

STAR OF THE NORTH.

Bloomburg, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1850.

WANTED

A BOY of proper age and qualifications to learn the printing business. Make early application at this office.

Our View of the Wilmot Proviso.

The very basis of a republican government is that the people shall make their own laws and govern themselves. The doctrine of despotism was that the people are made for the government, but our age has decided that governments are instituted for the good of the people. Even in the ancient republics of Greece the citizen was regarded as a mere appendage to the state, and he was made to endure every hardship, and suffer every privation, that he might serve the commonwealth with more vigor and ability. It was justifiable to learn them, for the presumption was that the student would steal from the barbarians. And if the stolen goods underneath his cloak gnawed to his vitals he never complained, but resigned himself to his death with the consolation.

"Duke et decorum est pro patria mori."

Now we protest against retrograding, and applying the old time-worn and moth-eaten heresy of despotism to the government of our American territories. We protest against flinging them by the "feudal faith," that looks to the citizen as a servant of the state, unfit to govern himself. It might have suited George the Third to treat distant portions of his realm as outside barbarians, incompetent to understand their own wants, or to comprehend the true principles of legislation. It might suit the disciples of Alexander Hamilton to be afraid of trusting men to be their own law-makers, but such is not the doctrine of our Republican Constitution, under which the Union has prospered. Such was not the doctrine of the American Revolutionists when they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in the contest for the right of self-government. Aye, we say the doctrine of Great Britain at that time, has become the doctrine of those who would treat California and New Mexico as dependencies, to be ruled by Congress.

We care not how a single phrase of the American Constitution can be tortured, but we look to its spirit—to the circumstances under which it was formed—and we say it never meant to give one man the right to legislate over another. It never meant to let one portion of the country dictate the local policy of the other—it never meant to make our territories a colony, or disfranchised of the rights of self-government. For it was that right which the blood and treasures of its framers had been periled; and when they had obtained it at the dearest purchase, and were exercising it for themselves—to say now, that they meant to deny this right to any portion of the American people, is a base and shameful libel upon the patriotism of the venerated dead. So think we upon this subject.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

January 31, 1850.

The case of Driesbach vs. Hower, noticed last week, was argued and submitted to the Jury. Comly and Buckalew for plaintiff—Hurley and Pleasant for defendant. This was an action to recover the contract price (deducting payments,) for putting a water wheel into defendant's mill in 1848, and for some extra work. The wheel did not work well, and the contest was to ascertain whether the fault was attributable to plaintiff or to defendant.

February 1.

The Jury in the above case returned a verdict for defendant, and plaintiff to have the wheel! A motion to set aside the verdict &c. was made and lies over next court. The case of Adams & Price vs. Frederick R. Wohlforth, begun on yesterday, was concluded. For plaintiff, Pleasants and Comly—the defendant, Buckalew and Hurley. The main matter of controversy arose out of a claim by Dr. Wohlforth, the defendant, to receive compensation for services in attending the plaintiff's store occasionally between April 1847 and May 1848. The Jury returned a verdict in favor of Dr. Wohlforth for \$65.27.

John Shively vs. Samuel Yost and George Driesbach. Yost one of the defendants, being dead, the action was tried against Driesbach the survivor. The claim was upon a note given for the "patent right of the Stanbrough cast iron water wheel for Union co., bought by Yost from plaintiff, Driesbach was the surety in the note. The defence set up was upon the character of the wheel, but it appeared in evidence that the wheel is a valuable and useful one, especially under a low head of 5 and 6 feet, or thereabouts, and operates better under such head than the wooden wheels formerly in use. The Jury returned a verdict for plaintiff for \$83.50—Buckalew for plaintiff—Pleasants & Hurley for defendant.

In the case of Black vs. Black the Jury gave a verdict of \$1 for defendant.

After the disposal of some matters on the argument list, the Court adjourned on Friday evening.

This is the last Court at which Judges Oaks and Baldy sit as Associate Judges, as their commissions expire before April. Governor Johnston has the appointment of their successors, who will probably serve, until the people have a chance to select, under the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

The Apportionment committee of the House on last Monday reported a bill which makes Columbia and Sullivan a Representative district with two members, and Columbia, Luzerne and Schuylkill a Senatorial district with two Senators.

