told him all Mr. M'C. had said to me. Mr. Burrell had said to me before that if any offer of the kind was made I should keep it to myself until we could get it into a proper shape to expose it but I felt unwilling to trust my reputation in any one man's hands. Mr. Laporte encouraged me to go on to be careful as to what I said and see what would come of it. Mr. Laporte then left my room in a manner that appeared to me very singular at the time. In four or five minute he returned with Mr. Burrell. They both sat down begged me to be quiet not to be excited. Mr. Laporte then stated (what I did not know before) that Mr M'Cook had on Saturday I think approached him in a similar manner to myself.

Last evening my brother in law had come down in the stage and was put in my room by my landlord. He stated that a gentleman had been there and had left a note for me. I opened it, read it, took into Judge Leporte's room and showed it to him. (Here Mr. P read a note inviting him to No. 22 as his room was engaged.)

Mr. L. advised me by all means not to go into the gentleman's room. I felt like abandoning the whole thing. I observed to Mr. L—had I not better mention this to Mr Ward, [who had come into his room.] that I had doubts what to do. I stated the matter to Mr. Ward—stated my doubts whether to abandon the project or receive the money. He said that I should go on—that the thing would not be completed unless carried out in full.

Mr M'C came to my room about 11 o'clock last evening, and exhibited a bundle of papers and read a list of them, numbering from seven to eight. Mr. Burrell had said to me if he (Mr. C.) said anything to ask him for a certain receipt, said to have been given for the stock of the Lehigh County Bank. I asked him for it and he showed me a receipt from the President and Cashier of the Bank for $100,000, from Moses Y. Beach. He said to me—your brother in law has come to town. I said yes—he has gone out. (He had stepped out at my request.) He asked me if I had selected a friend with whom he could desposit the money—or would I take it myself? I stated to him that I had not selected any one. He says, I want to pay you $250 to night, and $250 when the report was made. I said the better way would be to settle the thing on the spot—we probably might not see each other afterwards. He said he would give me his note endorsed by any one I could name for the remaining $250. I mentioned that his offer was to desposit $500—leaving the impression that I would not take a less sum. He stated to me that he had not money then—that Mr. Beach, and the men with whom he acted, and from whom he got the money, were in town, I think at Herr's hotel, and asked me if I could wait fifteen or twenty minutes till he could go over and get the additional $250? I said it would do as well in the morning. Mr M'C said it was important to have it settled that night as the investigation would go on to day. I mentioned that the committee on Banks did not meet till after the adjournment of the House, and that my brother in law would be in a few minutes—that it would do as well in the morning—and we parted. I then went to Messrs Burrel and Laporte, strongly inclined to abandon the project, so far as receiving the money was concerned. Those gentleman thought it would be a more ample and thorough exposure if I were to receive the money, and I consented to go on.

This morning, at 9 o'clock, as I went up from the barber shop, I found M'Cook in my room. He said he had been waiting for me for some time, and said he had the money. He took off his hat and took from it a handful of bills of the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 dollars; saw them as he counted them over in his lap by the fire; observed the words Plainfield Bank on the notes as he counted them over $460-395 in notes and took from his pocket two or eagles to make out the sum. He remarked that I must wait for the other hundred dollars till the report of the committee was made—he would have to ask me to do it. I unlocked my bureau drawer, where I keep my letters, and remarked, you can put the money there. He done so and left my room.

I instantly rang the bell—the servant came, and I sent him to Mr. Burrell's room to tell him to come; the servant returned and said he was not there, and I sent him for Mr. Laporte, and he returned and said he was no where to be found in the house; I then sent for Mr. Buehler, my landlord, he came, and opened the drawer and asked him to count that money, pointing to it, he said he was busy, and I said, I want you to count that money—I have reasons for it—it was paid to me a few minutes ago for my vote in the Committee on Banks, and I intend to take it up to ask the House to make a disposal of it,' he counted it and and sealed it up in that (here it was produced) package. It may not be improper to state here that after the offer of the money was made, it was a matter of great doubt with me whether I should receive it or not, and but for the counsel and advice of friends should not have received it.

The cross-examination elicited little new. The witness, at this stage of the proceedings avowed that nothing took place at the first meeting to lead him to suspect corrupt intentions, although he had testified that after the first interview he had consulted with Mr. Burrell in regard to a probable attempt at bribery. He also stated that Mr M'C. had not told him of any other member of the committee being bribed. In explanation as to whether Mr M'C. named the *three* who would go for the Bank, he named Messrs. Hiland, Steel and Barber.

