

SENATOR BIGLER—STATE DEBT.
We copy the subjected extract letter from the United States Gazette. It was addressed to a gentleman in Philadelphia.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 6, 1846.

Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 2d inst. came to hand by due course of mail. I regret that the principles contained in the bill which I had the honor to present to the Senate, some days since, should be objectionable to a gentleman of your acknowledged intelligence. But I am not disappointed in finding the bill objectionable. I have long since come to the conclusion, that a system of taxation, for the gradual payment of the State debt, or for the punctual payment of the interest, that would be free from reasonable objection and acceptable to all, can never be devised. The man who undertakes this task will fail to accomplish it. I am well aware that the present taxes are onerous, and I regret as much as you the necessity for their continuance, or that it should be the duty of any one to inquire into the expediency of adding new ones. Certainly it is no very agreeable task for a public servant to propose or advocate taxation of any kind. It makes up more than a full proportion of *bitter* for all the sweet of legislation.

You say you would like to see a system of taxation that would bear equally upon all the wealth of the country and at the same time be efficient and satisfactory. I should rejoice with you to see a system of this kind in operation. These phrases sound harmonious, but they are mere words of promise to the ear, to be broken to the hope.—A satisfactory tax will never be devised. The regulation of the mere machinery of tax laws is a most difficult task, and such equity and nice regard for individual rights, as you desire, is more than human ingenuity can attain.

But I hope to convince you that at least some of the positions which you have assumed against a tax on real estate, are unsound. You say it is "taxing the dead" and wronging the "widow and orphan." The same remark will apply with equal force to all the estates now taxable in the commonwealth. The original owners are now all dead and yet these estates are taxed. The present inheritors were at one time looked upon as "widows and orphans," but yet their property is not exempt from taxation. If your position be correct, every estate passing from first hands ought to be free from taxation, because it had been taxed in the name of the original owner, and having passed into the hands of his heirs ought not to be again taxed. This principle would, in the space of thirty years, exempt all the wealth of the State from taxation, and leave the Government no means of paying the expense of protecting this property, or these descendants in its enjoyment. This tax is intended, and will apply to all the wealth of the State, without disturbing the present tax laws; and the whole product is to be applied toward the payment of the principle of the State debt, and I would not agree to assess it for any other purpose.

Again, you say it is "taxing the estates twice." This is very true. But you might say, with the same propriety, that when the Legislature in 1844 raised the tax upon real estate from two to three mills, that it was taxing the same property twice. In both cases there is merely an increase of taxation. The object in the one instance being to pay the interest, and in the other the principal of the State debt; this tax would reach all estates, real and personal, the same as our laws now in force. It may be said the one estate will pass sooner than another, and hence a time will be when such estate will have paid more of the public debt than another of equal value. But it is estimated that in 30 years all the property of the commonwealth would be taxed under the provisions of this act, and it will then have borne an equal proportion of the debt. I hold the right of an individual to property which he has acquired by his own labor to be very sacred, and would not agree to any encroachment upon such rights that was not demanded by necessity.

As to the mere machinery of the proposed law, I do not look upon the features of the bill as being the best that can be adopted. Some more certain efficient means of securing its execution will, I have no doubt be discovered. You complain of the gradual increase of the rate of taxation as the estates become larger. I am not certain that an uniform rate of two or three per cent upon all estates without reference to their value, would not bear scrutiny better than any other principle. I find that in England the rate of taxation upon legal descents is regulated in reference to the ties of consanguinity. The closer those ties draw the inheritor to the donor, the lower the rate of tax as follows to wit: On estate descending to any ancestor or descendant of legator, one per cent; to brother, sister, or their descendants, three per cent; to uncle, or

uncle, or their descendants, five per cent; to great uncles; or great aunts, or their descendants, six per cent; and to any other collateral or stranger in blood, 10 per cent.

