

a small minority in the House of Representatives, (we had forty votes, I think, under the previous question) to resist a treaty which Mr. Webster has lately stated in the Senate, granted near half a million of dollars from the treasury of the United States to the people of Maine and Massachusetts. I then desired to confend, when put down by the previous question, that the House of Representatives had a constitutional right to pass on such a treaty.

What I am now enabled to add, of revelation from the Department of State, will prove that my instincts of aversion to the treaty were even truer than reason.

In the Department of State there is now a letter, signed F. O. J. Smith, marked private, dated Portland, the 12th of August, 1842, addressed to Mr. Webster, Secretary of State, substantially as follows:

It begins by congratulating Mr. Webster on his settlement of the Maine boundary question, by a new mode of approaching the subject, after forty years of diplomacy without which new mode another forty years of diplomacy would have come to nothing.

[Mr. F. O. J. Smith seems to have suggested the boast with which his correspondent, Mr. Webster hugged himself in his elaborate vindication in the Senate.]

Mr. Smith informs Mr. Webster by this letter that he had occasion to resort to services and influences, in order to adjust the tone and direction of the party press, and through them of public sentiment, to a purpose so desirable of accomplishment under Mr. Webster's administration.

Mr. Smith, therefore, submits a claim or account, if I recollect right, in blank for Mr. Webster to fill up, of which he calls for payment out of the contingent fund. Mr. Smith presumes that the contingent fund will be ample, and Mr. Webster's control of it complete, to do whatever he may think just.

The sums Mr. Smith vouches for got by him from Mr. Webster are \$2000 for services connected with the northeastern boundary, and two years after he vouches \$500 more, as will be shown.

Thirdly, leaving the Department of State in debt to the secret service fund \$2200.

The records of the Department show the default beyond all denial or question.

They show, furthermore, that it was neither paid or accounted for during nearly two years after Mr. Webster's removal from office.

They show several sent to him by President Tyler's direction, urging payment, and evasive letters of excuse from Mr. Webster for non-payment.

At length, a peremptory letter that exposure would or might be the consequence of more delay, produced reimbursement. But settlement did not take place till the 1st February, 1845, ten days before President Polk arrived in Washington, to be inaugurated, when Mr. Webster produced another voucher from Mr. F. O. J. Smith for an additional \$500, and another voucher, one from George Smith for \$500.

George Smith, since dead, denied that he had ever been paid or vouched more than \$150, to which sum Mr. Webster reduced the \$500 at first demanded, as his agent, now in Washington, will prove.

Granting all the vouchers Mr. Webster produced, there was nevertheless a balance of about \$1,200 due from him at all events when he left the department. That sum he was in default to the secret service fund, after crediting everything in the way of payment, offset, or voucher, that he claimed.

In all I have said in this affair, no allusion has been made to any private aggravation. Regretting the exposure forced upon me, having afforded Mr. Webster several opportunities to meet the charges in his own way that which he chose left me no alternative but this forbearing justification of myself.

A resolution, or committee, which I cannot institute, will soon test the truth of my statements.

At the conclusion of Mr. Ingersoll's statement, Mr. Ashmun, of Massachusetts, rose and asked leave to make a reply.

Mr. Hunter moved to suspend the rules for that purpose, and on this the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted, yeas 135, nays 22.

Mr. Hunter here inquired of Mr. Ingersoll if he had ever received any information in reference to these charges from Mr. Trist?

Mr. Ingersoll.—I have before stated that I have not.

Mr. Ashmun then proceeded with his reply to Mr. Ingersoll. He said that he had not doubted after the groundless, premeditated and cold-blooded attack of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, that the House would permit him to reply. He referred to

an attack made on this floor by Mr. I. a quarter of a century ago, on Mr. Stockton, a member of New Jersey, and remarked that the scolding he had received should have been a warning not to be forgotten—he left the halls crying like a whipped boy. He never would have made this attack, had Mr. Webster been in this House. Mr. A proceeded to denounce the course of Mr. Ingersoll in a stream of the most bitter invective, and was frequently called to order by different members, but the speaker decided that as the House had suspended all rules the gentleman might proceed.