Several other witnesses were examined; but as the report of the committee, which follows, gives the substance of the testimony introduced, we omit it.

Mr. Knox, from the committee on the subject made the following report, which was read,

REPORT.

That immediately after their appointment, they entered upon the discharge of the duties assigned them, and commenced the examination of witnesses in the presence of the said Daniel M'Cook, who was attened by his counsel, James M'Cormick and Thaddeus Stevens, Esq's., and continued the examination from day to day until they had taken the evidence of all those persons supposed to be acquainted with the facts connected with the transaction, favorable or otherwise to the person implicated in the charge of bribery.

The Committe have appended to their report a copy of the evidence, and will state briefly the facts proved and the conclusions to which they have arrived from their investigation:

It appears from the evidence introduced, that the said Daniel M'Cook resides in the county of Carrol, in the State of Ohio, and at the present time holds the office of clerk of the several courts of said county; and that he is here in the capacity of an agent for the Lehigh county Bank; at Allentown, in this State, his particular object being to obtain from the committee on Banks in this House, a report against the proposed repeal of the charter of the said bank, and that in the attempt to procure the vote of Victor E. Piollet, a member of said committee, for a favorable report to said bank, the offence charged was committed.

In the first place, the said Daniel M'Cook attempted to procure the vote of Mr. Piollet through the influence of his personal and political friends; for that purpose proposing to the Hon: John Laporte, to whom he had been casually introduced, that he would deposit with him $500 dollars, for the use of said Laporte's son, to whom he said he had written to come to Harrisburg, and to whom he proposed the money should be paid as soon as the committee made a favorable report.

Being repulsed by Judge Laporte, and an attempt made at his instance to induce Elisha S. Goodrich, Esq, clerk of the Senate and a citizen of the same county with Mr. Piollet, for the consideration of one hundred dollars, which was offered to induce the said vote, having failed, it seems that he determined to approach Mr. Piollet in person; and on Saturday last, having sought and obtained an interview with him, he stated his wishes, urging upon him as reason, why his vote should be favorable to the bank that the opposition to the bank was without cause; and that the persons interested were members of the same political party, to which he (Piollet) belonged, and that men of high standing and influence in the democratic party, were anxious that the bank should be sustained.

At this interview, no intimations were given that money would be paid for the desired vote; but on Monday morning he again called on Mr. Piollet, and stated to him that he had written to his father to come to Harrisburg, to attend to the business of the bank before the Committee, and that he had offered him three hundred dollars as a compensation.

Your Committee view this as an offer made to Mr. Piollet of that sum of money, to induce him to vote as desired, as it is apparent that the intention of the said M'Cook was not to procure the services of the father of a member of the Committee, merely to assist in explaining the matter, but his evident intention, was to propose to Mr. Piollet in that indirect matter, that he would give him the sum mentioned, for his vote. This interview is strengthened by what subsequently occured, as we learn in the same conversation, he (M'Cook) stated, that three of the committee agreed to report favorably, and that he would deposit with him or any other person he would name, $500 dollars, if he (Piollet) would vote for a report favorably to the bank.

It is unnecessary to give a detailed statement of all that occurred at the different interviews, Suffice it to say that, on Tuesday morning, $400 dollars was paid by said Daniel M'Cook, to the said Victor E. Piollet, and an additional one hundred dollars promised, upon condition of a favorable report being made, thus proving the commission of the offence charged beyond reasonable doubt.

And in the opinion of the committee, the evidence offered and received on behalf of the said Daniel M'Cook, does not impair or in any degree weaken the clear case made by the direct evidence before them. There are no material discrepancies between the testimony of Mr. Piollet before the Committee, and his statements of the transaction testified by Messrs. Edie Pomroy and others and in regard to the evidence of good character, the effect that it has made upon the minds of your committe, is to increase their surprise and regret, that any man possessed of character and reputation [and Mr. M'Cook appears from the evidence to have been] could so far forget what was due to himself and to his fellow men, to voluntarily attempt and actually consummate, an offence second only in its blighting consequences against the well being of Government to *Treason* itself.

