

## Items of News.

### THE TRAGEDY IN ARKANSAS.

We have published a paragraph, stating that a Mr. Anthony, a member of the Arkansas Legislature, had been killed in a rencontre with Col. Wilson, the Speaker of the Lower House. It appears, from the particulars since received, that this murderous outrage was actually committed on the floor of the House, while in session—the Speaker, in consequence of some offensive remark directed against him by the unfortunate member, having come down from his seat, armed with a Bowie knife! The member, it is stated, was also armed with the same weapon, but the rencontre lasted only for a moment, the latter having been left dead on the floor, and the Speaker having had one hand nearly cut off, and the other severely injured. Wilson was forthwith arrested by the civil authorities, and his name stricken from the roll of the House, by nearly a unanimous vote.

**Painful Disclosure.**—It will be remembered that a package of poisoned coffee was some months since left at the residence of Mr. Otis, a highly respectable merchant living in Waverly Place, and that \$1000 reward was offered for the discovery of the person or persons who made this treacherous attempt upon the lives of Mr. O's family. The reward it now appears, had the desired effect of discovering the wretched individual who prepared and sent the poisonous fruit, and who proves to be the wife of an eminent physician of this city. Jealousy is said to have been the cause of this mad-crime, and the unhappy perpetrator of it immediately embarked for England, on being discovered. It seems she employed a servant to carry the coffee to Mr. Otis's dwelling, and tell the person who received it that Mr. O. had ordered it home as a sample. We shall suppress further particulars of this painful event, as they can be of no public benefit, and would injure the feelings of innocent persons. It is sufficient to know that the unhappy lady, though her wealthy friends have shielded her from the vengeance of the laws, is discovered and punished. Such crimes are always brought to light—and what is a greater punishment than to be banished friends, relatives and home, and suffer the torments of a guilty conscience!—New York Sun.

**A Noble Deed.**—A few days since a gentleman from Philadelphia, with his wife and only child, a daughter about four years old, had taken passage on board the Steamboat Buffalo, which was making preparations to depart. The little daughter had wandered unperceived from her father's arms, and while playing near the guards, fell overboard. The cry was given of a drowning child! The father could not swim—the mother in an instant became almost distracted. At length the former cried out, "will no one save my child!—my only child!" At the moment a boy, apparently about twelve years of age, sprang forward, saying "sir, I'll try to save your child!" And doffing his fur cap, the little boy plunged in with his clothes and boots on. The child was going down the second time in thirty feet water, when the boy caught the treasure and restored it safely to its mother. The best of it is the boy refused compensation for what he had done.—Pittsburg Express.

### HARRISBURG AND LANCASTER RAIL ROAD.

This road is completed to Lancaster, and has been some months in use, with the exception of the tunnel through the hill near Elizabethtown, which was perforated some weeks since, and it was expected that the rock through which it was cut would have been sufficiently solid to sustain the earth above, without arching; but it is found that it would not be safe, as a small part of it has fallen in. The company then determined to arch it, and let the contract to William Cameron Esq. He has commenced at both ends of the tunnel, and is putting up a most substantial and neat wall of cut stone on each side, which is to be surmounted with an elliptic arch.—He expects to have it finished by the opening of the spring.—If it be finished in the way it is commenced, it will be the best specimen of tunnel work in this country, and do credit to the enterprising contractor.—Keystone.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 27.

**Melancholy Death by Hydrophobia.**—We regret to have it fall to our lot to record the death of George Washington, an interesting little son of Mr. John Foster, aged five years and 4 months, by hydrophobia. This child was bitten by a mad dog in Eutaw street, about 7 or eight weeks since, but showed no signs of that dreadful malady, until about a week ago, since which time he had been suffering in the greatest agony, until Sunday, when he was relieved by death. The poor little victim bit his own tongue all to pieces, and expressed a longing desire to bite his father and mother, and a lady that resided in the house with them. We understand that three other persons were bitten by the same dog, one of whom is now suffering in the greatest agony with the hydrophobia.—Sun.

An eloquent professor in the healing art, thus characterizes the article of calomel:—"It is the jaw bone of Samson; the club of Hercules; the lever and fulcrum of Archimedes; and the terror of old maids."

From the Norfolk Herald, Dec. 20.

Died, on Saturday night last, Mr. Peter Singleton, aged 33 years.

