

VARIOUS MATTERS.

Malborne Briggs, the noted counterfeiter died in the Massachusetts state prison on Thursday week, aged 76.

A project has been started in the West for the construction of a second Canal at the Falls of the Ohio, on the Indian shore. The present canal, on the Kentucky side, has paid a dividend for the past year of 13 per cent.

David Darby, formerly assistant Postmaster at Harbourcreek, Erie county, has been convicted of purloining money from the mail, and sentenced twelve year confinement in the Eastern penitentiary.

Large operations are doing in the Chinese Mulberry line. It is removed the Princes at their fine gardens at Flushing, N. Y. have sold some \$30,000 worth recently at \$25 per 100 cuttings, and that other large contracts have been made.

Gen. Jesup has under his command, 4637 regulars, 4999 volunteers, 100 seamen, and 2 or 300 Indians, Total 9000.—The Seminoles are said to number six or seven hundred.

A bill of no small interest to Farmers, has passed the assembly of New Jersey.—It establishes the bushel of wheat at 60 lbs. of rye and corn, at 56; of buckwheat, 50; of barley at 84; of flaxseed, 54; and of clover seed 60. Both buyer and seller thus know precisely upon what they deal; and uniformity is established. Heretofore the difference in different parts, has been several pounds in the bushel; and every individual buyer had a right to make his own standard.

Importation of Wheat.—Foreign wheats are beginning to reach the Baltimore market in large quantities. Within the last three days there have been arrivals of not less than fifty thousand bushels from Bremen and Rotterdam. There can be but little doubt that the imports will continue.

On the 25th ult. the House of Representatives of Michigan adopted a resolution, by a vote of 42 to 1, instructing their Senators, and requesting their Representatives, in Congress, to vote against any measure which has for its object the annexation of Texas to the Union, for the reasons that it would be unnecessarily extending our territory, and create discontents which might endanger the stability of the Union.

Such is the advance of steam navigation in this country, that there are now no less than twenty to thirty steamboats that ply on the distant waters of the Upper Missouri.

At the last dates from Louisville, venison was selling at two or three dollars a saddle, pork three and a half cents a pound, and beef five cents.

A bill has passed the lower House of the Legislature of Louisiana, to increase the number of Judges of the Supreme Court of that State to five.

Upwards of \$50,000 in Specie, arrived at New York on Saturday last from Vera Cruz.

The aggregate length of the Steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers is said to be about ten miles.

We are informed by a Pittsburg paper, that one thousand flat boats left that place the last year loaded with coal, worth it is supposed one million of dollars.

A Paris paper of the 1st ultimo, says:—“To-night at 12 o'clock, all the gambling houses, that scourge of our city, are to be shut up for good and all, the Chambers having limited their existence to the 1st of January, 1838.”

The Board of New York Brokers on Wednesday last, voted Five Hundred Dollars to the Central Committee, for the relief of the poor of the different wards in that city.

The average number hands employed on the public works of the State of Indiana during the last year was 5,821. The rate of wages was from \$18 to \$24 per month.

The quantity of oil imported into the United States during the last year, was 840,032 bbls, of which 181,724 were sperin.

FROM CANADA.

We copy the following from the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser:

Gen. Scott took his departure, for the northern frontier yesterday afternoon. Of his future movements we are not advised. But this we are bound to say, that his judicious and manly course, while on this frontier, demands the public gratitude.—Should any further difficulty arise, he has left Col. Worth in command, who is every way qualified to meet the emergency.

It may not be amiss to add, that the names of Scott and Worth, alone, have contributed more to arrest the border difficulties, than the combined civil authorities of the country. Here near the field of their brilliant achievements in the last war, is an abiding recollection of their services; and no sooner was their arrival announced on the frontier, than public tranquility was in a measure restored.

We will add also, that the prompt and energetic conduct of Col. Worth, in his late expedition up the lake, is worthy of all praise. Through his vigilance and alacrity, the arms of the state have been mainly recovered, and the contemplated invasion of Canada entirely frustrated. The difficulties encountered by him in ascending to Detroit, were overcome by that perseverance and enterprise, for which he is so peculiarly distinguished.

LATER AND IMPORTANT.

