The Press.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1860.

To First Page.—The Charleston Convention; Latest Foreign News; Affairs in Utah Territory; Morrisania Society at Home; Letter from Mexico; An Indian Captive; The Negro in the South; Forest Fires; Murder from the Arctic Regions; The New York Fast Women; Marine Intelligence.

The Republicans at Chicago.

Ever since the central principle of self-government in the Territories has done its appointed work in the Democratic National Convention, by expelling the disunionists from the party, and by preventing the Administration of the General Government from carrying into effect its own boasted designs, the question may be pertinently asked, what will the Republicans do in regard to this principle when they come to choose their candidates and to adjust their creed? Will they grapple with the problem, and solve it like progressive and fearless men; or will they place themselves, Bourbon-like, upon an impracticable theory?

Congressional intervention is nearly as odious, whether presented in the shape of restricting, as it is when advocated for protecting slavery in the Territories. To be made consistent, it must be advocated as susceptible of application both ways; but this operation of the rule would cover the country with new confusions. It is therefore, on the wise course to give it up forever. There is, in our opinion, a very strong popular feeling in all parties that it should be given up. The Democrats at Charleston—at least a decided majority of them, representing an enormous constituency—rejected it, as unworthy of their organization, and unworthy of the age; and we are curious to see whether the Republicans will do likewise. It is unnecessary to go over the merits of the case. The votes of the Republicans for the Montgomery Crittenden bill in the last Congress, showed what they thought of it then; and the certainty that nothing can be done in Congress with Congressional intervention, in any event, is an admonition that its agitation will only be productive of evil. The Republicans, we take it, desire to invest a pleasant party. Their organization is not made up of old Whigs, but of men of all the old parties, with a large infusion of the vigorous blood of the old Democratic party. Besides Popular Sovereignty as a few Republican leaders may, the Republican masses are profoundly attached to it, especially since the action of the Charleston Convention. If, then, it is proposed to make the next campaign a struggle for principle, let all the great parties of 1860 do what was done by the Whigs and Democrats in their National Conventions in 1852—let them pay deference to public opinion. In 1852 the Convention that nominated PIERCE, like that which nominated BUCHANAN, made the Compromise measures the basis of their platforms, because those measures were almost universally popular, save alone with the fire-eaters and Abolitionists. A situation of things almost similar is now existing; and we should rejoice to see the organs of the leading political combinations answering to the people's will by following this good example. If the Republicans shall fall back of this expectation, they will fall forever—just as the Democrats will fail if they fall at Baltimore on the 18th of June. We will discuss this fruitful subject in another article. Why, then, throw themselves upon an impracticable abstraction, which can produce no good result, when there is a living and active principle by which everything can be accomplished?

Return of Uncalled-for Letters.

We alluded a few days ago to the recent act of Congress authorizing the return of letters uncalled for at the office to which they were directed within a reasonable time, to their writers, if the latter endorsed their names thereon. As this is a matter of no little importance to business men, we publish the law below. The advantages accruing from its provisions will probably be sought for by a large proportion of those who send letters containing remittances or referring to important subjects. It is to be hoped that the department will speedily issue such instructions to postmasters as are necessary to give the new law practical efficiency:

An Act in relation to the return of undelivered letters in the Post Office.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when any person shall endorse on any letter his or her name and place of residence, as writer thereof, the same, after remaining unsealed for at the time to which it is directed, for thirty days, *or the time the writer shall have fixed*, if less than thirty days, shall be held to be a dead letter, and such letters shall be advertised, nor, shall the same be treated as dead letters, until so returned to the post office of the writer and there remain unsealed for one quarter. Approved 6 April, 1860.

Legislature Infanticide.

The Reform Bill, brought forward with great pomp, pride, and circumstance of boasting, by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, on the first of March, is not likely to become a law in the year 1860, which, we take it, is precisely what PALMERSTON and RUSSELL rank Tories at heart, earnestly desire. The measure, nominally a liberal one, is only a makeshift and delusion to throw dust in the people's eyes. It may pass the House of Commons, where Ministers have a majority, but its doom is already fixed in the Lords, where Earl GREY has carried a motion that a committee shall be appointed to take evidence how far a Reform of the House of Commons is necessary. This inquiry may be interminably extended, whereas Parliament will adjourn in August. It was Lord GREY's father who carried the Reform Bill of 1832. The son is a crotchetty politician, who hates PALMERSTON for not having made him a Cabinet Minister, and while a Liberal in profession, is a rank Tory in practice. At all events, the Reform Bill, which really amounts to nothing, bids fair not to be placed on the Statute Book this year.

"Mumbo Jumbo."

