PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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PITTSBURGH.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1851.

To the Whigs of Pennsylvania.

A STATE CONVENTION will be held in the City of Harrisburg, on TUESDAY, June 24th, 1851, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the offices of Governor and Canal Commissioner, and also for Judges of the Supreme Court.

HENRY M. FULLER, Chairman.

Joseph R. Flanegan,	Samuel McManamy,
F. Rhey Horton,	C. Thompson Jones,
Wm. H. Hingham,	Samuel B. Thomas,
Samuel Bell,	John S. Brown,
Nathaniel Blimaker,	T. Taylor Worth,
Wm. J. Robinson,	Alexander F. Brown,
Meredith R. Preston,	Wm. Baker,
Thomas E. Cochran,	Wm. M. Watts,
Henry Johnson,	James Clark,
Charles H. Bordman,	Sherman D. Phelps,
George Cross,	Edwin C. Wilson,
D. A. Finney,	John Allison,
C. O. Loomis,	Daniel McCurdy,
John Bausman,	George Meason,
Wm. Evans,	Alex'r M. McClure,
John C. Neville,	Francis Jordan.

R. RUNDLE SMITH, Secretary.

On our first page will be found an interesting letter from our Washington correspondent; Also letters from Harrisburg and New York, Commercial news, &c., &c.

For Home Matters and Telegraphic News, see third page.

For Miscellaneous articles, Poetry, &c., see fourth page

OHIO AND PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The work of laying the track of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad from Pittsburgh to Massillon, a distance of 107 miles, has just been allotted, by the Board of Directors, to Bailey, Hayden, & Co., of Boston. The contractors are able and energetic men who have had much experience in laying railroads in New England The competition among the bidders was great, and the work is let at rates highly favorable to the company. If there should be no delay in the delivery of the materials, the track is to be laid from Allegheny city to New Brighton by the first of July; to Alliance, at the intersection with the Cleveland Railroad, on the first of October; and to Massillon by the first of November of this year.

As soon as the road is ready to New Brighton a large amount of travel will come upon it; and its completion to Alliance, a distance of eighty-one miles, will accomplish a continuous connection by railroads of a uniform gauge, between Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati. The delivery of the iron is progressing rapidly, and we may confidently expect the accomplishment of this important connection in October next.

INSTRUCTIVE FACTS.

Every observant and intelligent man in the South is satisfied that the institution of domestic servitude, as it exists among us, is the best possible condition in which the African race can be placed. To test the truth of this opinion, Bishop Capers, of South Carolina, a liberal and Christian gentleman, the owner of a large plantation and one hundred negroes, determined to place them in a position of virtual freedom, with every opportunity for prosperous and successful management. He gave up to their use, for three years, the plantation and all that was upon it, horses, cattle, farming utensils, and all; telling them that, if they succeeded well, at the end of that time they should have their freedom and all they had made.

When the time had expired, he found that they had made nothing; that the stock was all killed for their use, that all the farming implements were destroyed; that the horses had died and were not replaced; that there was no corn in the corn-houses or cotton at the gin; and that they were on the point of starvation. He became satisfied that they were incapable of shifting for themselves, and very wisely took them once more under his own charge.—*Mobile Register.*

The above is going the rounds of the Southern papers as an irrefragable argument in favor of the doctrine that the negro cannot take care of himself, and that consequently the state of slavery is the best one for him. The test to which Bishop Capers subjected his slaves was wholly unfair for the purpose intended, although the reverend gentleman, no doubt, thought differently. Subject the same number of white persons under precisely the same circumstances to the same test, and they would fail. It was a test of trial of the community system under the most adverse circumstances, and if that system will not answer under favorable circumstances, it could not be expected to succeed under those of a disadvantageous character.

It is a foul wrong to the colored race to say that it cannot take care of itself. Every person in the Northern States, and in the Southern States too, knows better. Colored persons do take care of themselves, support their families, and some of them acquire property under circumstances which would deter a white man from the undertaking. Our Southern brethren must find a better argument than this to satisfy their consciences that it is right to hold human beings in a state of bondage.