An extra from the office of the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, dated 7 o'clock on Friday evening, gives the following important information:

Since our paper went to press we have been informed that an express has arrived from Detroit, bringing the information that the patriots, to the number of about 800, are assembled in the neighborhood of Black Swamp, Toledo and Monroe.

They are under the command of the self-styled Adj. Gen. McLeod, Sutherland and others, and are well supplied with arms, munitions, &c.

The soldiers here are to leave this evening for Detroit, where it is expected they will arrive in 96 hours.

Gen. Brady, who is in command at that point, is an active, efficient officer, and will undoubtedly disarm the Patriots as soon as they come within his reach.

A rumour has been current here this evening, that the British near Detroit have fired upon our side and killed several men; this we are authorized to say by Col. Worth, is wholly without foundation.

STILL LATER.

Another Revolutionary Movement.

It seems from recent intelligence, that the Frontier disturbances cannot yet be considered as fully quieted and adjusted. The latest rumour from the north-west is, that a large body of men were about to make a descent upon Canada, near the mouth of the river St. Clair, above Detroit. A letter from Sandusky city, dated the 6th instant, states that the Patriot army had just commenced their movement for the island opposite that place. General McLeod and Colonel Star were there, and in command. The following from the Toledo [Ohio] Blade of the 7th inst. probably alludes to the movement of another section of the insurgents:

“A small remnant of the disbanded Navy Islanders arrived in town last evening, preceded by a wagon drawn by four white horses, and loaded with divers suspicious looking boxes. This wagon left town this morning for Tecumseh, with two military gentlemen mounted on one of the seats or boxes, one of whom, a tall man with sandy hair, the knowing ones surmise to be Van Rensselaer. Col. Southerland arrived in town last evening, and had an interview with this gentleman. We understand that an advance guard of Navy Islanders, consisting of 70, were seen on the road to Monroe the day before yesterday, and that some three or four hundred more are behind, with a small sprinkling of Cattaraugus Indians. It is conjectured that it is the design of the ‘galland band’ to rendezvous at the outlet of St. Clair above Detroit with a view of making a descent into Canada from that quarter. The supposition is also entertained that they may be joined by an additional force from Michigan, Col. Sutherland having recently been on a mission in the interior to raise recruits and organize corresponding and contributing committees. A straggling Navy Islander reports that he took breakfast with Van Rensselaer yesterday a few miles from Perrysburg, and that he was to be in Toledo in the evening on his way to the North.”

FLOUR AT CINCINNATI.—By an authorized statement in the last Cincinnati Gazette, it appears that the quantity of flour which arrived in that city, by way of the Miami Canal, during the four months ending with the 31st January, 1837, was 18,409 barrels; and that for the like period of four months, ending on the 31st of January, 1838, the quantity via the canal, was 59,071. Remarkable upon the comparative statement, the Gazette says—“this shows a great increase. Yet, it may be caused by and earlier pressure into market, and thus but partially bear upon the entire supply.”

Twelve hundred large ships, besides smaller vessels, are engaged in the trade between Great Britain and the provinces of Canada.

STATEMENT of the Common School appropriation due from the State to the different districts of Columbia County.

Districts.	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	Total.
Elbom.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	293 28	293 28
Hrilar Creek.	86 61½	86 61½	220 12	769 17	220 12	1,382 64
Catawissa.	141 92	141 92	323 25	780 48	323 35	1,711 02
Derry.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	226 58	226 58
Fishing Creek.	31 60	31 60	83 51	291 83	83 51	522 05
Greenwood.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	165 72	165 72
Hemlock.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	211 76	211 76
Liberty.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	173 50	173 50
Limestone.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	78 32	78 32
Madison.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	195 52	195 52
Mahoning.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	238 25	238 25
Mifflin.	93 34½	93 34½	239 54	837 04	239 54	1,502 81
Mount Pleasant.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	95 17	95 17
Roaring Creek.*	208 46	208 46	728 45	208 46	208 46	1,145 37
Sugarloaf.	paid.	paid.	paid.	paid.	99 70	99 70
					275278	

*Roaring Creek belonged to Catawissa until 1832. The foregoing statement exhibits not only the dividends of State appropriation for the fifth Common School year (1839) payable on or after the first Monday of June, 1838, when that year commences, to all the districts in the county, but also those for the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th school years, (viz: 1835, 1836, 1837 and 1838,) now due to such districts as have either not accepted or not yet applied in the proper manner for their money. The whole amount of State appropriation yet due each district, since the first year of the system is exhibited in the last column.