This is the name of the principal illustration in the last number of *Punch*. Ever since the winter of 1851, when *Punch* took a decidedly anti-Catholic prejudice against Cardinals, (and thereby lost RICHARD POOLE, its best contributor,) the sarcastic hunchback has made a point of ridiculing the Pope. Of course, the recent excommunication presented too many salient points to be neglected. "Mumbo Jumbo" shows NAPOLEON and VICTOR EMMANUEL enjoying themselves with wine and cigars after dinner. Behind them appears a bell's head, with light coming out of the eyes, fixed over a white sheet, on which is inscribed "Excommunication." This effigy is supported, at the back, by the Pope. NAPOLEON, half turning round, looks down, contemptuously smiles at the "bug-a-boo," while VICTOR EMMANUEL, who has risen and is lighting a cigar, exclaims, "*Ah! c'est bien drôle*,"—it is very funny. The portraits in this cartoon are very good, and the air of indifference and contempt which they wear is cleverly represented.

THE ORLEANS CONVENTION.—There are leading delegates here from nearly all the States to be represented in that Convention. Conferences are numerous among them, but it is idle to speculate much as to results. The friends of Messrs. Bates, Chase, Seward, and Cameron are all confident, each of their being backed by his own State. In the upper of all these to be added, parties seem nearly equally divided in their preferences for Messrs. McLean and Wade. Some object to the former for two reasons—that he rejected the nomination in 1852 because he was on the bench, which he would not resign, and because of his being committed to the doctrine of squatter sovereignty. Speaking of slavery in the Territories, he says: "It is a domestic relation, over which the Federal Government can exercise no control." Gen. CASS combined this view, of "laying down the proper boundary of Government interposition." To Mr. Wade will bear of no objection as a desirable candidate.

Gen. FREMONT is frequently named with much of the old enthusiasm of 1856. His contest since his defeat is not only deadened, but he seems to have been entirely thrown into the shade by Gen. SCOTT. Gen. BANKS seems a favorite of the American Republican element. He was their nominee in 1856, as Speaker of the House, and was President of the Know Nothing convention of 1855.

Advertisements.—The attention of purchasers is respectfully invited to the large and valuable assortment of goods to be sold by Messrs. Thomas, Sons & Co., commencing on Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock, at Salesroom, No. 232 Market street, comprising a large and extensive assortment of Spring and Summer goods, to be peremptorily sold by catalogue, on the credit of six months. Messrs. Bonsall, Hughes & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street, will commence selling this morning, at 10 o'clock, a large assortment of boots, shoes, &c., to be sold on the usual credit.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN CHICAGO.—It will be seen by our Chicago letter that the advocating scheme, that the Republicans of Illinois have adopted, to induce the National Convention to make a Chicago and return at the very low rate of fare for the round trip, is working wonderfully well. Business men from all parts of the country are now speculating on the opportunity of visiting Chicago and return at the very low rate of fare for the round trip.

The Methodist General Conference.

The proceedings of the Methodist General Conference, now in session at Buffalo, are attracting much attention on account of the importance of the great religious organization represents, and the exciting questions it will have under consideration.

At the meeting on Friday last addresses were presented by the representatives of the Irish and Canadian Methodists, and read by the secretary. The Church in Canada has 16,575 members—the value of its chapel property is $208,768, and it has a seminary of learning worth $40,000. The Church in Ireland is in a hopeful but not very prosperous condition, inasmuch as the prevailing religious sentiment of the people is decidedly Catholic, the country an old one, firmly established in its convictions, and as the Methodist population emigrates very rapidly to the United States.

The important feature of the day was the reading of the quadrennial address of the bishops, which gave a general history of the position and action of the Church, and a graphic account of all its operations. It suggests that an educational board should be appointed to prevent the erection of too many colleges, so that those now in existence may be properly supported. The increase of the Sunday-schools is alluded to with much satisfaction, as the catalogue of Sunday-school books, and the number of teachers and scholars, are rapidly increasing. The publications of the Church have become very numerous. The aggregate number of pages printed and circulated since the last General Conference, in tracts, bound volumes, and the monthly illustrated tract "Good News," is 54,170,900. The number of members and probationers in 1855 was 799,481, and of ministers 5,408; the former in 1859 numbered 974,845, and the latter 6,677; making an increase respectively of 174,914, and 1,469. The number of church edifices is 9,805, and of parsonages 2,540, with an aggregate estimated value of $21,341,624—an increase in two years of 960 churches, and 366 parsonages, at a valuation of $3,341,624.

