THE AGITATOR

M. H. COBB, EDITOR.

*** All Business, and other Communications must be addressed to the Editor to insure attention.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, Feb. 22, 1855.

Peterson's Magazine for March is a very excellent number. Its "get-up" is neat and tasty, and it is particularly fine in the ladies department. $2 single copy.

☞ There is no important news from Europe. Prospects of peace, not so favorable, but no more fighting is looked for at present.

STANHOPE BURLEIGH.—We have taken a peep into this new American Novel, and confess to no little disappointment. Its pictures are overwrought, its style is of the heroic-sentimental order, and we are of the opinion that it will not materially assist the party whose patronage it richly (?) is likely to receive. I John Hughes, and in Landon the listed Bedlist. The hero, Stanhope Burleigh is a personification of Young America, and General Liberty. The plot is better than an eighteen hundred and fifty-five production. That the book will sell there is no doubt; but it cannot rival Uncle Tom. Stringer & Townsend, New York.

SCHOOL ACCIDENT.—We learn that a serious accident occurred in Morris township, near Bath, on Saturday, 17th inst. Two men were engaged in rolling logs, and meeting with some difficulty in separating two that were frozen, one of them mounted the log with an ax in order to split them apart. Unfortunately, at the very moment of striking the log rolled and the ax, glancing from his hands struck his comrade at the other end of the log full upon the temple, edge foremost, cutting completely through the skull. Dr. Packer of this village, was called immediately, and performed the trepanning operation. The name of the injured man is Harrison. His recovery is doubtful.

The Lectures.—Cassius M. Clay delivered the closing Lectures before the Institute on the evenings of the 15th and 17th inst. His first lecture, subject, "Slavery"—was a masterly production, revealing in the strong light of Fact and Reason, the inherent hatefulness of the Slave System. We have never heard more truth crowded into a single discourse than in this instance. Much enthusiasm was manifested during the whole evening, and the speaker was rapturously applauded. His second lecture, subject, "Labor the Basis of Property"—was strictly an aggregation of facts and inevitable conclusions. To the lovers of logic it was a rare treat.

In another column will be found a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Institute for the season. A glance at it will convince those who prophesied that the enterprise would prove a failure, that they were mistaken. It must be remembered that the Institute labored under the embarrassment of a late organization, rendering the procuring of lecturers on the most favorable terms impossible. Steps have been already taken to provide against all embarrassments of a like nature in future, and the public will be provided with a richer entertainment, if possible, next winter.

☞ The electing of a U. S. Senator in this State is put over till the 27th inst. The K. N.'s pitched on Cameron, a most rabid pro-slavery man, and had they succeeded in keeping their forces together, he must have been elected. A lucky split defeats him for the present—we hope, forever.

Col. Curtin was Cameron's most *prominent* opponent, and Wilmot stood next on the list. How the matter will finally be adjusted is uncertain. Mr. Wilmot's chance depends upon circumstances: if the chivalric Ezra B. Chase had not written his Harrisburg letter, the Judge might have been defeated. If he can be coaxed into writing another of its profundity, Judge Wilmot is as good as elected. We hope Mr. Chase will continue writing, he does it up so *Brown*. Wilmot's reply to Mr. Laporte may be found in another column, and all may do well to read it. An extract from the Montrose *Republican* relative thereto will be read with interest.

Something About "Devils."

"*The de'il is at the bottom o' t.*"

Start not, gentle, perhaps timid reader, at the Satanic ring of our caption. We do not intend to say one word to offend the gentlemen we have all have dreamed of, chasing us with a vengeful, pitchfork, and frightful horns and cloven foot—not one offensive word. We eschew all commerce with him.

But of the printer it may truly be said—"he hath a devil!"—and the fact is no cause of shame. Verily, he hath need of a "devil," and would not, we fear, prove a very good Christian without one. The printer's "devil" was a great invention—somewhat ahead of the steam engine, about equal to the telegraph. There are a thousand errands that none can do so well as he—dirty jobs that nobody will do except him, (and he doesn't like to,) and then there are so many little *accidents* continually occurring in a printing office that nobody else can be blamed for except the "devil." He is a great fellow for "pi," and the first year of his devilship is generally a session of surfeit; so much so that he often gets the dyspepsia and runs away.