THE RAPPING SPIRITS VINDICATED.—Our readers have already been informed, that the "rapping" or "knocking" spirits have been coaxed into "manifesting" themselves to some of our citizens who have been converted by the Rochester miracles. Some of the daily papers have commented rather freely upon the "manifestations," and, as a check upon such levity, a card is published in the Daily Dispatch, signed by three of the leading believers (Messrs. Courtney, M'Donald, and Townsend) in which the spirits are stoutly defended, and the sneers of the press repelled. These gentlemen are well known in this city and neighborhood, are highly respectable, and have enjoyed all the usual advantages of education. They have, therefore, just claims to a hearing. Here is their enumeration of facts:

These spiritual manifestations take place daily and hourly in the house of one of us (Mr. Courtney's) and wherever else the person may be, whose electric and magnetic sphere furnish the proper media. They have continued without intercession, and increasing in interest and power, for now upwards of five weeks. They come when sitting around the table, at breakfast, dinner and supper,—engage in the conversation, by rapping to such of it as they approve,—and on such occasions, if we doubt who it is, they spell out their names, and short sentences, explanatory of their presence. When they have any thing of importance to say, they convene us around the table or fire place, call for the alphabet, and spell it out. In this way, we every day receive messages from our friends in the other world. The identity of the communicating agencies has been fixed by hundreds of tests and test questions, audible or mental, and unexpected and striking circumstances and incidents. *Spirits, who were never heard of by the mediums,' come to tell us things known to themselves and us alone.* These noises are made on the table, floor, walls, doors, mantle, &c. When made in one room, they are loud enough to be heard all through the house—causing the floor, tables, &c., to jar and vibrate. It matters not whether the mediums are sitting, standing or lying, the room is dark or light, or whether it is night or day. It matters not whether the mediums are in the magnetic trance, or their normal state—nor does it matter whether there are sceptics present or not.

In all these facts, (and more still, and more astounding, which we might name) we know we are not deceived. With us they are past all controversy; no physical fact in the experience of common life is better authenticated. No cracking of the "joint" or "great toe," or rapping with a "frozen rat tail" or "spoon handles," will explain them away; no hypothesis yet invented to explain these mysteries, is half so rational and consistent as the supposition of spiritual agency. We know that neither the will nor the knowledge of the mediums have any thing to do with making these sounds.

These gentlemen are very severe in their reply to the newspapers, and denounce the reports as libellous. We think it a question whether the protection of the law of libel could be extended to the knocking spirits. We are told, moreover, that any ridicule that may, in future, be cast upon the manifestations, will be utterly disregarded. This closes all controversy, and gives proof that these believers are in earnest, and will continue their researches among the secrets of the spirit world.

It may be very true, that there is no cracking of the "knee joint" connected with these rappings, but the Rochester Rappers have not cleared themselves of the accusation brought against them. Although the account of their Waterloo defeat was published by one of the Buffalo physicians, in the New York Tribune, and copied by newspapers throughout the country, we have looked in vain for any special denial. If the great source of all the knockings has been knocked into silence by the three Buffalo doctors, is there not every reason to believe that all the minor manifestations will meet with the same fate. We *knock* for a reply.

The census returns disclose the mortifying fact, that there are in Virginia nearly eighty thousand white persons over 21 years of age who cannot read or write.

GREAT SNOW STORM IN THE EAST.—On Monday night last, a heavy snow fell in the eastern cities. In Philadelphia it was about ten inches deep, and its great weight caused the destruction of the Spring Garden Presbyterian church, (Rev. John McDowell, Pastor,) corner of Eleventh and Wistar streets, which fell with an awful crash. The residents of the neighborhood, suddenly aroused from their slumbers by the report, were thrown into a state of the greatest alarm. The weight of the snow caused the rafters to break in the centre, when the roof tumbled inwards. The side walls were forced outwards, and the whole mass of the upper timbers, girders, &c., lodged upon the pews in the main body of the church. The pillars and ornamental portion of the front of the church are standing. The greater part of the back wall is likewise remaining. The whole centre of the edifice is crushed to the basement story, which is but slightly damaged. Only a small portion of the ceiling of the lecture room gave way.

From the Washington Republic.

THE PRESIDENCY.

We observe, in the leading Democratic journals, a suggestion of the importance of withholding expressions in favor of named candidates for the Presidency, by the public press, or in public resolutions, until the meeting of the National Democratic Convention. These expressions, they argue with much reason, are too often uttered by men who, from selfish motives, desire to acquire prominence as the early friends of the candidate, regardless of the obstacles which are thus thrown in the way of party success, and of the jealousies and factious divisions which they excite in the ranks of a triumphant cause. It is well sometimes to learn from the tuition of our adversaries; and the suggestion to which we refer naturally leads us to reflections as applicable to the Whigs as to the Opposition.

"Early in 1839 a discussion had arisen in the Whig journals, as to the relative merits of three gentlemen who had been named by their friends as candidates for the Presidency. Into that discussion the Boston *Atlas* entered with some zeal, until it was satisfied that the distraction it was exciting among our friends was likely to be fatal to the Whig cause. Thus persuaded, the *Atlas* receded from its position, proposed to terminate the contention, and suggested to its Whig friends everywhere the propriety of pursuing a similar course. "Let us postpone the discussion," said that leading and influential journal, "wait the decision of the National Convention, and sustain the nomination when made with whatever of zeal or ability we can bring to its aid. Discussion leads almost necessarily to retort and invective: and thus the wretched spectacle is presented of a great party suffering itself to be agitated and torn by intestine strifes, in stead of directing its undivided and unbroken strength against the common enemy. So soon as the fact becomes that we are united, and that we again divided, his hands will be paralysed, and can go forth conquering and to conquer.