The bishops commend the remarkable doctrinal unity of the Methodists—the only exceptions to this being "a slight danger of leaning too strongly towards the doctrine of infant regeneration." There are also occasional difficulties in stationing the preachers in large cities on account of previous negotiations between ministers and congregations; and in a few sections the employment of erratic and irresponsible teachers, who have used denunciatory language, has led to strife, and to slight secessions. The bishops consider that there are great, if not insuperable, objections to admitting lay delegates into the General Conference, but suggest that they might be constituted as a co-ordinate assembly, sitting at the same time as the General Conferences of the clergy as an entirely separate body, but passing upon the same measures; yet they see no urgent necessity for even this change. On the subject of slavery, the bishops, instead of yielding to the demands of a large party of the Church, who wish to exclude from membership all slaveholders, re-endorse the views they expressed four years ago, which were as follows:

"In our judgment, the existence of these Conferences and churches (in slave States,) under their present circumstances, *does not tend to extend or perpetuate slavery*. They are known to be organized under a discipline which recognizes slavery as a great evil; which makes the slaveholder ineligible to any official station in the church, where the laws of the State in which he lives will admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom; which disfranchises a travelling minister who marries the owner of a female slave or slaves, unless he executes, if it be practicable, a legal emancipation of such slaves, conformably to the laws of the State wherein he lives; which makes it the duty of all the ministers to enforce upon all the members of the society of teaching their slaves to read the word of God, and allowing them time to attend upon the public worship of God on our regular days of Divine service; which prohibits the buying and selling of men, women, and children with an intention to enslave them, and inquires what shall be done for the extirpation of the evil of slavery.

"With this discipline freely circulated among the people, or certainly within the reach of any who desire to examine it, and with other Churches existing in the same territory without these checks upon slaveholding and Churches have either by elective affinity adhered to, or from preference associated with, the Methodist Episcopal Church. In a few instances, their Church relations have exposed them to some peril, and in numerous cases to sacrifice. But such have been their moral worth and Christian meekness, and prudent conduct, that generally they have been permitted to enjoy their religious immunities, and serve and worship God according to their consciences."

On Saturday, a large number of petitions were presented on the slavery question, a majority of which were signed by the "progressives," who favor a change in the rule on slavery, and who are evidently in a majority in the Convention, although they may not succeed in carrying their point by a constitutional vote. It is supposed that the debate on the slavery question will be very animated, when it fairly comes up for consideration.

On Saturday the reports of the book agents at New York and Cincinnati were presented and referred. The New York book concern shows that it possesses a net capital in real estate, cash, merchandise, printing office, and materials, bindery, and notes and book accounts of $540,721.80; and its sales, during the four years ending in 1859, (exclusive of those in New York,) were as follows:

	Amount of Sales.	Cash Paid.
Boston	$303,035.65	$173.461.95
Pittsburg	83,915.54	55,489.02
Buffalo	84,807.49	24,116.38

The exhibit of the Western book concern at Cincinnati sets forth the total book and periodical sales for four years ending January 21, 1860, in that city, and at Chicago, at $1,127,851, showing an increase over the previous four years, in sales, of $250,636.82. The Western book agents, however, complain that their concern has been overtasked to pay the sum due the Methodist Episcopal Church South, under the settlement made with it, and that it has, therefore, been drained of its cash capital, and its operations thus materially crippled.

Public Amusements.

Mr. Waller will repeat, this evening, her performance of *Meg Merrilies*, in the play of "Guy Mannering." A crowded house, at Walnut-street Theatre, last night, gave a cordial greeting to this distinguished actress.

Mr. Dolman has his farewell benefit, at Arch-street Theatre, this evening. He is a gentleman of ability and character, in and out of his profession, and we are confident that the whole press of this city will heartily unite in our wish that he may this night receive a very substantial proof of the high estimation in which he is held. At the close of the present season Mr. Dolman enters into the practice of the law, and we hope that he may frequently appear in the "trial scene," in the courts, with equal credit and profit.

This evening, Mr. Hiram Corson will give at his residence, in Clinton street, a lecture on Fancy and Imagination, illustrated by various readings from the poets, which promises to be most interesting. Mr. Corson has made a profound study of elocution, and reads with that happy distinction which suits the drawing-room, yet has all the expression of the stage. The peculiar feature of these readings consists in their being select and private, with just space sufficient for sound, and with all the comforts and *recherche* of a private soiree. Hardbenches and half-filled halls are poor encouragements to literature.

A Card from John Morrissey.

To the Editor of the New York Times: I see by the newspapers, since I arrived from England, that there appears to be some ill-feeling expressed towards me in this country, for the part I took in the late fight between Sayers and Heenan. For the opinion entertained of me by the fighting fraternity, I care but little, but I do wish to have myself placed in a proper light before the public, and with that object in view I address you these lines.

In the first place, the part I took in the fight was purely a business one, not thinking for a moment that it would prove such a national affair. Heenan himself said it was no national affair; he did not consider it as such. In betting my money upon Sayers, and in going to England to witness the fight, I did no more than many others did, and why I should be singled out as a target against which public opinion should be directed, I cannot say. It is said I cut the ropes, and was the chief instigator of breaking up the fight. Now, as far as the cutting the ropes was concerned, they were not cut at all. The stakes were nearly pulled out of the ground, and the ropes thrown down. I defy any one who was present at the fight to say that I ever opened my lips to make any disturbance from the commencement to the end of the fight. In fact, I spoke to no one during the progress of the fight, but stood quietly by, and saw the whole affair without making any demonstration whatever.