It is proper for your Committee to say, that in their opinion, there is nothing in the conduct of Mr. Piollet, connected with this transaction, calculated to throw the least suspicion upon him as a member of this body. He acted throughout under the advice of the Hon. John Laporte, Surveyor General, the Hon. Jesse Miller, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Jeremiah M. Burrel, Esq., a highly respectable member of this legislature, who all urged upon him the beneficial effects that would result from such an exposure as could only be made by permitting the offence to be consummated by the actual payment of the money. And your Comittee concur in the opinion, that the exposure and proper punishment of this highhanded outrage, will tend to preserve unimpared the confidence of the people in the purity of legislative action.

The committee deem it due to Messrs. Hillands, Steel and Barber, the three members of the Committe on Banks, who are mentioned in the testimony, as being understood to be favorable to the Lehigh county Bank, that there is not the slightest evidence for a supposition that they had been tampered with in relation to this affair: Their characters for honor and integrity forbids this idea and it was clearly proved that they had never exchanged a word with Mr. M'Cook, and that they did not even know him, until after his arrest by the Sergent at Arms.

In view of all the circumstances, your Committee is constrained to say, that a most gross contempt of the dignity of the House, and a flagrant attempt to corrupt one of its members, has been perpetrated by Daniel M'Cook. The evidence is clear, to the point; and leaves no room for doubt. If any doubt could possibly exist in the face of the paid testimony in the case, they must all at once be dispelled, by the production of the identical money with which the corrupt attempt was made. Upon this conclusive fact, rests a consideration of much importance in this, and all similar cases.

It may be alledged, that it was the duty of a gentleman who was approached, to repel the attempt at the first blush. It must be remembered that a previous attempt was made on Mr. Laporte, for the purpose of reaching Mr. Piollet, by M'Cook, and that an intimation and a warning, was given to Mr. Piollet, that he would probably be corruptly approached, and that it was for the purpose of making a complete exposure, that he concluded to let the matter take such a course, and go just as far as the author of it intended, and would push it. It is insufficient to say, and is not sustained by the evidence, that M'Cook was drawn in, and induced to act as he did.—His previous deliberate intention, is clearly proved, and that he carried it out, is no man's wrong but his own. No man of honest purpose, could by possibility be induced to commit a crime, by the mere fact that no man stays his hand.

The offence being then clearly proved the question that presents itself, is this what action shall the House take to insure the punishment of the offender? This case being without precedent in this Commonwealth, it is important that the action of the House upon it, should be dictated by prudence and care, as it will doubtless hereafter, in some degrees, be looked upon as a precedent, although it is to be hoped, that as it is the first, so it may be the last case that may ever be acted upon by a Pennsylvanian Legislature.

Your Committee can scarcely find language sufficiently strong to express their abhorrence and detestation of the perpetrators of such offences as the one they were charged to investigate They strike a deadly blow at our free institutions, poison the head springs of legislation, thwart the high and pure purpose of the people, and laugh at law and morality. If they be permitted to go unwhipt of justice, and be thus encouraged to prosecute their infamous vocation, honest legislation will be impossible, and our whole frame of representative government in the end become but a whitened sepulchre.

It is due from the House, to its own honor and dignity, to public justice and good morals, that such an example shall be made, as will deter men from similar offences, and clear the atmosphere around our legislative halls from all cloude and taints of corruption.

This House can only punish the contempt against its privileges, by a reprimand from the Honorable Speaker, and by directing the Sergeant at arms to retain in custody the offender during its session. But the offence committed to the investigation of your Committe is punishable at common law by our courts of justice. And in view of the fact that any punishment which his House could inflict, would be entirely inadequate, and that the ends of justice would be the more certain of fulfilment by placing the offender within the power and under the control of the judicial tribunals of the Commonwealth, your Committee would respectfully offer for the consideration of the House, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Attorney General or his Deputy, in the county of Dauphin; be requested to take the necessary steps to arrest and bring to trial, in said county, the person of Daniel M'Cook, upon the charge of having attempted, by the payment of money, corruptly to procure the vote of Victor E. Piollet, Esq., a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, in favor of the Lehigh County Bank, and that, upon the issuing of the warrant of arrest, the Sergant at Arms be directed to deliver to the proper officers the person of the said Daniel M'Cook.

Resolved, That the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

JOHN C. KNOX.
ALEXANDER GWIN.
R. T. GALLOWAY.

The resolution passed the Legislature, and Mr. McCook gave bonds for his appearance at the next term of the Dauphen County Courts.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE CAMBRIA,

The news is of the most important and gratifying character. It is of the most pacific kind, and the important change in the commercial policy proposed by Sir Robert Peel will tend to preserve the peaceful relations of the two countries. It will be seen that the reductions proposed by the Cabinet on American produce are most important to our merchants and agriculture.