Mr. Ashmun desired to know how the gentleman from Pennsylvania had got at the papers? The President says there is a seal of secrecy on them. Who then furnished him with the key? or did he take one from his own pocket? or did he pick the lock? let him answer, or the responsibility rests with him of breaking into the State Department.

A member.—Are the statements true? That's the question.

Mr. Ashmun proceeded to charge Mr. Ingersoll with having been dismissed by Gen. Jackson during the first month of his administration.

Mr. J. R. Ingersoll here rose and declared that, though he took no part in this controversy, the transactions between the Government and Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, while district attorney, were of the most honorable kind. A suit had been brought at Mr. Ingersoll's own request, to effect a settlement, as the only means by which his accounts could be adjusted, &c.

The other point in Mr. Ashmun's speech which occupied an hour, I stated in my telegraphic despatch. In reply to Mr. Ingersoll's remark, 'it is a lie, and the lie of a coward,' Mr. Ashmun said he was not to be drawn into a personal contest with the aged gentleman from Pennsylvania. He came from a part of the country where the people were not afraid to decline a resort to that mode of settling disputes. As to his personal courage, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, or any of his abettors, could have proofs of it if they felt disposed to attack him. Mr. A. declared that the statements of Mr. Ingersoll were false, but he made no reference to the specific charges of Mr. I.

It was resolved that the committee investigate the charges made against Mr. Webster, with a view to his impeachment.

PAINFUL DEPRAVITY.

An investigation, says the N.Y. News has been in progress for some days past, at the Halls of Justice, which presents one of the most distressing portraits of human frailty we have ever been called upon to record. The circumstances are of too revolting a nature for publication; and can hardly be believed. We will merely state that three daughters, of a wealthy and hitherto respected individual come forward and charge their own father with a nameless crime, and from the affidavits already made, it seems that the sickening reasons have been in existence for years! The patient, upon whose head nearly 60 winters have come down, denies the foul imputations, and avers that the charge is but a fabrication and conspiracy of his children! In which ever light we view it, the case presents one of the most horrible pictures of criminality this city or the civilized world ever witnessed. We suppress the names of the parties, not from any desire to shield the guilty, (for doubtless the press of this morning will spread them far and wide,) but for the reason that we cannot wed an application of a creature who bears the impress of mankind to a vice so disgusting and abominable.

President Polk 'Prisoner of War to England.—It is a curious fact that the President of the United States, the warlike and pugnacious Polk was a prisoner of war, in the year 1812, to the Britishers. Mr. Polk was then a subaltern in the United States army, and was captured on the ice near Detroit, by a party of the 41st regiment of foot, under the command of Captain Bullock. Gen. Cass, the bellicose military orator in the American legislature, also fell by the fortune of war into the hands of the English forces in the same way.—London Paper.

Fastest Yet.—The express which left Boston with the Caledonia's news, ran the distance to Worcester, fifty-four miles and a half, in 54 minutes—the shortest time ever made on the road.

DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1846.

Ourselves. This number (April 18) completes the EIGHTH YEAR that we have published the 'Columbia Democrat' and we are determined to have our accounts settled up to this date. We shall immediately have our bills for the paper, advertising and job work made out ready for settlement, and we expect all to square up that we may be able to square up with those who have demands against us.

Our thanks are due to Hon. SIMON CAMERON and Hon. O. D. LEIB, for public documents.

The Oregon Question.