In reference to the fight itself, and the cause which led to its breaking up, and the capabilities of the men, I prefer not to say anything until Mr. Heenan and his friends arrive home. I wish to give them an opportunity of replying to any statement I may hereafter make. I have seen it stated, in one of the newspapers, that Heenan had authorized McDonald to challenge me. Now, I know nothing of this challenge, except through this newspaper, and I have nothing to say in relation to it at present.

It was rumored that on my arrival in Boston I would be subjected to threats of violence by the friends of Mr. Heenan. I assure you there is no foundation for such a report. I passed through Boston as quietly as any other citizen, and arrived in this city on Friday evening. JOHN MORRISSEY.

LARGE SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, &c., today, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Exchange, comprising first-class city and country property, by order of Orphans' Court, executors, and others. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements and pamphlet catalogues.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, May 7.

The havoc among the Lecompontentes at Charleston was fearful to behold. Nothing like it has been witnessed since the invention of Conventions and of platforms. It was the gathering of the harvest which grew from the seeds planted by the President and the South. It was impossible that any other crop should result from such a sowing. The President, as the author of the troubles in the Democratic party, suffered most, as he deserved to suffer. He had come to believe himself infallible. Having conquered the organization, and scourged most of the party chieftains into approval of his pernicious policy, he believed that he could also succeed in Convention. His failure has been awfully complete. Not a vote was given for him. His name is not mentioned in any one of the several platforms. No voice was raised in his honor, or even to palliate his admitted offences upon Democracy and upon decency. All his Cabinet, with the exception of Mr. Toucey, who rescued some two votes from the general melee, and applied them to himself, were treated with equal indifference and contempt. It was signally otherwise with his immediate predecessor, Franklin Pierce. He was a formidable candidate for re-election, and, though hotly opposed and persistently misrepresented, he received a steady and a heavy support on every ballot. He had many warm and active friends, not merely among those who held place under him, and still cherish his name and his numerous noble qualities with affection, but among the most disinterested and distinguished Democrats in the country. Probably the worst part of the contrast is, that not one of the office-holders of Mr Buchanan raised a voice in his behalf. It is true they carried out his instructions in regard to the platform, and in resisting, with unexampled bitterness, the nomination of Judge Douglas, and by such means precipitated the catastrophe which made an adjournment necessary. But this was all they did. It was, however, his most especial revenge—his most graceful and grateful return for the nomination conferred upon him at Cincinnati—a nomination so generously acceded to by Douglas and Pierce, and so powerfully advocated by both—especially by the Senator from Illinois, who gave thousands of dollars to the election of Mr. Buchanan, and made the Northwest ring with his masterly appeals to the people to come forward in his support. When Illinois hung trembling in the scale, and when the hearts of the bravest quailed in the doubt created by the uncertainty of the issue, it was to Douglas that all eyes were turned, and he justified the confidence alike of the candidates and of the country. It was predicted, when James Buchanan was elected, that he would break up the Democratic party. The declaration was laughed at and disbelieved, but events have shown that it was no idle prophecy. If that party shall go down to the tomb, it will be James Buchanan who hurled it there.

In my letter of yesterday I spoke of Caleb Cushing's gross injustice in the chair. To-day I hear that nothing but his hasty adjournment of the Convention prevented the passage of a resolution of the severest censure of his conduct. His friends did not dare to procure for him the thanks of the Convention, as they knew the attempt would be indignantly and promptly rebuked.

What the Chicago Convention will do, is the next inquiry. That body will open its sessions on Wednesday, the 16th of May. Mr. Seward's friends confidently claim that he will be nominated, but others are equally confident of a different issue. It cannot be denied that he has many devoted, and resolute, and able supporters; that his backers are men of money as well as brains, and that he himself is exceedingly anxious to make the race. The best information leads me to believe that his most dangerous rivals are McLean and Wade, both of Ohio. The first is advocated on the ground that he has not been identified with late party divisions; that he occupies a high place in the affections of large masses of men North and South; that he is known for uprightness of character, and long experience in the public councils; that he has nerve of the highest quality, as exhibited in his difference with General Jackson; that while sufficiently anti-slavery, he has pronounced in favor of the constitutionality of the fugitive-slave law; and that he would, therefore, nationalize the Opposition, by rallying many Southern votes to his standard. His adversaries admit his ability, and concede his claims, but assert that he is too old for the Presidency, being now some seventy-five years of age. They dread another old man, they say, in that elevated and trying position. Benjamin Wade, it must be confessed, has some advantages over Justice McLean. He is younger, and more energetic and progressive. He is greatly beloved by all parties in the Northwest, and has a frank, fearless, and quaint way of saying what he thinks, that has made him quite a favorite in the Senate. Then we have Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chase, Mr. Bates, Mr. Banks, Mr. Read, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Dayton, Mr. Fessenden, and even John C. Frémont. But I am disposed to think, without the slightest feeling in the premises, that the Republican nomination for President will be taken from the three persons first named in the paragraph. A good deal will depend, however, upon the platform laid down at Chicago; and I perceive that there are many differences on this point.

