

**Intercourse with Austria.**  
The proposition of Gen. Cass, to suspend diplomatic intercourse with Austria, which was debated in the Senate on Friday last, came up again on Monday. This is a subject which commands much interest and attention throughout the country; for however the public may differ as to the principle involved, all feel that Austria has been guilty of the most barbarous and inhuman treatment towards her prisoners of war, and has acted in a manner unworthy of the countenance and respect of civilized nations.

Gen. Cass in an able speech proposes to withdraw our minister, and to retain our consuls to which Mr. Clay responded as follows: If it was proper that the United States Government should take any action on this subject, it might more justly be had with reference to Russia, who had interfered upon a shallow pretext, and defeated Hungarian independence, when Hungary had already achieved it. The course proposed to be pursued was in direct contradiction to the policy laid down and followed by Washington, and every administration to the present time. If we were to become the censors of nations, wherefore are we to stop, and why should we look to the cause of Hungary alone? Why not take up the cause of Ireland, and that of unhappy Rome?

**Newspaper Enterprise.**  
The first day of January, or the year 1850, is setting in with a determination among our brethren of the press, tending to a decided improvement in the way of newspaper publications. The "Berks and Schuylkill Journal," is materially enlarged, printed on new type, and has undergone many other typographical improvements. The "Reading Gazette & Democrat," has also been enlarged and much improved, and numbers now among the largest sheets in the State. Both the Gazette and Journal are conducted by able and experienced editors and the handsomest improvement is proof positive, that their labor is properly appreciated.

**The Governor's Message.**  
We publish in another column of to-day's paper, a synopsis of the annual message of Gov. Johnston, laid before the legislature on the 2nd instant. It is an able and business-like statement, written in a strong and vigorous style, which will commend it to public attention, and marked throughout with an anxious watchfulness over the interests and business affairs of the State and the welfare of the people. It contains a highly gratifying exhibit of the finances of the commonwealth, and many highly worthy and important recommendations connected with the finances, the public works, &c., which cannot fail to claim the early attention of the legislature, and the adoption of which would add largely to the revenues of the State.

**Benefit Ball.**  
We learn that a Citizen's Ball will take place, on Thursday, the 17th of January next, at the Odd Fellows' Hall. The price of a ticket is \$2, which will admit a gentleman and two ladies. The proceeds we learn, after paying the necessary expenses, are to go towards furnishing the large and beautiful Hall. Committee of Arrangement, Amos Ettinger, C. H. Sampson, P. S. Wenner, Adam H. Eckert and Frank Stetler.

**Pennsylvania Nominations.**  
In regard to the nominations of gentlemen to this State, for the different offices in the gift of the President, the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia North American of Saturday last, holds the following language: The nomination W. D. Lewis, Esq., as Collector of the port of Philadelphia, will be sent to the Senate on Monday, in accordance with his own desire, to challenge a full investigation of his official and personal character, which has been assailed through the columns of partisan papers, and by influences which are interposed in procuring a vacancy. Without reference to this particular appointment—for the same system has been pursued in regard to others, in and out of Philadelphia—it may be observed as a general remark, that when political friends, merely under the provocation of disappointment, suffer themselves to be made the instruments of designing politicians, by joining in a crusade of opposition to nominations, they subject their political integrity to some suspicion, and if claiming to be friends of the Administration, give very doubtful evidence of their fidelity or sincerity. If any nominee of the President is morally disqualified or incompetent to discharge the duties entrusted to his keeping, he ought to be rejected; but between this course and one of indiscriminate hostility, proceeding from chagrin and disordered passions, there is a very wide difference, which Senators on both sides will observe, despite the humbuggery of positions prepared to order, and remonstrances from people who never saw the incumbent whom they have unscrupulously charged with every manner of delinquency. This system of manufacturing memorials has got to be well understood about Washington, and it is the most profitable investment which partisans ever made or employed.

