

VARIOUS MATTERS.

THE IMPROVEMENT BILL.

The Committee of Conference on the Improvement Bill made a report to both Houses on Wednesday. The bill as agreed on by the joint committee reduces the appropriations to about \$2,000,000, and authorizes the Governor to borrow \$600,000. The appropriations to the main lines were reported at the same amounts as agreed upon by both Houses, and those to state roads and turnpikes are reduced twenty per cent. Several appropriations are stricken out, but having only heard the report read at the clerk's desk, we only recollect the following: for the Union canal, the Mahoning canal, the Harrisburg and Lancaster rail road, and for the extension of the Pennsylvania rail way from Columbia to Marietta.

In the Senate the bill was agreed to by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Barclay, Burden, Case, Cassat, Darragh, Frisley, of Schuylkill, Harper, Irvin, James, Kingsbury, M'Conkey, Miller, of city, Paul, Pearson, Purviance, Sangston, Sterrett, Penrose, Speaker—18

Nays—Messrs. Caldwell, Carpenter, Fraley, city, Fullerton, Kelly, Leet, Michler, Miller, of Berks, Myers, Porter, Rogers, Slenker, Snyder, Sirohm—14.

In the House, after an ineffectual motion to print, the bill was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Beaty, Bowman, Brooks, Chamberlain of Cam, Chamberlain of Craw, Clark, Colhoun, Collins, Crab, Curtis, Diller, Dillingham, Dimock, of Susquehanna, Edwards, Ehrman, Farrelly, Fell, Fling, Funk, Garretson, Hays, Hinchman, Hook, Ivins, Johnson, Karns, Keim, Kendrick, Kettlewell, Kinney, Laverty, Love, M'Claran, McIlvain, Morrison, Morton, Passmore, Penniman, Porter, Reed, of Erie, Reed, of Phila., Richardson, Ryan, Sawdey, Sharswood, Shearer, Smith, Sparkman, Stark, Stevens, Strohecker, Taylor, Thompson, Tyson, Walker, Watts, Dewart, Sp'r.—57.

Nays—Messrs. Carpenter, Crispin, Erdman, Espy, Fegely, Ford, Geiger, Gilmore, Goldsmith, Gorgas, Herr, Hill, of Berks, Hirst, Hopkins, Hughes, James, Kauffman, Killinger, Krebs, Leech, Longaker, M'Clelland, M'Elwee, Park, Pray, Reddig, Reynolds, of Luzerne, Reynolds, of Westmoreland, Ritter, Sebring, Shortz, Sipes, Stevenson, Walborn, Wilson, Woodburn, Yearick, Yost.—38.

THE FIRST SIGN.

The election for Commissioners of the District of Southwark (Philadelphia county) took place on Monday last, and resulted in the choice of the democratic candidates by large majorities in all the wards except the 5th, where the "peoples' ticket," as it was termed, succeeded.

The Pennsylvanian remarks that "the result of this election is highly gratifying to the democracy of the district, and is an evidence that old democratic Southwark will be found true to the cause, and will give a large majority for Governor Porter in October next."—*ib.*

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

The election to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Cilley has resulted in favor of the Federal candidate by a majority of 166 votes. The vote stood for Robinson (Federalist) 4113; McCrate (Democrat) 3420, scattering 467. At the late election for Governor the Federalists had a large majority in this district.—*ib.*

ISSUE OF SMALL NOTES.

An intelligent correspondent in our last paper stated that one of the schemes by which Mr. Biddle hoped to fix an irredeemable paper currency upon the farmers and mechanics of Pennsylvania, was, to get the Legislature to allow all the banks to issue notes under five dollars, and to have the suspension permanently sanctioned by law.

As it regards the issue of small notes, we know that a few petitions, (printed upon the same type and paper as the petition upon the same subject received from Philadelphia) have been presented to the Legislature. But we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the measure, if brought before the Legislature, could succeed. The people of this commonwealth have, with unprecedented unanimity, demanded the resumption of specie payments—not the emission of more rags. It therefore scarcely to be expected that their representatives would treat their demand with such a mockery of compliance as to authorize a measure so diametrically opposite to a resumption as the issue of small notes must be manifestly considered. The only question which could be presented to the members of the Legislature by the introduction of such a measure into that body, is a plain and simple one not susceptible of misconception. The people ask for a resumption of specie payments. The banks, to defeat that measure, ask for authority to issue small notes. Which position would have the highest claim upon the action of the Legislature? The petition of the people, or the petition of the bank—which power is hereafter to be supreme in Pennsylvania—the power of the people, or the power of the bank? These questions could not be evaded. They would be presented by a request to authorize the issue of small notes, and would have to be met fairly.