THE COUNTY CONVENTION.

The convention of last Monday passed off orderly and quiet, and the strictest unanimity of feeling prevailed. The delegates cared principally for the one just act of the convention—the denunciation of Best. A number of them who spoke to us, were only anxious that the resolution upon that subject should be "strong." The character of the delegates chosen fully testifies this feeling. Mr. Root is a most inveterate opponent of Best, and was so up to the moment of the Senator's nomination in 1847, and we believe, never voted for him. Capt. Follmer, the Representative delegate, was an opposing candidate to Best for the Senatorial nomination in 1847, and, though living in Limestone township, is an active enemy of the treacherous Senator's new county project. The delegates are both the right kind of Democrats, and their votes will be sound and tactical.

The resolutions are all wholesome. Those relating to the position of this county in the apportionment bill of this year are opportunities; and we hope will have due weight with the committees of the legislature when they come to frame their bill.

In the proceedings, several of the lower townships did not appear represented. It is proper to state that delegates were in town from those districts, but, finding that nothing could be made for themselves out of the proceedings of the convention, they quietly staid out. They plainly saw that this time the Democracy had turned out, and that treason would be rebuked. For the sake of Mr. Best's personal friends they did not like to vote for the branding resolution; and before the Democrats of the county, they dare not vote against it; for their despisable leader has fallen so low that if he any longer has friends, they are either afraid or ashamed to own him. Besides, as there were only from 4 to 8 Democrats in each of these districts last fall, it is not strange that they were unrepresented in a Democratic convention.

It requires three officers: of an election and two delegates to represent a township, and the following was the Democratic vote for Member last fall in four of the unrepresented districts:

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| Danville, | 6 |
| Derry, | 8 |
| Mahoning, | 4 |
| Valley, | 8 |

So it seems that in these four districts there were only 28 Democratic votes which were not represented.

Or perhaps the rule with this class of Democrats is that when anything is to be made out of a convention they go in, but otherwise they stay out. Last year the treacherous Senator with his accomplices came to the spring convention, and when he found tools to aid him and subvert his plots and plans, he went in with three other delegates from his district, had himself elected Secretary of the convention, secured the election of a Senatorial delegate against all right and propriety, and only a few weeks ago boasted how, by the aid of supple tools, he had duped the Democrats of the county. But a better day is coming, and the sceptre has passed from the traitor to the people.

Montour County.

We are indebted to Mr. Fortner for a copy of Best's bill to erect Montour county. The bill does not vary from the one of last year in any thing else than the boundaries prescribed for the new county. According to the bill of 1850, Montour county would include "the townships of Franklin, Mahoning, Valley, Liberty, Limestone, Derry, Anthony, and Hemlock and Madison lying westward of the following line: Beginning at Leiby's saw mill on the bank of the river Susquehanna, thence by the road leading to the Danville and Bloomsburg road at or near Samuel Lazarus' house, thence from the Danville and Bloomsburg road to the back valley, road at the end of the lane leading from said road to Oled Everett's house, thence by lane to Oled Everett's house, thence northward to the school house near David Smith's in Hemlock township, thence by the road leading from said school house to the state road at Robins' mill to the end of the lane leading from said road to John Kinney's house, thence by a straight line to Thompson's near the German meeting house, thence to Henry Johnston's near Millville, thence by a straight line to a post in the Lyeing county line near the road leading to Crawford's saw mill."

"This must be an error, and we suppose should read Henry Everett."

Schools in Columbia County.

There are in this county 123 schools, 100 male and 23 female teachers, 3,001 male and 2,283 female scholars. There are in the county 25 school districts, each township being a district. The average number of months taught in the various schools is 221. The average salaries of male teachers is \$21 31, of female \$9 18 per month. The amount of tax levied is \$5,842 79, of this \$3,521 22 is collected, and \$2,417 32 is received from appropriation. The cost of instruction for the year 1849 was \$5,145 32. The cost of building and repairing school houses for the year was \$1,269 71.

THE DEMOCRATIC REVIEW for February contains several excellent political and literary articles, and a fine portrait of Emery D. Potter. The best articles are, "There's a good time coming," Rationale of land reform, General Lopez, the Cuban patriot, and the one upon "Young Ireland," being sketches of the Irish patriots of the late rebellion. This valuable publication should be in the hands of every Democrat. Terms \$3 per annum. Address Ketel & Moore, New York.