**Life Insurance.**  
Ten years ago Life Insurance was scarcely known in this country. Not over one in 30,000 of the American people had resorted to it; very little knowledge of the system had been diffused among our people up to that time—there were few who had any definite idea of the system—the masses gave no thought to the subject, and others, equally ignorant of its true character, regarded it with pious horror, as implying a distrust of God's providence in the affairs of men. The error and this prejudice have passed away, and thousands and tens of thousands of our citizens, in all parts of the Union, are gladly resorting to Life Insurance, as the best and surest method of protecting their families from a precarious dependence upon the life of an individual. In the estimation of well-informed and thinking men, this institution now holds a front rank among the benevolent enterprises which modern philanthropy has originated for mitigating the evils, and for enhancing the enjoyments of social life.

**What they say in the South.**  
A late number of the Missouri Daily Republican, a paper printed in St. Louis, holds the following language in regard to the passage of Gen. Taylor's first message to Congress, which speaks of a threatened dissolution of the Union: "The topic of the dissolution of the Union, introduced with so much familiarity into the debates of Congress, is alluded to with an earnestness, and a directness, which cannot be misunderstood. The hot-heads of the country—those who speak of the dissolution of the Union as an every day, familiar subject, because of some foolish fancy which fills their brain—are pointedly rebuked; and the President leaves the people in no doubt where he will be found in such an emergency. He will stand by the Union, 'ready to maintain its integrity to the full extent of the obligations imposed, and the power conferred upon him by the Constitution.' We ask no better pledge for the safety and perpetuity of our institutions."

**The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania** in the late suit of Samuel A. Bridges against this Borough, decided that rations on interest cannot be taxed for Borough purposes.

**Proceedings of the Lehigh County Common School Convention.**  
The Convention met pursuant to previous notice, on Tuesday January 1st, at 1 o'clock P. M., and was organized by the appointment of the Rev. Joshua Yeager, as Chairman and R. C. Chandler as Secretary. After some interesting conversation upon subjects of general interest, a committee consisting of Rev. C. R. Kessler, Rev. S. K. Brobst and the Secretary, was appointed to draw up a series of resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The Committee having retired for the purpose, prepared the following:

**Resolved.**—That in the opinion of this Convention, nothing should more deeply interest the attention of our law-makers, and nothing requires more profound legislation, than the furnishing of proper encouragements to the great cause of Popular Education—a cause which should be dear to the heart of every well-wisher of his country.

**Resolved.**—That the greatest obstacle to the more rapid advancement of the Education of the people, is the great lack of teachers, properly qualified to fulfill their responsible stations; and in the opinion of this Convention, this is owing mainly to two causes. 1st—to the want of suitable facilities to enable persons of proper character and talents to prepare themselves for the peculiar duties of the instructor. 2nd to the fact, that this profession receives far less compensation, than its services and usefulness deserve.

**Resolved.**—That the scarcity of good teachers referred to above, seems to require immediate measures for the establishment of State Normal Schools, similar to those already in operation in other States.

**Resolved.**—That for the more effective organization of our Common Schools, the appointment of County Superintendents should be attended to without delay.

**Resolved.**—That this Convention notes with regret, that moral training does not receive that attention in our Common Schools, which its great importance demands—for upon the moral character of our people depends the stability of our free institutions.

**Resolved.**—That stated County Conventions of teachers be recommended as an excellent means for mutual improvement and encouragement.

**Resolved.**—That the Resolutions having been read were unanimously adopted.

**Resolved.**—That a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Directors of the Public Schools in this district, in order to request from them the use of a School room for the purpose of opening a free night school for the instruction of young men, who, from their peculiar employments or for other reasons, are unable to attend the public day schools, and that gentlemen desirous of forwarding the laudable objects of this undertaking by becoming teachers, be requested to hand in their names to said committee. This resolution met with very general favor—many members spoke warmly in its behalf, and promised to lend their hearty co-operation. It was unanimously adopted, and the Chair appointed Dr. G. C. Hand, C. Pretz and J. Mohr, as the committee.

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**Brown down on the South.**  
Hon. W. J. Brown is out in an Indiana Journal justifying to his constituents the part he saw fit to act in regard to the Speakership in Congress. He says, in relation to the charge of treachery by the Southern members in the matter of appointing the territorial committees, &c.: "I had rather be defeated with the vote I received, than to have been elected under a pledge to puke the committees for the benefit of the slave-holding interest of the South. But the time has come when the North will no longer bow the neck to the slavery of the South. I am done. She cannot be satisfied with a moderate conservative support, but you must become the defender of her institutions. 'If you doubt or falter, you are denounced as a traitor, and with a lordly arrogance you are told that they will dissolve the Union.' Their course of conduct has fully determined me never again to be a candidate for Congress."