Descended from one of the oldest, wealthiest, and most respectable families in our neighborhood, and left almost the sole possessor of the vast family estate, the subject of this notice found himself, on the day when the law allowed him to enter upon it, in possession of a property which could not be estimated far short of 300,000. Unfortunately, though no common pains had been bestowed on his education, and he had manifested no deficiency of mind or deterioration of principle, he was left to his own inclinations and propensities, which led him to the idle pleasures and dangerous courses and associations which laid the foundation of his ruin. He was courted, flattered and caressed, by the artful and designing who knew his weakness and sought to take advantage of it.—It is needless to enter into particulars.—In two or three years the race course and the gaming table swept his large estate, and left him a helpless dependent on a few friends; but habits of intemperance which he had acquired by his association at the gaming table, and in which he now indulged to a greater excess than ever, to drown the reflection of the effects of his folly, soon unfitted him for any other society than that which is found in the lowest resorts of drunkenness—we would not unnecessarily wound any feeling of affinity—but the lesson he has left to the rising generation, to warn them against the snares and pitfalls which beset their paths in the pursuit of vicious pleasures—is too useful to be thrown away.—On Saturday he was conveyed, by private charity, in a state of insensibility, to the Almshouse, and the same night his wretched existence was terminated.

From the Baltimore Farmer and Gardener.

### ITALIAN SPRING WHEAT.

York, Pa. Aug. 10, 1837.

**E. P. Roberts, Esq.**—Sir, you express a wish in your valuable paper of the 25th ultimo, to know the result of the culture of spring wheat in different parts of the country. Thinking that perhaps the experiment of this county might be of some advantage to the public we give it as far as ascertained, with pleasure. Early last fall we ordered from different parts of New York about 100 bushels of the Italian but succeeded in getting only 63 bushels. This, with the exception of about ten bushels, which we sowed ourselves, was sold in small quantities to the farmers in this county, and we are gratified to say, it has succeeded far beyond the expectation of the most sanguine. It is generally better than the winter wheat. We find too that it does not require so strong a soil. We have a lot of four acres, of a thin chestnut soil, improved by lime and manure, which we think will give us thirty bushels to the acre. All that we have heard of is free from mildew and rust, while a large portion of the winter wheat in this county was injured by it.

Respectfully yours,

P. A. & S. SMALL.

This wheat has the wonderful property of doing well on poor worn land, though of course the crop will be heavier on a more favorable soil. The fact is well ascertained that land so light and worn down that it will not produce a crop of oats, will bring a fair crop of spring wheat.—Genesee Farmer.

### INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

An English paper relates that a practical farmer at the annual dinner of the Preston Agricultural Society, gave some account of various interesting discoveries in farming, particularly as related to economy of seeds. He said that he had always been of the opinion that much less seed than was generally used for grain would answer the purpose. With this impression he made experiments upon different portions of the ground. He had planted at the rate of one grain of wheat to a square foot, or nine grains to a yard. In several instances one grain had produced 38 stems—in others rather less—but in all a crop amply sufficient. He had also examined the heads, and found that one head contained as many as forty-two grains.—The general result of his calculation showed a produce at the rate of forty-two bushels per statute acre. There were 4640 grains in half a pound of wheat, and thus according to the proportion he had named, 4 lbs. 10 oz. of seed would be found sufficient for a statute acre. This he thought was a subject deserving the consideration of agriculturalists. He had this year drilled three bushels of wheat at the rate of six bushels for three acres, in rows of from 12 to 13 inches asunder, and though this was only to a small extent following out the former experiments yet it would be a guide to the principle.

We understand that the Bank of Charleston has made an arrangement with one of the first Banking institutions in England, to keep a direct account with them, and is prepared to buy Sterling and Foreign Exchange from purchasers of produce, and also to supply Sterling Bills to importers of Foreign Goods.—This is the first arrangement of this character ever made by a Bank in that city, and we consider it a highly important step towards opening a direct trade with Europe.

Exchange upon England is below par; so that the tendency of money is to the United States, rather than from them.

The habit of leaving small children alone in rooms, where fires are burning, is inexcusable. Lately, at Haverhill, Miss. a little girl, who had been left to take care of a child younger than herself, had her clothes to take fire in an attempt to reach the mantle-piece, and was so burned that she died in a short time. Numerous as the accidents are from this cause, it is only strange they do not occur more frequently, when we take into account the incapacity of children to judge correctly of how near they may approach a fire with safety. Parents should never leave their tender offspring alone, or if they do, they should avoid having them clad in cotton fabrics, which become easily ignited, and burn rapidly. The case above mentioned should serve as a caution, and put mothers on guard.

**Private Hanging.**—There is a curious police report in a late London paper, setting forth the particulars of a private execution, commenced but not completed, by reason of the interference of a police officer. He was patrolling along the Hampstead road one evening, when he saw two men upon the top of a wall, and in a moment after one of them appeared to be hanging from a lamp iron, fastened in the wall. The officer ran up, marvelling greatly what all this could mean, and was saluted by a whacking blow on the nose, from the suspended individual, whose rope had given way and let him down to the ground before the work of strangulation was effected. The other man decamped, but was arrested by another policeman, and both hanged and subject were conveyed to the public office. On their examination it appeared that they had been tossing up coppers first taking money, then their clothes, and finally life against life, one of them having stripped his antagonist of all other possessions. The toss being decided the winner proceeded very deliberately to realize his luck by the application of a hempen cord, the loser quietly submitting. The half-hanged fellow told the magistrate, quite confidently, that if he had won the toss, he should certainly have tucked the other up; and he thought himself bound in honor to submit when the chance had gone against him.—Com Adv.

