

VARIOUS MATTERS.

OUR TRADE.

The Secretary of the Treasury has just published his Report of the Commerce and Navigation of the United States for the year 1836. The value of imports from England alone during the year ending the 30th September last, was \$75,761,713, and from the British possessions 86,022,915. The exports to England amounted to 83,302,483, and to the British possessions 64,487,681. The imports from France amounted to 36,815,417. The exports to France amounted to 20,939,100. The trade with these two countries and their foreign possessions, constitutes nearly two-thirds of the whole foreign trade of this country. The exports to Great Britain and her dependencies, constitute half our foreign exports, the imports from that country are not quite in the same proportion.

Some of the principal articles of import from England are cotton goods \$11,895,134, woollen cloths and cassimeres 8,568,724, linens from England, Scotland and Ireland 6,556,498, worsted stuff goods 5,603,555, hardware 5,581,742 silk goods 3,782,863, earthen and stone ware 2,403,500, gold and silver coin 2,322,920. The principal imports from France are, silk goods 15,611,188, cotton goods 2,109,082, wines 1,942,179, brandy 1,109,826, specie and bullion 4,841,004.

The principal articles of export to Great Britain are, cotton 48,902,543, tobacco 5,202,645. To France, cotton 17,519,757, tobacco 967,699.

The imports from Spain and its dependencies, were \$19,345,690, of which 12,734,855 were from Cuba, and 3,209,043 from other Spanish West Indies. The imports from China amounted to 7,324,816, from Brazil 7,210,190, from Mexico 5,615,819, from the Hansetowns in Germany 4,994,820, from Holland and its colonies 3,861,514, and from Russia 2,779,554.

GREAT FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.

The New York Journal of Commerce of Saturday says:

"About two o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the lower part of the large five story brick building No. 109 Washington street, occupied as a public store, which was entirely destroyed, together with the whole of its contents. The building extended nearly through to Greenwich street, and contained a large amount of goods.

While the firemen were actively engaged in subduing the flames, the north end wall of the building gave way, and, melancholy to relate, buried two of the firemen in its ruins, one of them, whose name we ascertained to be Houghton, belonging to Hose Co. No. 13. Also, a young man apparently between 16 and 17 years of age, who was standing near at the time, got himself so severely bruised, that very little hope is entertained of his recovery. We could not learn how the fire originated.

From the same paper—second edition.

From the best information we are able to obtain, the loss of property by the burning of the public store in Washington street last night, is not far from HALF A MILLION OF DOLLARS, on which was the following insurance:

Engle,	\$20,000
Atina,	10,000
Equitable,	10,000
Contributionship,	15,000
Howard,	20,000
Mutual,	4,500
Merchants,	13,000
Manhattan,	6,000
Firemen's,	10,000
City,	8,500
North America,	10,000
North River,	5,000
Total insurance,	\$132,000

A considerable amount of goods in the cellar are only damaged.

Singular Device.

A singular circumstance, exhibiting, in a remarkable degree, the reflecting faculties of a wolf, is related as having taken place at Signy-le-Petit, a small town on the borders of Champagne. A farmer one day, looking through the hedge of his garden, observed a wolf walking round about his mule, but unable to get at him, on account the mule's constantly kicking with his hind legs. As the farmer perceived that his beast was so well able to defend itself, he considered it unnecessary to render him any assistance. After the attack and defence had lasted fully a quarter of an hour, the wolf ran off to a neighbouring ditch, where he several times plunged into the water. The farmer imagined he did this to refresh himself after the fatigue he had sustained, and had no doubt that this mule had gained a complete victory; but in a few minutes the wolf returned to the charge, and, approaching as near as he could to the head of the mule, shook himself & spouted a quantity of water into the mule's eyes which caused him immediately to shut them. That moment the wolf leaped upon him and killed the poor mule before the farmer could come to his assistance.

Out at the Elbows.

Nobody blames a rich man for going with his elbows out, because every one knows that he has got money to get him a new coat; but it is unpardonable in a poor man to go ragged, because, every body knows, it is out of his power to do otherwise. Yet there are at this present moment many whom we would suppose rich, very much out at the elbows.

FROM MEXICO.

CAMPEACHY, May 9, 1837.

The very great and sudden change in Mexico, and the heavy claims against them on all sides, makethings this way not very pleasant.

Santa Anna still remains in retirement, and if he does not leave the country soon, I am afraid he will be no better served than Turbide. The newspapers seem to think that Great Britain will take a part in defence of Mexico.

The French and English grievances will no doubt be amicably adjusted, and all the tempest turned upon the United States—we shall soon see.

Not a dollar here to pay the troops with, and we are threatened to have them quartered on the town.

