the combined Opposition ticket. In the town of Superior, Messrs. Dean, O'Sheridan, and James S. Ritchie, were elected supervisors, by a majority of thirty votes. The entire ticket was elected. We also succeeded in the towns of Pokegema and Nemadji. Judge Dixon, of the Supreme Court, because he was repudiated by the Republicans, on account of obeying the fugitive-slave law and the U. S. Supreme Court, received the entire Democratic vote of this county, and that of the oldine Whigs. The vote stood, Dixon, 117; Sloan, Republican, 30. Dixon's majority in Douglas county, 87 votes. Weather warm; no ice in Lake Superior, and Bay of Superior open. Snow disappeared some weeks since. We look shortly for the steamer Lady Elgin, which has been lying at Copper harbor. I presume that the Lake Superior fleet is detained in the St. Mary's river as usual in the ice. I have no reliable information in regard to the opening of the ship canal. Had we only a short railroad to the settled counties of Minnesota, the mines of this lake could be supplied with provisions, etc. As it is, there will be exported by the Superior saw-mills a large amount of lumber, and also, I trust, some of the fine cattle of the Upper Mississippi.

Further from California.

SPRINGFIELD, April 16—The overland California mail, from San Francisco on the 20th ult., with telegrams dating to the 27th, arrived here last night.

The news has been mainly anticipated, by the arrival of the pony express.

The trip of the clipper Andrew Jackson, made in eighty-nine days, seven hours, from New York, is claimed as the quickest ever made, the famous trip of the Flying Cloud, in 1854, being eighty-nine days, eight hours.

$35,000 had been received at the California mint, during the week, from the Allison mine alone, being the result of five days' work.

The California Central Railroad has been nearly completed from Lincoln, in Placer, to Folsom, the present terminus. The contract for building the road to Marysville has been let, and work will commence immediately. The same parties who built the road have begun an active movement to connect Sacramento and Stockton.

A bill passing for a commission to survey the harbor of San Francisco, and report whether a bulkhead is necessary to protect the harbor, and, if so, a plan for it, had been introduced in the Senate, and will be advocated by the opponents of the present bulkhead bill.

The Sonora papers predict an immense emigration of the California miners to the Washoe mines. It was estimated that the number daily passing over the mountains already exceeded a hundred, and it was steadily increasing.

The Sonora *Age* says Tuolumne county, within a few years, has lost a half of its male population.

The reports from the Washoe mines are almost uniformly favorable and exciting.

$1,500 had been subscribed for building a jail at Carson city.

The law creating the office of Beef and Pork Inspector, and levying a tax of 75 cents per barrel to pay the expense, had gone into operation.

Arrived on the 24th, ships Northern Light, from Manilla; 25th, Robin Hood, from New York. Sailed on the 24th, the Wild Hunter, for Callao; 25th, Jean Baptiste, for Callao.

Escape of two Convicts from the Norristown Jail.

NORRISTOWN, April 16—At about 5½ o'clock this morning, two of the prisoners confined in the county prison at this place broke from jail. From an examination, it appears that they dug through the brick wall that separates their cells, eighteen inches thick, and a stone wall two feet thick; then passing into the main corridor, they knocked down the keeper, and with his keys, escaped at the main entrance.

One of the escaped prisoners was convicted, about a year ago, of a number of burglaries, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. The other was sentenced on last February, for horse-stealing, to four years imprisonment. A heavy reward is offered for their re-arrest.

Fire at St. John's, Mich.

ST. JOHN'S, Mich., April 16.—A fire, this morning, destroyed several buildings in this town. The occupants were Messrs. Munger & Brothers, and M. J. Hall, dry-goods dealer; Mr. Vansice, grocer; Mr. Kipp, hardware dealer; Mr. Folsom, jeweler, and Mrs. Wright, milliner. The office of the *Republican* newspaper was also burnt. The loss amounted to $20,000.

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER OF A FEMALE.—Since the announcement on Saturday afternoon of the finding of a female corpse, gagged and sunk in the river at the York-street dock in Jersey City, with marks of violence on the body which left no doubt that a horrible murder had been committed, a large number of persons visited the undertaker's with a view, if possible, of identifying the remains. Amongst them were several persons from New York and Brooklyn, who have missing female friends, but all failed to recognise the deceased. Coroner Morris and Constable Hoybeck have made every effort to gain some clue to the mystery, but up to the present time they have been unable to secure any information which will be likely to lead to the identification of the body or the discovery of the murderers. It is believed by many that the body has been in the water for the past three months, as the barrel of pitch with which it was anchored having been missed on the 14th of January last, and that the body was not more decomposed from the fact that the weather has been cool, and the remains have been constantly immersed in the water without being exposed to the atmosphere.—*N. Y. Express.*

HEAVY LARCENY OF DENTAL INSTRUMENTS—RECOVERY OF THE STOLEN GOODS AND ARREST OF THE RECEIVERS.—For some two months past, S. W. Stockton, dentist, 704 Arch street, has missed at different times, a large number of instruments, the total value of which reached $2,000. From some suspicious circumstances, Mr. S. caused to be arrested a young man, about 20 years of age, one of his workmen, named Lewis John Boes, upon the charge of taking the goods. Upon being taken into custody, he confessed that he had purloined a number of articles, and informed the officers where he had disposed of them, a considerable portion at an establishment in Shippen street above Eighth, kept by Michael Woods, and some had been sold to Francis Allen, in Eighth street below South.