We commence this week the publication of "The perplexities of a man with a family." Each chapter will in itself form an interesting sketch, and it will be continued until we find room. So also will our series of legal essays, in which, we feel assured, our readers will find many new things of use.

TELEGRAPH TO BLOOMSBURG.

Mr. SHAW, the agent of Morse's TELEGRAPH line has been in our town this week, obtaining subscription for stock, and making arrangements to complete the line from Hazleton to Danville, through Berwick and this place. The posts are now nearly all up as far as Berwick, and Mr. Shaw informs us that if our people take the necessary stock he can in 20 days have the line completed to this place. It extends through Hazleton, Nazareth, Mauch Chunk, Easton, Allentown and so on to Philadelphia. By this connection we could hold communication with every telegraph station in the country, for distance is nothing.

It will be like realizing a fabulous age and a residence in Utopia, when we shall be able to talk to all the country by lightning, and write with a thunderbolt. Merchants will send orders for goods, farmers ask the price of grain, politicians send for election returns, and lovers despatch tender sentiments to their enamourates—all by telegraph, and all be certain to receive an answer in a few moments.

That the enterprise will be profitable in a short time is best proved by the experience along the line. The receipts at Easton average about \$150 per month; at Allentown nearly that amount; at Bethlehem the Company net the interest of \$2,500 per annum above all expenses. The line was not completed to Mauch Chunk until after the navigation had closed, yet the receipts have been sufficient to indicate that, that will be the most profitable station on the line. The expense of construction will be \$200 a mile. \$2400 stock is wanted to be subscribed in this place. Some has already been taken, and the books are now in the hands of Mr. McKelvey.

The Traitor Rebuked.

By the proceedings of our county convention it will be seen that the treacherous Senator from this district is *disowned* by the party which elected him, and cast off as an impure thing of pollution, and sin. From county after county, loud and oft repeated, comes the deep-toned condemnation of his guilt. Go where he will, the brand of the traitor is stamped on his brow, and the voice of his shame ever hisses at him. A man now his own country has spoken his dishonor. His former friends have disowned and deserted him; and he stands a friendless outcast, with the stain of his shame to mark him for contempt and scorn. He has fallen to that lowest depth of degradation and infamy, that no man dares call himself his friend. His ill-fated career is a fearful lesson to the reckless politician. May many profit by the example.

Our correspondent "A," whose remarks we give a place to-day with pleasure, seems to have misunderstood our article of a few weeks ago in relation to legislative instructions. We did not mean to defend the position of Mr. Benton on the slavery question, but referred to his case as an illustration when deprecating the practice of legislative instructions. We believe that Mr. Benton should vote against the Wilmot proviso, not simply because the legislature of his State has instructed him so, but because action on that subject by Congress is mischievous and against the cardinal faith of the Democratic party which has elected Mr. Benton as a Senator. We hold that his very election by the Democrats of the Missouri Legislature was his instruction upon this, as upon other questions of public policy.

The compliment of our correspondent we know how to appreciate; and we shall always endeavor to prove ourselves worthy of the respect of one whose good will we prize as highly as we do his.

Correspondence of the Star.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5th 1850.

GENTLEMEN. The slavery debate still drags its slow length along, and no business of any interest or importance is done by Congress. It is generally believed here that if the Wilmot proviso should pass, General Taylor will veto it. The magnates of Congress sometimes, for recreation, try to elect a Doorkeeper, or the printer of the public documents, or vote themselves an extra dozen reports of congressional proceedings. Projects to settle, to fix, or to compromise the slavery dispute are every day presented, but none seem looked upon with so much favor as that of Mr. Clay, presented on Tuesday last week. The following is a synopsis of its provisions:

1. Provides that California be admitted with suitable boundaries, without dictation as to slavery.
2. Slavery does not exist by law, and is not likely to be introduced into any of those territories acquired.
3. Fixes the boundary of Texas.
4. Makes an offer to Texas of a sum in consideration of cession of her territory and relinquishment of her claims to New Mexico.
5. Declares that it is inexpedient to abolish, without the consent of Maryland and the people of the District, slavery in the District—together with compensation for slaves.
6. Resolves that it is expedient to abolish the slave trade in the District so far as brought from other places.
7. Requires provision for the recovery of fugitives.
8. Declares that Congress has no power to prohibit the slave trade between the States.