It must be evident to every candid mind

that the banks of Pennsylvania, if the statements which they have furnished of their affairs be correct, are in a condition to resume payment simultaneously with those of New York. To grant the boon now asked would, therefore, not only authorize, but legalize, the continuance of the suspension, and put off the day so anxiously desired by the people, and so imperatively demanded by the general interest of the country—for we presume no individual would have the boldness to contend that an emission of small notes would be a resumption of specie payments. The people have asked for a general, not for a 'five-penny-bit' resumption and our old democratic principles led us to think that their petitions are entitled to the first consideration. We would not oppress the banks, but when these institutions are constantly boasting of the soundness of their condition, and when there is good reason to believe they are able to meet their engagements, we cannot see the propriety of giving legislature sanction to their past delinquency, nor the excuse which could be offered to the people for fixing upon them an irredeemable paper currency of the very worst description, in the emission of small notes.

But it is folly to pretend to conceal the true matter at issue. The whole question resolves itself into this. The Bank of the United States, with a full knowledge of its power to enforce a compliance with its decrees, has through its President, (Mr. Biddle) ordered the "American banks to do what the American army did at New Orleans—stand fast behind their cotton bags, until the enemy has left the country," and the friends of that institution now come forward and modestly ask to be furnished with more paper ammunition to carry on the political war which it has now openly proclaimed against the general government. The legislature of Pennsylvania will not furnish its quota of that ammunition.—*ib.*

TRUTH FOR ONCE.

A Federal paper in this state makes the following undeniable assertion:—"From the present time until next October, we may calculate on seeing the whole state of Pennsylvania inundated with the most shameful falsehoods and disgusting forgeries."

Since the nomination of David R. Porter the Federal presses have furnished abundant reasons to believe that this "calculation" will be fully realized.—*ib.*

NEW YORK CANAL.

The bill to provide for the speedy completion of the Erie Canal has been ordered to a third reading in the lower branch of the Legislature of New York. It contemplates (says the Albany Argus) the completion of the work in five years, and appropriates a sum not exceeding four millions of dollars for the present year, if that sum shall be required to prosecute the enlargement with the necessary expedition and advantage.—*ib.*

SPECIE.

We observe that specie is coming into New York from foreign ports very freely. Among the arrivals at that port during the last week, we observe the following: The Griffin from St. Domingo with \$200,649 in specie; the ship James from London with \$150,000; the brig Marcellino from Cartagena, with \$12,266 in gold, and \$66,900 in silver.—*ib.*

IMPROVEMENT BILL.

The following are the appropriations made in the improvement bill as it finally passed the two houses on Wednesday. The bill also authorizes a loan of \$600,000 to supply the deficiency of the treasury, and a temporary loan of \$200,000 to be applied to such works as the canal commissioners may direct, should the appropriations to the public works be expended before further appropriations be made. To avoid inclined plane at Columbia \$50,000 For repairs of feeder dams 51,000 Additional locks in eastern division and deepening canal below Duncan's Island 19,000 Damages 30,000 Ordinary repairs 180,000 Ropes, tools, lots &c, at Parkersburg 20,000 Balance due on locomotives 650 Claims referred to canal board 10,000 Pay for survey to avoid inclined plane on the Schuylkill 2,288 Complete arch at Grant's Hill tunnel 5,000 Erie extension 300,000 North Branch extension 300,000 Gettysburg rail road 205,000 Tangascootack extension 24,000 Sinnemahoning extension 100,000 Kittaning feeder 20,000 Canal from Petersburg to Huntingdon county 5,000 Survey of route from Valley to West Philadelphia mill road 1,200 Wisconsin feeder 20,000 Out let lock at Duncan's Island 10,000 Danville and Potsville rail road 50,000 Monongahela navigation company 25,000 Optima navigation company 20,000 Highway over path at Lebanonville 4,000 Chamberland Valley mill road 100,000 Delaware and Potsville canal company 25,000 Bald Eagle and Spring Creek navigation company 20,000 Survey for rail road from Chambersburg to Pittsburg and for canal up the Raystown branch of the Juniata 25,000

TURNPIKES.

