

**DIETOCRA.**  
"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR."  
**BLOOMSBURG:**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1846.

**TO OUR PATRONS.**  
Two numbers more complete the eighth year since we commenced the publication of the "Columbia Democrat." We are determined to have our accounts settled up to that time. Those of our subscribers who owe us for one or more years subscription will govern themselves accordingly.

**THE BAKER FAMILY.**  
In consequence of the high water, were not able to fulfil their engagement in this place as heretofore advertised, but will give a Concert in the Academy on next Monday Evening. We give the following from the Rome Sentinel to show what others think of their performance.

**BAKERS' CONCERT.**  
The Baker Family, consisting of four brothers and a sister, gave a concert in our village, last week, which surpassed every thing in the line of vocal music, that has been performed here for a long time. Their voices are so perfectly disciplined, that the hearer is astonished as well as highly pleased at their sound. They will give another concert at this place, on Wednesday, and we trust, on that occasion, they will have a full house, for they are gentlemanly people, and deserve it.

**THE U. S. SENATE.**  
In every great national emergency, since we can remember, the action of the U. S. Senate, in the outset, has been hesitating and unparliamentary. It was so on the Texas question. It was so in the matter of French spoliation. We need not advert to other instances. We have now a new edition of Senatorial folly and hesitation on the Oregon question more than this, we have the spectacle before us, of Senators arguing against and depreciating the American title! In this however as in former instances a hesitating Senate will be impelled to act, and act correctly, by force of popular will. That popular will that has so often goaded a reluctant Senate into patriotic action, will come up to the rescue again, and we to the whole of Oregon, and they will hold it in needs be with an arm of force. Timid or recreant Senators cannot prevent the development of republican institutions in Oregon without stopping the tide of emigration westward, and reorganizing with new sympathies, the American mind. But the unparliamentary conduct of Senators is calculated, directly, to embarrass our government, and give substance and life to English pretensions; and is, principally, on these grounds to be regretted. The ultimate result of the difficulty however is decreed by a power fully competent both to decide and to maintain its decision, and no feeble or fearful Senate can blast or thwart eventually, the hopes or the will of a free people.

In this country, there is a rare and gratifying unanimity of feeling in regard to our rights on the Pacific coast. Democrat and Whig, differing upon almost every other public question, agree on this; and are ready, if needs be, to shoulder musket in defence of American right. Our people are not noisy in expressing opinion, but they are determined. They desire peace, sincerely, but they are ready for war if it grow out of a firm assertion of national right on our western border.

**OBJECTIONABLE.**  
The Whig State Convention held lately at Harrisburg, nominated as the candidate of that party for Canal Commissioner, JAMES M. POWER of Mercer county, this is, apart from political considerations, a nomination that the voters of Pennsylvania should never approve of or ratify. Power is one of the contractors who bleed the State so outrageously on the Erie extension. The recollection of the extreme profligacy upon that Extension is fresh in the minds of the people of the State, and now one of the plunderers on that work, is presented to them for their suffrages. Is it right to commit any power over the State improvements into such hands? Power has grown rich upon fat contracts, and now asks that the State that he has assisted to fleece shall bestow upon him one of its most important offices!

A lawyer in Bedford, N. H., having a little time on his hands, has prosecuted the towns in Hillsboro' county, to the amount of about twenty thousand dollars, for not erecting guide-boards at the corners of the roads.

**CANAL APPOINTMENTS AND REPAIRS.**

No appointments have yet been made by the Canal Board on the North Branch. As the canal will not be opened for several weeks, and as the present Supervisor is energetically employed in urging forward the repairs, no pressing necessity exists for speedy action on the part of the Board of Commissioners in making or announcing appointments on this line. Appointments on other lines have mostly been made, and navigation is about being opened on most of the lines of Public improvement. It is believed that navigation on the North Branch will be opened in about four weeks, a much earlier period than was generally anticipated. The President of the Board has gone along the whole length of the line within the last two days, examining it where most injured and instigating active exertion in its repair. The other Canal Commissioners have been engaged in the same way in other parts of the State; and upon the re-assembling of the Board in Harrisburg the members of it will be thoroughly acquainted with the actual condition of the Public works throughout the Commonwealth.