I hold the doctrine that a Government in exacting from its people the necessary means to sustain the expenses of its administration, or to meet any obligations which it may have incurred, has not only the right, but is in duty bound to consult the moral welfare of its subjects, and that these exactions should be made with reference first, to equity and individual rights, and next to the general welfare of all. At what period then can you make an exaction from an estate that will cause less complaint, do less injury or less infringe upon personal rights, than at a time when by virtue of the same Government under whose fostering care it was acquired, it passes into the possession and enjoyment of a subject of that Government, free of cost. It is a gratuity; the products of the labor of another, and descends to the inheritor by virtue of the laws of his Government, and he should not complain, if he be called upon to contribute a small item of his donation, thus acquired towards sustaining that government. Besides, the debt of forty millions which we now owe is a lien upon all the wealth of the state, all that is to be exacted under the proposed law, is to be applied toward the payment of this lien. Hence you will perceive that this "fearful principle" is nothing more or less than paying a debt, from which there is no escape. You say 5 per cent. upon estates of one hundred thousand dollars is too much. Perhaps it may be so, but I will leave you to decide whether the individual who receives a gratuity of ninety five thousand dollars, is not as good a man for all earthly purpose, as he would be if he were to receive one hundred thousand. As a general rule, not he who receives a bounty of ten thousand dollars, as happy and as useful and successful business men!—Amongst those who have been left large fortunes by their ancestors, or in ranks of those who have commenced the world without any of the advantages of wealth? I need not answer these questions; they admit of but one reply. I do not present these ideas as constituting any right in the Government to make exactions as proposed in the bill, but they ought to have some influence in allying complaints against the proposed

TO CONTRACTORS:

By reference to an advertisement in another column, it will be seen that the building Committee have advertised for proposals for building the Court House, in Bloomsburg, the coming season. The house is to be built of brick. A rare chance for contractors.

DEMOCRAT

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG :

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1846.

A MEETING

Of the citizens of Bloomsburg, and all others interested, will be held at the store of Wm. McElvy & Co. Saturday evening February 28th for the purpose of adopting a plan for a Court House Building, as it is expected that one will be ready for submission at that time.

ANOTHER FURNACE.

On Saturday last, No 2 of the Bloomsburg Furnaces, having been completed, was blown in under the management of Mr. James Ralston, and is now doing well. No 3 continues to do a first rate business, making 112 to 115 tons of No. 1 Iron per week, which is doing more than any other Furnace in the country. The company have two water wheels, a blowing cylinder attached to each, and they are only using one wheel and one cylinder in driving these two Furnaces, they have, therefore, ample power for four Furnaces, which we understand, it is their intention to eventually put in operation.

The new Furnace at Lightstreet, is rapidly progressing, and Col. McDowell, is making such alterations in the blowing apparatus of the Williamsburg Furnace, as will enable him to use either Anthracite or Charcoal, and we learn that it is his intention to start it with Anthracite coal in a few weeks. We shall, therefore, have, in the spring, four Anthracite Furnaces in operation, driven by Fishing Creek water power, in the immediate vicinity of Bloomsburg. Arrangements are also making for the erection, in the coming season, of the Court House and several other large buildings in the place, which altogether, will render it a very busy time in the vicinity.

The Whigs are claiming the giving of the notice for the abrogation of the treaty for the joint occupancy of the territory of Oregon, as a whig measure. What next!

The next arrival from England is looked for with great interest. It will leave Liverpool the 21 of February and bring the news of the opening of the Parliament, and the position of the Ministry upon the Oregon question and the Corn Law. The Philadelphia Public Ledger has made arrangements to run an express from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Philadelphia, with the news brought by the Steamer, with the intention of getting it at the place twenty-four hours before it will arrive by mail.

SNOW.
During the past week, we have again been visited with a snow storm, which has given us about twelve inches of snow and rendered the sleighing excellent.

The Notice, in relation to the Oregon territory, was still under discussion in the Senate, at the latest dates from Washington. All agree that it will pass the Senate by a large vote, nearly as it came from the House.