The State appropriation for 1835 or the first school year, was \$75,000; for 1836, or the second, \$75,000; for 1837, or the third, \$200,000; for 1838, or the fourth and present school year, \$700,000 (including the Building Fund of \$500,000;) and for 1839, or the fifth year, it will be \$200,000 if the law remains unaltered, but if the Legislature add \$100,000 it will be \$300,000; making an aggregate given by the State since the commencement of the system of \$1,250,000 without, or \$1,350,000 with the expected increase.

Undrawn dividends of the two first years' appropriation are to be received from the county Treasury.

The dividends of subsequent years are payable by the State Treasurer, on application to the Superintendent. The following is the form of the necessary certificate, which should be forwarded to the Superintendent, in every case, as the facts will justify it:

“\$ District Tax for 183 (Date.)
 “To the Superintendent of Common Schools.
 “Sir—I do hereby certify that a school tax amounting to dollars cents, has been regularly levied and assessed, for the school year 183 , upon district county; that a warrant for the collection thereof has been delivered to the District Collector according to law, and that the aforesaid sum is at least equal to this district's annual share of the State appropriation.
 “I do further certify that of Post Office, county, is the lawfully appointed Treasurer of this District.
 “Attest,
 Secretary, President.”

By the next mail after the receipt of the foregoing certificate at this department, a warrant on the State Treasurer for the appropriation of the current year, will be sent to the District Treasurer, together with similar warrants for all undrawn dividends of former years, remaining in the State Treasury. To obtain the latter no additional tax is necessary, so that one tax, for the current year, equal to the District's share of the ordinary annual State appropriation (\$200,000) will be sufficient to enable it to receive all dividends of former undrawn appropriations.

As soon as a District previously non-accepting, accepts the system and receives its money from the State Treasury, it is thereby entitled to all money remaining for its use in the County Treasury, provided it accepts before the 1st of November, 1838. In that case it is the duty of the County Treasurer to pay over such money forthwith to the District Treasurer, on the order of the Board of Directors. The best proof of such acceptance and of the receipt of the money from the State Treasurer, is the circular which accompanies the warrant of the Superintendent, on the production of which the County Treasurer will be perfectly safe in paying over the dividends in his hands.

Acceptance of the Common School system, under the present laws, can only take place by the vote of a majority of such citizens of each non-accepting District, as assemble on the day of electing Directors, being in most cases the third Friday of March. The citizens then assembled have two acts to perform; 1st, to elect Directors, which must be done whether the system is to be put in operation or not; and 2d, to decide the question whether the system shall be accepted or not. This last question is only to be submitted in such Districts as previously rejected the system, but not in accepting districts, and may be decided in the affirmative by a mere majority of the votes polled.—See the 13th Section of the Common School Law of 1836.

Having thus explained the condition of the State appropriations, the manner of obtaining them, and the mode of accepting the system, the Superintendent would respectfully address a word of information and advice to the citizens of such townships, wards and boroughs as have not yet received it. In doing this he has no wish officially to become the advocate of the system, but solely promote the interests of those Districts, by explaining their present situation in relation to it.

By the first Common School Law (that of April, 1st 1834,) if any number of Districts in a county—even one—accepted the system, they thereby became entitled to the receipt of the whole State appropriation intended for all the districts in the county for that year. This harsh provision was repealed by the supplement of April 15, 1835, which enacts that non-accepting Districts should have two years, (which of course counted from the date of the supplement,) within which time they might accept and save the forfeiture of the undrawn dividends. Before the passage of the supplement, however, the forfeiture contemplated by the act of 1834, had taken place in several counties, so far as related to the appropriation of the first school year (1835.)

Thus the law remained till the passage of the Common School law of June 13, 1836, and the declaratory resolution of 27th March, 1837, “relative to undrawn balances in the School Fund.” By the joint operation of these acts the period of forfeiture was further postponed till the 1st of November, 1838, (next November) with this difference, that the forfeited dividends are not to be distributed among the accepting Districts of the same county, but are to be added to the principal of the general Common School Fund in the State Treasury, the interest of which only is annually distributable.