The object of this article is the good of the trade. We have two "devils," and we promised them some months ago, that after politics had recovered from its "fitful fever" they should have a "piece" for their and the fraternity's especial benefit.

All vocations are, honorable, however humble. A man may be a disgrace to his calling, but no calling, if it is honest, can disgrace him, and every calling is honest that is morally lawful. Boys should bear this in mind, and not look with contempt upon this or that trade because it smells of the barn-yard, or cobbler's wax, or printer's ink. We will not instance the many learned and wise men who have plowed and sowed, or made horse shoes, or *men's* shoes, or set type for a living; for a boy should go to a trade with a determination to increase its respectability by honesty and industry. He may become as learned and wise as he can make himself and he should do so; but not that somebody else became so before him, but that to increase in knowledge is to enlarge his capacity for usefulness.

As we said, a man may disgrace his calling, but no honest calling can disgrace him, however humble it may be rated. The popular notion about employments is all wrong. A blacksmith is just as respectable as a minister, lawyer, doctor, or Colonel or prince or president, if he is equally honest and industrious. Moral Worth is the criterion of respectability, not vocation. And the worthiest is he who adopts Excelsior as his motto, and labors to excel. There are thousands who wear costly clothes and sit in high places, yet are unworthy to be compared with many a printer boy, grimy with dust and ink. A popular profession and plenty of money may render a man respectable as the world goes, but such respectability is easy like a counterfeit dollar—*it will not bear scrutiny.*

The printer boys of the present time have a great work to perform; and they must make up their minds to perform it. The trade has fallen into disrepute. A drunken, rowdy printer is an individual that is getting altogether too common for the good of the trade. Once the printing business was considered respectable and printers second to none in the social scale. This is not true now, though they do not get credit for half the respectability they are justly entitled to. That printers themselves are responsible for all the disrepute that clings to the craft [illegible] admit [illegible] that they have [illegible] us to have a little talk with the "devils." Perhaps we may help to set them a thinking, and thought is the pioneer of all reform.

"Printers are hard cases," is a very common saying. You may think that men and boys who stand up to their case ten hours a day, may become hard cases themselves without much effort. Jesting aside, there is too much truth in the saying just quoted. If there is any mischief done in the neighborhood, it is generally held that "the printer's devil is at the bottom of it." We have often observed this, and when it becomes necessary to acknowledge that incipient printers are up to all kinds of tricks, they deserve to be suspected. Now, these little beginnings lead on to that recklessness which results in bringing disgrace upon the craft. Boys like boymen, have a passion for notoriety. To be called one of the "boys," is about the height of their ambition of three fourths of the young men's days; and while they aim so low, they need not grumble if they wake up some fine morning to find themselves infamous. A boy is a very plastic being. Druid him in broadcloth, send him to college do what you please with him—till he is nothing but a nobody, and never will be anything else, until he lops off his low ambition. We earnestly admonish printer boys to avoid such notoriety.

We would like to say that "devils" are generally industrious from inclination, but observation does not warrant such an assertion. They like to "skirt," and often consign a handful of "pi" to the cavernous jaws of the convenient old shoe, when nobody is watching, rather than distribute it. This is one wrong step; it is deception, and deception is only another name for falsehood. So, if boys begin and go on with such practices, when they arrive at a mature age they will find that men place no confidence in them. To reform then, is up-hill business. Eschew everything like "skirking," now, before it becomes a settled habit. Walk up to your work boldly and cheerfully, and not like the "quarry slave scourged to his dungeon." There is nothing like a determination to accomplish whatever you undertake, to win both respectability and honor. No laggard can ever carry more than a feather's weight with him through life. He is in short a failure.

The "common run" of "devils" are not as wise as they may be. However hard their "row" may seem, few trades present such rare and constant opportunities for self-improvement. Even their labor is study. And then what a glorious privilege is theirs—to hand down the thoughts of good and great men to coming time, and thus toil in the field of Reform, whose harvest shall be reaped by their children's children. Let them think of this and forbear repining.