National Foundries.—The Committee on Military Affairs has reported a bill to Congress for the establishment of national foundries; one in Pennsylvania and the other in Georgia. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars is to be applied to this important object. The President of the U. S. is authorized by the bill to make such purchase, and to select the site in the State of Pennsylvania, to call to his aid in selecting and contracting for said sites such competent officers in the public service as he may deem expedient.

FALSE RUMORS.

The Union of Saturday positively contradicts the truth of all the various rumors that are in circulation relative to another Oregon message from the President—of a treaty that has been agreed upon, as well as the construction which has been put upon the purport of the suppressed part of Mr. McLane's letter to Mr. Buchanan.

The Parliament of Canada is called by proclamation to assemble at Montreal on the 30th of March, for the despatch of business. We observe that Lord Cathcart signs the proclamation as "Administrator of the government," not as Governor General.

An attempt to corrupt a Member of the House.—On the 17th inst. Mr. Piollet rose and asked leave to address the House in regard to a personal matter. Request being granted, Mr. P. stated, in effect, that he had been approached by a person calling himself a citizen of Ohio, for his influence as a member of the committee on Banks in the case of the investigation of the Lehigh County Bank.

That this McCook had first called on him and suggested that some person should be named by which the matter could be accommodated, that he (Mr. P.) referred him to a future interview, at which by the advice of friends, he concluded to accept the sum offered, five hundred dollars, four hundred of which was to be paid down. This morning McCook called upon him and counted down four hundred dollars, up on his (Mr. P.'s) table. Mr. P. called in Mr. Henry Buchler, who counted the money and tied it up in a package, and Mr. P. now presented it to the Speaker.

Mr. Burrell stated, in effect, that he was one of the friends referred to by Mr. P., as having advised him to allow McCook to pay the money so as to make the proof conclusive. He then offered a preamble, setting forth the facts as stated, and a resolution for the arrest of Daniel McCook, and the Sergeant-at-arms to proceed at once and arrest this said McCook wherever he may find him. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

A warrant was then issued by the speaker and the Sergeant-at-arms arrested Mr. McCook and brought him before the bar of the House. The Sergeant-at-arms was directed to keep him in custody until some action of the House could be had. Thus the matter rested at the last accounts.

TEXAS.

It is stated that Texas is divided into 35 counties. Galveston is the largest city, and Houston the next. Austin, the seat of government, has a population of 1500, and Washington about the same number. San Antonio de Bexar, the oldest town in the State, has the largest church and monastery in the country, and has fallen to a population of about 2500.

ELECTION IN LANCASTER CITY

At the Election in Lancaster City, last week Michael Carpenter, Democrat, was elected Mayor, having received 620 votes. The Native candidate, Bruner, received 380, and the Whig 130. The highest Native vote was polled at the fall election, and was 402.—The Democratic Council and Alderman were also elected.

MEXICO.—The latest news from Mexico, contains nothing specific as regards the country. The Washington correspondent of the Pennsylvanian, of Monday last says:

"In relation to Mexican matters, I will give you a few facts which have come to my knowledge through a source entitled to every credit. Prior to the recent revolution in Mexico, Mr. Pakenham despatched the Capt. Elliott to New Orleans. He then chartered a brig at \$1000 to land him at Tampico, arrived at which place he went immediately to the Governor of San Luis Potosi, Paredes being at that time in the province. The *emancipation* broke out immediately after the interview, and Paredes moved forthwith from San Luis upon Mexico. Thus far were the movements of the wily Capt. Elliott watched. The object, on the part of the English Government, was of course the prevention of a treaty between the Heretic Government of Mexico and the U. S., ceding to us all Texas and probably California. This power of the British Government over the army of Mexico, springs from the fact that the army depends upon foreign loans for pay, and the English is the only government who will lend to Mexico. Thus the British Minister for all great purposes commands the Mexican army, and thus has the United States been foiled in making an amicable arrangement.