The late American consul made his escape in good time—for these people are getting above themselves, and God only knows what will be the fate of the Americans in these Mexican states.

My latest dates from Matamoras are to the 18th April, by which I learn that General Bravo had detained all the American vessels at that port, expecting that Mexico would declare war against the U. States.

P. S. Captain O'Flaherty is still in prison, and in case of war he will have a bad chance of gaining his liberty.

FROM TEXAS:

There were several arrivals from this country yesterday—every thing was quiet. The Mexican fleet had disappeared from the coast, not however, it is reported, before it had captured the Texian schooner of war Independence and schooner Julius Cæsar. The Texian fleet had been considerably augmented, and what with the assistance afforded by American vessels of war, merchant men may now go to any of the ports of the republic without fear or molestation.

The Kerankaway Indians, one of the most warlike & dreaded of the tribes which inhabit the frontiers of Mexico, have entered into a treaty with the Texans.

We are verbally informed, on authority on which reliance may be placed, that money, gold and silver, and New Orleans and Mississippi bank notes, were plenty in Houston. Carpenters were receiving 10 dollars per day, and the supply was not adequate to the demand. This holds out inducements of no ordinary kind to mechanics to visit this fine and healthy country.

The Invincible, Brutus and Tom Tody, Texian vessels of war, and United States ship Boston were off Galveston Bay. The Boston had every thing ready for action. She was giving convoy to vessels coming and going from the ports of Texas.

It was stated a short time since, that the sloop of war Natchez had sunk two Mexican brigs of war. This is a mistake—she ran them ashore on the Brassos St. Jago, where they went to pieces.

We regret to learn that the late Texian minister to this country, the Hon. Charles Wharton, was a passenger on board the Independence, presumed to have been captured by the Mexican fleet. If this prove true, he and all on board will have a hard time of it.

Commissioners have been appointed by the Government to proceed to this country for the purpose of perfecting a loan of \$5,000,000. In these times of pressure & distress, this will be no easy matter.

STILL LATER.

The New Orleans Correspondent of the New York Courier and Enquirer gives us the following particulars in letter under date of the 24th ult:

The Mexicans blockaded Matagorda for about a month, but did not capture any vessels bound to that port. Gen. Johnson took the precaution of sending there 200 volunteers, who together with the militia, were prepared to give a good reception to the Mexicans if they had landed.

Should the Texian government decide that a movement towards Mexico should be made, 3 or 4000 more men from Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee, would shortly join the crusade. Indeed, from the city of New Orleans alone, the Texans might expect 4 or 500 volunteers. Many are already dreaming of Mexican treasures, and Mexican mines.

Passengers arrived to-day from Texas, via Natchitoches, confirm the rumours of the long contemplated expedition against Matamoras, and say that although there is a strong party in favor of it, yet that the farmers generally were opposed to it.

That a movement on the part of the Texans towards Matamoras at this juncture, would throw insurmountable obstacles in the way of a friendly arrangement with the U. S. is unquestionable, for the Mexicans would say that such movement had been concerted with the American government; but you and your readers know too well that the Texans have been talking about that expedition two months ago, and if they carry it into effect—and I think they will—they intend to go to Mexico on their own hook.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has issued his proclamation, offering a reward of one hundred dollars, for the arrest within this State, of the murderers of Rachael Brownback, of Chester county, on the 17th or 18th of last month—and two hundred dollars will be given if the apprehension is made out of Pennsylvania.

The following circular has been addressed by Bishop ONDERDONK, to all the clergymen of his sect in the state, enclosing a Prayer to be used in the Episcopal Churches thereof, during the session of the convention in Harrisburg:

Philadelphia, May 23, 1837.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.

In conformity with the XLVth canon of 1832, I transmit to you the following form of prayer, to be used before the two final prayers of morning and evening service, during the session of the Convention of the People of this State.

Your affectionate friend and brother,
H. U. ONDERDONK.

A Prayer for the Convention of the People of Pennsylvania.

O LORD our God, the blessed and only Potentate, the Supreme Ruler of nations, we implore thy blessing on the Convention of the People of this State; now assembled. Enlighten them in their deliberations, and guide them in their proceedings; that they may in all things seek and advance thy glory, the cause of thy true religion and virtue, and the welfare and happiness of all whom they represent, in all their relations. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all; both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all: Thou art Father of lights; all good knowledge and learning are thy gift; and of thee cometh the righteousness which exalteth a nation: And therefore, O Lord our God, of thee we ask, for this Commonwealth, these favours, as thou shalt see fit to grant them, especially through the counsels of its Convention; for the sake of thine only Son Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

THE NEWSPAPER.