To this suggestion the Whig press in all quarters responded with patriotic alacrity. "We cordially respond," said the New York *Courier and Enquirer*, "to the sentiments less reflectingly and patriotically expressed. They fully accord with our views, we have uniformly taken of the subject, and will meet with universal favor in all ranks of the party. We have, ourselves, scrupulously abstained from the agitation of this exciting question, in the full conviction that every Whig press should hold itself in a position to render its most efficient support to the nominee of the Whig convention—whether that nominee should be Mr. Webster, Mr. Clay or Gen. Harrison. We are persuaded that the friends of each of the candidates, however urgently they may have desired a diff erent course, will be ultimately convinced that we have maintained the position of all others best calculated to advance the interests of the great cause."

The policy here recommended was acquiesced in by the Whig party, and the result of the impending Presidential election demonstrated its wisdom, in the triumphant success of General Harrison.

In our judgment these sentiments are as wise and as applicable now as they were in 1839. It has been, therefore, with regret, that we have observed the premature introduction of the Presidential question into the newspapers. Our fear is that the journals run up their respective flags with the proviso that they hold their preferences in subordination to the decision of a National Convention—but even this saving clause cannot obviate the just objections to the expressions of any preferences at this time. They are unpopular. They disturb the unity of sentiment and action which is the strength of a party and of a cause. They engender rivalry and contention, stimulate and keep alive factions, and tend to prevent that ultimate heartiness and cordiality of cooperation which are the only guarantees of success. They embarrass Whig administration. They interfere with the legislation of Congress, and are fatal to measures of the greatest interest and importance to the country.

We think that with the exercise of ordinary prudence and patriotism, the Whigs will be able to elect the candidate of their convention; but we think, also, any attempt to forestall opinion and create antecedent combinations will be fatal to the nominee and the Whig party. The Administration is strong in the confidence of the country. It is strong in the Whig policy which it has frankly proclaimed, and to which it has unflinchingly adhered. It is strong in the prudence, tranquility, dignity and impartial justice with which it has executed the laws in all sections of the Republic. It is strong in the wise liberality of its foreign policy, conciliating the sympathizing millions who have found a home in our land. It is strong in the divisions of the Opposition, and in that fanaticism of antagonist factions which drives good men everywhere to combine in the cause of the Constitution and the Union. This strength is not the strength of the President, or of any member of the Administration: it is the strength of the great Whig leaders, who have cordially adopted and generously sustained the policy which they have indicated in their State papers and official acts: it is the strength of the great Whig party, to whose service their lives have been devoted, and whose measures and policy they believe to be approved and cherished by a large majority of the American people.

Such being our view of the position and prospects of the Whig Administration and the Whig party, we cannot but regard it as the policy of good Whigs in all quarters to keep the party so united that it may be prepared to advance in an unbroken phalanx in the cause of the nominee of the Whig National Convention. This can only be accomplished by keeping personal preferences and prejudices in subordination to the great Whig cause. It can only be accomplished by substituting, to some extent, for the untrammelled, partisan, roving warfare which the Whigs have been accustomed to in opposition, the stern, steady, and organized movement which can alone insure the successful issue of a battle of Opinion. We no not, of course, claim exemption for a Whig Administration an unreflecting submissiveness; but we have a right, as Whigs, to claim for it from Whigs, such a generous and confiding acquiescence in its policy as will unite the party upon a common platform, and secure such reasonable concurrence as is indispensable to political success. There cannot be a party with an hundred heads. The Whigs cannot receive their direction from local cabals, and hope to triumph in a sational conflict. "It is only by keeping my force *entire*," wrote Napoleon to the directory that would divide this army, "that I have been able to gain so many battles and to be now in Milan. You had better have one bad general than two good ones."

For our own part, we have no wish but for Whig success. We have no desire, directly or indirectly, to espouse the cause or to promote or discourage the views or aspirations of any candidate. We have no personal predilections or prejudices that we are not ready to sacrifice to the expressed will of a majority of the Whig party. We desire only to remain in a position, in common with our Whig brethren throughout the country, from which we shall be best able to work together to promote the advancement of that Presidential candidate whom the Whig party may select in National Convention. And we think that this end may be most surely attained by the practice of a little abstinence and self denial in discussing the claims and merits of individuals. We can insure success only by postponing the Candidates to the Cause.

