PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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PITTSBURGH.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 3, 1852.

State Whig Committee Meeting.

☞A meeting of the Whig State Central Committee will be held at the American Hotel, Chestnut street, Philadelphia, on Friday evening, June 18th, at 7 o'clock. A full attendance is particularly requested.

DAVID TAGGART, Chairman.

May 24, 1852.—tmy28

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
JACOB HOFFMAN, OF BERKS COUNTY.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.
SENATORIAL.
A. E. BROWN, JAMES POLLOCK.
REPRESENTATIVE.

By Circle.	Districts
1. William F. Hiester,	14. James H. Campbell,
2. James Traquair,	15. James H. Platts,
3. John Weinmore,	16. James R. Davidson,
4. John P. Verree,	17. Jr. Jno. McCullough,
5. Spencer McIlvaine,	18. Ralph Beaky,
6. James W. Fuller,	19. John Lentz,
7. James Penrose,	20. Archib Robertson,
8. John Strattin,	21. Thomas J. Bigham,
9. Jacob Hargitt,	22. Lewis L. Lobb,
10. Charles F. Wallis,	23. Chevalier Meyers,
11. David Alton,	24. Darwin Phelps,
12. G. Hercus,	25. Sam'l A. Purviance.
13. Nen Middlesworth.	

☞READING MATTER WILL BE FOUND ON EACH PAGE OF THIS PAPER.

THE COUNTY CONVENTION.

The largest delegated political convention which assembled in this county, met at the Court House yesterday, being composed of one hundred and ten delegates. The proceedings of the Convention will be found in full in our columns today, and to them we refer for particulars.

Of the ticket nominated, we will speak more fully hereafter; merely remarking for the present, that it is a very good one, and meets with general approbation. The friends of the different unsuccessful candidates would of course like to make changes, but where persons have been disappointed in one office, they have been gratified at the success of a friend in another, so that upon the whole, all parties are pretty well pleased.

The office for which there was the hardest and most exciting struggle was that of Sheriff, which was finally decided in favor of Mr. Magill. Mr. Jones has great numbers of warm personal friends, who labored for him with untiring zeal, and who deeply sympathize with him in his defeat. We were glad to see the manliness with which he bore his disappointment, which was a severe one, and his ready acquiescence in the decision of the Convention. His vote in the convention was certainly a very honorable one, and shows him to be a most formidable competitor for the favors of the people.

The contest for Congress in the Pittsburgh district was also a very animated and close one. It was soon found that the struggle would finally be between Messrs. Larimer and Ritchie, and Messrs. Denny and Knox withdrew in a great measure from the contest. Mr. Ritchie won the race, by a small majority, an honorable testimony to his worth and abilities, when the great personal popularity of his competitor is considered. Gen. Larimer possesses, probably, more personal popularity than any other gentleman in the district, to which fact the large vote he received in the Convention abundantly testifies. Considering the late hour at which his name was announced, the General has great reason to be gratified with the cordial reception he has received before the people for the high office of Representative in Congress.

The Ticket as a whole will be popular and we predict for it triumphant success.

HON. EDWARD A. HANNEGAN.

We wish particularly to draw the attention of those who are in favor of continuing the drinking usages of society, and who oppose the enactment of prohibitory laws, to the following sad narration. We only ask such to read and reflect: and then if they are still willing that the evil which brought poor Hannegan to his present deplorable situation shall be suffered to go on unchecked, we have nothing more to say to them. If this will not bring them to their feelings, they may be regarded as beyond the reach of persuasion or appeal.

The *New York Tribune* introduces it by saying: "The facts as to the killing of his brother-in-law, Capt. Duncan, by Mr. Hannegan, are already widely known. Mr. Hannegan has been a member of the Legislature, both Houses of Congress, Ambassador to Prussia, and might have been honored and useful in every relation of life but for his fearful devotion to liquor, which has long rendered him a terror and disgrace to his friends, and has at length probably led him to a felon's doom. John Wentworth, who served with him in Congress, thus comments on his case in his *Chicago Democrat*:"

Every man who has seen Mr. Hannegan when under the influence of liquor, as we have, can believe the above. And every one who has seen him and lived at the same house with him and his family, as we have, when he has been a total abstinence man for months together, will indeed pity him. When sober, he is as pure, as upright, as kind, and as generous a man as there is in this country. With him there can be no middle state. He is a fiend when drunk. When sober, we will compare in all the elements of goodness with any man living. But he cannot drink without getting drunk.

Mr. Hannegan entered the lower House of Congress many years ago, a perfectly temperate man, and, in point of talents, integrity, and popularity, his prospects were as flattering as those of any young man in the United States. But Washington fashions and habits were too much for him. Dissipation drove him to private life. He reformed, became a temperance lecturer and an exemplary member of the church. His contributions to causes of great revivals are said to have equalled those of the most eloquent divines living. At length his old habits were forgotten and he was sent to the Senate. He took his seat an exemplary son of Temperance and a Christian. But again the temptations were too strong for him. His struggles with himself were gigantic, and the assistance of one of nature's noblest of women, his wife, secured for him the sympathies of everybody. But he would have his sprees, and he lost his re-election. Like most politicians, he left office miserably poor. At the close of his term, and of Mr. Polk's administration, to keep so popular and so good a man from despair and ruin, although it came out of General Jackson's term, the Senators unanimously, Whigs and Democrats, signed a call for Mr. Polk to send him to Russia, and he was appointed to that mission. His unfortunate career there is well known. Since his return, we have heard nothing of him until this melancholy affair.