Among the various propositions made in regard to the Oregon Question we have observed none for purchasing the English claim. We purchased Louisiana of France. We purchased Florida of Spain. It has been intimated by our Government that it would treat with Mexico in a liberal manner for the sake of peace and good neighborhood, in regard to its claims upon Texas territory. The western boundary of Texas in particular being a matter of dispute, it might be proper, if Mexico met us in a spirit of civility, to pay her a reasonable sum to quit all claim on her part north and east of the Rio Grande. Again, upon the settlement of the North Eastern boundary question, a sum was paid to the States especially interested, to procure their acquiescence to the treaty, and extinguish with greater show of justice their claims to that portion of the disputed territory that was ceded. However objectionable or ill-advised may have been the treaty of Washington, of which we are far from being either the apologists or defenders, it gave an additional instance in the policy of the Government of adjusting conflicting claims to territory, by money. Why should not the Oregon question be adjusted by purchase? Can any more certain means be devised for retaining the whole of that important territory? We are firmly opposed to any compromise that shall give to a foreign power 'one foot of its soil or one drop of its waters,' and such we believe to be the sentiment of a large majority of the American people. Our title resting upon discovery, exploration, settlement, conquest and purchase of France and Spain, has been thoroughly illustrated and placed upon impregnable grounds by Messrs. Buchanan, Dix and Cass. Added to our grounds of right, there are weighty considerations of interest prompting to maintain our jurisdiction over the whole territory, therefore no part of it should be yielded. But, as we have acquired the Spanish and French claims by purchase, there would be no impropriety in acquiring that of England, imperfect though we esteem it, in the same manner. In private dealings, an individual scruples not to buy his peace where differing with his neighbor, even when esteeming the claims and pretensions of that neighbor to be unfounded. Sacrifices of this kind are frequently laudable and carry with them no taint either of dishonor or weakness. We must have the whole of Oregon, and we would rather have the conflicting claim purchased by our Government, than lose any portion of the territory.

THE CANAL.

The water was let into the N. B. Canal last week, but a break occurring, at Espytown, it was taken out; the breach, however, was repaired by Monday, and the water again let in. The Canal is now ready for navigation, and every prospect of a busy season for the boatman. The Bloomsburg Iron Company have 3000 tons of iron on the Canal ready, to be shipped, & are making 200 tons per week. Several boats now lay at their basin loading iron.

CONGRESS.

It is now conceded that the Tariff will not be touched during the present session of Congress, the advocates of a reduction having ascertained to their satisfaction that they are in the minority.—The general opinion also is that Congress will adjourn sometime in the month of June.

A lady writing from London says that she can tell an American girl from an English one; there being the same difference between them as exists between a dish of 'chicken fixins' and a round of beef.

It is stated by the Union Missionary, that Cinqua, the leader of the Amistad captives, has emigrated to Jamaica.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE.

It is with heartfelt satisfaction, that we record the election of General ROSS, to the speakership of the Senate. It is an honor awarded to the man and peculiarly so to the county of Luzerne. The heavy and absorbing interests of the coal and iron district of Columbia and Luzerne, have obtained an influence in the councils of the State in the election of General Ross, to which they are entitled. We predicted on the election of General Ross that his sound sense, good judgement, and affable manners would place him in the Speaker's chair. Our predictions are verified. We are glad of the result—because the incumbent is a sound friend of the tariff of 1842, because he is opposed to the despicable project of laying an excise on the fuel of the poor; because he is a sound and consistent democrat; because he knows the interests of his constituents, and stands manfully by them; and, finally because he is a generous, high minded and noble hearted man.—There do not pertain to his character, those low and mean acts of political cunning and moral dishonesty, that hang to skirts of men with whom we are acquainted. The immense majority Gen. Ross received in his immediate vicinity, shows but too forcibly, the estimation in which he was held by the men who knew him. Here slander fell harmless at his feet, and the recorded vote of freemen, showed that his slanderers were refuted and the lie cast into their rotten teeth. Here, at home, the resort of men who have nothing at stake themselves, and live on the good reputation of others, could not harm him. Gen. Ross is the son of an old veteran in the democratic ranks, and for the sake of memory of his father, we hail his election to the Speaker's chair.

It is creditable to the county of Luzerne—when the people have been indulged in the choice of a man an honorable course has awaited him but when a packed nomination has forced upon the people some seven by nine—they have failed even to carry on the ends of the instruments, whose miserable tools they have been.

The county of Luzerne owes much to Judge Ross, for his untiring exertions in assisting to defeat the coal excise, the passage of the New York and Erie railroad bill; the maintenance of the principles which are the base of the tariff of 1842. In saying what we do, we mean what we say. It is not done with the view of political effect. We want to award to the man, what is legitimately his due—no more, no a job. Being now the second man in the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania, he is above and beyond the petty darts of the malicious, and those who would detract from his merits as a man. He can look down upon them with all that contempt, which they so meritoriously deserve. In his whole course in the Senate, he has stood upon the platform of democracy, and discharged his duty manfully to the people of his district and the state. And he has a position, it seems to us, that at least, should be courted by the powers that be. We will see the result.