THE NEW SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND.—The position of Gen. JAMES, the Senator elect from Rhode Island, who was nominated by the Democrats, but was elected by Whig votes, is no longer doubtful, if any faith is to be placed in verbal declarations and written pledges. Mr. BENJAMIN FINCH, one of the Whig members of the Legislature who voted for him, states in a letter to the Providence Journal, that while the question of electing a United States Senator was pending, Gen. JAMES addressed the following note the Hon. William Sprague, the substance of which was communicated to Mr. Finch and others, before voting for him, and on the strength of which they voted for him:

"Hon Wm. Sprague:—

"Dear Sir: In reply to your inquiries, permit me to say I am in favor of the leading Whig measures, and particularly that of a tariff that shall afford ample protection to the manufacturing interests and labor of the country, and, if elected to the office of United States Senator, I will cordially use my efforts to sustain them.

Respectfully and truly yours,

"Charles T. James."

"Providence, Jan. 30, 1851."

Mr. Finch further states that "in an interview with Gen. James on Monday, the 10th instant, he fully confirmed the declaration made in the letter, and gave me the most positive assurances that he was a Whig, and that he should act with the Whig party in the Senate of the United States." This would seem to settle the question as to the political position of Gen. James.

BY AUTHORITY.

PUBLIC ACTS.

Passed during the second session of the Thirty-first Congress.

[PUBLIC—No. 3.]

A RESOLUTION for the relief of Louis Kossuth and his associates, exiles from Hungary.

Whereas, the people of the United States sincerely sympathize with the Hungarian exiles, Kossuth and his associates, and fully appreciate the magnanimous conduct of the Turkish government in receiving and treating those noble exiles with kindness and hospitality; and whereas, if it be the wish of the exiles to emigrate to the United States, and the will of the Sultan to permit them to leave his dominions: Therefore—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be and he hereby is, requested to authorize the employment of some one of the public vessels which may be now cruising in the Mediterranean to receive and convey to the United States the said Louis Kossuth and his associates in captivity.

Approved, March 3, 1851

[PUBLIC—No. 27.]

AN ACT to authorize the Secretary of War to allow the payment of interest to the State of Georgia for advances made for the use of the United States in the suppression of the hostilities of the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Indians, in the year 1836, 1837, and 1838.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to allow to the State of Georgia for advances made to the United States for the suppression of the hostilities of the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Indians in the years eighteen hundred and thirty-five, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, and eighteen hundred and thirty-eight, interest at the rate of six per cent per annum upon all sums allowed and paid to the State of Georgia, or that may hereafter be allowed and paid for any moneys advanced by the State for the purpose aforesaid, from the date of such advances until the principal sum or sums were or may be paid by the United States: *Provided*, That no interest shall be paid on any sum on which the said State of Georgia did not either pay or lose interest.

Approved March 3, 1851.

[PUBLIC—No. 28.]

AN ACT authorizing the payment of interest upon advances made by the State of Maine for the use of the United States Government, in the protection of the northeastern frontier.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, the proper accounting officers of the Treasury be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to liquidate and settle the claim of the State of Maine against the United States for interest upon money borrowed and actually expended by her for the protection of the northeastern frontier of said State during the years eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, eighteen hundred and forty, and eighteen hundred and forty-one; and the sum so found to be due to said State shall be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That in ascertaining the amount of interest as aforesaid due to the State of Maine, the following rules shall govern: First, That interest shall not be computed on any sum which Maine has not expended for the use and benefit of the United States, as evidenced by the amount refunded or required to be the State of Maine by the United States. Second. That no interest shall be paid on any sum on which the said State of Maine did not either pay or lose interest as aforesaid.

Approved, March 3, 1851.

[PUBLIC—No. 29.]