**TRIAL OF RICHARD K. FROST.**—The trial before the New York Court of Sessions, of Richard K. Frost, Thompsonian practitioner, on a charge of manslaughter for alleged malpractice, resulting in the death of a Mr. French, was brought to a close on Saturday last. The jury returned a verdict against Frost of guilty of manslaughter in the fourth degree, but recommended him to mercy. A motion was made for a new trial, and in the meantime Frost is permitted to go at large until a decision is made.

The following bull has been perpetrated by a correspondent of a morning paper, who, writing from Havre, says, "a dozen fat oxen arrived by the English packet for one of the principal graziers in this neighborhood; they are destined to improve the breed of the cattle here."

Accounts from Toronto, states that flour has risen to twenty dollars per barrel; new corn, eight dollars, and good hogs, to make prime mess pork, five dollars per hundred.

**A BULL.**—Some of the papers have committed a bull by saying that "the state house of the Wisconsin Territory was burnt."

Harvey, the Onedia Bank robber, has been sentenced to the state prison for four years and ten months.

The scene at St. Charles, after that bloody affair, is described as revolting. A citizen of Albany, just returned from thence, saw the hogs devouring the dead bodies of the patriots!! This confirms previous accounts. It is said that the most atrocious brutalities were committed at this place by the British soldiers.

Western Flour in New York, was \$9 per barrel, on Saturday.

John Jacob Astor, of New York, has subscribed \$5,000 towards the "association for the relief of aged females."

Judge Lewis, now a distinguished lawyer and Judge in Pennsylvania, was a journeyman printer in the office of the New York Daily Advertiser, in 1827.

The gas consumed at the Astor House, New York, amounts to over \$500 per month.

The Governor of New York, has issued a proclamation, calling upon the people of that State to abstain from all illegal interference with the domestic concerns of the Canadas.

The ship Chester, from Liverpool, bro't \$82,000 dollars in specie, on account of the Bank of the United States.

Bituminous coal has been found in Eutaw township, Potter county, Pa.

The New York Star asserts that within the last two months, millions of foreign capital have been imported into that city.

The number of lives lost by steamboat accidents, on the Mississippi river, during the last summer, was 746!

The Tennessee Senate, by a vote of 19 to 5, have passed a bill to suppress the circulation of "change tickets" after the first of March next.

About \$1,500,000 has been expended by the state of Indiana on her canals and railroads during the past year.

## THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

By Ingram & Mills.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR."

BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, JAN. 6, 1838.

JACOB HIBLER, Esq. of Danville, has been re-appointed Clerk to the County Commissioners.

### THE REFORM CONVENTION.

This body are still engaged in suggesting amendments to the present Banking system. A resolution to adjourn on the 2d of next month has passed by a vote of 53 to 50; and the members are restricted to one hour in delivering their speeches. This reminds us of the rules in some junior polemic associations, in which more attention is paid to the time of delivery than to the subject under discussion. Their labors will doubtless be submitted to the decision of the people in October next; and the result, in our opinion, from the prejudices of the people, cannot be extremely doubtful.

### SHIN PLASTERS.

The Senate of the United States have passed a bill prohibiting the issue or circulation, within the District of Columbia, of all notes under the denomination of \$5.—The bill passed without a dissenting vote—31 voting for it, and the residue of the 52 Senators declining to vote at all! The following are the yeas and nays, from which it will be seen that the Democratic Senators are opposed to the shin-plaster currency, whether created by corporations or individuals.

**YEAS.**—Messrs. Allen, Benton, Brown, Buchanan, Clay of Alabama, Cuthbert, Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, King, Lumpkin, Linn, McKean, Nicholas, Niles, Norvell, Pierce, Rives, Roane, Robinson, Sevier, Smith of Connecticut, Smith of Indiana, Strange, Tipton, Walker, Wall, White, Williams, Wright and Young—31.

Nays—None.

