The Pittsburgh Gazette
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1868.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE discharged faithfully his duty to the Constitution, to the Court and to each of the parties in the trial of Impeachment, in stating the suggestions in his communication to the Senate on Wednesday. This body, however, had the clear right to decide for itself the question presented by the Chief Justice, and did accordingly decide, the same day, that its rules of procedure in the trial could be adopted by the Senate before its organization as a Court. On Friday, however, after further consideration, the question being again suggested by the Chief Justice, then sitting at its presiding officer, the Court, as such, formally adopted the same rules, a single Democrat only voting in the negative. The cavilling objections of Mr. Johnson's friends are thus prudently silenced, and the country will be entirely satisfied with this disposal of the question.

THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION, which will assemble at Harrisburgh on Wednesday next, will probably express a preference for some citizen of this Commonwealth as the candidate for the Vice Presidency. Delegates to that body have been chosen, who are divided in opinion between three different individuals—that is CURTIN, GROW and GRAHY. The State Convention will select the four delegates at large to the National Convention, and no more, the bulk of the delegates being appointed by conventions or conferences within the respective districts. It is manifest, therefore, that any expression of preference on the part of the State Convention, while confessedly of high authority, will conclude and bind only the four delegates at large. The district delegates will not only be at liberty, but will doubtless feel constrained to follow either the local instructions or the local preferences, as the case may be. Hence, it is presumable that the same diversities of preference which are now apparent in the State will be exhibited at Chicago in May. This want of unanimity may lead to a setting aside of all the gentlemen named in Pennsylvania for the second place on the national ticket. Such a result can hardly be avoided unless the minority in the State Convention, on whichever side it may be found, shall waive their predilections, and so make an unanimous recommendation, and unless the district delegates shall consent to lay aside local and personal preferences, and heartily sustain at Chicago the individual who may receive the endorsement of the State Convention.

WERE PRESIDENT JOHNSON started on his career of treachery towards the party by which he was elected, he appeared to have vividly before him the parallel cases of TYLER and FILLMORE. In some of his public addresses he alluded to the fate of those his predecessors as furnishing warnings as to the willingness of democrats to applaud treachery so long as they found it profitable, and to desert the deceiver when he could not be made further available. He evidently saw the right, but had not sufficient steadiness to pursue it. He was not long in becoming the thing he stoutly professed he despised. While his power remained unbroken; while he had patronage to bestow, or appeared to have it; while he could be used as an instrument for creating divisions in the Republican ranks; while his course operated to reinvigorate the spirit of revolt in the Southern States, and to beget hopes that reconstruction would ultimately be accomplished on conditions which would be a virtual endorsement of the rightfulness of the rebellion, the democrats crowded about him, defending his wildest excesses, approving his most high-handed measures, and urging him forward to the commission of new and yet flagrantes outrages upon his honorable pledges.

As soon as he was hedged about by new enactments, and, especially when Congress, long incensed, finally resolved to strike the blow unaccountably withheld, the democrats, with one accord, began to desert him. Already he stands pretty much alone. Those who remain about him stand only on the order of their goings, and will soon find opportunity to take themselves away.

It is possible MR. JOHNSON has latterly indulged hopes of becoming the presidential nominee of the Democratic National Convention. What vagaries may beset and influence a mind like his, and beset with chronic infirmities, can easily be conceived. Men in high places never hear the truth except by accident. Their ears are filled with pleasant falsehoods, and they are furnished with evidence for believing respecting themselves, what they most want to believe But, whatever assurances Democratic leaders may have privately given Mr. JOHNSON, and whatever reliance he may have placed on the controlling power of public patronage, the Democrats have clearly not designed to make him their standard-bearer. The qualities he has disclosed are not at all to their liking, except when exerted by one for whom they are not responsible, and against their opponents. They would as soon trust a bull in a china shop as Mr. JOHNSON at the head of an administration elected by them, and by which they expected to be advantaged as a party. Hence, the unanimity with which they now wipe themselves of all responsibility for what he has done and for the fate impending over him.

No GOVERNMENTAL POWER, embodied in the Constitution, is more clear and unmistakable, than that of impeachment conferred on the two Houses of Congress. That power has heretofore been exercised on several occasions, but always upon persons holding comparatively subordinate positions. So far as the office-holders thus disciplined were concerned, no complaint of injustice or hardship was ever uttered. The common sentiment of the country has steadily opposed proceedings against them. And the feeling has been general that for any official impeached and displaced at least an hundred have richly deserved like degradation. But, after all, the chief peril to the Constitution, to the public welfare, to the perpetuation of civil liberty, has not arisen from the short-comings or overt crimes of men in low or medium stations. The greatest danger has emanated from the Executive chair. And this is the uniform experience in all countries and ages. Deliberative assemblies may, indeed, degenerate into instruments of faction. Instances of this infirmity are not wanting in history. But serious encroachments upon popular freedom have almost invariably come from the opposite direction—from the chief executive officer craftily or by force extending his prerogatives and magnifying his authority. So far has this gone in the United States, during the last thirty years, that the President has come to claim and use a much larger measure of power than any limited monarch in Europe has dared to assert in the last two hundred years. These usurpations have been justified, naturally enough, under pretense of conservatism. That is the plea invariably urged for despotism. But that this plea should be urged here mainly, if not exclusively, by those who claim to be Democrats, may well excite surprise not unmingled with contempt.