The Picayune avers that intelligent Englishmen in Havana entertain no doubt but that the troops formed by recognizing the militia of Cuba, and embracing every white male under 40, are intended to operate in Mexico—that the Spanish minister in Mexico has drawn upon the revenues of Havana for \$200,000, half of which has been paid, and it is to be used to mould public opinion in that republic towards a monarchy, which many noble families in Mexico still favor—and that the governor general of Porto Rico, Mirasol, who knows Mexico like a book, also favors the intrigues of Spain, France and England for the same object. The Picayune handles this matter with ability, and as its position is favorable, we confide in its vigilance to watch narrowly every development of European policy in Southern North America.

**THE KENTUCKY GIANT.**  
Many of our readers will remember Porter, the American giant; he is still alive and resides in Louisville, in his native State. A correspondent of the Christian Watchman lately paid him a visit, and says that he is a perfect wonder in human shape, walking and looking like a man and 6 inches in height. In gazing upon this man, says his visitor, "We feel an awe greater than that produced by the presence of a king and a kind of shrinking away into our uselessness. It reminded me of the report of the steps, sent by Moses in the wilderness of Paran, to search out the land of Canaan, who said on their return, 'We saw the giants, the sons of Anak, and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so were we in their sight.'

**CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT.**—We are surprised to find, in conversation with some of the emigrants who are preparing to depart thither, that the fact of the Government of Upper California, being independent of Mexico, is not generally known among them! The independence of Upper California was achieved in the early part of January, 1845, and Captain A. J. Sutter, formerly a citizen of St. Louis, was placed at the head of the civil and military departments of the northern frontier. Mexico has had to much to do at home since, even to think of attempting the re-establishment of her authority over so distant a province—one too, which has now become so strong as to be able, successfully, to resist any force that Mexico may send against it.—*St. Louis Revivelle.*

**DREADFUL.**  
Working women in London save themselves from starving during the winter, by mortgaging their summer earnings. Many of the laborers of that 'merry' country declared at a recent meeting, that they 'knew meat only by name.'

Great complaints exist in the different counties of Ohio, of the havoc made by dogs among the sheep. In Warren County it is estimated that 200 are thus destroyed annually, and that in the State the damage is \$80,000 by this mode of destruction alone. A farm in Warren County, lately lost fifty sheep by dogs in one night.

An American gentleman saw an Almanac in London which contained a list of the 'Sovereigns of Europe.' In this list he found in regular order, 'John Polk, American.'

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.**

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the inquiry of the Senate contained in their resolution of the 18th instant whether in my judgment any circumstance connected with or growing out of the foreign relations of this country require at this time an increase of our naval or military force; and if so what those circumstances are, I have to express the opinion that a wise precaution demands such increase.

In my annual message of the 22d of December last I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of our naval force especially of our steam navy and the raising of an adequate military force to guard and protect such of our citizens that might think proper to emigrate to Oregon. Since that period I have seen no cause to recall or modify these recommendations. On the contrary reasons exist which in my judgment render it proper not only that they should be promptly carried into effect but that additional provisions should be made for the public defence.

The consideration of such additional provision was brought before appropriate committees of the two houses of Congress in answer to calls made by them in reports prepared with my sanction by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, on the 29th of December and the 8th of January last a mode of communication with Congress not unusual, and under existing circumstances, believed to be most eligible. Subsequent events have confirmed me in the opinion that these recommendations were proper as precautionary measures.

It cannot be disguised that, however sincere may be the desire of peace, in the event of a rupture these armaments and preparations would be used against our country. Whoever may have been the original purpose of these preparations the fact is undoubted that they are now proceedings, in part, at least, with a view to the contingent possibility of a war with the United States. The general policy of making additional armaments as January last, and has since been reiterated by the ministers of the crown in both houses of Parliament. Under this aspect of our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence, both by land and sea. This can give Great Britain no cause of offence, nor increase the danger of a rupture. If, on the contrary, we should fold our arms in security, and at last be suddenly involved in hostilities for the maintenance of our just rights, without any adequate preparation our responsibility to the country would be of the gravest character. Should collision between the two countries be avoided, as I sincerely trust it may be, the additional charge upon the treasury, in making the necessary preparations, will not be lost; while, in the event of such collision, they would be indispensable for the maintenance of our national rights and national honor.