AN ACT to ascertain and settle the private land claims in the State of California.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of ascertaining and settling private land claims in the State of California a commission shall be, and is hereby constituted, which shall consist of three commissioners, to be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, which commission shall continue for three years from the date of this act, unless sooner discontinued by the President of the United States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That a secretary, skilled in the Spanish and English languages shall be appointed by the said commissioners, whose duty it shall be to act as interpreter, and to keep a record of the proceedings of the board in a bound book, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Interior on the termination of the commission.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That such clerks, not to exceed five in number, as may be necessary, shall be appointed by the said commissioners.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to appoint an agent learned in the law, and skilled in the Spanish and English languages, whose special duty it shall be to superintend the interests of the United States in the premises, to continue him in such an agency as long as the public interest may, in the judgment of the President, require his continuance, and to allow him such compensation as the President shall deem reasonable. It shall be the duty of the said agent to attend the meetings of the board, to collect testimony in behalf of the United States, and to attend on all occasions when the claimant in any case before the board shall take depositions; and no deposition taken by, or in behalf of, any such claimant, shall be received in evidence in any case, whether before the Commissioners or before the District or Supreme Court of the United States, unless notice of the time and place of taking the same shall have been given in writing to said agent, or to the district attorney of the proper district, so long before the time fixed for the deposition as to enable him to be present at the time and place of taking the same; and like notice shall be given of the time and place of taking any deposition on the part of the United States.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall hold their sessions at such times and places as the President of the United States shall direct, of which they shall give due and public notice, and the marshal of the district in which the board is sitting shall appoint a deputy, whose duty it shall be to attend upon the said board, and who shall receive the same compensation as is allowed to the marshal for his attendance upon the district court.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Commissioners, when sitting as a board, and each commissioner at his chambers, shall be, and are hereby, authorized to administer oaths, and to examine witnesses, in any case pending before the commissioners; that all the testimony shall be taken in writing, and shall be recorded and preserved in bound books to be provided for that purpose.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the secretary of the board shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and required, on the application of the law agent, or district attorney of the United States, or of any claimant or his counsel, to issue orders of subpœna, demanding the attendance of a witness or witnesses before the said board, or any commissioner.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That, each and every person claiming lands in California, by virtue of any right or title derived from the Spanish or Mexican government, shall present the same to the said commissioners when sitting as a board, together with such documentary evidence and testimony of witnesses as the said claimant relies upon in support of such claim, and it shall be the duty of the commissioners, when the case is ready for hearing, to proceed promptly to examine the same upon such evidence, and upon the evidence produced in behalf of the United States, and to decide upon the validity of the said claim, and, within thirty days after such decision is rendered, to certify the same, with the reasons on which it is founded, to the district attorney of the United States in and for the district in which such decision shall be rendered.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all cases of the rejection or confirmation of any claim by the Board of Commissioners, it shall and may be lawful for the claimant or the district attorney, in behalf of the United States, to present a petition to the district court of the district in which the land is situated, praying the said court to review the decision of the said commissioners and to decide on the validity of such claim; and such petition, if presented by the claimant, shall set forth fully the nature of the claim, and the names of the original and present claimants, and shall contain a designment of the claimant's title, with a transcript of the report of the Board of Commissioners, and of the documentary evidence and testimony of the witnesses on which it was founded; and such petition, if presented by the district attorney in behalf of the United States, shall be accompanied by a transcript of the report of the Board of Commissioners, and of the papers and evidence on which it was founded, and shall fully and distinctly set forth the grounds on which the said claim is alleged to be invalid; a copy of which petition, if the same shall be presented by a claimant, shall be served on the district attorney of the United States; and, if presented in behalf of the United States, shall be served on claimant or his attorney, and the party upon whom such service shall be made shall be bound to answer the same within a time to be prescribed by the judge of the district court; and the answer of the claimant to such petition shall set forth fully the nature of the claim, and the names of the original and present claimants, and shall contain a designment of the claimant's title; and the answer of the district attorney in behalf of the United States shall fully and distinctly set forth the grounds on which the said claim is alleged to be invalid, copies of which answer shall be served upon the adverse party thirty days before the meeting of the court; and thereupon, at the first term of the court thereafter, the said case shall stand for trial, unless on cause shown the same shall be continued by the court.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the district court shall proceed to render judgment upon the pleadings and evidence in the case, and upon such further evidence as may be taken by order of the said court, and shall, on application of the party against whom judgment is rendered, grant an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States on such security for costs in the district and Supreme Court, in case that judgment of the district court be affirmed, as the said court shall prescribe: And if the court be satisfied that the party desiring to appeal is unable to give such security, the appeal may be allowed without security.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioners herein provided for, and the district and Supreme Courts, in deciding on the validity of any claim brought before them, under the provisions of this act, shall be governed by the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo, the law of nations, the laws, usages and customs of the government from which the claim is derived, the principles of equity, and the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, so far as they are applicable.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That, to entitle either party to a review of the proceedings and decisions of the commissioners hereinbefore provided for, notice of the intention of such party to file a petition to the district court shall be entered on the journal or record of proceedings of the commissioners within sixty days after their decision on the claim has been made and notified to the parties; and such petition shall be filed in the district court within six months after such decision has been rendered.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That all lands, the claims to which have been finally rejected by the commissioners in manner herein provided, or which shall be finally decided to be invalid by the District or Supreme Court, and all lands, the claims to which shall not have been presented to the said commissioners within two years after the date of this act, shall be deemed, held, and considered as part of the public domain of the United States; and for all claims finally confirmed by the said commissioners, or by the said District or Supreme Court, a patent shall issue to the claimant, on his presenting to the General Land Office an authentic certificate of such confirmation, and a plat or survey of the said land, duly certified and approved by the Surveyor General of California, whose duty it shall be to cause all private claims which shall be finally confirmed to be accurately surveyed, and to furnish plats of the same; and in the location of the said claims, the said surveyor or general shall have the same power and authority as are conferred on the register of the land office and receiver of the public moneys of Louisiana, by the sixth section of the act "to create the office of surveyor of the public lands in the State of Louisiana," approved third March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one: *Provided always*, That if the title of the claimant to such lands shall be contested by any other person, it shall be meeting upon the for such person to present a petition to the District Judge of the United States for the district in which the lands are situated, plainly and distinctly setting forth his title thereto, and praying the said judge to hear and determine the same; a copy of which petition shall be served upon the adverse party thirty days before the time appointed for hearing the same: *Provided, further*, That it shall and may be lawful for the District Judge of the United States, upon the hearing of such petition, to grant an injunction to restrain the party at whose instance the claim to the said lands has been confirmed, from suing out a patent for the same, until the title thereto shall have been finally decided; a copy of which order shall be transmitted to the commissioner of the General Land Office, and thereupon no patent shall issue until such decision shall be made, or until sufficient time shall, in the opinion of said judge, have been allowed for obtaining the same; and thereafter the said injunction shall be dissolved.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this act shall not extend to any town lot, farm lot, or pasture lot, held under a grant from any incorporation or town in California, or may have been granted, for the establishment of a town, by the Spanish or Mexican Government, or the lawful authorities thereof, nor to any city, or town, or village lot, which city, town, or village existed on the seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and forty-six; but the claim for the same shall be presented by the corporate authorities of the said town, or where the land on which the said city, town, or village was originally granted, to an individual, and the fact of the existence of the said city, town or village, on the said seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and forty-six, being duly proved, shall be prima facie evidence of a grant to such corporation, or to the individual under whom the lot holders claim. And where any city, town or village shall be in existence at the time of passing this act, the claim for the land embraced within the limits of the same may be made by the corporate authority of the said city, town, or village.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the final decrees rendered by the said commissioners, or by the district or Supreme Court of the United States, or any patent to be issued under this act, shall be conclusive between the United States and the said claimants only, and shall not affect the interests of other persons.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners herein provided for, to ascertain and report to the Secretary of the Interior the tenure by which the mission lands are held, and those held by the Indian tribes, and those who are engaged in agriculture, or any other kind of business, and also those which are occupied and cultivated by pueblos or rancheros Indians.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That each commissioner appointed under this act shall be allowed and paid at the rate of six thousand dollars per annum; that the secretary of the commissioners shall be allowed and paid at the rate of four thousand dollars per annum; and the clerk herein provided for shall be allowed and paid at the rate of one thousand five hundred dollars per annum. The aforesaid salaries to commence from the day of the notification by the commissioners of the first meeting of the board.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the secretary of the board shall receive no fee except for furnishing certified copies of any paper or record and for issuing writs of subpœna. For furnishing certified copies of any paper or record, he shall receive twenty cents for every hundred words, and for issuing writs of subpœna, fifty cents for each witness; which fees shall be equally divided between the said secretary and the assistant clerk.