We may hereafter speak of the course of Mr. Campbell of the house. Say now, that he has discharged his duty as a representative and acted with all fidelity. Mr. CAMPBELL is a young man who has bright prospects before him, and will learn that by acting with the people, instead of under the spirit of dictation, he has won golden opinions. Luzerne Democrat.

We find the following in the Muncy Luminary. The Mr. Esterbrook spoken of is the same person who taught a singing school in this place some months since.

BINGHAMTON, April 23d, 1846.

MESSRS EDITORS.—Our village was thrown into the most violent commotion this morning by the intelligence that Mr. E. Brooks, (Mr. F. Esterbrook it should be) had committed suicide, and the report has proved untrue. On repairing to his residence I found he had accomplished his end by cutting the different veins of his right arm. A small note lay on the table requesting that I should write to the Editors of the 'Luminary' and them to tell his few friends that life was a burden, too hard to bear, and that he asked the forgiveness of all his scholars for the injuries he had done them.

He has been laboring under an aberration of mind for some weeks past, from cause unknown to the citizens of this place. He has left a large number of scholars in this place to mourn one of the most competent teachers of the day. In haste, Yours with respect. HERMAN FOSTER, M. D.

THE MONTOUR IRON BILL.

The Editor of the Danville Democrat a few weeks ago, found fault with the State Senate for its action upon a couple of local bills in which he felt interested. One of these bills was to extend the time within which the Danville and Pottsville Rail Road Company might make their contemplated road. The other bill was to allow the Montour Iron Company to subscribe stock in any Bridge or Rail Road Company in the counties of Columbia, Northumberland and Schuylkill, to an amount, we believe, not exceeding one fourth of its capital. We have a few words to say in relation to this last named bill, which was killed in the Senate by a vote of 9 to 16. The Editor of the Democrat complains of a letter written from this county in relation to this bill, as he alleges, and which, according to his representation, was instrumental in defeating it. He has however fallen into several errors in regard to the letter, which, being just now in a good humor, we will undertake to correct. 1. The letter was solely to our members in the Legislature, and was not a formal remonstrance addressed to the Senate or House. 2. It was signed by five persons, three of whom, (being a majority) are citizens of Berwick. 3. It was not in relation to the Montour Iron Co. bill alone; but was jointly directed against that and a similar bill reported for the Bloomsburg Rail Road Iron Company. Lastly: it was not prompted by any feeling of hostility toward the town which is honored by Mr. Cook's residence, but by considerations of public policy alone.

When the Bloomsburg R. R. Iron Co. bill came up, it was amended so as to allow that corporation to subscribe stock in the Catawissa Bridge only, and it passed in that shape. When the Montour Iron Co. bill came up, the Senator from this District offered an amendment giving that corporation only the right to subscribe stock in the Danville Bridge. As the friends of the bill would not agree to this amendment it was lost, and then the bill itself was defeated, and we have said, by a vote of 9 yeas to 16 nays. And the rejection was right. What security have we against abuse when we league corporations together by making them stockholders in each other? The principle is a dangerous one indeed, and worthy of prompt and decided condemnation. Let each corporation stand or fall by itself and we will be comparatively safe from combinations hostile to the interests of the people.—Berwick Enquirer.

The Steamer Cambria on her way from Liverpool to Boston, was wrecked on Sunday last off Cape Cod—the passengers and crew were all saved. At first the vessel was supposed to be a total loss; but later accounts render it probable that she may be got off, though materially damaged.

Great excitement in England on the Irish Coercion and Corn Laws. Supposed that Peel must resign. About half past 5 o'clock on Thursday, as Louis Philippe was returning from his drive in the forest of Fontainebleau, a man seated upon the wall, fired at the king.

His family were with him. Several balls struck inside the carriage, but no one was injured. The assassin was arrested.

The State Treasurer notifies Collectors of Tolls and of State Taxes not to receive any more of the Towanda relief issues, as there are now outstanding but \$275, which amount only will be received at the State Treasury.