The Baltimore Convention of Wednesday, which will no doubt put forward the first candidate for President, expects to conciliate Republican support by discovering a conservative nominee. Bates or Bell is the favorite with many delegates. Everett is urged by others, and John J. Crittenden is also advocated. John McLean will find a hearty influence exerted for him. As against these veterans but one argument is raised, viz: that they are all too far advanced in years. Everett, though not much discussed, is probably the most available, and he is unquestionably vigorous in intellect and in health. This Convention will have its own share of troubles. If it is violent on the slavery question, it can have no help from Chicago, and if it extravagantly bids for this help, it may lose in the South. That it can exert a wholesome influence on the two great parties is a self-evident proposition. Why not place Douglas in nomination at once, leaving the Democrats on the 18th of June the simple duty of ratifying the nomination? This would be a master-piece of strategy.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from Charleston.

[Correspondence of "The Press."]

CHARLESTON, May 3, 1860.

It became evident last night that the factious minority, which has been opposing the nomination of Judge Douglas since the opening of the Convention, could only be conquered in one way, and that was by an adjournment over, to afford the people an opportunity of expressing their opinion. Accordingly, this morning Mr. Ossena, of Pennsylvania, from the Douglas Executive Committee, presented to the Virginia delegation a resolution adopted by that committee, which Virginia accepted and presented to the Convention through her chairman, Mr. Russell, immediately on its assembling this morning. By the adoption of the resolution the Convention stands adjourned to meet at Baltimore on the 18th of June. There was an effort made to hold the Convention in Philadelphia, and your city would certainly have been the place selected had not the studied misrepresentations of John Roberts, Henry M. Phillips, Collector Baker, Postmaster Browne, and other of the Administration delegates from Philadelphia, induced the Northwestern delegations to believe that the popular feeling of the city was overwhelmingly against their favorite, the "Little Giant." Lewis C. Cassidy, Esq., and other of the Douglas men from Pennsylvania, corrected these misrepresentations whenever they heard them, but so deep had been these maligners of the true sentiments of your people that they succeeded in exciting the fears of the Douglas men, and in keeping out of your city, in June, thousands upon thousands of people, and an immense amount of business. The merchants, manufacturers, and trades-people of Philadelphia should cherish in grateful remembrance this *friendly* act of their Administration representatives in the Charleston Convention.

Judge Douglas had many friends in the seceding delegations who were governed by the majority of their delegations, and he had also many friends in the Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina delegations, whose votes he would have received at an early stage of the balloting had it not been for the withdrawal of so many Southern States. The effect of this secession upon the remaining States from the South was so great that they feared to yield lest their people at home should hold them responsible for surrendering the interests of their section. The Secessionists, who were constantly on the floor, notwithstanding their formal withdrawal, and the other enemies of Douglas in the Convention, played upon this fear, and assured them that if they would stand firm New York would desert Douglas and give the seceders an opportunity of returning, by offering to support any candidate who was presented by a united South. Fowler, Butterworth, and John Cochrane, of the New York delegation, and a number of Slidell's tools from Pennsylvania and other States, were constantly circulating through the Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina delegations, during Tuesday and Wednesday, giving these assurances. The Douglas men, although aware that this insidious game was being played against them, took no notice of it, but tried to harmonize and to reconcile the prejudices which had been excited in these delegations against the nomination of their candidate. Their only fault was that they pursued entirely too conciliatory a course, though, perhaps, under the circumstances, it was best, as they were really in an enemy's country and in the hands of their enemies, for even Virginia threatened that unless the resolution requiring two-thirds of the vote of all the electoral colleges (303 votes,) was adopted, she would withdraw. The introduction of this proposition, with the threat accompanying it, indicated that many of the Southern delegates who remained behind had only done so to defeat Douglas. In fact, they did not hesitate to declare that this was their object; and I heard myself more than one of them say that they would take any platform if they could only get any other man than him. I wish to call your attention to the manner in which this proposition was admitted. The decision of President Cushing, declaring it to be in order, was clearly in violation of every principle of parliamentary law and of right and justice. No one approved, but, on the contrary, every one condemned it. One of the most ultra of the anti-Douglas men from Virginia, who, I believe, represented his State in the Secession Convention at the same time that he voted in the regular Democratic Convention, declared that Caleb Cushing, in this decision, had shown himself a partisan and not an honorable presiding officer; but at the same time, added he, had the decision been any other than it was, my State, and every other Southern State, would have withdrawn. I give you a brief extract from the report of the *Mercury*, showing the spirit in which this resolution was presented, and the ridiculous sophistry with which Cushing attempted to bolster up his outrageous decision:

Mr. Howard desired to offer the following resolution, which question he considered a privileged question:

"*Resolved*, That the President of the Convention be, and he is hereby, directed not to declare any person nominated for President or Vice President unless he shall have received a number of votes equal to two-thirds of the votes of all the Electoral Colleges."