You will observe that this is the Democratic doctrine of non-intervention, to which I have no doubt, the most respectable Whigs will eventually concede. Of all projects yet presented, I think Mr. Clay's most likely to pass.

Faithfully Yours,

A LOOKER ON.

Petitions have been presented in the Legislature for a plank or tumpike road from Berwick to Providence.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION.

The Democratic delegates of Columbia county met in County Convention at the Court House in Bloomsburg, on Monday, February 4, 1850. On motion, Hon. STEPHEN BALDY was chosen President, and Peter Kline, Esq. and L. B. Rupert Secretaries.

The following delegates then presented their credentials, viz: Bloom—W. Root, L. B. Rupert Centre—J. Hagenbuch, H. Hess Catawissa—Stephen Baldy, Joseph Yetter Derry—C. Cleckner, John Derr Franklin—Peter Kline, Solomon Harley Frying Creek—Harman Labour, W. Robbins Greenwood—J. H. Keeler, J. P. Smith Hemlock—John McReynolds, Isaac Leidy Jackson—Jas. Yocum, T. W. Young Limestone—J. B. Runyan, W. Jones Mauch Chunk—J. S. Sterner, Daniel Welliver Montour—J. Dietrich, Jacob Leiby Maine—H. B. Ely, C. F. Mann Millin—Jonathan Bressler Mount Pleasant—P. Kistler, P. Jacoby Orange—J. B. Edgar, Daniel Leiby Roaring Creek—Henry Metz, Jacob Stein Sugarloaf—Jeremiah Siles, Samuel Kline

On motion, the Convention proceeded to nominate candidates for Representative and Senatorial delegates. Mr. McReynolds nominated *Henry Metz* as Senatorial delegate. G. E. Runyan nominated Capt. J. S. Follmer as Representative delegate.

On motion of C. F. Mann, the Convention then by acclamation declared Wesley Root as Senatorial delegate, and Capt. J. S. Follmer as Representative delegate to the State Convention.

On motion of John McReynolds a committee of seven was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, whereupon the President appointed Jno. McReynolds, C. Cleckner, J. S. Sterner, Jos. Yetter, John Dietrich, G. B. Runyan and John B. Edgar, who, after retiring a short time, reported the following:

Resolved, That the agitators and fanatics who are attempting to make slavery the subject of angry and useless altercation and dispute, deserve the strongest reprobation of every well wisher to the harmony, permanence and prosperity of the Union. The ground of non-intervention, assumed by the veteran Cases, is the ground of safety, duty and patriotism. The people of the Territories may well enough determine for themselves a question in which they are mainly concerned, and with which Congress cannot meddle usefully, or without an assumption of doubtful power.

Resolved, That the large increase in the exports of American breadstuffs and productions for the last few years; the extension of American commerce, and the increased revenues of the Government during the same period, are facts of peculiar interest to the farmer, the commercial man and consumer, and vindicate the present Tariff act from the unjust and interested clamor of that class of men who suppose that government was instituted, and that laws should be passed, for the express purpose of enabling them to plunder their neighbors.

Resolved, That the administration of Taylor and Johnston, made up as they are from the fragments of old factions—old federalists and recreant democrats—focuses around them the popular indignation, and has, by its hue and cry, and its fitting position.

Resolved, That we approve of the recent appointments on the Public Improvements, by our present excellent Democratic Canal Board, and especially for the judicious selection of officers on the North Branch Canal.

Resolved, That it is the desire of the people of this county that in the new apportionment bill this senatorial district remain as at present, the connection with Luzerne being an unobjectionable, natural and convenient one.

Resolved, That it would be agreeable to our people that this county be joined with Sullivan, in the new apportionment, so as to form a Representative district with two members. In such case, by after arrangement, Sullivan to have one of the members three or four years out of seven.

Resolved, As the sense of this Convention—that hereafter in Congressional and Senatorial nominations, the county from which the candidate is taken should have the right of naming the electors, and the subject, however, to objection for cause, by the other county or counties. The observance of this rule will powerfully tend to secure union, harmony and success, while its violation will usually be productive of discord and injury.