I have seen no reason to change or modify the recommendations of my annual message in regard to the Oregon question. The notice to abrogate the treaty of the 6th of August, 1827, is authorized by the treaty itself, and cannot be regarded as a warlike measure; and I cannot withhold my strong conviction that it should be promptly given. The other recommendations are in conformity with the existing treaty, and would afford to American citizens in Oregon no more than the same measure of protection which has long since been extended to British subjects in that territory.

The state of our relations with Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. Since the meeting of Congress another revolution has taken place in that country, by which the government has passed into the hands of new rulers. This event has prostrated, and may possibly defeat, the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The minister of the United States to Mexico, at the dates of the last advices, had not been received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States continue to be made in Mexico, which have rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two-thirds of our army on our southern frontier. In doing this, many of the regular military posts have been reduced to a small force, inadequate to their defence should an emergency arise.

In view of these 'circumstances' it is my judgment that 'an increase of our naval and military force is at this time required,' to place the country in a suitable state of defence. At the same time, it is my settled purpose to pursue such a course of policy as may be best calculated to preserve both with Great Britain and Mexico, an honorable peace; which nothing will so effectually promote as unanimity in our councils, and a firm maintenance of all our just rights.

JAMES K. POLK.  
WASHINGTON, March 24, 1846.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette gives the following account of one of the most disgraceful instances of mob violence and lawlessness, we have ever been called upon to record.

NASHVILLE, March 15th, 1846.  
This city exhibited a scene, on yesterday afternoon and night, of one of the most cruel mobs it has ever been my lot to witness. For some time past rumors of a painful delicate nature have been in circulation in regard to a lady of this city, which, coming to the ears of her husband, induced him to search for the source from whence they emanated. He traced them to a Mr. E. Z. C. Judson, a man grown somewhat notorious of late. They met yesterday near the African Church, and the meeting resulted in the death of the lady's husband, Mr. Robert Porterfield. It seems that Judson had been down near the Sulpher Spring, practicing with his pistols, and was returning when he met Mr. Porterfield. The latter fired, it is said, twice, without effect; Judson once, hitting his victim in the forehead and inflicting a wound of which he died last night.

Judson was arrested and taken to the Court House for examination, before a justice of the Peace, almost immediately, as the matter became known, a large crowd gathered in and about the Court House, and symptoms of violence began to be manifested. A brother of the deceased, justly excited against the murderer of his brother, went into the Court room, and shot at Judson a number of times. Judson ran out of the door; Porterfield followed, and shot several times more as he went down the steps. Judson kept on, and reaching the floor of the City Hotel, Porterfield placed a pistol at his head and fired, but Judson lodged; and escaped with only the loss of a lock of hair. Whilst he was dodging about others fired at him, too, but he had the good fortune to escape.

When in the Court House for examination, some of the crowd were for shooting others for hanging him, and out side the cry was—'Fetch him out to us!' To continue my narration: Escaped from the crowd, Judson secreted himself in the hotel; and after a search of some fifteen or twenty minutes, he was discovered, and a rush of hundreds of people was made for him. As he essayed to escape again, he fell from the third story of the hotel into the yard, and broke his thigh. Supposing him to be dying, a crowd, organized the Sheriff and

Here, it is hoped, the matter would end—that all violence would cease, and the law permitted to vindicate itself. But there was a thirst for vengeance excited, and it must needs be quenched. So at night a party went to the jail and demanded the prisoner who was given up to them. Maimed and almost naked, they threw him into the streets to be hung. He begged for a minister—which was denied him—he feared not death, but requested to be shot and begged if there was any gentleman present that would shoot him. They took him to the square and ran him over the rail of an awning post—the rope broke, and he fell, when he was taken back to jail, where he lies to die some time during the night.

Mr. Porterfield died this afternoon. Take all in all, it was worthy of the Reign of Terror in France: I was present, and attended closely to all that occurred of last night's proceedings.

**THE FLEMING TRAGEDY.**  
Freeman, the murderer, has been fully committed to stand his trial at Auburn at the next term, for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Van Ness, their child, Mrs. Wyckoff and Mr. Van Arsdale, five persons in all—the whole family, in fact, with the exception of the servant girl, who escaped.