In the office of a weekly paper there are many long evenings when no work is to be done. Remember, night time is just as precious as day. The evenings should not be frittered away in running about town with idle boys, and playing tricks upon quiet people. Sit down with your books, after taking sufficient exercise for health, out of doors. Do you think that colleges only can supply the world with learned and useful men? You are mistaken. The most useful, and therefore the greatest men are *self-made*, not college-made. An enterprising boy of tolerable smartness, can master any useful science for which he has a taste, by procuring a good treatise. Let him save his pennies and invest them in books; not trash, but real books, solid books, that you may create a taste for solid reading. Trashy books, such as adventures of criminals, may help you backward, but never forward. Buy the Life of HORACE GREELEY and read it carefully; and when you have read it, remember the old motto—"What Man has DONE, Man may DO."

☞ The *Agitator*, last week in its own defense, charged us with making an egregious blunder, and *unfortunately*, as we think, unwisely, referred to the Catholics of Italy, Spain, Mexico, South America, &c., to prove that the Catholic religion was on the same piece with Southern Slavery. Why go so far for argument? Why not rest the case with the citizens of the Mississippi valley, where it started?—*Honesdale Herald.*

We remember once trying to make a deaf mute hear, by *shouting in his ear*, but failed, signally—as we expected. We have sometimes tried to make friend Beardslee understand with as little success, when everybody else, found no difficulty in comprehending. Some people *will not* understand.

The fact is simply this: We represented the spirit of Slavery and that of Catholicism relative to Education as identical. Now every reasonable man will readily perceive that the question is one of fact. We referred to those countries under Catholic rule in proof of our assertion. Our friend does not deny but that the Catholic church, where it has the power *does oppose the enlightenment of the masses.* This is all we contended for; and its admission by him effectually takes his feet from under him, because to rest the case with the citizens of the Mississippi valley, would be simply absurd, and therefore not allowable, except in our friend's case. And now we will explain why we did not rest the case with the citizens of the Mississippi valley: In the first and only place, we saw what every candid man must see, that the true spirit of the Catholic Church must be sought for where it is *the dominant Church.* If we wish to inform ourselves correctly concerning the tenure of Catholic church property, *should we* rest the case with the Catholics of Buffalo, who have repudiated the Papal claims in this matter? or should we like men of sense treat the Buffalo repudiators as *exceptions* to the general rule? The latter, certainly. And the Catholics of St. Louis, are also exceptions to the general rule, as every rational man, who knows anything about history will admit.

Our friend goes on to say that the Catholics of the 19th century must not be judged by those of monarchical governments ages ago. If our friend will reflect a moment, he will discover that the Catholic Church is, and always has been, an ecclesiastical despotism; and what is worse, it is just as despotic to-day, as it was ages ago. We do not suspect that this will be anything new to anybody but our friend; and it should not be necessary to illustrate the creed-basis of the Wayne democracy.

Now what is the issue between us? Just this: We pointed out the *inconsistency* of the Know Nothings in ignoring the question of Slavery, and proved that the South was just as hostile to the Common School System as the Mother Church. Our friend responded that Catholicism is not opposed to education. The common schoolboy knows better. And we most respectfully invite him to stand up and oppose that South, which by his own showing, is warring continually against the great interests of our common country—the enlightenment of the masses.

As to the other matter referred to by the *Herald*, we reiterate our first charge of wilful misrepresentation of our business relations. Had it been accident on his part, it would have passed without notice. But we do not suffer a designed misrepresentation to pass unnoticed. Our friend need not plead innocence for he knows that his printing is [illegible] marks in the case referred to contained a falsehood. And we can assure him that the mistake is of no consequence, as it is not the spirit in which it was designed is simply contemptible spirit, worthy of the hatred of every honest man.

Godey has waved up for his half million of readers a rich feast of good things in his March No. which is already before us. He can't be beat in catering for the ladies. Godey and Harper may be had together for $4.50.

☞ The Wellsboro' Academy entered upon its last term under the management of Mr. N. L. Reynolds on Tuesday. The term will continue 11 weeks and those who wish to place their children under the care of one the best of teachers, should avail themselves of this opportunity. Mr. Reynolds closes his labors here with this term, the which is to be regretted.

Rev. E. Oakes Smith and Sarah Helen Whitman.

[The lines of complimentary sonnets given below, were handed us by a friend with the following note prefixed. There is a delicacy of thought about them that can never be imparted to *common* readers. Mrs. Smith's reply has never before appeared in print. Our friend will please accept thanks for the favor.]