But though the law reads thus, the legal act of acceptance must be performed a considerable time before the 1st of November, 1838. Under the existing law non-accepting districts can only adopt the system, by the vote of the citizens assembled to elect Directors, which in most cases takes place on the third Friday in March. Hence it follows that though the completion of the forfeiture does not take place till November, yet that the act of acceptance which can alone prevent it from attaching, must be performed for townships in March, and for wards and boroughs, at the time next spring when they elect their proper officers. Nor is the operation of this forfeiture confined to the operations of the current year, but embraces those of all the years since the commencement of the system.—See the 1st and 13th sections.

This being the manner and effect of the forfeiture caused by continued rejection, it becomes proper to state the consequences of present adoption. Acceptance of the System next Spring will not fasten it on the District forever, but only till the Spring of 1840, or for two years, at the end of which time it may be discontinued by the vote of a majority of all the quali-

fied voters of the District, if the experiment should not prove satisfactory.—See Sec. 13.

Present acceptance will prevent the forfeiture, not of one, but of four or five years' State appropriations, including that of next school year, amounting in the aggregate to about \$4 to each taxable inhabitant, or to \$2,000 in a District containing 500 taxables, without counting any thing on a probable increase of appropriation by the present Legislature.

Acceptance next Spring, and the consequent receipt of the above accumulated dividends, will only burthen each District next year, with a school tax equal to 64½ cents on each taxable. This tax, however, is not to be paid in that proportion by each taxable, in the manner of a poll tax, but will be assessed on the property, professions and persons that pay county rates, and on such personal property as paid State tax. The School tax on a township having 500 taxables, and receiving \$2,000 of State appropriation, would be something less than \$325.

But in reality, acceptance will not add much, if any thing, to the burthen of taxation, in the populous counties. It is known that in many Districts the tax collected by the Commissioners for the education of poor children, is equal to the sum which would be necessary to entitle those Districts to the receipt of the Common School Funds, if they should adopt the System. Nor would it be necessary, in most cases, to levy a tax beyond the lowest amount necessary to secure the State aid, because their accumulated State appropriation of four or five years, will be sufficient to build or otherwise provide good school houses, thus leaving the current year's tax and appropriation wholly applicable to instruction, for which purpose it would be nearly sufficient.

If the System be adopted next Spring only one other tax, after that of next year, must necessarily be paid by the Districts, before they will have an opportunity of discontinuing the System at the triennial election on the 1st Tuesday of May, 1840. The payment of this tax, equal to 64½ cents for each taxable, will probably entitle them, besides relieving them from the poor school tax, to a State appropriation equal to \$1 for each taxable for the second year. So that the payment of \$1,30 for each taxable, from the State, in the same time.

Hence it seems to be for the interest of the non-accepting Districts, to take the matter seriously into deliberation, independent of all considerations arising from the merits or demerits of the Common School System.

Though the System is yet in its infancy, it has produced some decided and salutary changes in the Districts which have adopted it.

The School Houses are generally much improved, being either new, or well repaired, and more equally and conveniently located than formerly.

The compensation of Teachers is increased fully one third, and the profession is rapidly and proportionately rising in usefulness and independence.

The number of Children taught in the Common Schools, is at least double that of the schools which preceded them in the same Districts.

The duration of teaching in each year is about the same.

The kind of instruction is in all cases as good; and in most better than in the old schools.

The cost of teaching, notwithstanding the increased compensation of the teachers—the improved condition of the house, and the better order and kind of instruction, is only one half of what it was before the system went into operation. Formerly it was \$2 25 on an average over the State, now it is \$1 12½ for each pupil per quarter.

In the old schools some paid for their own education, and some were educated at the expense of the county. This unpleasant distinction is not found in the Common Schools. All receive the same kind of instruction, paid for out of the same common stock. There is no room, therefore, for partiality on the part of the teacher towards particular pupils, or of distinctions among the scholars.

But it is not on account of these, its undeniable fruits, that the non-accepting districts are now addressed.—These facts are alluded to merely to show that there is no danger in the experiment. The object of the Superintendent is to lay the whole matter before those Districts, that they may act understandingly on the subject, when they make their final decision next Spring.

As a friend, he would advise all to accept the System for the next two years, because at the end of that time it