**WHAT IS GOOD FARMING?**  
The best and most pithy definition we ever heard of good farming, was given by Mr. Kere, at a late agricultural meeting in Dorsetshire, England. He said, he fed his land before hungry, rested it before weary, and weeded it before foul.

**SMALL BORDER WAR.**  
Lieut. Thompson, with 25 dragoons, the whole force at Prairie du Chien, and Capt. Summers, with a small force, are in pursuit of the Winnebagoes, and about thirty Indians have been taken at the Kickapoo settlement. The volunteers under Gov. Dodge are near Milwaukee. The Winnebagoes, 500 in number, have crossed the Wisconsin river and gone into the Pluery.

The total exports of ice from Boston during the last nine months, was 25,839 tons.

To cure the toothache, plunge your feet in cold water. Strange, but true, says an exchange paper. It is easily tried at least,

**AN ELECTRICAL GIRL.**—Among the recent novelties, which have attracted the attention of the Parisians, is an 'electrical girl,' of whom the most incredible things are related. Her name is Angélique Cotten, thirteen years of age, a native of the department of Finistere. If the accounts given of her are true, she possesses the electric power in quantity and force, that they may be called 'positively shocking.' Her electric force was only discovered by accident. A reel which she held in her hand one day suddenly flew out of it, to the astonishment of all present. On this being replaced it shot off again. There was of course a sensation produced by the circumstances. The scientific were informed of the singular circumstances, and sundry experiments were performed in the presence of Arago, Mathieu, Laugier and Goujon. The following is the account of these experiments.

A piece of paper being laid on the edge of a table, was immediately attracted to her left hand. Holding her a pron upon it, she approached a guerdon, which 'retired at her approach.' She was then placed in a chair with her feet to the ground: The chair was thrown with violence against the wall, in one direction, and Angélique tumbled down in another. The experiment was repeated several times, and with nearly the same result. Next Monsieur Arago, the famous astronomer, laid his hand upon the chair, but could not prevent its moving. M. Goujon then sat upon the chair, and it was projected as before, the moment Angélique took her seat. On a subsequent occasion two men held it down but though it did not move any distance, it was broken into pieces. A table and a sofa could not resist her electrical power of repulsion. Dr. Tauchon ascertained to his own satisfaction that the chair was first attracted and then repelled. It is stated that whenever the girl is isolated by a glass stool, oiled silk, or any other non-conductor of electricity, the projections do not take place.

A magnet, says the account, being placed near the left hand, which is a lone magnetic, she experienced different sensations, corresponding with the different poles: She thus felt what might be properly termed a Northern sensation, and a Southern sensation; she is not arctic in her taste, however, she is repelled by the North Pole. When the electric discharges take place, she is violently agitated, experiences very great commotion, and complains of much suffering.

We find her electrical power much more after she has dined; and her power of electricity runs up to 120 a minute. Other wonderful things are recorded of her which of course require some further evidence before they can be credited.

**SHOCKING CASE.**—Our attention was attracted on Monday night, in the First Municipality, by a large crowd of people surrounding a good looking, neatly dressed young sailor, and a rather pretty girl, apparently not more than sixteen years of age. The man was alternately weeping, cursing, and tearing his hair, and threatening to kill both himself and the female near him, while she stood with hands clasped, her eyes red with weeping, supplicating him not to kill her, and begging him not to 'take on.' On inquiring into the cause of the disturbance, the following deplorable circumstances were related. The sailor had just returned from a long cruise at sea, and was on a 'lark' about town, full of frolic and 'sees over' when he encountered the female in the streets struck up an acquaintance with her, and invited her to accompany him to the 'Globe Hall.' From some unaccountable reason, the girl felt a repugnance to going with him, but at last consented, and was invited by her companion to enter a neighboring cafe and get a drink. As they stood at the bar the countenance of the man seemed familiar to her, and she put out his hand to take his glass of liquor, she observed a deep scar, and dropping her glass, exclaimed, 'Great God your name is—' you're my brother!' and so he was. He had not seen her for eight years, & when he last left her with her parents in New York, she was a fair haired prattling little child. His horror and anguish at finding her away from home, and a common girl of the town, can be better imagined than described; and yet, amid his paroxysm of grief, he thaned heaven that he had made the discovery thus early. A police officer succeeded in separating the unfortunate pair and getting them safely to their several homes, and we have not heard of them since.—*N. O. Picayune.*

**FRESHET AT THE EASTWATER.**  
The freshets in the Penobscot and Saco rivers are described as disastrous. The 'jams' of ice in the Penobscot have in various places, caused much alarm and damage as yet, we have no details of loss of property. All the booms on the Saco have been carried away.