In this country, the newspaper is the poor man's book. Let his occupations be what they may, he can find a leisure moment, to snatch a passing glance at its contents, and learn there what is doing in the world around him. Indeed there are very few who are not acquainted with the current news of the day; and there are so many in all the classes and conditions of life, who feel it incumbent upon them to engage in the politics of the times, that these manuals (they may be called) are indispensable in presenting a view of the conduct of public servants, which every American feels he has an inalienable right to inquire into.

This is precisely as it should be; and it only remains that as much true information should be laid before him, by the conductors of the public press, as can possibly be obtained, to allow him to judge rightly; and to take his side to advance this patriot, or to retard that demagogue, who seeks to administer public affairs. Apart, however, from political considerations, the newspaper is the poor man's book; because it reaches his family. It finds its place upon the tea table, when his little ones are assembled; & where it finds tastes as various. The staid matron occasionally gleams a hint for her culinary preparations, or learns some precept for the government of her household; or perhaps cons over some tale which takes her back to her season of youth, with all its gentle influences and associations. The gentle maiden consults the calendar of marriage, to see who has preceded her in the race, or perhaps whilst drawing the moral from some story of affection, smiles at the similarity of hopes and fears, which picture her own little life of love. The youth catches a glimpse of the rudiments of science, or the courses of trade. The younger branches, down to the smallest member of the poor man's tie to life, derive delight from the moving picture of accidents by flood and field, the anecdotes and wit, and lastly the prints which are daily presented them; and thus the poor man finds he has a library in the newspaper, adapted to all the tastes of his little community, which to procure by other means his funds are inadequate.

The Exchange Hotel at New Orleans, just completed, it is supposed, is the largest in the world—228 feet front by 196 deep, 6 stories high, with a dome and tower whose top is 113 feet from the ground. Has 350 rooms, and a dining hall 113 feet long; a superb marble statue of Washington has lately arrived from Italy, which will be placed in the centre of the colonnade, at the entrance of the grand saloon. It is estimated that the hotel will cost \$550,000, and the furniture \$120,000.

By a census just completed, we learn that the population of Boston is 80,823; being an increase since 1830, of 19,431, or about 32 per cent. Boston will be entitled, according to this census, to send fifty-six members to the next Legislature of Massachusetts.

Mr Scott a celebrated clergyman of London, is about to migrate with a colony to Wisconsin. Mr Scott is of the New Jerusalem Church, and will visit this country for the avowed purpose of promulgating the doctrines of that church among us. He is represented to be a man of great eloquence, learning and piety.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR."

BLOOMSBURG:

Saturday, June 10, 1837.

MORE SHIN-PLASTERS.

The Cattawissa Bridge Company have followed suit with similar corporations, and our neighbourhood will of course be flooded with "promises to pay," in average amounts of from twelve and a half cents, to twenty-five cents, fifty, and seventy-five cents, and one, two, three, and four dollars. Now, the conduct of the Banks in securing all the specie in the country for the purpose of selling it at a premium,—their refusal to redeem their own notes in conformity with their pledged faith, and the restrictions of their charters,—and the consequent scarcity of the legal currency of the country, may render such a course essentially necessary in the view of some people; but as an open violation of law, it will certainly never receive the sanction of the community, and therefore we shall discountenance any attempt, come from what quarter it may, to put these rags into circulation. While the civil law grants protection to the rights of every man, it also prescribes a penalty for every offence, in order to prevent, by the influence of example and punishment, the recurrence of such crime; and when those who set the law at defiance, are persons of rank and character, to whom many look for examples of morality, the penalty for any offence whatever, should be strictly exacted. If such men are left alone in their unlawful transactions, then all law becomes null and void, and will eventually result in the overthrow of all order, and all respect for the dignity of the commonwealth, and the integrity and intentions of our executive, legislative and magistratorial functionaries. We will then merely ask, who issue these Shin-plasters? Who take them and promote their circulation? The answer is at hand: They are issued by certain corporate bodies, through their managers and officers—men who have been chosen by the stockholders, on account of their integrity of character, qualifications, or extensive influence and possessions, to direct and control their operations. What examples to less qualified & labouring classes of community! The act of April 12, 1828, prohibits the issuing and circulating, either directly or indirectly, of any paper having the nature, CHARACTER, or APPEARANCE of a bank note, of any less denomination than five dollars; and the same act prescribes a penalty of FIVE DOLLARS for every such offence, "to be recovered by any person suing for the same as debts of like amount are by law recoverable."—We shall say no more, unless new matter arise deserving animadversion, on the subject of these illegal substitutes for a metallic currency. Every person in the community should, by this time, know and understand the law; & if he be muled into the special penalties prescribed, he cannot attribute his losses to any want of necessary caution on our part. We will take none of them;—and while we have reason to expect, before many weeks elapse, plenty of the HARD CURRENCY circulation, yet disappointment in this honest hope shall not alter our determination, unless the Legislature may deem it advisable to render them a legal part of our paper currency, by altering or abolishing the act which attaches a penalty to their issue and circulation.