In this posture of affairs it is most suitable that the bolt of impeachment should fall on the head of a President, and, particularly on the head of that one who has done more than all his predecessors combined, not only to bring the office into disgrace, but to render it a formidable menace to civil liberty.

It has been held that PATRICK HENRY, in those accesses of fervor which marked his opposition to the ratification of the Federal Constitution, was swayed by unfounded and unmanly apprehensions—especially when, upon reviewing the large measure of authority actually conferred on the President, and the liability always existing that more would be arrogated than was given, he exclaimed, "Your President will become a King." The experience of the nation since then has shown that he was not mistaken in estimating the tendency to executive encroachment encouraged by the very terms of the Constitution itself. Indeed, so palpable has this become that MR. SEWARD has not scrupled to declare that the people of this country regularly elected a King every four years. This has become the actual working of the government, though it was not the intention of its founders. Of all monarchies, an elective one is the worst of all to be deprecated. The history of Poland is full of admonition and warning on this head.

It is time the tendency towards imperialism was checked; and the way to do this is by impeachment. This consideration has pressed upon us strongly for two years past. Hence, while most of the Republican journals flippantly dismissed impeachment as a "farce" or a "sham," we steadily regarded it as a stern necessity, if Republican institutions were to be preserved among us, not simply in form and seeming, but in substance and reality. The President's violation of the Office Tenure Act furnishes no stronger reasons for proceeding against him than existed before—in his misappropriation of the funds arising from the sale of confiscated estates; in his management respecting sequestrated Southern railroads; in his abuse of the pardoning power; in his prostitution of patronage; in his threats against the legislative department; and in his assumption of exclusive authority over the revolted States. Indeed, we doubt not ultimate and impartial history will adjudge that the grounds upon which Congress has finally decided to proceed against the offender are feebler than those it rejected as insufficient at the opening of the present session.

What is most needful is an example which shall henceforward deter the President—whoever he may be or by which party soever elected—from stretching his authority beyond the strict letter of the Constitution. In this judgment, we doubt not, all considerate and thoughtful Democrats concur as fully as Republicans. Mere politicians, swayed by temporary passions, excited by personal hopes, or impelled by flaming animosities, may object. But these constitute a slim minority—clamorous, indeed, but not worthy to be taken into account in determining a case so momentous to the republic and to civil liberty everywhere and for all time.

THE PRECIOUS METALS.

The report of Mr. J. R. BROWNE, the Mining Commissioner who has been for the year past employed in investigating the condition of the mining interests of the Pacific slope and of the mountains, was transmitted to Congress a few days since. This report closes with a review of the whole field, and his reasons for predicting an increase rather than a diminution of the yield hereafter. The Commissioner remarks:

"No uneasiness need be felt as to a decrease in the source of supply. After many years of travel over the mining regions, I feel justified in asserting that our mineral resources are practically without limit. Explorations made by competent parties during the past year in many parts of the mineral region hitherto unknown demonstrate the fact that the area of the mineral deposit is much larger than was formerly supposed. It is safe to assume that of the claims already recorded in the settled parts of the country, and known to be valuable, not more than one in a hundred is being worked; and of those worked perhaps not more than one in fifty pays anything over expenses, owing to mismanagement, inefficient systems of reducing the ores, want of capital, cost of transportation, and other causes susceptible of remedy. In many districts of Nevada silver ores of less than one hundred dollars a ton cannot be worked by mill process so as to pay expenses, and there are districts in Idaho and Montana where gold-bearing ores will not justify working unless they yield from forty to fifty dollars per ton. With such wealth of treasure lying dormant, it cannot be doubted that by the increased facilities for transportation and access to the mines soon to be furnished by the Pacific railroad and its proposed branches, and the experience in the treatment of ores and the scientific knowledge to be acquired in a national school of mines adequate to the necessities of the mining population, the yield must eventually increase."

A New Hampshire Canvass.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Evening Post.]