Editor Agitator:—Sir: The following sonnet from that gifted lady, Mrs. Whitman, was brought out by her "issuing from the realms of Shadow-Land," a work published by Mrs. E. O. Smith, and coming from the source it does, adds but another evidence to the assertion of the head and heart of the author of "Shadow Land." We know her here and "know her but to praise her."

But of Mrs. Whitman I was going to speak. Her writings have won her a wide reputation with judges of literature and she ever seems as fresh and vigorous in her thoughts and feelings as in less mature years. She is one of the remarkable women of the age. It does us good to see the generous sentiment the following with its reply evinces between these two distinguished ladies and at once gives the lie to the assertion that literary women cannot appreciate each other. S.

To E. O. S.

"Eos, fair Goddess of the Morn!" whose eyes
Drive back night's wandering ghosts.
Home's Orion.

When issuing from the realms of "Shadow Land"
I see thee mid the Orient's kindling bloom,
With mystic lillies gleaming in thy hand,
Gathered by dream-light in the dusky gloom
Of bowers enchanted, I behold again
The fabled Goddess of the Morning, veiled
In fleecy clouds. Thy cheek, so sadly paled
With memories of the Night's mysterious reign,
And something of the star-light burning still
In thy deep, dreamy eyes, do but fulfil
The vision more divinely to my thought:
While all the cheerful hopes enkindling round thee—
Warm hopes, wherewith thy prescient soul hath crowned thee—
Are with the breath of morning fragrance fraught.

SARAH HELEN WHITMAN.

Reply to Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman.

Like dusky fly athwart the summer night,
Shrinking from all the glare of common day—
I did but lift my wings, and straight a ray
Itself enkindled in the starry light
That shroud thy mystic eyes, knew at the sight
Thy shadow-loving orbs, soft turned away,
Where lights supernal o'er their vision play
As o'er the cloud the rainbow lingers bright,
Sweet Sister Soul! I knew thee from afar—
Knew the deep meaning of thy bended head
Inclined to voices from some distant sphere,
An ope who listens for a lover's tread,
Thou art EURYDICE, bent, pale to hear
The lute of Orpheus stealing to her ear.

E. OAKES SMITH.

STATEMENT

Of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Wellsboro' Literary Institute for the winter of 1854 & 55.

DR.

To Cash received from 1st and 2d Lectures, by Mr. Burleigh,	$72 88
From 3d and 4th by Mrs. Smith,	75 75
From 5th by Mr. Beecher,	13 12
From 6th and 7th by Mr. Saxe,	58 81
From 8th and 9th by Miss Brown,	74 45
From 10th by Mrs. Smith,	19 40
From 11th and 12th by Mr. Pierpont,	42 87
From 13th and 14th by Mr. Clay,	138 16
Received of M. H. Cobb, for season ticket,	6 50
To voluntary contribution,	42 00
	$593 94

CR.

By Cash paid C. C. Burleigh,	$60 00
Dr. Dart for carrying Mr. Burleigh to Elmira, in consideration of free lecture,	8 00
By Cash paid E. Oakes Smith,	60 00
Mrs. Smith's expenses in consideration of free lecture,	5 00
By Cash paid T. K. Beecher,	30 00
" E. Oakes Smith,	20 00
" John G. Saxe,	60 00
" Antoinette L. Brown,	60 00
" John Pierpont,	100 00
" Cassius M. Clay,	100 00
" R. Ray, for lights,	6 15
" M. H. Cobb, for tickets and bills,	13 25
" Charles Smith, for making fires,	3 25
" Joseph Ensworth, do	25
" For Postage,	1 00
" Livery Hire,	1 00
	$553 94

L. BACHE, Treasurer.

From the Montrose Republican.

Wilmot and Pennsylvania Interests.

E. O. Goodrich, Esq., Editor of the Bradford *Reporter*, re-publishes an article, which appeared in that paper in 1848, written by Senator George Sanderson, of Bradford county, which corroborates the statements made in Judge Wilmot's letter, in every particular. Geo. M. Reynolds, Esq., Editor of the Carbondale *Transcript*, says he heard the Judge make, in 1848, substantially the same statement and explanation of his course, as that contained in his late letter. Hon. D. D. Wagner, and other gentleman who have long been prominent members of the Democratic party in this county, state that they have known that to be Judge Wilmot's position for years past. The record also shows, as his letter asserts, and as any one may see by reference to his speech in Congress, July 1, 1846, that he took an open and bold stand in favor of a protective Tariff on iron and coal, as articles of national importance and necessity. We may publish extracts from that speech hereafter.