The full returns of the election in the State of New York for members of the convention for revising the Constitution of the State, exhibits the following result—The Democrats have elected seventy-nine delegates and the Whigs forty-nine, out of one hundred and twenty-eight members.

The following are some important acts passed by the Legislature at its late session:—An act to increase the revenues of the Commonwealth by additional taxation; and the acts in relation to: The Pennsylvania Railroad; The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; The New York and Erie Railroad; The Out-let Lock on the Delaware Division, all of which bills have been signed by the Governor.

Another Link Broken.—The Zanesville Courier announces the death of Mrs. Sarah Cooper, of that place, aged 86 years. She had in early life, been an inmate and domestic in the house of Gen. Washington. In her last moments she recounted the noble virtues of that great and venerated man.

BRIBERY CASE.

To-day's Union is occupied with a full report of the bribery case. It is true the evidence does not materially differ from that taken before the committee of investigation; it has, however, now the sanction of a judicial examination, and is presumed to be stripped of all that prejudice supposed to be attached to a report made by a committee of the Legislature. Mr. McCook has been tried by a jury of his own countrymen—he has been defended by able counsel, and after a careful and impartial investigation of the whole case, has been convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine of six hundred dollars and the costs of prosecution. The charge of Judge Eldred does the honor and credit of that able jurist great credit. He exhibited throughout the whole trial a keen perception of the merits of the case and has shown by the clear and forcible manner in which he charged the jury, that he was governed by that high honor which has for its object the public good, by the presentations of the facts of the case alone, and the common law having a bearing upon the same, so as to enlighten the jury in the discharge of their duty, without creating a prejudice in their minds unfavorable to the accused. We trust that the severe admonition in the present case will prove a salutary lesson to those who come to the seat of government for corrupt purpose. Democratic Union.

A GIANT CHAIN OF RAILROAD.

A bill has been ordered to a third reading in the United States Senate, to aid the State of Mississippi in the construction of a railroad from Jackson, through Brandon to the western boundary of Alabama. As it has received the support of all parties, without reference to locality or politics, and was passed to third reading, yeas 28, nays 3, we presume there can be no doubt of its finally becoming a law.

The aid is to be given by the grant of alternate sections of the public land along the proposed road. We are pleased to see that there is a prospect amounting almost to a certainty, of the passage of this bill. The railroad is a link of the great chain between Charleston and Vicksburg, and when completed, the communication from Portland, in Maine to Vicksburg, Mississippi, will be entire, with a few trifling exceptions. It will be one of the noblest thoroughfares in the world, and as a means of consolidating our Union, and bringing its opposite extremities into closer fellowship, will have an important political and social bearing. It will be the means, too, of adding to the value of parts of the chain of road now detached and comparatively useless. Thus with a terminus on the Mississippi river, the Vicksburg railroad will soon become of great importance as the southern link of the giant chain, which running through Mississippi, Alabama, and the Carolinas, will ascend along the Atlantic sea board through Portland, and eventually into Canada!

The following is the 6th section of an act of Assembly recently passed, approved on the 21st of April, and become a law of Pennsylvania, entitled, 'An Act in relation to certain public officers and their sureties.' This will settle some matters of doubt and difficulty now existing in this city.

Sec. 6th. That so much of the 10th section of the act passed June 21st 1839, entitled an act providing for the election of Aldermen and Justice of the Peace as provides for the delivery of the dockets and papers of an Alderman or Justice of the Peace to his successor in office, shall be, and the same is hereby deemed and construed to extend to all cases of succession in office, whether by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, and in case of the decease of any Alderman or Justice of the Peace, the said delivery shall be made by his legal representatives to the person who is or who may be elected and commissioned to succeed him, said Ward, Borough or township.—Public Ledger.

TRUE GENEROSITY.—It is stated in the Cincinnati Gazette that the day after the fire at Greenwood's Foundry, a gentleman of that city called on Mr. Greenwood, and handing him five hundred dollars, told him to consider that a loan for one hundred years without interest. The gentleman who did this noble act was GRIFFIN TAYLOR, an old and esteemed citizen.

The Indian population within the States and Territories of the United States, including Oregon, is estimated at 550,000 souls.