To observe the varied phases of a political canvass in the closely contested State of New Hampshire, is a study of peculiar interest to one who is only familiar with campaigns and elections as they are conducted in New York and the cities in its vicinity. Though far removed from the political and business centres of the country, and principally inhabited by those whose interests are local, to a great extent, it is a singular and noticeable fact that the people of no woman in New Hampshire appears to have been born a politician, and to have become infected. In early childhood, with the spirit that developes with maturer years into a bitter and unrelenting partisanship. It is probable that much of the interest now felt in party success or failures is attributable to the fact that for a number of years the Republicans and Democrats have divided the State so evenly that a change in the sentiments of a thousand voters would often have defeated the successful party of the previous year. Each recurring election has inspired the two parties with new hope and confidence in their strength, men have been selected as candidates for the local offices whose personal popularity and standing in the communities would throw an additional weight into the scale, and no means have been neglected that would secure every vote obtainable by fair means.

The consequence of this extraordinary party vigilance has been that, out of the entire voting population of the State, the average Republican majority of the past seven years has been about three thousand, and has more often fallen short of than exceeded even this low figure.

The canvass which is made from year to year by the general committee of the two parties is also an interesting feature of New Hampshire politics. A more complete and perfect party organization than that of both Republicans and Democrats throughout the State cannot be found in the most closely-contested county or township in the country. There are two clubs in each school district, representing the opposing factions, who carefully canvass their immediate localities, record the name and party of every voter, and forward the list to the headquarters at Concord. Here the names are transferred to the books of the committee, and the general estimates are placed beside the results of preceding years. When the returns are in from all sections the canvass is carefully revised by the clubs; and the second estimate, which rarely varies a dozen votes to a county from the first, is forwarded and recorded. Doubtful men are carefully watched by both parties, and on the expression of any decided opinion their names are sent in as later acquisitions. So accurate is this annual canvass that it is possible to estimate the majority within a few hundred votes at least four or five weeks before the election. The absence of anything like a transient or floating population, the small size of the towns, and the deep interest taken by everybody in the results of such elections, render such an organization a possibility in New Hampshire; whereas, in any of the more thickly populated states along the coast, or those in which large cities give majorities that decide the State elections, it would be found wholly impossible.

The mass meetings are also conducted on a plan peculiar to that section. No clap trap of torchlight processions or pyrotechnic displays is necessary to call the people together, for they come without it, and sit patiently through the longest orations, provided the speakers are men whose position and record command respect. The pot-house eloquence that excites the great unwashed of New York meets with but small favor in New Hampshire. On the evening of a mass meeting, which is never held out of doors, the hall is early filled with a patient and expectant audience, mainly composed of the best and most influential citizens of the place, who come to learn new facts and acquire new ideas.

Old and young assemble together, the patriarch and the boy whose first ballot is still a happy anticipation; listening critically to what is said, and receiving the statements of the speakers at neither more nor less than their full value. Nowhere outside of New England can such audiences be found at a political meeting, and nowhere does the stump orator meet with more appreciative hearers than those whom he may truthfully address as the "intelligent voters of New Hampshire." A few of "the opposition" generally attend, but they are always orderly, and listen to what is said with as much courteous attention as do those who represent the party under whose auspices the meeting are held.

A sketch of the characteristic features of a political canvass in New Hampshire, in which no mention was made of the women and the part they take in it, would be as incomplete as a version of *Hamlet* in which the philosophical prince was omitted. The interest felt by the voting population in the success of party and the triumph of principle, is scarcely greater than that evinced by their wives and daughters, whose part in the contest is restricted to the exertion of a silent but powerful influence. In conversation on general topics, the New Hampshire women show much intelligence, and more accurate information than is commonly found among the representatives of a sex that is elsewhere accused of "jumping at conclusions," rather than of arriving at them by the usual inductive process. Their political principles are as sacred as their religious creed, and the men of them are fully able to defend themselves and their position against the logic or the sophistry of those who differ with them.

At the mass meetings a liberal portion of the hall is exclusively devoted to them, and on occasions of ordinary interest they attend in strong force, listening attentively and applauding warmly. It is pos ible that much of the order and decorum characterizing these gatherings is attributable to the restraining influence of their presence; and certain it is that what is so fully recognized and countenanced by the ladies must ever be free from much that makes political associations so corrupting and demoralizing in their tendency in many parts of the country. If the long sought franchise is ever given to the women of America, it will be a satisfaction to know that, in the State at least, they will vote as intelligently and judiciously as many who claim the ballot as one of their tried and inalienable rights.

Cheyenne City.

"A letter to the Chicago *Republican* gives, in the annexed extract, a vivid idea of the rapidity with which new towns spring into a vigorous existence along our transcontinental line:

The first timber (a 2x4 scantling) was set on the end of 24 of August last. Then came the rush for corner lots, best locations, the centers of business. Men were wild; excitement ran high. In short time that which had been a mere plain where the white man had seldom trod, was covered and transformed as a dance of life which surprised even the most hopeful. Stores, built of wood, brick and stone, sprung into existence as if in a dream. Hotels were built and filled in a week. Saloons, gay, gorgeous and magnificent, were opened on every hand. Dwellings also came in for their share of attention. Banks, printing offices, places of business of all kinds, sprung up as if under the influence of magic. Houses