Approved, March 3, 1851

The St Louis papers announce the death of Captain Thomas H. Shreve, who, during the administrations of Adams, Jackson and Van Buren, filled the important post of U. S. Superintendent of Western river improvements, and by the steam snagboat, of which he was the inventor, contributed largely to the safety of Western commerce. Whilst the British were threatening hostilities in 1814-'15, he was employed by Gen. Jackson in several hazardous enterprises, and during the battle of the 8th of January, served one of the field pieces which destroyed the advancing column led by Gen. Keane.

HARD TIMES FOR REPORTERS.—It is said that the last day's debate and proceedings of the Senate, will make seventy columns of printed matter in the Union and Intelligencer, equal to $1,500 for the cost of publishing this one day's proceedings of twenty-five hours, in two newspapers.

FIRES.—Last night two wooden buildings on Ontario Street, nearly opposite the Homœopathic College were burned. One of them was owned, and one of them occupied by Mr. Frank; and were insured for $900. The other was occupied by W. & E. Rose, as a Grocery Store. Their loss is about $500—Insurance $200.—*Cleve. Herald of Monday.*

INDIAN WAR IN TEXAS.—The Austin State Gazette says it is rumored that Gen. Brooke is making arrangements at an early day to set in motion a strong expedition against the Indians, whose continued annoyances and outrages render it necessary to adopt some such decisive measures, or abandon the frontier to their mercy. It is contemplated to place the expedition under the command of Gen. Harney, who had left for San Antonio to confer with the commanding general on the subject.