Resolved, That our Delegates in the State Convention are directed to vote for Harrisburg as the place of holding the Convention of 1851, and for fixing the time of its meeting at a date subsequent to the adjournment of the Legislature.

On motion, the resolutions were adopted with but one dissenting vote. It was then Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the officers and published in the Democratic papers of this Senatorial district.

On motion the Convention then adjourned. (Signed by the Officers.)

Correspondence of the Star.

From Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 3, 1850.

Every thing is now quiet and peaceful in the great city of Penn. There have been no street fights of note for about a week, and those wounded in the last conflict are either dead and forgotten, or so far recovered as to no longer excite the compassion of the community. The last street fight was away down town. Pistols and muskets were repeatedly fired, and bricksbats flew plentifully. No body was arrested; no dead bodies were left on the street, though it is generally believed that one or more were carried off and concealed. The Police, not being armed, are rather slow in rushing into a crowd where revolvers are briskly at work. The names of the rowdy gangs about the city are enough to frighten a nervous person. Killers, Bouncers, Privateers, Rats, Splitters, Skinners, Tormentors, No. 1 and No. 2, are just as well known to exist as organized societies, having their places of meeting, officers or leaders, pass words or means of recognizing each other in the dark, as any other societies whatever in Philadelphia.

A few weeks ago the Police discovered the place of meeting of the Privateers. On entering they found a goodly number of the boys. The name of their association was written in large letters in a conspicuous place in the room, thus, *Privateers No. 1*. How many other lodges, or rather dens of privateers, there are, we know not. Those taken were lodged in Moyamensing to await their trial.

You have doubtless heard of the great feat performed by the Killers, on New Year's night, in the neighborhood of the Naval Asylum. A gentleman had a number of his friends at his house, eating, drinking, and amusing themselves. At a late hour two strangers walked in and began to help themselves to the eatables and drinkables, without ceremony or invitation. They were requested to leave; no violence was offered them; and they departed. In a short time they returned with a strong party, hoisted the kitchen window, and began to remove pies, cakes, &c., which were on a table accessible from the window. The alarm was given; the guests in another part of the building, and the owner of the house, with his son, rushed out to arrest the thieves. The rowdies announced themselves as Killers, shot the son dead, badly wounded the father, struck down a young lady, and made good their retreat. A reward was offered for the murderers, but as yet no clue to them has been discovered. Acts similar in character, but inferior in atrocity, are of almost weekly occurrence, as any one can see by consulting the daily papers. What is to be done?—How is this fearful state of things to be changed?—are questions which deeply interest every Philadelphian, and give occasion to many a long editorial in the city journals, and to many a prosy letter from city correspondents to country papers. Lectures are being delivered by different persons on the causes of rowdism. One attributes it to the fact, that, whereas in old times apprentices lived in the families of their masters and thus enjoyed the salutary restraints and influences of a home, now they are thrown together in boarding houses, accountable to their master, and under his eye, only 10 hours in the 24. They enjoy little or no opportunities for reading, for though they have time enough, there is no quiet parlor, furnished with lights, tables, books, &c., to which they have access. From supper till bed time, they are in the theatre if they can afford it, or on the street if they cannot, seeking amusement, and ready for any adventure.—This is a cause greatly insisted on by many, and as a remedy they recommend opening the public school every night, so that these young men may have an opportunity of improving their minds, and be led to seek amusement in intellectual and scientific pursuits. If, with this, the old plan of apprentices living in the families of their masters could be restored, they think rowdism would soon disappear.

Others attribute it to the excessively democratic nature of our institutions, which fills the young and badly educated with excessive pride and vanity, and thus destroys a proper reverence for age, &c. Altho' these differ widely as to the cause of the evil, they agree in regard to the remedy.

Many of the public schools have been opened, and are nightly filled by young men. Distinguished gentlemen in the three learned professions give free lectures to them once or twice a month on the natural sciences, history, &c., and the best results it is hoped will follow them.