Mr. Russell, of Virginia, said that the decision which the chairman made on this question would decide whether Virginia would longer participate in the proceedings of this Convention.

Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

The question was then taken by States, with the following result: Yeas 11½, nays 141.

So the resolution was not laid on the table.

Mr. Stuart, of Michigan, contended that the resolution was not in order. The effect of it was to change the rules of this Convention, and it must, therefore, lie over for one day. He would read the rule of the Convention upon this subject:

"*Resolved*, That two-thirds of the whole number of votes given shall be necessary to a nomination of a candidate for President and Vice President by this Convention."

There was the rule, that two-thirds of the votes given shall be necessary.

Was there a gentleman here prepared to admit the doctrine that at any future Convention a minority of the votes, by merely refusing to vote, could break up their deliberations? The mere statement of the question itself was its own best answer. The language of the rule was—"two-thirds of the votes given." Given for what? Why, given for a candidate for President of the United States.

Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, would like his friend to state distinctly the question of order.

Mr. McClernand, of Illinois, inquired if there could be more than one question of order raised at a time.

The President. The gentleman himself was making the third question of order. [Laughter.]

Mr. Stuart would not detain the Convention further with the discussion of this question of order. He asked whether gentlemen were prepared to set a new precedent, which would in future times enable one-third of the gentlemen attending a National Convention to break it up by refusing to vote?

Mr. Phillips, of Pennsylvania, submitted the question of order that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Stuart) was too late in making his point. The resolutions of the gentleman from Tennessee had been introduced by unanimous consent, and was in the full possession of the Convention. He would submit that, according to all parliamentary rules, the gentleman from Michigan was too late in making his point of order.

The President. The gentleman from Michigan has raised the point of order that the motion of the gentleman from Tennessee will constitute a change of the rule of the Convention, as adopted at its present session, in accordance with the rule of the Convention of 1856. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Phillips) objects that it is too late to make this question of order. As the Chair entertains a different opinion upon the question, he desires to state that opinion. The resolution of the Convention of 1852 is in substance, as the gentleman from Michigan has stated it, that two-thirds of the whole number of votes given shall be necessary to a nomination of candidates for President and Vice President. Now, it is true that, in a rigorous construction of this order, it applies to a nomination of candidates for President and Vice President by this Convention.

The fact is, the Chair concurs with the gentleman from Michigan. The Chair is not prepared to determine what is the force of the words "votes given." A *prima facie* impression of the words might be "votes cast" in a ballot in the Convention, but the rule does not say so. It uses the abstract indefinite term "votes given." The gentleman from Michigan objects to that construction on the ground of alleged inconvenience, that of having the nomination of a Convention prevented by the secession of one-third of the States in that Convention. The Chair can see that the argument of inconvenience is insufficient to overrule a decision upon the other side. A Convention of this sort has no legal authority. Its sole authority is its moral authority as the representative of the opinion of the party whose members constitute its party. It seems to the Chair that the inconvenience of assuming that the nomination shall be made by vote of the Convention, although it may be that of two-thirds, constitutes a binding nomination upon the people of the United States, is a vastly greater inconvenience than that which would arise from the fact that a secession of one-third of the members would prevent a nomination. A nomination made by the Constitution is a constitutional necessity. It is a form of recommendation to the constituents of the Convention. That recommendation, in order that it should have moral authority with the persons to whom it was addressed, should be the act of two-thirds of the Democracy. [Applause.] The Chair, therefore, is not prepared to adopt the construction of the gentleman from Michigan of the rule of 1852, and, therefore, the Chair is of the opinion that the resolution of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Howard) does not constitute such a modification of the rule of the proceedings of the Convention as shall require it to lie over for one day.

Mr. Stuart. I trust it is not necessary for me to say that, in taking an appeal from the decision of the Chair, it is in consequence of no want of respect for the occupant of the Chair. [Laughter.] Let the construction given by the Chair to the words "votes given," as relating to the place where votes given can never receive the sanction of logic. Can this Convention give a vote anywhere else than here?