Delaware and Potsville canal company 25,000

Lackawanna turnpikes	u.400
Sterling and Newfoundland turnpikes	1,600
Somerset and Cumberland	8,000
Bedford and Hollidaysburg	2,000
Warren and New York	2,000
Sugar Grove and Union	2,000
Armstrong and Clearfield	6,600
Bald Eagle and Penna Valley	1,600
Lewisburg and Jersey Shore	3,200
Washington and Pittsburg turnpike	10,000
Doylestown and Willow Grove	5,000
Perkiomen and Reading	15,000
Willow Grove and Heartsville	3,200
Brownington and Franklin	4,000
Legoniaer and Johnstown	4,000
Pittsburg Farmers' and Mechanics' turnpike	6,600
Huntingdon and Indiana	2,000
Ebensburg and Indiana	2,000
Pittsburg and Steubenville	4,000
Lenox and Harmony	2,400
Philadelphia and Great Bend	800
Titusville and Union Mill	2,400
Bridge water and Wilkesbarre	800
Clifford and Wilkesbarre	1,200
Carbondale and Lackawana	1,200
Somerset and Conemaugh	4,000
Downingtown and Harrisburg	4,000
Snow Shoe and Packersville	5,000
Warren and Bidgeway	2,000
Birmingham and Elizabethtown	4,000
Susquehanna and Tioga	2,400
Luthersburg and Punxsotawney	4,000
Warren and Franklin	4,000
Lancaster and Blue Ball	1,600
Gap and Newport	5,600
York and Harrisburg	2,400
Pittsburg and Butler	4,000
Freeport and Butler	4,000
Mercer and Meadville	5,600
Butler and Mercer	2,400

STATE ROADS.

Washington and Pittsburg	2,400
Caukins and Delaware river, Wayne county	4,000
Lycoming and Blossburg	4,000
Warren and Wellsboro	12,800
Bellefonte and White Deer	700
Chambersburg and Drakes Ferry	4,000
Wilkesbarre and Washington	1,200
Pittsburg and Kittanning	4,000
West Alexander and Waynesburg	2,400
Monongahela bridge & Morgantown	1,600
Waynesburg to Widow Griffins	1,600
White horse tavern and Virginia state line	2,000
Middlebourne to Hills farm	1,600
Harrisburg and Juniata	800
Stoyatown and Ebensburg	1,600
Peter's and Bingham's in Pike county	1,600
Sharon and New Castle	2,400
Bever and Petersburg	1,600
Landisburg and Millintown	1,200
Columbia and York Haven	800
Harrisburg and Wilkesbarre	1,600
York and Harrisburg	1,200
Allegheny and Browningtown	2,000
Butler and Franklin	4,000
Mercer and Harmony	2,000
Mercer and Franklin	1,600
Erie and Warren	1,600
Allegheny and Uniontown	3,200
Kiskiminetas and Uniontown	2,400
Robbstown and Brownsville	2,800
White horse tavern and Virginia state line	2,000
Widow Giffman and Waynesburg	2,000
Somerset and Cannellsuile	4,000
Youghiogheny	800
Howell's Mills and Conygham	2,400
Easton and Wind Gap	2,400
Easton and Philadelphia	2,400
Easton and Mauch Chunk	1,200
Allentown and Reading	400
Mauch Chunk and Allentown	1,600
Flint-Hill and Kemerers	500
Friedensburg and Harpers	800
Bridges &c on road	7,200
Hamilton and West Chester	4,000
Beaver and Frankford	1,800
Elizabeth and Uniontown	3,000
Salzburg and Curwensville	1,600
Harrisburg and Sterretts Gap	800
Worefootsburg and Maryland line	400
Shippensburg and James Sparats	400
Butler and Beaver	800
Butler and Grahams ferry	800
Butler and New Castle	1,600
Doylestown and Castle Valley	1,200
Beithleim and Lexington	600
Redhill and Easton	600
Providence and New London	12,500

Just as our paper was going to press, a message was received from the Governor, stating that he had signed the Improvement bill, and giving his reasons at length for doing so. It is now a law.—*Keystones.*

FROM FLORIDA.