From the article refered to by the *Reporter*, as having been written by Mr. Sanderson, in 1848, we extract the following:

"The delegation from this State had it in their power to secure almost any duties they could reasonably ask for, by the new tariff; but they refused, and with the exception of Mr. Wilmot, voted against the bill; for the same reason, we presume, that a similar delegation on a former occasion, *except one*, voted to recharter the United States Bank; assuming it for granted that the people were so gullible to understand their rights, or accept of any explanations. If Pennsylvania is not in the advantageous under the tariff of 1846, that she had under that of 1842, it is her own fault. Mr. Wilmot endeavored to secure it for her; it was in her power to have, it; but it was rejected. Why? Because it was not the tariff of 1842? This is the beginning, conclusion, and the whole argument."

Interesting Correspondence.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Harrisburg, Jan. 18, 1855.

HON. DAVID WILMOT—*Dear Sir*:—Your friends here will bring your name before the Legislature in connexion with the office of United States Senator. The main objection urged against you arises out of an impression entertained by many that you are unfriendly to the great interests of our State.

We should be glad to see you here, but if you cannot visit Harrisburg before the election, please give us in a letter the history of your course in Congress, on the Tariff question, as there seems to be a misapprehension abroad in regard to your views, if I have properly understood them.

Truly yours, B. LAPORTE.

MONTROSE, January 22d, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your favor came to hand last evening. I do not think I shall be at Harrisburgh. The week vacation between my Courts would be mostly occupied in the journey, leaving me but little time to make the acquaintance of gentlemen now assembled at the Capitol. Again, if no difficulties were in the way, I am reluctant to show myself at Harrisburg at this time. Not that I am indifferent to the issue of the Senatorial election; but I do not wish to appear as a selfish and ambitious aspirant for the place. I have not, as you well know, been eager for Senatorial honors, nor have I in any way whatever been instrumental in making myself a candidate. The connection of my name with the office of Senator is the result of the late signal revolution, in the politics of this State, and of my well known position on one at least, of the important issues upon which that revolution turned; and not through any vanity or scheming of my own. To visit Harrisburg at this time would subject me to suspicion, and to the charge of sinister and selfish motives, which I wholly and emphatically disclaim.

I do not deny that I should feel a personal pride in an election to one of the highest and most honorable positions in the Government; but I do deny, that I desire the place for any selfish or personal ends. I should hope, if elected, to be of some service to the country, and to the cause of sound principles. While I claim no eminent qualifications for the office, I do, nevertheless, believe that my election would, in some respects, be fortunate, especially so, in uniting and cementing for future action the men who achieved the late signal victory in this State.

You say that the *main objection* urged against me arises out of an impression entertained by many, that I am unfriendly to the great interests of our State. This is a total misapprehension of my feeling and position, and springs doubtless from the fact, that in 1846 I could not act with my colleague in a profitless and obstinate *support of the tariff* of 1842. It was apparent, weeks before the late tariff bill was passed, that the act of '42 could not stand. I was in favor of its revision and modification, and in doing this, was zealously anxious to preserve for the great interests of our State, *permanent and ample security; and to this end*, I labored industriously and perseveringly. On the floor of the House, I urged the laying of *specific*, instead of *ad valorem* duties upon iron, and to an extent that should give security to our interests against ruinous foreign competition. I entered into an argument to prove the propriety and advantage of specific over ad valorem duties, in respect to various articles, and especially in regard to iron; establishing to my own satisfaction that position, as well in respect to the interests of the revenue, as also to that of the consumer and manufacturer, that every interest would be promoted by laying specific duties on iron. I appealed to the House on behalf of the iron interests of our State, claiming for it a *national* respect and consideration, insisting that the iron interest was justly entitled to stand upon higher ground than any other branch of manufacturing business, claiming for it a *truly national* character, as a necessary element of national defence, and entitled therefore to the especial and most favorable regard of the nation. I insisted that the same rule should not be applied to an interest of this magnitude, that was applied to the manufacture of thread, tape, pins, buttons, &c., &c. These are no new doctrines, put forth to meet the occasion, but the doctrines placed on the records of Congress, and easily found in its volumes of debates.