A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS ARRESTED FOR MURDER.—Gen. William Dullum, who was, on the 10th inst., nominated for Congress by the Whigs of the Nashville district, in Tennessee, and a few days previous shot Thomas Davidson, has been arrested and held to bail in the sum of $20,000, with two securities, each of $10,000. Callum claims to have acted on the defensive; and Davidson had just been released from the penitentiary for having shot Gen. C. some years ago.

Foreign and American Hardware.

LOGAN, WILSON & CO.,

No. 129 Wood Street,

HAVE NOW IN STORE

A full and complete stock of *FOREIGN AND AMERICAN*

HARDWARE,

to which they invite the attention of purchasers at prices that will compare favorably with any of the eastern cities.

Market Street Store for Rent.

FOR RENT.—The Store, 118 Market street, the second door from the corner of Market and Liberty streets. Possession given the 1st of April next. Inquire of DAVID GREER, 106 Penn st. mch12

DR. MCLANE'S LIVER PILLS IN NEW YORK.—The rapidity with which this invaluable medicine has become known and appreciated, can only be accounted for on the ground of its real value. It has only required one trial to establish its claims to the title of the only medicine for the cure of Liver Complaint. The following letter, from a Druggist in New York, shows the manner in which these Pills are regarded in that section of the country:

HEMLOCK LAKE, Livingston co., N. Y., March 5th, 1851.

Dr. McLane—Dear Sir, I have sold out all your Liver Pills, and am anxious to have another lot immediately. I could have sold a much larger quantity, if I had been provided with them. The inhabitants are sending to Rochester for them, but whether there are any there or not, I do not know. Please send me another supply immediately.

F. SHORT, Druggist.

For sale by J. KIDD & CO.,

mch20-3dawlw&w No. 60 Wood st.

Attention!

PUBLIC ATTENTION is most respectfully invited to the plain, unvarnished statement of John Watt, who was cured of an *old Cough* by the use of the PETROLEUM:

"This may certify that I have been cured of an old Chronic Cough, by the use of Dr. Bartlett's Petroleum. The cough attacked me a year ago last December, and I had lost all hopes of getting well, as I had taken the advice of several physicians without any benefit. I was benefited almost instantly by the Petroleum. *I coughed up, during the use of the Petroleum, a hard substance resembling tone.*—I make these statements without any solicitation from any one to do so, and solely for the purpose that others who may be suffering may be benefited. You are at liberty to publish this certificate. I am an old citizen of Pittsburgh, having resided here thirty-three years. My residence, at this time, is on Second street.

JOHN WATT.

PITTSBURGH, February 24, 1851."

For sale by Kepler & McDowell, 140 Wood street; R. E. Sellers, 57 Wood street; R. A. Fahnestock, & Co, corner Wood and Front streets; D. M. Curry, D. A. Elliott, Joseph Dougherty, and H. P. Schwartz, Allegheny, also by the proprietor.

Canal Basin, Seventh st., Pittsburgh.

Domestic and Foreign Exchange, Bank Notes, Gold & Silver, Bought, Sold & Exchanged

AT THE

EXCHANGE AND BANKING HOUSE

OF

WM. A. HILL & CO,

No. 64 Wood Street, Pittsburgh.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON TIME DEPOSITS. jan16d

Citizen's Insurance Company of Pittsburgh

ENCOURAGE HOME INSTITUTIONS.

Office No. 41 Water street, in the warehouse of C. H. GIRANT.

C. H. HUSTEY, President.....A. W. MARKS, Sec'y.

This Company is now prepared to insure all merchandise in store, and in transitu, vessels, &c.

The ample guaranty for the ability and integrity of the Institution, is founded on the character of the Directors, who are all citizens of Pittsburgh, well and favorably known to the community for their prudence, intelligence, and integrity.

DIRECTORS—C. O. Hussey, Wm. Bawsley, Wm. Larimer, jr., Walter Bryant, Hugh R. King, Edward Heazelton, Isaac Heazelton, S. Harbaugh, S. M. Kier. ap30d1f

WANTED—A Situation as Book-keeper or Clerk in a mercantile or manufacturing house. Unexceptionable city references given. A line addressed to G. K., care of McGilla & Rice, will receive attention. mch22tf

Young Men's Temperance Association.

THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING for this month, will be held in the Second Associate Reformed Church, corner of Smithfield street and Strawberry alley. C. F. EVANS, Esq., will address the meeting upon the existing Liquor Laws—the power of the Court upon them—and the manner of its execution.