**A Voice from the South.**—The Southern Banner, at Athens, Georgia, contains a copy of the California State Constitution, accompanied with this sensible remark: "We have nothing to say for or against the anti-slavery claims in this Constitution. That is their concern, not ours."

**Legislative Proceedings. SENATE.**  
At 3 o'clock P. M., agreeably to long usage, the Representatives of the several Senatorial districts of the Commonwealth assembled in the Senate Chamber, and were called to order by the Hon. Geo. Darsie, the Speaker of the last Senate. The Secretary of the Commonwealth being introduced, presented the returns of the late elections held in the several vacant Senatorial districts:

On motion of Mr. CRABB, the Senate proceeded to the election of a Speaker. Seven ballots were taken without effecting a choice. Mr. SANKEY, moved that the Senate proceed to an 8th ballot; which was agreed and resulted as follows: Mr. BEST received 17 votes. Bralley, 14. Street, 2.

Mr. PACKER offered a resolution, that a committee of five be appointed by the chair for the purpose of apportioning the State into Senatorial and Representative districts.

On motion of Mr. DARSIE, it was ordered that 3,000 copies in English and 1,000 in German of the Governor's message be printed for the use of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. KING, it was Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns it adjourns to meet again to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, and that 11 o'clock be the standing hour of meeting until otherwise ordered.

On motion of Mr. PACKER, it was Resolved, That the usual number of copies of the resolution adopted by the last General Assembly, relative to an amendment of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, be printed in bill form and placed on the Senate file, with an appropriate number.

The speaker addressed the Senate in regard to the remarks made by Mr. Packer in relation to him. He made an explanation to the causes of the misunderstanding with the Senator from Lycoming, and stated that it was entirely adjusted. Mr. PACKER, followed in a speech of a similar tenor; so that the whole difficulty seems to be now settled amicably.

Mr. Shimer presented petitions from citizens of Northampton, praying the passage of a law incorporating a Bank.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**  
The roll being called, ninety-nine members answered to their names; WM. SMITH of Beaver, (Whig) absent.

Mr. PORTER, moved that the House do now proceed to an election for Speaker; which was agreed to; when John S. M'Callister received 58 votes. Augustus K. Corry, 39. John N. Conyngham 1. John Allison 1.

Mr. HOGE presented a resolution providing for the appointment of a special committee of thirteen members, to report a bill restricting this Commonwealth into Senatorial and Representative districts; which was twice read and then passed.

Mr. PORTER, presents a bill authorizing the construction of a bridge across the river Delaware.

On motion of Mr. M'CLINTOCK, the bill authorizing the Commissioners of Allegheny county to borrow money, was taken up, and amended.

On motion of Mr. PORTER, the borough of Easton was added to the title, when the bill passed final reading.

**Congressional Proceedings. SENATE.**  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1850. SENATE.

Mr. Dickinson, of New York, gave notice of a bill to establish a branch mint in New York.

Mr. Cass, of Michigan, gave notice that he would to-morrow, ask the Senate to proceed to the consideration of the resolution offered by him, some time since, relative to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse with the Government of Austria.

Mr. Atchison, of Missouri introduced the resolutions of the Missouri Legislature on the subject of slavery, and instructing their Senators to vote against the adoption of the Wilmot Proviso principle, which were read.