Commerce of New Orleans.—There were two hundred and seventy-three square rigged vessels lying at the port of New Orleans on the 5th instant, of which two hundred were American. When the crowd of steamboats and sailing craft smaller than brigs is remembered, it may be imagined what a busy scene the wharves at New Orleans present.

The First General Assembly of Louisianians, under the new Constitution of that State, met at New Orleans on the 9th inst. Amongst the most important business to be brought before it is the reorganization of the State Judiciary. It is also required to select a new set of government, which according to the revised constitution, cannot be located within sixty miles of the city of New Orleans.

PAREDES.

We yesterday published a notice of Arista, who is at the head of the counter Revolution in Mexico against Paredes. We find in one of our exchanges a description of Paredes, now President of Mexico, which possesses some interest.

He is a man of about forty-eight years of age; frail and slight in form, and not ungraceful, though maimed by the wounds of many battles. His eye in repose is as mild as sunshine. He is known throughout the Republic as "El Cacique," Paredes—or hand-wounded.

He may be considered the Murat of Mexico, as he knows no fear in his almost mad and reckless daring. He was once banished to this country, and as an exile studied our institutions and worshipped our enterprise. His American feelings are strong, and in all his business concerns is a man of honor. Amid the thousand opportunities he has had for amassing an immense fortune, his poverty has remained a monument of his patriotism. It was his skill and indomitable courage that made Santa Anna President of the Mexican Republic; and when he trifled with the liberties of his country, it was he who hurled the dictator from place and power, and banished him an exile in a land of strangers. Favorite of the people—he is above the tawdry and garish military pomp and display that oftentimes cloys and disgusts them. A favorite with the priesthood—he has ever advocated their rights, and been their steadfast friend. The commander of the forces, and governor of one of the richest departments of the republic, his influence is seen & felt throughout the land."

Sporadic Half Dollars, so neatly executed as almost to defy detection, are in circulation in New York and probably other places. They bear the date of 1844, and may be detected by a close application to the sound or by the application of acids.

SINGULAR WILD BEAST KILLED

Several hunters in Lorain county, Ohio, recently gave chase to an animal prowling about Elyria, and after a pursuit of seven days succeeded in killing him in Huron county, about fifty miles distant. The animal was confined about 150 miles. The animal is described as of a dark brindle color, three feet high, six feet eight inches from the end of his nose to the end of his tail. Old hunters give it as their opinion that he must have been a stray inhabitant of some other region.

Departure of the Mormons.—The first expedition of the Mormons for the Rocky Mountains, will leave Nauvoo about the 20th instant. The Warsaw Signal says:

"This first company will consist of about fifty men, with a sufficient number of teams drawn by good horses, to convey the farming utensils, provender, &c, they may need. They will load with grain, at the last settlement & push their horses through as fast as possible, until they reach the base of the mountains, which they say they can do by the time grass is fairly up. Here they will halt and commence farming operations. They will put in as large a crop as possible, and remain until the summer emigrants come up. The object of this expedition is to raise something for the summer emigrants to recruit on, while on their journey. We learn that on Monday last a very serious row occurred in Nauvoo, between the followers of the Twelve, and of the Wisconsin Prophet.

EARLY ASSOCIATIONS.

It is said that at that period of his life when the consequences of his conduct had fully developed themselves in unforeseen reverses, Napoleon, driven to the necessity of defending himself within his own kingdom, with the shattered remnant of his army, had taken up a position at Brienne, the very spot where he had received the rudiments of his early education, when unexpectedly, and while he was anxiously employed in a practical application of those military principles which first exercised the energies of his young mind in the college of Brienne, his attention was arrested by the sound of a church clock. The pomp of his imperial court, and even the glories of Marengo and of Austerlitz, faded for a moment from his regard, and almost from his recollection. Fixed for a while to the well-known sound, he at length gave utterance to his feelings, and condemned the tenor of all his subsequent life, by confessing that the hours then brought back to his recollection were happier than any he had experienced throughout the whole course of his tempestuous career.—*Kidd.*

In this place on Wednesday last Mr. WILLIAM MENSCH, aged 29 years.