The Savannah Georgian of the 4th Inst. says:—"By the arrival of the steamer Forester, Capt. Dillon, from Gary's Ferry, we learn that on the 28th ult. about sundown, two citizens of Florida named Thomas Cochran and J. Hogan were killed about 1 1/2 miles from Micanopy by a party of Indians. A portion of the troops at that post, under the command of Lieut. Soley, on hearing the whoops and firing of the Indians, left the fort in pursuit, but were only successful in finding one of the bodies, it being too dark to pursue their search. They intended to prosecute it next morning. Three others of our citizens are reported to have been wounded, elsewhere, by the Indians. The steamer Florida, Capt. Nock, has since arrived, but brings nothing later.

SAVANNAH, March 31. FROM FLORIDA.

From a passenger in the steamer Wm. Gaston, Capt. King, arrived at this port from Gary's Ferry and St. Augustine, and from other sources, we learn the following:

A letter from Tampa, dated March 24th [last Saturday,] says "Between five and six hundred Indians and negroes are on their way to Tampa from Fort Jupiter under the escort of the Tennessee volunteers and a portion of the 2d Regiment of Dragoons."

Another letter confirms the above, adding that—"We have no other news by express."

It is stated that Major Loomis of the 1st infantry had captured two Indian women, who say that Sam Jones had gone to the south, and Alligator to the west, and that they were invited. Maj. L. had circumnavigated lake-Ok-cho-pee in boats.

On Saturday last, we are also informed, Captain Hewson, in command of two companies dragoons, arrived at Fort Mellon. About thirty days' march from that fort he states, and while crossing a large, cypress swamp, struck a trail of Indians, pursued and overtook them. They were in number twenty or twenty-five. Capt. H. lost four of his men in the attack, and was wounded himself in the abdomen, but not dangerously. He took four prisoners, and killed as is supposed, several of the Indians,—the balance escaped. It is reported that Coacouchee or wild Cat is one of the prisoners.

The news of the capture of 500 Indians, &c, by Gen. Jesup, is said to be confirmed by letters received at Fort Mellon, which our informant left last Sunday touching at Gary's Ferry on Wednesday.—*Georgian*

IMPORTANT FROM HAVANA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO.

From the Mobile Advertiser of the 3d inst.

The United States schooner Grampus arrived at Pensacola on Tuesday last from a cruise of fifteen days. The Grampus visited Matanzas and Havana, from which latter port she made the passage to Pensacola in four and a half days. The yellow fever was prevailing at Havana. It was rumored in Havana that the French Squadron had assembled at Vera Cruz with the view of attacking that place. A French frigate was to have sailed from Havana on the same day on which the Grampus left. She was to join the squadron at Vera Cruz. The United States ship Vandalia, arrived at Pensacola on the 31st ult., ten days from Vera Cruz. All well on board. The French squadron were assembled there awaiting the final answer of the Mexican authorities to the demands which had been made upon them. It is supposed that upon this answer will depend the commencement of hostilities.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

POLICE OFFICE.

MARCH 23d.
An Obliging Young Man.—A short time back a Mr. Facey, an Englishman, and his wife, came to reside in this city, and took up their quarters in a boarding house in the 6th Avenue, where Mr. Facey left his wife about three weeks back and went to the country on business. During his absence Mrs. Facey found her boarding house not altogether to her mind and wished to go to another, and having been recently introduced to a very genteel, amiable looking young man named George Hunt, Mrs. Facey requested him to look out for a boarding house for her. Mr. Hunt promised to do so, and the very next day he had procured a most comfortable and respectable boarding house for her in Vrick street, kept by a lady of his acquaintance, and Mr. Hunt further offered to escort Mrs. Facey there instanter. A carriage was accordingly procured into which Mrs. Facey had her trunks put, and she and Mr. Hunt went off to the new boarding house, in Vrick street. Here Mrs. Facey remained for a few days, during which Mr. Hunt was a constant visitor to the lady of the house, and Mrs. Facey had thus an opportunity of becoming more intimately acquainted with, and more fully appreciated the very mild, modest, and gentlemanlike behaviour of Mr. Hunt. At the end of a few days Mr. Hunt proposed to give Mrs. Facey a jaunt in a carriage, and so high an opinion had she formed of him that she could see no objection to accepting his polite offer, and accordingly accompanied him as far as the Bloomingdale road, and on her return stopped at a house in the Bowery, and here Mr. Hunt bid her good morning and shove off in the carriage. And as it afterwards turned out, went immediately to her boarding house broke open her bureau and carried off her watch, ear-rings, breast pin, and, in short, every small article that he could conveniently stow about his person; and Mrs. Facey saw no more of him until Thursday, when, while she was walking with her husband, the obliging Mr. Hunt happened to pass by and Mr. Facey took him into custody and brought him to the Police Office; and here the gentlemanlike Mr. Hunt was recognized to be a State Prison convict, who had but recently been liberated from prison. In the bosom of his shirt was one of the goldpins he had stolen from Mrs. Facey, but no other part of her property has as yet been recovered.