Mr. Benton, of Missouri, thereupon rose and said:—

This is the proper time for me to say what I believe to be the fact. These resolutions do not represent the people of Missouri. They are a law-abiding and Union-loving people, and I have no idea of entering into a combination to resist or intimidate the legislation of Congress. The General Assembly has mistaken the sentiments of the State in adopting these resolutions, and many members who voted for them, and the Governor who signed them, has since disavowed and repudiated them. I do not intend to discuss these resolutions at this time, discussion is no part of my present object. I speak of the pledge which they contain, and call it a mistake; and say what ever may be the wishes or opinions of the people of Missouri on the subject of the extension of the non-extension of slavery to the Territories, they have no idea of resisting any act of Congress on the subject. They abide the law when it comes—be it what it may—subject to the decision at the ballot box and the judiciary. I concur with the people of Missouri in the views of their duty, and believe it to be the only course, consistent with the order and intentions of our constitutions, and the only one which can save this Union from the fate of all the confederacies which have successively appeared and disappeared among the nations. Anarchy among the nations, and not tyranny at the head, has been the rock on which all such confederacies have split. The authors of our present form of Government knew the danger of this rock, and they endeavored to provide against it. They formed a union—not a league—a federal legislature, to act upon persons—not upon States; and they provided peaceable remedies for all the questions which could arise between the people and the government. They provided a federal judiciary to execute federal laws, when found to be constitutional—and popular elections to repeal them when found to be bad. They formed a government in which the law and popular will—and not the sword—is to decide questions. They looked upon the first resort to the sword for the decision of such questions, as the death of the Union. The old confederation was a league with a legislature acting upon sovereignties without power to enforce its decrees and without union, except at the will of the parties. It was powerless for Government and a rope of sand for union. It was to escape from that helpless and tottering government that the present Constitution was formed. No less than ten members of the Federalist party from the tenth to the twentieth, were devoted to the defects of the old system, and the necessity of a new one. I will read some extracts from these members—to show the difference between the league which we abandoned, and the Union which we formed—the dangers of the former and the benefits of the latter—that it may be seen that the resolutions of the General Assembly of Missouri, if carried to their conclusion—carry back this Union to the league of the confederation—make it a rope of sand, and the sword the arbiter between the federal head and its members.

Mr. Benton here read the extracts from the Federalist. First—on the difference between the Confederacy and the Union of the States. Second—of the destruction of the Union when the sword is drawn between its members and their head. Third—of the advantage and facility of working the federal system, and its peaceful, efficient, and harmonious operation, if the Federal laws are made to operate upon citizens directly, and not upon States. Fourth—on the ruinous effects of civil wars among the members of a Republican confederacy, and their disastrous influence in the cause of civil liberty throughout the world.

Mr. Benton said that it was to get rid of the evils of the old confederation, that the present union was formed, and having formed it, its founders undertook to make it perpetual; and for that purpose had recourse to all the sanctions held sacred among men—prohibitions, oaths—the States were forbidden to form compacts or agreements with each other. The constitution and the laws made in pursuance of it, were declared to be the supreme law of the land; and all authorities, State and Federal, legislative, executive and judicial, were to be sworn to support it.

The resolutions which have been read contradict all this, and the General Assembly mistook their own powers as much as they mistook the sentiments of the people of Missouri, when they adopted them. This is all I shall say at present. I make no objection to the reception or printing of the resolutions. The only object at present is to make and save these two points:

First, that the General Assembly mistook the sentiments of the people of Missouri in adopting these resolutions.

Second, that they mistook their own powers in doing so.

Mr. Atchison said, as no objection has been made to the printing of the resolutions, I have but one word to say—that is, merely to express the opinion that the people of the State of Missouri, when the time arrives, will prove to all mankind that every sentiment in the resolutions will be sustained by them.

Mr. Seward, of New York, moved that the resolution of Mr. Cass, relative to suspending diplomatic intercourse with Austria, be printed. Agreed to.

Look at it—A bill has been reported in the legislature of Georgia, entitled "An act to repeal the present Whig and Democratic parties, and in lieu thereof to establish a Southern Independent Republican party."

**Gleanings.**  
Upwards of 80,000 pounds of show beef was sold by five butchers in Cincinnati, on Christmas day.

Gen. A. J. A. is accused of aiming at the dictatorship of Mexico.

Thousands of prairie fowls are brought to Cincinnati, and large quantities barreled up and shipped to the Eastern States.

Mr. Barron, who went from Mobile to Mexico, was robbed of \$7000, on his way from Vera Cruz to Tepic.

Gen. Tom Thumb is exhibiting in Dayton, Ohio.

A London paper says that portraits in oil of any size are now taken by a photographic process in a sitting of half a minute. The process is called photo-prosopon.