We have seen many a young man enter Congress perfectly temperate, and leave it totally ruined; but we never knew one who had so many efforts to save him, so ineffectually as Mr. Hannegan. We now have in our own mind three in our own term who killed themselves. Mr. Hannegan has tried to do so several times, but he lived to kill his wife's brother, the best friend, save his wife, he had in the world. That he wishes he was in poor Duncan's place, we have no doubt. What an awful comment this is upon the evil effects of intemperance! It was the first drop that ruined Hannegan. He is now about the middle age of man, and may yet live to be a very useful member, but there is great probability that he will commit suicide.

This tragedy will do much toward ensuring the Maine Liquor Law in Indiana, and we can almost predict it will be enacted at the next session of the Legislature.

RAIL ROAD MEETING.—A meeting of citizens is requested at the Rooms of the Board of Trade, (entrance on 3d street,) on Thursday evening, at eight o'clock, to consider the importance to this city of securing an unbroken chain of railway from this city down the valley of the Ohio river, through Steubenville, Bridgeport, Marietta, Portsmouth and Maysville, with connections extending from the main line across the valley of the Scioto to Cincinnati, and from Maysville through Lexington and the interior of Kentucky, to Nashville, Tennessee.

The importance of this great project to the interests of this city, is too apparent to be neglected.

MONEY—GOLD—WOOL.—British consols (8 per cents) reached 99¼ on the 18th of May, being the highest figure we ever recollect.* This indicates an extreme plethora of money. On the same day the bullion in the Bank of England had reached the unprecedented amount of £20,230,000—almost $100,000,000. A London writer adds: "All the Continental exchanges are in our favor, remittances are expected to be resumed from your side, and arrivals from Australia are certain to be large and steady, and may possibly, in the course of a few months, exceed the most extraordinary anticipations: Meanwhile there is still not a sign of speculation in any quarter, (unless the term can be applied to the recent animation in the cotton market) and hence, although the most momentous changes are at hand, people are unable to discern what will be their nature. Nevertheless, all are occupied with the anticipation of them, and are conscious either of hope or apprehension."

This is a most extraordinary state of things, and portends a crisis unlike any that has ever been experienced. Reasoning from past experience, we should have expected to have witnessed the wildest spirit of speculation to have resulted from so enormous additions to the basis of circulation. But the very opposite is the fact. It seems indeed, as if men regarded money as so plenty and so cheap that it is not worth while to put themselves into a fever about it.

The latest advices from Australia continue to represent the gold region there as very productive, and that new discoveries are constantly being made. The discovery of gold in that country will have one effect which must ultimately be sensibly felt here—we mean the great diminution of the wool growing business of that country. The shearing season there is in November, (corresponding with our May,) and it is asserted that if a large number of shepherds and others are not sent out by that time, the total destruction of all the flocks and consequent cessation of the supply of wool and tallow, which is the course of a few years had grown to the amount of nearly £3,000,000 sterling per annum, will be inevitable.

* By the Asia, which arrived yesterday, we learn that they have run up to 110¼, and that the rate of interest in London is down to 1½ to 2 per cent.

WESTERN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.—The Rev. Mr. BOUGHTON, the agent of this Society, is now here, laboring to establish a permanent chapel for boatmen in this city. He preached last Sabbath in the Third Presbyterian Church on the subject. He stated that it is the design of the Society to send a boatman's chaplain here shortly. Next spring a house of worship will be erected on Water street near Market; meanwhile the clergyman in the employ of the Society will labor as an evangelist along the shores of both rivers.

The Rev. Mr. DRIEL, in the employ of the same Society, is now laboring zealously and successfully along the canal between this city and Johnstown.

Mr. Boughton's object is to obtain the aid of our citizens in the good work. He will preach on next Sunday morning in the First Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, (Dr. Swift's,) when the objects and claims of the Society will again be presented. We hope and trust that he will be eminently successful in his mission to these cities, which are yet behind their sister cities both of the lakes and rivers in this particular.

THE INSOLENCE OF DESPOTISM.—We take the following interesting item from a letter from Paris in the *New York Commercial*:

"Arago, the astronomer, has refused, in a letter to the Minister of Public Instruction, to take the oath of fidelity to the President, accompanying his refusal with a resignation of his presidency of the observatory. His letter is the most energetic and bitter protest against the President's system that has yet been made public. M. Fortoul has replied in a most disrespectful if not insulting note, when it is remembered that M. Arago is at the head of the scientific men of France. He says, however, that the President has been pleased to admit an exception in favor of a savan whose works have thrown such lustre on France." Here is M. Fortoul, a man of known and flagrant incapacity, placed by a curious political coincidence in a position to tyranize over the most distinguished of French natural philosophers."

OVERLAND ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.—The passage of the Homestead Bill in the House of Representatives, which gives a fore-tokening, it may be, of a complete relinquishment by the General Government, of its rights of property to the public lands, may have the effect of prompting some energetic efforts, before it becomes too late, for saving some portion of the national domain for public uses.

A military road is the first want, and that is demanded by the necessities of the present time. A road graded, bridged, and made practicable for wagons, with military posts at intervals to afford protection to emigrants and to furnish supplies, would be a thoroughfare for crowds now anxious to go to California if they could do with their families and go cheaply. Every post, if well located, might be expected to form the nucleus of a settlement. The business of providing provisions for the caravans of wagons that would move forward into the golden land would make it an object for settlers to establish themselves at such points on the route.

Once a line of settlements established the construction of a railroad might follow, without involving the necessity of long sections of the work to take care of itself in the unsettled route with him—since that time we find [illegible] have grown old fast. It is no wonder that Concord is such fresh and active a town now.

[illegible] Boughton's object [illegible]