Mr. A. B. ELLIOTT, of New York, a gentleman of reputation as an effective and eloquent advocate in the cause of Temperance, is expected to be present.

M. WRIGHT, Chairman Executive Committee.

mch22-2t

Temperanceville and Noblestown Plank Road Company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Stockholders of said Company, that they make payment to Jesse A Sargent, Treasurer of the said Company, of five dollars on each share of the stock, on the last Monday in each and every month hereafter, until the whole work is put in full use, or the road will be graded and ready for use, by the 30th June next. The Stockholders are requested to be prompt and punctual in their payments.

M. BROWN, President.

mch22-2t

APPLES—20 bbls. Russets and Pippins, for sale by S. F. VON BONNHORST & CO.

mch22

GROUND PAINTS, in Oil, neatly put up in cans of 1 lb. to 25 lbs. each, among which are:

Marine Green,	Paris Green,
Black,	Yellow Ocher,
Terra de Sienna,	Prussian Blue,
Umber Raw,	Umber Burnt.

R. A. FAHNESTOCK, & CO., corner First and Wood sts.

mch22

FOR RENT—A Dwelling House on Third street, above and near to Smithfield. It has six Entire rooms, large yard, with kitchen, &c. It will be rented low, and possession given immediately.

Also—For sale or Lease, some 12 acres of a great Farm, between Penn street and the Allegheny river.

WM. S. DARLINGTON,

At Benj. Darlington's, Fourth street, near Wood.

mch22tf

SWEET OIL—2 casks superior, for sale by R. E. SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

mch22

ALCOHOL—12 bbls. for sale by R. E. SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

mch22

TANNERS' OIL—10 bbls. warranted pure, for sale by R. E. SELLERS.

mch22

CHERRY PECTORAL, Starch Polish, Soap Powder, and Effervescing Compound, for sale by R. E. SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

mch22

ALCOHOL—25 bbls. for sale by J. KIDD & CO., 60 Wood st.

mch21

ENGLISH VENITIAN RED—20 bbls. for sale by J. KIDD & CO.

mch22

SPANISH WHITING—50 bbls. for sale by J. KIDD & CO.

mch22

PARIS WHITE—15 bbls. extra fine, for sale by J. KIDD & CO.

mch22

SAND CRUCIBLES—100 nests for sale by J. KIDD & CO.

mch22

FURNISHING MAIL LOCKS & KEYS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, March 14, 1851.

IT BEING DESIRABLE to substitute locks and keys of some other kind for those now in use for the mail service of the United States, specimen locks and keys, with proposals to furnish the same, will be received and considered at the Post Office Department, until the 1st day of July next. The different locks will be examined by a commission for examination and report. Upon this report, contracts will, as soon as practicable, be entered into for furnishing such locks and keys for the term of years, at the option of the Postmaster General for the time being to extend and continue the contract in force for an additional term of four years, by giving to the contractor a written notice to that effect, not more than nine nor less than six months before the termination of the first term of four years.

With a view of procuring the best lock at the lowest price, no kind of lock is prescribed as a standard; the Department relying for a selection on the mechanical skill and ingenuity which a fair competition, now invited, may develope. It is however, proper to state, that a lock suitable for the purpose should possess the following qualities, viz: durability, uniformity, lightness, and strength.

For the purpose of distinguishing the different mail locks and keys now in use, about thirty thousand locks and twenty thousand keys adapted thereto, will be required to be furnished by the contractor within seven months after the contract shall have been entered into; and afterwards the annual supply will depend on the durability of the locks and keys adopted, as well as the increase of the mail service, but it will probably never exceed in amount three thousand of the former and one thousand of the latter.

No lock will be considered if it be in any degree the general use, nor will any one be adopted which shall not be made to allow of making, selling, or furnish any lock or key, similar to those contracted for, for any other purpose than that of the Post Office Department.

The kind of locks adopted cannot be patented, and the party who will be required, on entering into contract, to make an assignment of his patent for the exclusive right to use it of the Department, if the Postmaster General shall deem such requirement essential to the interests of the service; in case of the failure of the contractor to fulfil or to fulfil faithfully the terms and conditions of his contract, the Postmaster General shall have the right, besides a resort to the penal remedy hereinafter mentioned, to annul said contract, and to contract anew with any other person or parties as he may see fit, for furnishing similar locks and keys.

In deciding upon the proposals and specimens offered, the Postmaster General may deem it expedient to select for the trial through mails the lock of one bidder, and for the use of that of another. He reserves, therefore, the right of contracting with different individuals for such different kinds of locks as he may select, and also the right to reject all the specimens and proposals, if he shall deem that course most conducive to the interest of the Department. The party or parties contracting will be required to give bond, with ample security, in