**Light and Heat from Water.**  
We noticed some time since a wonderful discovery said to have been made by Henry M. Paine, which enabled him to produce a brilliant light from water, at a mere nominal expense. It is now stated that Mr. Paine, by a very simple machine, without galvanic batteries, metals or acids decomposes water and reduces it to a gaseous state; with less than one three-hundredth part of one horse power he will produce 200 cubic feet of hydrogen and 100 feet of oxygen gas per hour, which will furnish as much heat by combustion, as 2000 feet of the common coal gas and light equal to 300 common lamps, for 10 hours—or sufficient to warm and light an ordinary dwelling house, twelve hours, including the requisite heat for the kitchen—And all this at an expense less than one cent!

**The Return of an Erring Child.**  
About 18 months since, the daughter of a respectable merchant in this city, eloped from the residence of her father, in Walker street. No trace could be had of the unhappy girl for some time, when it was ascertained she had left the city in company with a female—and had gone to Mobile—Since then she had not been heard of, and her afflicted parents had mourned her as dead. On Sunday night last, while the family were seated in the parlor, a servant entered the room and told the father that a female wished to see him; he went into the hall where he beheld a female closely veiled. Upon his inquiring what she wished, she adventured a step towards him and fell senseless on the floor; lights were procured and she was taken to a sofa in an inner room, where her veil was removed, when she was at once recognized as the long lost child.—The feelings of the parents can better be imagined than described. After she had sufficiently recovered, she proceeded to relate to them the history of her life since she had fled from her parents' roof; but her parents at once refused—saying that she had returned once more to them and whatever had occurred was all forgiven and forgotten. The poor creature was overwhelmed by this act of kindness, and she fainted; for some time, it was impossible to recall her senses, but she finally recovered, and we trust that her future conduct will be such as will make amends for her previous misguided action.—New York Morning Star.

**A Capital Suggestion.**—The New Orleans Bulletin, in commenting on the late disorganized state of the House of Representatives, suggests as an effectual guard to the recurrence of such a thing, an amendment to the Constitution, providing that whenever either House shall not complete its organization within ten days after the legal day of meeting, that House should be ipso facto dissolved, and new election shall take place, within thirty days, throughout the Union. With such an amendment the organization would always take place in due season.

**Miller the Prophet.**—William Miller, commonly known as "Miller the Prophet," for his advocacy from the pulpit, and in various works that he has published of the opinion that the end of the world was approaching immediately, died on the 20th of December, in Low Hampton, Washington county, in this State, in the 68th year of his age. He was a native of Painesfield, Mass., and held a captain's commission in the army during the last war with England. He was a man of moderate abilities and very little education, but of strong will and fanatical temperament. His disappointment on the failure of his predictions in 1843 very much affected his spirits, and he had preached but little since that time.—New York Paper.

**Remarkable Escape of a Slave.**—The Boston Post, of Friday understands that a vessel had arrived there from Wilmington N. C. bringing a yellow girl belonging to George W. Davis of that city. She was secreted on board by the mate. A bed was thrown into the poop for her to lie upon, and concealed by piling wood around it. The Authorities at Wilmington, almost knowing her to be on board, made repeated searches, smoked the vessel several times, after loading announcing that they would smother her if she did not show herself.

Upon coming out of the river the vessel was boarded by the posse for the last time, and had the girl been found, the captain would have been in great peril, notwithstanding he knew nothing of the runaway. During the voyage the girl was fed in the hatches, without the knowledge of the master. At the wharf where she was brought ashore by her deliverer at considerable risk of detection by the crew of the vessel, none of whom were aware of the passenger, they had on board.

**"They can't keep house without it!"**—A farmer said to us the other day. "I don't think much of quack medicines, but there is a medicine that we can't keep house without—and that is Merchant's Gargling Oil. It not only cures all the horses and out-door critters but it cures all the indoor varmints too—if any get hurt in any way, or have any pain coming on them, they run for the Gargling Oil, which makes them forget all their troubles."

Much valuable information respecting this wonderful Oil may be obtained by consulting a pamphlet which you may get free of charge of the agent—see also advertisement in any other column.