The ignorant can only be governed by force and by fear; the intelligent can be reached by other means. The vast importance of education, though sufficiently evident even in a sparse country population, is for more evident in a crowded city. Educate the people, or arm the police; open and improve your schools, or pull down your jails and build greater, these are the conclusions to which Philadelphians have arrived if I rightly read their minds through their acts, and leading journals.

My next letter I hope will be on a more readable subject.

Death of an Eminent Mexican.—Pena y Pena, who was president of the Republic of Mexico at the close of the war with the United States, is dead. It was under his auspices that the treaty of peace was made, and it was by him it was ratified, after Herrera, the President elect, fearing popular indignation and the cabals of the Sanatanists, shunned the responsibility of advocating or signing it, and obtained the election of Pena y Pena as President, *ad interim*, by Congress. He was considered one of the ablest and best men in Mexico.

The publication of the German laws has been altogether abolished by the Legislature.

Meetings were held last week in Milton and McEwensville to favor the formation of a new county out of parts of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.

Correspondence of the Star.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Harrisburg, Feb. 2, 1850.

It is easy to sum up the public doings, but there are deeds done here, which, if they come to light, the fiends might blush at. On Thursday the infamous bill to favour the Reading Rail Road passed the House on final reading by a vote of 52 to 35, and I was pleased to see Mr. Fortner, for this time, voting on the Democratic side against the bill. It was amended and sent to the Senate. The Senate amended it again and sent it back to the House.

Judge Conyngham on last Tuesday presented petitions for annexing a part of Luzerne county to Columbia, and remonstrances against any division of your county.

Mr. Frick has also presented petitions from several townships in Luzerne county asking to be annexed to Columbia, and on last Thursday a remonstrance from Hemlock township against any division of Columbia county.—General Packer, in the Senate, has presented petitions asking that a part of Lycoming may be annexed to Columbia. So it is plain that your county will be more likely to grow in size, than to be dismembered by the present Legislature.

Mr. Fortner on Wednesday read a petition and bill to reduce the number of supervisors of roads in Catawissa township, also a petition and bill to incorporate a company to make a road from Columbia to Sullivan co.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 2, 1850.

To the Editors of the Star of the North:

GENTLEMEN.—Your article on the subject of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company has made its appearance here, and is the subject of universal commendation among all sound democrats. I am sorry, however, to say that the bill for its relief has become a law. It was amended in some slight particulars, but not in any of its essentials. No stay of execution is allowed on the interest of the bonds. The stockholders of the company were made liable for the debts hereafter contracted, jointly as partners, by an amendment in the lower House. But in the Senate, with a cunning known only to corporations, this amendment was so modified as to limit the individual liability of stockholders to a mere nothing.—Thus, the Senate says the stockholders shall not be liable for any bond or bonds that may hereafter be given for old debts, or for any bond or bonds payable in 1870, given in lieu of bonds due in 1850. And, further, no stockholder shall be liable until the company is first sued and its assets exhausted. You will recollect that by the provisions of the bill the company cannot be sued until 1870! This is a little the most barefaced imposition that ever was palmed upon one hundred and thirty-three men professing to be entirely sane.

Yet, I am sorry to say that the House of Representatives concurred in the amendment made by the Senate, by a vote of 49 yeas to 40 nays.

It is time that the press, and more particularly the democratic press, would speak out upon this subject. Corporations with special privileges and immense powers, are growing up in our midst, and even now control, to a great extent, almost all the great interests of Pennsylvania. During the whole time that this bill was before the Legislature, the halls of the Capitol and the hotels in town were crowded with borers, shavers stock-jobbers and unscrupulous speculators. They watched every turn in the prospects of the bill—crowded around the seats of members, kept a tally of every vote, and gave to each other the knowing wink. Then away to the office of the magnetic telegraph to let their partners in speculation and corruption in the different cities know the result, so as to give the rise or fall in stocks. It is surprising as well as painful to see how wide around the Hall the giant spread its arms, and to see the members falling into its support one by one until its purposes were accomplished. But it is at least some consolation to know that there were a few who stood firm and resisted all its temptations. First and foremost among these was Andrew Beaumont, from your neighboring county. He raised the voice of alarm at the first appearance of the bill, and recorded his vote against it in every stage of its progress. He is always at his post too, and extremely quick in his perceptions. Not only this, but he is sound and radical as a democrat in all his principles.