LOCUST YEAR.

This is the season for the re-appearance of the Locusts, as their last visit was in 1831.

CULTIVATION OF THE SUGAR BEET.

WM. KITCHEN, near New Hope, Pennsylvania, raised ruta бага and sugar-beet. He fed the former to his cows, but soon found a bitter taste was imparted to the milk and butter; he then commenced feeding on the sugar beet, and obtained not only an increased quantity of milk of superior richness, and consequently of butter, but the latter was considered equal to that made in summer. He has already secured seed for the next season, being convinced of the superiority of sugar-beet for the feeding of stock.

J. L., near Jenkentown, had three cows, two of which he fed on ship-stuff, the other he fed on the sugar beet. The latter gave an increased quantity of milk of a rich cream color, and the butter was fully equal to that made in the summer season. J. L. has cultivated the sugar-beet two seasons, and has a high opinion of its nutritious qualities.

A gentleman, near Haddonfield, N. J. gave ruta бага and corn at the same time to his hogs; the corn was eaten in preference to the turnep; he hent gave corn and sugar-beet, the latter was devoured with avidity, and the corn left untouched.

—, of Bucks county, while fattening a cow gave her the sugar-beet which she eat with greediness, and refused pumpkins, until the stock of beets was exhausted.

EZEKIEL RHOADES, near Norris-town, has fed his cows on sugar-beet during the present winter, and he says the result was an increased proportion of milk and butter of very superior quality.

The above are a few facts of many in our possession, all tending to show that the sugar-beet is worthy the attention of farmers, as an article of winter food for their stock.

SILK.

We saw yesterday, at the Hall of the Franklin Institute, the machinery so much lauded for winding and preparing silk. It was exceedingly neat and simple. One piece took the silk from the cocoons and wound it on spools; these spools were placed in another frame, and the silk was immediately twisted into the common sewings; or, if required, the warp and hilling were prepared, and a little loom thus at hand to weave the whole into tustring and handsome fabric for ladies' dresses, or vest patterns.

The advantage of this invention is a great simplicity of the operation, we direct transfer of the silk from the cocoons to the spools, and the ease and rapidity of twisting and putting into skeins the prepared thread.

We understand that the inventor is to be addressed at the foundry of Messrs. Bonney & Bush, Wilmington, Del.—*U. S. Gaz.*

FROM MICHIGAN.

Private Correspondence.

DETROIT, March 29.

"The polls of this city are now open for election of inspectors of the election to take place on Monday for city officers. There is a forest of Whigs on the ground, and we shall carry the day by an overwhelming majority. You may place this among the Whig States hereafter. Our general banking law, a measure enabling any nine persons, by private agreement, to erect a bank, and issue a currency, and to defraud and rob the community, is doing its work. It commenced with the suspension of specie payments by our banks, and coming in under the suspension act, has enabled knaves to reap a rich harvest of villany, defrauded the Treasury, bankrupted thousands, disgraced the State. So much for "Free Banking." I beseech you, as a man and a Christian, never to encourage it. It is one of the favorite doctrines of Loco Focoism."

We learn, that two fatal encounters took place at Mills' Point, on the Mississippi, in this State, on Friday last. At first there was a fight between Mr. Rives, a lawyer, and Mr. Ferguson, a physician, in which the latter was worsted. Shortly afterwards, Ferguson, burning with the mortification of defeat, procured a rifle and shot Rives dead; and thereupon a brother of Rives' armed himself with another rifle, sought Ferguson out, and, after wounding him severely with a rifle-shot, rushed upon him with a pistol and despatched him at once. We do not learn whether any judicial proceedings have been instituted in consequence of these bloody transactions.—*Louisville Journal.*