"Resolved that two-thirds of the votes given here" —— is not that supererogation? All are votes given here, and they can be given nowhere else. The rule, therefore, is plain and palpable. Two-thirds of the votes given. I could not allow a gentleman to remember that the nomination of a candidate for President and Vice President is the only question we can make before this body; that in its business, requires a two-thirds vote. Now, I say with the utmost respect for the presiding officer, that the construction of these words to the place where given can not bear the test of investigation, for we can give a vote nowhere else unless we adjourn somewhere else. It is of the utmost importance that this Convention should decide rightly. Let us meet every question upon the broad principles of fairness. I do not anticipate misuse our honor in doing a thing we do not believe to be right.

Is it not strange that the chivalrous South would consent to take advantage of such a decision, they themselves admitting it to be wilfully wrong? The fact is, I do not think there has been any generosity or chivalry, or even honor, displayed by the South, either in the Convention or in their treatment of visitors to this city, and if they really possess these virtues, and do not merely boast of them, they were most careful and particular not to waste any of them upon their Northern brother Democrats. Upon this decision of Cushing being sustained by the vote of New York, they were in great glee, claimed that it was the defeat of Douglas, and some of the secesh delegates even had the impudence to intimate that now, if their States were invited back, they would return. The invitation, however, was not extended. Cushing, denounced on the platform as a scoundrel who ought not to be believed on his oath, by a gentleman from New Orleans, took the first opportunity to leave the chair, where he sat uneasily under the indignant glances of every honest man in the Convention, and slunk off to Slidell's to find relief in his congratulations from the load of infamy which he seemed to feel he was laboring under. There is no doubt that had the Convention refused to sustain this decision, and had Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina thereupon withdrawn, that Douglas would have been nominated on the first ballot by receiving over two-thirds of the votes of those who remained in the Convention; but he would then have been only the candidate of a section, as Missouri would have been the only Southern State represented.

It was, therefore, deemed best by some of his friends to retain these States, and, in order to do so, New York voted to sustain the decision. This vote Fowler, Butterworth, Bigler, Slidell, & Co., at once published as the proclamation of an intention on the part of the New York delegation to desert Douglas. Had the Convention continued in session, and had Judge Douglas at any time received two-thirds of the votes cast, the sequel would have shown that New York was animated by a spirit of the purest friendship towards Judge Douglas when she cast this vote; for she would then have moved to reconsider the vote by which the decision was sustained—would have sided in overruling it, and would herself have presented the resolution declaring Judge Douglas the nominee of the Democratic party under the two-thirds rule. Let not the friends of Judge Douglas suspect the loyalty of the New York delegation. With Richmond and Cagger at their head they will be found voting their thirty-five votes at Baltimore as at Charleston on every ballot for Judge Douglas.

The friends of Douglas had a wily and unscrupulous opposition to cope with at Charleston. It is unnecessary for me to allude to the head schemer and plotter against him, for his character is well known in the country; but the number of Federal office-holders and corrupt lobby men who infest Washington, and who surrounded him on this occasion, were enough to excite the fears of every man who knew their peculiar modes of operating, that Douglas would be cheated out of the nomination by these unprincipled men if there was any way in which it could be done. I learn that when Slidell and Bright heard that the Convention had suddenly adjourned to Baltimore, they were taken entirely by surprise. Their scouts and spies had failed to obtain information of this intended movement on the part of the Douglas men, and the first intimation they had of it was the news of the adjournment. They regarded it as a complete check-mate to all their designs, and said there was no further use in trying to defeat Douglas, for his nomination was now certain. They felt that Baltimore was not Charleston, and that the misrepresentations, which Bigler and other Administration tools had been palming off upon the Southern delegations, as to the hostility of the Democracy of Pennsylvania to Douglas, would not pass current in the Monumental City, where the Democracy of the Keystone State can be on the ground in large numbers to speak for themselves.

And now, a word about Senator Bigler. In this city, he has been the most fiery of the fire-eaters. When the Southern States seceded he was as lively as small beer, and, in the excitement of the moment, called a meeting of the Pennsylvania delegation immediately upon the adjournment of the Convention. I happened in the Mills House shortly after the adjournment, and heard a number of our delegates ask Bigler why he had called such a meeting. With a nonplussed look, and shuffling his feet about as if he was really ashamed to tell the truth, he slowly hemmed and hawed out that he had called the delegation together to ascertain how they intended to cast their votes for President on the morrow; and, he added, nervously, "to take into consideration the exigencies of the case occasioned by the withdrawal of these Southern States."