Both Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russel condemned the course pursued by Mr. Packenham on the Oregon question in refusing Mr. Buchannan's offer without consulting his government, The reduction of duties on American produce, proposed by Sir Robert Peel, meets with much favor and is expected to increase the business of the manufacturing districts.

The proposition to increase the army and navy is opposed by Lord John Russell.

Lord Morpeth has given his name to a document prepared by the Peace Society, recommending addresses from merchants and other classes in England to similar classes in the United States, in favor of perpetual amity, and the reference of all points of misunderstanding to the arbitration of disinterested nations.

THE QUEENS SPEECH

At the opening of Parliament, the Queen made the following speech.

My Lord's and Gentlemen;—It gives me great satisfaction to meet you in Parliament, and to have the opportunity of recurring to your assistance and advice. I continue to receive from my allies, and from other foreign powers, the strongest assurance of the desire to cultivate the most friendly relations with this country. I rejoice that in concert with the Emperor of Russia, through the success of our joint mediation, I have been enabled to adjust the differences which had long prevailed between the Otteman Porte and the King of Persia, and had seriously endangered the tranquility of the East. For several years a desolating and sanguinary warfare has afflicted the States of the Rio de la Plata.

The commerce of all nations has been interrupted, and acts of barbarity have been committed, unknown to the practice of a civilized people. In conjunction with the King of the French, I am endeavoring to effect a pacification of these States. The Convention concluded with France, in the course of last year, for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade, is about to be carried into immediate execution by the active co-operation of the two Powers on the coast of Africa. It is my desire that our present union, and the good understanding which so happily exists between us, may always be employed to promote the interests of humanity and to secure the peace of the world.

I regret that the conflicting claims of Great Britain and the United States in respect of the territory on the Northwestern coast of America, although they have been made the subject of repeated negotiation, still remain unsettled. You may be assurred that no effort, consistent with national honor shall be wanting on my part to bring this question to an early and peaceful termination.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons—The estimates for the year will be laid before you at an early period. Although I am deeply sensible of the importance of enforcing economy in all branches of the expenditure, yet I have been compelled, by a due regard to the exigency of the public service, and to the state of our naval and military establishments, to propose some increase in the estimates which provide for their efficiency.

My Lords and Gentlemen;—I have observed, with deep regret, the very frequent instances in which the crime of deliberative assassination has been of late committed in Ireland. It will be your duty to consider whether any measures can be devised calculated to give increased protection to life, and to bring to justice the perpetrators of so dreadful a crime. I have to lament that in consequence of the failure of the potato crop several parts of the United Kingdom, there will be a deficient supply of an article of food which forms the chief subsistence of great numbers of my people. The disease by which the plant has been affected has prevailed to the utmost extent in Ireland.

I have adopted all such precautions as it was in my power to adopt for the purpose of alleviating the suffering which may be caused by this calamity and I shall confidently rely on your co-operation in devising such other means for effecting the same benevolent purpose, as may require the sanction of the Legislature. I have had great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measures which you have presented to me from time to time, calculated to extend commerce and to stimulate domestic skill and industry, by the repeal of prohibitory and the relaxation of protective duties. The prosperous state of the revenue, the increased demand for labor, and the general improvement which has taken place in the internal condition of the country, are strong testimonies in favor of the course you have pursued.

I recommend you to take into your early consideration whether the principles on which you have acted may not with advantage be yet more extensively applied, whether it may not be in your power, after careful review of the existing duties upon many articles the produce or manufacture of other countries to make such further reductions and remissions as may tend to insure the continuance of the great benefits to which I have adverted, and, by enlarging our commercial intercourse to strengthen the bonds of amity with foreign powers. Any measures which you may adopt for effecting these great objects will, I am convinced, be accompanied by such precautions as shall prevent permanent loss to the revenue, or injurous results to any of the great interests of the country.

I have full reliance on your just and dispassionate consideration of matters so deeply affecting the public welfare. It is my earnest prayer that with the blessings of Divine Providence on your councils, you may be enabled to promote friendly feelings between different classes of my subjects, provide additional security for the continuance to peace and to maintain contentment & happiness at home, by increasing the comforts of the great body of my people.

The Queen emphasized the portions of the speech which referred to the continuance of peace and to the reduction of the tariff.