**STATE CANALS.**—The Albany (N.Y.) Citizen of Thursday, says that the State Canals will be ready for navigation by the 20th of April, or near that day.

A large majority of the members of the Baltimore Methodist Conference are supposed to be in favor of remaining with the North branch of the Church—so says a letter in the Trenton Daily News.

Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1846.  
Great excitement was created in Washington early this morning, by the report that three or four persons had had their throats cut during the last night at Mrs. McDuffie's boarding house, on the avenue, near the Capitol, and that Captain Ramsey, of the U. S. Navy, was among the number! Upon inquiring in the proper quarter, I ascertained the state of the case to be this: As a colored servant at Mrs. Duffie's (where Captain Ramsey and three sons, the eldest about twenty, and the youngest about twelve, were boarding,) opened the front door this morning, with a view to open the window shutters, he was attacked with a large knife, by a man named Tucker, from Virginia, who had been stopping at the United States Hotel in this city, and who, for several days, I am told, has been laboring under the influence of *manie a potu*. The servant retreated up stairs to Capt. Ramsey's room, followed by Tucker. Here he was met by Capt. R., who had been aroused from his bed by the cries of the servant, and upon whom Tucker inflicted a severe wound in the face with his knife, before he could be secured. The 3 sons of Captain Ramsey rushed to the rescue of their father, and before the four were able to secure the maniac, the oldest was severely cut in 9 places, the 2d in the breast and face, and the youngest across the throat, but neither of them was dangerously wounded. Tucker was finally secured and conveyed to jail. It is stated that Tucker once sailed with Captain Ramsey, that he was flogged by him, and that his object was to take vengeance, not only on the captain, but on all of his family. This Statement I have good grounds for, declaring to be wholly unfounded, Captain Ramsey never having seen Tucker until this morning.

I noticed in the car house of the Washington and Baltimore Railroad Company, about 1 o'clock to day, a man apparently in low circumstances, and under the influence of great depression of mind. On inquiry I learned that he is a fisherman, and that six or seven days since he cut his throat, while engaged in his vocation on the Potomac, and under the influence of temporary derangement—that no surgical relief had been afforded him—that he had been landed this morning at Washington by his brother fisherman, with a view to send him home to his family in Baltimore, which is his place of residence; but that the agents of the line declined taking him on, (though some benevolent individual offered to pay his passage,) lest something might occur to him in the route to detain the cars. His throat was so badly that the water he drank was discharged through the wound. He appeared to be suffering greatly from thirst, and his situation was evidently so critical as to render his recovery exceedingly doubtful. He was to leave in the 5 o'clock cars, I understand the agents having been induced to allow him the same privileges accorded to other passengers.

These two incidents created, to day, quite an excitement at the east end of the Avenue.

Gen. Houston, one of the new Senators from Texas, has rooms at Brown's Hotel. He has been somewhat indisposed for several days, but will nevertheless, take his seat in the Senate tomorrow.

The present week will be one of interest and excitement, as the vote on the Oregon question will undoubtedly be taken on Friday or Saturday, and in the meantime Mr. Webster, and one or two other distinguished gentlemen, will address the senate. The notice will be passed, but it is impossible to predict, with certainty, the precise shape which it will finally assume.

**THE CIRCUMPOLAR.**  
This is the name of a new and simple machine for cutting down trees, &c., and which is now in town. It can be fixed, it is said, in a minute and a half, and will cut through a tree at the rate of three inches per minute, without causing the waste the woodman makes with his axe, leaving a groove of only one half inches around the tree. It is applicable for other purposes, such as the cutting of stone or iron, for cutting iron piping any size or in any position, likewise for turning the moldings of columns. [English Paper.]

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With a population of a little over 100,000, Wisconsin has now fifteen newspapers with a fair prospect of some half a dozen more the present year.