Officers Callanan and Sommers proceeded to these places, and recovered a number of brass moulds for manufacturing porcelain teeth, which had been sold by Boes at the rate of ten cents per pound, which were worth $6 per pound. One mould, weighing six pounds, he sold for sixty cents, which cost Mr. Stockton $36, or a dollar for each tooth-cell in the mould! Other instruments had been disposed of in about the same proportion. The officers arrested both Woods and Allen, the two receivers, who were yesterday held in $800 bach by Alderman Beitler to answer the charge. Boes, the young man charged with the larceny of the articles, was committed to prison to await his trial.

DIED OF HIS INJURIES.—Patrick Kelly, the man who was stabbed during a quarrel near a hotel in the Twenty-fourth ward, on Sunday afternoon, and who was taken to the Hospital, died of his injuries yesterday afternoon. The man alleged to have inflicted the stab upon Kelly, Thomas Shillada, has been arrested and committed to prison. The coroner will hold an inquest at the Hospital this morning, when a full investigation of the unfortunate occurrence will be made.

TRIFLING FIRE.—Yesterday afternoon a fire originated in a cotton mill, at Fifth street and Germantown road, from the use of friction matches, which was put out with trifling loss.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1860.

I had an opportunity of carefully perusing the correspondence between Messrs. Pryor and Potter, and their accomplished seconds, Mr. Chisman and Colonel Lander, before its publication in the New York papers; and while there can be but one opinion in regard to the marked ability which distinguished this correspondence, on both sides, there can be no doubt that very little cause existed to precipitate the difficulty which, at one time, seemed to be imminent and unavoidable. Mr. Pryor's courage is undoubted. He has many noble qualities, is a polished speaker, and forcible and elegant writer, and is greatly beloved by those who know him intimately. He is, in no real sense of the word, a bully, but it so happens that he allows himself to be controlled more by his extreme notions in favor of the code of honor, as it is understood in the South, than by those sober second thoughts which are so efficient in the direction of public men, and in the adjustment of public sentiment.

His mistake, in his difference with Mr. Potter, was that for certain really inoffensive words, spoken in debate by the latter, he should have sent an unconditional challenge to Mr. Potter. This was a grievous misstep. If Mr. Potter had struck Mr. Pryor, or applied any dishonorable term to him, then an unconditional challenge would have been justifiable. If Mr. Potter had sought a personal controversy with Mr. Pryor, or was himself a known practitioner of the code, then an unconditional challenge would also have been justifiable. It seems to me, in all candor, that the attempt to reopen this most unhappy controversy, either by a street fight, or by the acceptance, on the part of Mr. Pryor, of the terms proposed by Mr Potter, and refused by Mr. Pryor's second, Mr. Chisman, only multiplies the embarrassments which marked the beginning of the affair, and I sincerely hope that the true friends of all the parties concerned will interpose to prevent any of the consequences now so generally dreaded in this community.

The distance between California and the United States is gradually being lessened. Enterprise and capital are surely overcoming the obstacles of nature, and in a short time it will be as easy to make a trip between St. Joseph and San Francisco, as it was, twenty years ago, to make a trip between Philadelphia and St. Louis. The last great success, of the central overland pony express is one of the wonders of the day, and will go far to assist in the passage of the Pacific Railroad bill. It must be remembered that it is only within the last year or two that any continued communication has been kept up between the Mississippi and the Pacific. Our explorers—our Fremonts, Beales, Butterfields, Marcys, Emorys, and others—had innumerable difficulties to surmount. They had prejudices to battle with as well as opposing climates and impenetrable solitudes; but, now that science, civilization, and wealth come forward to confirm their discoveries Government will be compelled, however it may be disposed, characteristically, to lag behind, to extend its reluctant hand, and to complete the work so worthily and so courageously begun.

Everybody talks of Charleston. Even the Republicans, who look to Chicago, talk of Charleston. The ladies talk of Charleston; the boys talk of *Charleston; the negroes talk of Charleston. It is* Charleston in Congress, in the hotels, on the streets; Charleston in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening, and in the night; Charleston at breakfast, at dinner, and at supper; Charleston in church, for the Rev. Mr. Stockton gave us a dish of politics on Sunday, served up in his most approved style.

In a few days, when the politicians shall have left, the halls of legislation will be comparatively deserted, and those remaining would be dull and dismal enough if they had not Charleston to talk about. Judge Douglas on New Jersey avenue, Mr. Buchanan in the Presidential palace, Mr. Mr. Breckinridge on F street, Mr. Hunter in his cosy quarters, and General Lane at Brown's Hotel, will all be compelled to eat Charleston with their meals and to drink it with their drink. Providence can only tell how this eternal clamor will end. I have no ambition to be a prophet, but I shall be heartily rejoiced when this continued talk about Charleston is replaced by another theme, whatever it may be.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from New York.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION AT ALBANY: DEBTORS AND MURDERERS—A NEW PALATIAL CITY HALL IN MADISON SQUARE—BURTON'S WILL DECLARED VALID—BAILING OF PREACHERS—THE RIVAL OPERA COMPANIES.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, April 16, 1860.

The optics of New Yorkers are turned towards Albany, where the sands of the Legislature will to-day probably run out. Within the week past two bills have passed that are calculated to exert an important influence on the business and morals of the State. The first is an insolvent law (which, however, is not to take effect until April 1, 1861) that will give freedom to thousands of honest, capable, but unfortunate men whose fortunes were swept away in the financial torrent of 1857.

This law is of the most liberal character. It provides, substantially, that if it shall appear from the petition, schedule, and affidavit of an insolvent, that at least two-thirds in amount of all the debts owing by him, and specified in his schedule, have been due and unpaid for the space of one year prior to the time of the presentation of his petition, the officer to whom the same shall be so presented shall make an order requiring all the creditors of such insolvent to show cause why an assignment of the insolvent's estate should not be made, and he be discharged from his debts; and in case no creditor shall appear in opposition, and no valid