"Well," said Dawson with a frankness for which I honor him, though almost everything he has done here deserves censure, "if you mean by that that you want to know whether the Pennsylvania delegation ought to withdraw or not, I, for one, say never." "And I," "And I," repeated several others of the delegates who stood around, and who before had been acting with Bigler. One of the Douglas men then asked the Senator whether he did not think he could just as easily ascertain how the delegates desired to vote on the Presidential question as he had on every other question as it arose in the Convention, there on the ground. He admitted that he could, and, after some further conversation, he waived the meeting. A caucus of part of the delegation was shortly afterwards held in Josiah Randall's room, in which no Douglas man was admitted. I did not learn what transpired there, further than that several of the Administration delegates, among others a Mr. Dent, of Potter county, advised a secession from the Convention of the majority of the Pennsylvania delegation. The amazing tosdyism of this creature Dent to the South is without parallel. In total disregard of the well-known wishes of those who sent him here, he has steadily voted for the most violent slave-code fire-eating motions, and actually broke the stock of his umbrella in pounding, as fulgeman on cheers, during the delivery of Yancey's disunion speech. It would be well for his people to look after him! Whatever the decision arrived at in this caucus may have been, one thing is certain, that Senator Bigler was busy directly after it among the Southern delegations which yet remained in the Convention, counseling and advising them to withdraw. He made the distinct proposition to E. B. Jones, a Tennessee delegate, that if the conservative Southern States would secede they would be joined by a majority of the Pennsylvania delegation; that such a movement would have a crushing effect upon the business interests of the city of Philadelphia and the State, depreciating property millions upon millions of dollars, and the result would be that they could carry Pennsylvania for the most ultra Southern man they might choose to nominate in their boiling Convention. Comment is unnecessary. It seems almost impossible that this can be the same William Bigler who, in 1855, when he was renominated for Governor of our State, was so free-soilish in his tendencies that he refused to allow a resolution endorsing the Kansas-Nebraska bill to be inserted in the platform of the Pennsylvania Democracy. Was he weak in the knees then, or is he weak in the knees now? Let "Occasional" answer.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

SPECIAL DESPATCHES to "THE PRESS."

WASHINGTON, May 7.

THE WESTERN EDITORIAN EXCURSIONISTS.

Our city is just now enlivened by the presence of some three hundred editors from the Western cities, accompanied by a brilliant company of ladies. They are a fine body of men, and I wish JOHN EDGAR THOMSON would ask them to Philadelphia, and let them see our great Applian Way, the Pennsylvania Central. They have now seen the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, whose guests they are. It is among the favorites of this region, and I would like them to look at Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Central. These make opinion, and they should be considered.

JUDGE BLACK FOR PRESIDENT.

Quite a movement was made in the Pennsylvania delegation to put up Judge BLACK for President, but there were so many candidates for Vice President that it failed. Mr BIGLER, Mr. DAWSON, Mr. BRODHEAD, and Mr. RANDALL, were respectively suggested. Mr. BAKER, your amiable and peaceable collector, wanted BLACK, but BIGLER resisted it on various grounds, and the bottom fell through. It is thought that if BLACK's name had been presented it would have carried the Convention with a hurrah.

THE TARIFF IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. SHERMAN, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, has concluded a searching speech in favor of MORRILL's tariff bill. He was followed by Major SCHWARTZ, of the Berks district, whose frank, plain way of speaking is greatly admired. Some of his points were exceedingly well taken. He spoke clearly and boldly, and, though in poor health, showed his vigor and his sincerity in all he said.

VOTE ON THE NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE BILL.

On Wednesday next it is expected that a vote will be taken on the bill to establish a national printing office. This is a great and a meritorious measure.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

As I predicted, the political jugglers are already at work to carry the secession heresy into our good old State. The State Central Committee is called, I see, for the 10th of May, at the Merchants' Hotel. What game is afoot now? Is it proposed to legalize Disunion? To denounce Douglas, the idol of the people? What is to be done?

[DESPATCHES TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

ADDRESS TO THE SECEDERS, URGING THEIR RETURN—DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL UNION CONVENTION, &c.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—An address to the seceders from the Charleston Convention, showing the urgent necessity for their return to the National Democratic Convention at the adjourned meeting in June, was in circulation to-day, for the signatures of members of Congress. The movement is intended to forestall the meeting of Conventions in the seceding States to supply the vacancies occasioned by the withdrawal of the delegates.

The number of delegates passing through Washington, on the way to Baltimore to attend the Constitutional Union Convention, is larger than was anticipated. All the States will be represented except the Pacific coast.

It is supposed that not more than about twenty of the Republican members of Congress will attend the Chicago Convention.

The Washington navy yard is being put in better condition than it has been for years past, and extensive arrangements are there being made for the reception of the Japanese Embassy.

The Prince of Wales' Visit to America.

THE PRINCE TO SAIL IN JULY.

NEW YORK, May 7.—From private information we learn that the Prince of Wales will sail from England about the middle of July, with an escort of five or six steamships. He will land first at St Johns, in Newfoundland, which Government has made arrangements to give him a public reception, and sail from thence to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where the English North American fleet, under Admiral Milne, has been ordered to rendezvous, to receive him. After a short stay there,