I not only spoke in behalf of the interests of our State, but I *worked* earnestly, in the House, and out of it, to give to that interest an *adequate and permanent* security. I believe then, and I believe now, if a part even of the Democratic delegation in Congress from this State would have agreed to a modification of the tariff of '42, that our great interests could have been abundantly secured. If a majority of the Democrats from this State would have agreed to support the bill, they could almost have made their own terms, so far as Pennsylvania interests were concerned. We met once or twice in caucus, to see if part at least, could not agree upon the terms on which we would support the bill.—In these consultations I expressed an earnest desire so to shape my action as to protect the interest of our State. I pledged myself, in case the caucus would agree upon rates of *specific* duties for iron, to oppose the bill unless they were adopted by the House. Some two or three of them I believe favored this plan, but a large majority would agree to nothing. They would stand by the tariff of '42, in *all its details*, agreeing to no modification whatever. I well recollect that Doctor Leibs, of Columbia, and Brodhead, declared they would not vote for any change whatever, even if in the new bill, the duties on iron and coal were allowed to stand, or raised above the rates provided in the act of '42. Such in fact, was the position of many in the delegation.

I was pledged to a modification of the act of 42; yet was intensely anxious that our interests should not be put in jeopardy. I said and did all in my power to protect those interests. I made no concealment or disguise whatever of my sentiments in this respect, and repeatedly declared to the friends of the bill, that if I held its fate in my hands, it *should not pass* unless more just and liberal protection was afforded to the interests of our State. I went so far as to see and talk with Mr. Dallas, while the measure was pending in the Senate, and urged him in case he should hold the fate of the bill on his vote, to force its friends to a more liberal regard for our great interests. I did not wish the defeat of the bill—of this there was no danger, but to *compel* its friends so to change it as to make the interests of our State secure. Indeed so anxious was I to bring about this result that I voted against concurring in a Senate amendment of trifling importance. It is because of this vote, that the Washington Union and Pennsylvanian have charged me with a desire to defeat the bill in the final and trying hour of its fate. The charge is untrue—I gave the vote in the hope of forcing the bill into a committee of conference, where I understood it would be open to general amendment, and thus afford one more chance of so amending the bill as to secure the interests of our State.

I am of the firm belief, if all democrats from Pennsylvania would have acted with me, instead of solely, or principally to the act of '42, that our State would have obtained all that reasonably could have been asked, and her great interests placed on a satisfactory and permanent basis. In the early stages of the bill, before its friends had counted and marshaled their forces, we could in my judgment, have secured adequate *specific* duties. In this I may be mistaken, but think not. It is certain that we could have obtained fifty per cent ad valorem. Even in the latter stages of the bill, and when its passage was certain without any of our votes, so anxious were its friends to secure Pennsylvania support (from party considerations) that M'Kay, who had the charge of the bill as chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, offered to move forty per cent on iron if half the democrats from our State would then vote for the bill. It always seemed to me strange when the passage of the bill was certain, that our men would not make sure of all they could get. They however, were pledged to the tariff of '42, and it was *easier* to stand by their pledges, than to explain to their constituents the reasons for a departure from them, however good their reasons might have been. I was pledged to a modification of the act of '42, and after exhausting every effort to secure the interests of our State, redeemed that pledge; declaring at the time I did so, that if the bill depended on my vote, I would withhold it until a large measure of justice was meted out to our State.

I have given a full and truthful history of my action on the tariff in 1846, and of the feelings and motives that influenced my conduct. The record will sustain this statement in all matters where the record can speak.

The Congressional Globe—or rather "Appendix"—for 1846 must be in the State Library, and there you will find my speech upon this subject. The latter part of it relates to our own State interests.

You are of course at liberty to make such use of this letter as you please. There is nothing in it but what is true, and nothing that I desire to keep from the public. I wish you would preserve this letter, or a copy of it, so that there cannot hereafter be any dispute as to its contents. I hope it will satisfy all, that I am not now, and never was hostile to the interests of my native State.