### ESTIMATE DAY AT CATTAWISSA.

There is some gratification in visiting Cattawissa on the first day of each month—always estimate day, unless Col. Paxton fails in getting the rhino. About \$40,000 are paid to contractors on the rail road, who generally have plenty of places for immediate investment, and who are seldom backward in meeting their engagements. It is a DAY OF CASH—every room being occupied in public houses, after leaving the Colonel's office, in paying out and receiving Nick Biddle's valuable rags. All are in motion—all generally in a good humor—and if some are disappointed in not receiving an estimate in proportion to their wants, they usually have the deficiency made up by the liberal assistance of their more fortunate fellow-craftsmen. Contractors are generally keen and intelligent men; and universally have the character of generous fellows; and when they get their monthly estimate they fully sustain their free-hearted reputation. It is a great day in Cattawissa—the time for mirth and money; and we can only predict a similar flow of life and plenty to Bloomsburg, when the extension to Williamsport is commenced, which most probably will take place the ensuing spring.—We wish success to all systems of internal improvement—to all who may be engaged in their location or construction—and as for the money, we don't care where it comes from, so that it circulates in, and proves a benefit to, our neighbourhood.

### LUZERNE COUNTY.

The Democrats of this county chose delegates to the 4th of March Convention on Tuesday evening last. Messrs. STARK and REYNOLDS (of the state legislature,) are the representative, and A. H. BROADHEAD, Esq. the Senatorial delegate. The selection of these gentlemen exhibits the triumphant purity of Luzerne democracy, when their energies are brought into requisition by the caviling's and treachery of "wolves in sheep's clothing." We are not apprised of any instructions having been given; but we are aware of the fact that the gentlemen chosen as delegates will spare no exertions in procuring the nomination of a candidate who will secure the united support of the whole democratic party.

### CATTAWISSA HOTEL.

This valuable property, it will be observed, will be offered at Public Sale on the first of February. It affords strong inducements to those who would desire to purchase a first rate tavern stand. The property must increase in value; and in the bustling and thriving village of Cattawissa must secure a large share of public patronage if properly conducted.

We learn from the Bucks County Intelligencer, that on Sunday morning, December 24, a man was found in the road, near Makefield meeting house, in that county, in a state of insensibility, caused, as is supposed, from exposure to the pelting storm of the preceding night. He was, apparently, 45 or 50 years of age, 5 feet 4 or 5 inches in height, of rather dark complexion, and bald on his forehead. There was nothing found upon his person whereby he could be identified.

### SPECIE.

The most important intelligence we gain from the London papers, is the exportation of specie from that place and Liverpool.—1910 ounces of Gold, and 6766 ounces of Silver, have been shipped from the port of London alone. They state, as the cause of these exportations, that our markets are already glutted with English Goods, and the high price of Cotton continuing unabated, these exports are necessary to cover the American importations.

William Willits, Esq., formerly of this place, has been appointed Treasurer of Luzerne county. This appointment by the County Commissioners, must not only give satisfaction to their constituents; but from the probity and qualifications of Mr. Willits, so well known to his numerous friends in Columbia, the act must be viewed as a reward of merit, which could not have been bestowed upon a more honorable or competent incumbent. Besides the purity of his moral reputation, Mr. Willits possesses those stern principles of democracy which at some future day must elevate him to a more conspicuous public station.

The weather during the past week, has really been more like the season for gentle zephyrs than what usually visits us on the anniversary of the new year. The sleigh bells have lost their sound—the white covering of the earth has disappeared—and the usual hilarity of sleigh-riding is lost in the mud which renders runners useless.—We are afraid that the weather is unfavorable to our farmers, and unless we get a snow to cover the grain, they will certainly be made to suffer considerably.

From the subjoined proceedings it will be seen that Schuylkill county has selected delegates to the democratic Fourth of March convention. The gentlemen chosen are staunch democrats, in whom we could place every confidence; and we hope that all difficulties may be amicably arranged in regard to the Senatorial delegate. If we move harmoniously in our primary meetings, the same spirit will control the votes of delegates at the state convention.

### SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

At a large and respectable meeting of the democratic republicans of Schuylkill county friendly to the administration of the General Government, and opposed to the re-election of Joseph Riker as Governor of this commonwealth, convened at the court house in the borough of Orwigsburg, on Monday the 25th day of December, A. D. 1837, for the purpose of electing delegates to the 4th of March convention.

PETER KUTZ, Esq. was appointed chairman;

GEORGE SEITZINGER, GEORGE BODKY, SEN. WILLIAM COOPER, and JOHN EISENHOWER, Vice Presidents; and

FRANCIS W. HUGHES and HENRY VOUTE, Secretaries.

On motion, the following persons were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting; viz.

George Rahn, Jacob D. Long, John Marburger, Frederick Freed, Samuel Boyer, Samuel Zimmerman, John Kemmerling, Leonard Slough, Chas. Marwine, Benjamin Heitner, John Bixler, Samuel Moyer, Henry W. Conrad, Solomon Lindner, Nicholas K. Seitzinger, John Moon, Valentine Stahl and Abraham Heebner; who, after retiring for a short time, reported the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we have full confidence in the abilities and sound democratic principles of MARTIN VAN BUREN, President of the United States, and that we will use all honorable means to support him in his administration.

Resolved, That it is with pride and satisfaction that we find our present worthy