THE CONVENTION proceedings possess but very little interest; the whole time of the members being engrossed with long-winded speeches on points of order, or the personal abuse of one another. They are talking about adjourning in July; and if they exhibit no greater zeal for the interests of the public than they have so far manifested, the sooner they adjourn the better, and the fewer alterations they make in the Constitution the less of aristocracy will contaminate that already objectionable charter.

The Harrisburg "Keystone" is now printed on a Napier press, and instead of occupying two days, as formerly, they can now strike off their whole issue—upwards of 2500—in less than two hours. This will facilitate their circulation, and no doubt reward their enterprise.

WEST BRANCH BANK.

As we predicted in our last, so has matters turned out in the sale of the stock of this institution. Most of the shares brought ten per cent. advance; and nearly all, we understand, were purchased by the "unfortunate" creatures who have been "ruined by the specie circular," and who cry "panic and pressure" to frighten country folks. One half of the purchase money must be paid down in specie; and as this will amount to upwards of \$100,000, we wonder where the "poor fellows" raised the change? We want to hear no more about the scarcity of gold and silver, and the necessity for shin-plasters. There are \$80,000,000 of specie locked up in the vaults of the Banks and Brokers of the United States,—a larger amount than we ever had in America,—and if the PEOPLE would only treat these soulless MONIED MONOPOLIES as they merit, we would have no trouble about making change. The precious metals were supplanted by paper in the revolution; and if such a policy is permitted now, we may anticipate similar consequences.

P. S. Since the foregoing was in type we have received a letter from Williamsport, giving an account of the manner in which the stock was thrown into particular hands, through political management—at the head of which was Ex-Governor Shulze and some others of the same stamp. Their conduct has excited universal disgust, and Judge Lewis, Gen. Anthony, & many others have abandoned the stock previously knocked down to them, and refused to participate, in any manner, in the future operations of the Bank.

The following communication was received after our article on the same subject had been in type. It comes from one who has represented Columbia county in the State Legislature—whose principles are not biased by pecuniary considerations—& whose sole object is to perpetuate our free institutions, and add character to his country and his countrymen.

To the Editor of the Columbia Democrat.

Sir: I would thank you for information respecting our Cattawissa Bridge Bank. The act of Assembly granting corporate privileges to our Bridge Company, so far as my knowledge extends, never authorised an issue of Paper Tickets, in the character of Bank Notes. The act expressly says, "the name, style, & title shall be the President, Directors and Company." Of course, the Stockholders are the Company; and as they were never called upon to vote, nor ever consulted upon the subject of issuing Shin-plasters, but openly declared insolvent, I think the People ought to inquire into the matter, and "fix the saddle upon the right horse." Such rags have been issued by an individual in the immediate correspondence of the Monster—probably under the guidance of Thaddeus Stevens—and I would wish you to tell us under what pretext of authority, he exercises such functions, of which, as a stockholder, I have no knowledge. CATAWISSA.

We are wholly unable to give our venerable friend the information he desires; but for the purpose of giving wholesome advice to the Company who have nominally assumed the responsibility of issuing these small notes, as well as for other reasons, we extract the second section of the act of 22d of March, 1817—passed after the blow-up of the batch of forty banks. [See Purdon's Digest, page 97.]

SECTION 2. No incorporated body, public officer, association or partnership, or private individual, other than such as have been expressly incorporated or established for the purpose of Banking, shall make, issue, re-issue or circulate any promissory note, ticket, or engagement of credit in the nature of a Bank Note, of any denomination whatsoever, other than such as have been issued by banks lawfully & expressly established; and from and after the first day of May next, no such incorporated body, public officer, association or partnership, shall receive any such note, ticket, or engagement of credit, other than those above excepted, or those made and issued by it or himself, or under its or his immediate authority, & for the mere purpose of CANCELLING or DESTROYING the same, under the penalty, in the case of a Public Officer, of TEN DOLLARS, and in the case of a Corporation, Association, or partnership, FIFTY Dollars, for each and every note so made, issued, re-issued, circulated, paid or received, to be recovered by any person or persons suing for the same, before any Alderman or Justice of the Peace within the Commonwealth, as debts under one hundred dollars are by law recoverable.

The capital of the New Orleans Banks is \$54,554,000, of which \$36,769,455 is paid up; of this sum \$18,681,820 is held in Europe, \$10,225,925 in New Orleans, and \$5-732,169 is in real estate.

Their circulation is \$7,135,200, & specie \$2,671,327.