The Earl of Home moved the address in a brief speech, at which he glanced at most of the topics touched upon in the speech from the throne. He concluded with reading the words of the address, which merely echoed the speech.

Lord De Ros seconded the address and expressed a hope that the pacific relations with America would not be disturbed by the Oregon dispute.

The Duke of Richmond made an angry attack on the policy of Sir Robert Peel and the conduct of the Anti-Corn-Law League.

Lord Stanley stated that he left the Cabinet because he thought that the proposed scheme would not give sufficient protection to the agriculturalists.

The address was carried without a division

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Jan. 22.

England and the United States.

Mr. Hume after complimenting Sir Robert Peel upon his proposed liberal policy, said, there was one other point to which he would refer, and that was, to express a hope that the Right Honorable Baronet would continue to maintain the good understanding which from her Majesty's speech appeared to prevail between France and England. (Hear.) It was in the power of the British Government united with that of France, to command the peace of the world Hear, hear. Quarrels might take place between different nations, but these two great nations united would prevent war. Hear.

There was a paragraph in the speech referring to the state of our relations with the United States, and he must say that he thought her Majesty's expressions on this subject highly proper and becoming. He thought too, that the paragraph recommending an increase in the army and navy estimates one of the best, under present circumstances, in the whole speech, [hear] and he saw it with considerable gratification, when he found the chief magistrate of a great country, from whom he expected better things, venture to set at naught all those rules and regulations which civilized nations observed towards each other,

It would be acting contrary to the tenor of his life, which had been the efficient, useful and proper powers of government, not to approve of that part of the speech, and he was sure there was a disposition on the part of the house to place at her majesty's command those means which would maintain the honor of the country. Cheers.

Sir Robert Peel—I never entertained the slightest apprehension that any contrast between the language employed in Her Majesty's speech, in reference to those unfortunate disputes that still prevail between this country and America, and that which has been used by the Chief Magistrate of the United States, would have been made in this House. I never thought that that could have been mistaken or misrepresented, We have no hesitation in announcing our sincere desire, for the interest of this country, for the interest of the U. States, and for the interest of the civilized world, in continuing to strain every effort which is consistent with national honor, for the purpose of amicably terminating those disputes. Hear.

I never had any apprehension that our intentions or our language would be misrepresented, and the speech which the Hon. gentleman, (Mr. Hume,) the uniform and consistent advocate for the strictest economy, has just made, confirms me that my anticipations will not be disappointed. (Cheers.) And if any proposal which her Majesty's Government may feel it their duty to make for the maintainance of essential rights, or of the national honor, shall be responded to and supported by the House, then let me not be mistaken. I think it would be the greatest misfortune if a contest about the Oregon between two such powers as England and the United States, could not, by the exercise of moderation & good sense be brought to a perfectly honorable & satisfactory conclusion. (Cheers.)

The Oregon and River Platte Questions.—Lord John Russell referred, in his place in the House, to certain statements put forth in America, and had been reported to have been made to the Congress of the United States, which made it desirable that some explanation should be given on the subject. He had thought that the President of the U. S. had last year made declarations to Congress on this subject which were not comfortable to the uses of civilized countries, or to the friendly relations of the two States, but would appear, however that a proposition for a compromise had been made from the President to her Majesty's government, and he (Lord John Russell) conceived that that proposition had changed the state of the question.

The proposition itself might be satisfactory, or not satisfactory; but having been made, it did appear to him to require a statement from those in authority in this country of the terms on which they would be satisfied to settle this question. That proposition, as he understood, had not been received by her Majesty's government, but had been declared to be totally inadmissible by our Minister in America. He Lord John Russell confessed he thought that was a hasty proceeding on the part of the representative of her Majesty in the United States.

But what he wished to ask was, whether the negotiations had re commenced or were going on? He was not desirous that the papers should be presented to the House; he was willing to leave the negotiation in the hands of her Majesty's government until they could state that a satisfactory result had been attained, before he asked for any information of the particular state of the negotiations.

He also asked Sir Robert Peel whether he proposed to lay on the table any papers explanatory of the ground upon which her Majesty's government thought it necessary to interfere with the warfare which has occurred in the States of the Rio de la Plata?

Sir Robert Peel.—With reference to the question just put by the noble lord, I beg to say, that not forseeing that he would put it, I am not at present prepared to give him an answer, and have therefore to crave that he will postpone his question until another time.

On the subject of the Oregon territory I