Very truly yours,
D. WILMOT.

HON. B. LAPORTE.

Important Measures Before Congress

The present session of Congress, says the *Inquirer*, is rapidly drawing to a close. A few weeks longer, and it will be remembered among the things that have been. But little was expected of it, and the expectation is likely to be realized. Nevertheless, there are several highly important measures that should be acted upon. Some of these may pass finally and successfully, but the chances are by no means extraordinary.

The Texas Debt Bill will come up for consideration early next week. It is intended to settle the long vexed question between the creditors of Texas and the United States, and on a fair and equitable basis. The chances would be in its favor, but that the session is so near its close.

The Reorganization of the Navy will probably be postponed. A measure of such importance cannot be decided upon in a week or a month, and the interests at work are so numerous and conflicting, that however earnest the Secretary may be, nothing *is likely* to be accomplished during the present session. It would, moreover, be a false policy, as well as an unjust, to rush such a bill through at the last moment, without due consideration.

The Bill to increase the Army is likely to prevail. It is absolutely essential. All parties concur in this, and there will therefore be little or no opposition. The frontiers have been too long neglected, and the Indians have already been permitted to perpetrate too many massacres.

A Modification of the Tariff will undoubtedly be postponed. This, also, is a measure of too much importance to be acted upon hastily. The feeling, moreover, in favor of protection, is rapidly gaining ground, and the Representatives of the people who will constitute the next Congress, will be far better qualified to act, and in a more satisfactory manner, than the members who are now about to retire to private life, and many of them never again to occupy seats in the Councils of the Nation.

The Pacific Railroad Bill will also be killed for the present. The fathers and nurses of the measure have attempted too much. Mr. Benton's plan is the best that has been presented, but the distinguished statesman of Missouri has not been able to exercise sufficient influence to secure a majority. That something should be done in relation to this

THE MILWAUKIE SLAVE RESCUE.—In the case of Booth and Ryecraft, convicted of resisting the slave law in Milwaukie, a writ of habeas corpus was issued by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, after the conviction of which the Sheriff took the prisoners and proceeded with them to Madison, Wisconsin, where the session of Supreme Court was held. When the fact of the writ became known, a great public procession was formed, church bells rang out a merry peal, cannon thundered, and the Sheriff and his prisoners were borne in triumph from the jail to the cars. On reaching the latter, the prisoners were called out, got on the top of the cars, and were saluted with three hearty cheers. On a previous occasion the Wisconsin Court decided the fugitive slave law unconstitutional, and hence the prisoners have now been discharged on the ground that the indictment was illegal.—*Harrisburg Herald.*

Treason in the Senate.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1855.

The variety of character in the Senate is a subject of study. Judge Evans, of South Carolina, a very sedate, and, I have no doubt, a very honest man, without a suspicion as to the righteousness of slaveholding, sits near Senator Wade, an equally honest man, but a most decided opponent of Slavery. Somebody sends very regularly to Mr. Evans a copy of *The Liberator*, Garrison's paper, which he reads attentively, but with the most profound and even verdant astonishment.—Turning to his friend from Ohio, he exclaims, "Isn't it *abominable* that such a paper should be allowed in this country?" "Why," says Senator Wade "that's considered in our State as a most excellent family paper." "I am *sorry to hear you say so*," says the Judge, evidently much surprised.

The temper of the times was illustrated to-day. A Northern Senator, having read the appeal in *The Independent* for subscriptions to pay the fine of S. M. Booth, collected among his colleagues quite a handsome sum toward that object, which greatly shocked the loyal feelings of Douglas, Weller & Co.

An incident no less illustrative and significant occurred not long since. A slave applied to one of the Senators from a Western State, for a contribution to purchase his freedom. "Why the devil dom you run away?" asked the Senator, adding, "I can't give money to buy slaves." The poor fellow was turning away disappointed, and the rest of the company, the Southern portion especially, opened their eyes. "Here," said the Senator, calling the negro back, "here's ten dollars, take that and run away, but don't ask me for money to buy a slave."

Here you see what treasonable characters there are even in the Senate of the United States. And what is more, they seem to be increasing. But as Senator Wade said to Douglas, "What are you going to do about it?"