In Montour, on Wednesday last, Mr. FRANKLIN RUPERT, aged 24 years, son of Mr. Peter Rupert. Funeral next Sunday morning at eleven o'clock.

SECTARIAN QUARREL.

Some Irishmen employed on the railroad at Fitchburg, Mass., got into a row on the evening of the 2d inst. which resulted in the death of one of the number. They were quarrelling about their religion.

HARD TIMES FOR FOREIGNERS.

In most of the towns of the interior, importers are literally deprived of getting drunk. The law utterly forbids the sale of wines or spirituous liquors, in either large or small quantities, except by license, or board of Commissioners. In most of the towns they refuse to grant license. In New Haven and New London, however, apothecaries are licensed, and they are required to keep a record of all they sell.

A BLOODY WOMAN FIGHT.

At Cincinnati, one of bloodiest women fights ever witnessed, took place between Margaret Terry and Mrs. Sullivan, both living on Front street, on Saturday last—one armed with a club, the other with a hatchet. Mrs. Terry fell after a severe struggle, badly wounded (cut) in the neck and left arm. The editor of the Cincinnati Commercial saw her at the Mayor's office, accompanied by her husband, covered with blood and faint, demanding a warrant for her of the hatchet.

New York State Lunatic Asylum.—The number of patients in the New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica, is 553, admitted last year 293, and discharged 268. The number discharged as recovered was 138, improved 78; unimproved 31 and 21 died. Among the causes of insanity enumerated by the officers of the Asylums are 10 of Malaria and 102 of religious insanity. The immense amount of mischief which is caused by religious delusions may be inferred from these facts.

RIGHTS OF MARRIED WOMEN.

A Bill passed the Legislature of Alabama which provides that the property which a woman has at the time of her marriage, shall not be liable for the payment of debts contracted by her husband previous to marriage; and also providing that the husband shall not be liable for the payment of debts contracted by the wife before marriage, except so far as the same can be paid by the property of the wife.

ALBERT J. TIRRELL.

The Wabash arrived at New York on Tuesday, from New Orleans, with Tirrell on board. The alleged murderer of Mrs. Bickford, on board. The officers came up with him in a pilot boat and left for Boston on Wednesday morning, by the Long Island Railroad. Moore, the burglar, for whom there was a requisition, from the Governor of Connecticut, went on the same train. Both were heavily ironed.

ENTERTAININGS.

MARRIED.—On the 5th inst. by the Rev'd. L. Bahl, Mr. SAMUEL BOYD, of Nescopeck, Luzerne county, to Miss JEROME BROWN, of Millville, Cambria county.

On Thursday, January 29th, by the Rev. Daniel Barber, Mr. JACOB SHULTZ, of Roaring Creek township, to Miss ELIZABETH SHULTZ, of Derry township.

On the 15th inst. by the Rev. H. Funk, Mr. JACOB FRITZ, to Miss AMANDA LAUBACH, both of Sugarcreek township, Columbiana Co., Pa.

By the Rev. D. S. Tobias, on the 12th inst. in Mt. George, to Miss HANNA HEILMAN, of Madison.

In this place, on Thursday the 18th inst. by the Rev. L. Bahl, Mr. EDWARD POWELL to Miss LEVINA HAGENBUCH.

At the same time and ceremony Mr. JOHN WORKER to Miss PENINA FOWLER, all of Center township, Columbia county.

CENTURY.

DIED.—In Danville, on 9th inst. MARGARET ANN SECHLER, daughter of Abisha, and Levina Sechler, aged 4 years 5 months, and 1 day.

In Danville on the 7th inst. Mrs. MATILDA HEATH, wife of John T. Heath, aged 36 years.

In Liberty township, on