Yours, &c. JUSTICE.

NOTE.—The above letter is from a democratic member of the Legislature, who, for his friendly notice of our article of last week has our best thanks. We are pleased to find our views upon the infamous plot of the Reading Railroad Company concurred in by such men as our correspondent and the forty honest members who voted with him on this question. Though the bill has passed, and the plunderers have consummated their outrage; yet we would a thousand times rather stand life-long with the minority, than yield for a moment to the clamor of corruption & wrong, bloated by triumph and inglorious spoils.—Eds. Star.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

MELANCHOLY LOSS OF LIFE.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION!

One of the most terrible and fatal explosions ever known in this city, took place this morning, in the machine and press-making establishment of Alva B. Taylor, No. 3 Hague street, at about half-past seven o'clock by the bursting of a steam boiler on the first floor of that establishment.

The building in which the explosion occurred was a six or seven story brick erection, on the rear corner of an immense massive building owned and occupied by Wm. Hall & Son. The boiler was upon the first floor, by some said new, by others represented as second-hand, but estimated to be as good as new. It was in use for the first time this morning. The moment the explosion took place the entire mass of building was upheaved, and fell with a tremendous crash almost entirely upon its own site. So sudden and complete was the ruin that

we believe not a single person escaped, and the next minute the whole mass was on fire. So powerful was the explosion that the shock, like the trembling of an earthquake, was felt in some of the stores in Broadway, a distance, in direct line, of about a quarter of a mile, and was probably felt at a greater distance.

The losses of Mr Taylor, machinist, and St. John, Burr & Co, hat manufacturers, are estimated at \$70,000. Partly insured. The building was owned by the Harper Brothers, and valued at \$75,000.

A large piece of one of the brick walls was thrown to the distance of sixty feet by the force of the explosion.

As near as can be ascertained, one hundred persons were in the building at the time of the explosion very few of whom escaped.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 29th.

SENATE.—Mr. Frailey, remonstrance of citizens of Pottsville, against the incorporation of the Pottsville Gas Company, unless modified. Also, a petition from citizens of Carbon county, praying the passage of an act authorizing the application of State taxes for 1850 towards the erection of public buildings.

Mr. Packer, petition of citizens of Franklin, Lycoming, county, praying that parts of said county may be annexed to the county of Columbia. Also, for new county, "Windsor," out of parts of Berks and Schuylkill.

Mr. Frick, petition of citizens of Harrisburg for an extension of charter of the Harrisburg Bank.

Mr. Sterrett, petition of citizens of Cumberland for the recharter of the Harrisburg Bank.

Mr. Dunn, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Huges presented similar petitions in favor of new county "Redstone."

Bills read in place.—Mr. Packer, to erect parts of Berks and Schuylkill counties into a new county, to be called "Windsor."

Jan. 30th.

SENATE.—Mr. Malone, petition of citizens of Lehigh county, for the incorporation of a Bank, to be located at Allentown.

Mr. Frailey, a petition for a new Bank at Mauch Chunk, with a capital of \$100,000; also, in favor of the new county "Windsor," also, six petitions in favor of new county "Pine," out of parts of Schuylkill.

Mr. Shimer, petition of citizens of Northampton, for the incorporation of a Bank, to be located at Easton.

Mr. Brawley, petition in favor of a new county, Conewago.

The Senate went into executive session, and discussed the confirmation of Wm. B. McClure, as Presiding Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, until the hour of adjournment.

HOUSE.—Mr. Killinger reported against new county, "Conewago."

Mr. Leonard, for erection of new county, "Decatur."

The House then resumed the consideration of the Reading Railroad Bill.

Mr. Meek continued to speak till the hour of adjournment.

Jan. 31st.

SENATE.—Mr. Konigsmacher, Petition from citizens of Montgomery and Chester counties, asking the repeal of the three hundred dollar exemption law. Also a petition in favor of the new county "Conewago."

Mr. Frailey, petition in favor of new county "Penn."

Mr. Shimer, from citizens of Lehigh county, asking the incorporation of a Bank, to be located at Allentown.

Mr. Streeter, from citizens of Susquehanna county, asking an investigation into the affairs of the Susquehanna Bank.

Mr. Packer, from citizens of Lycoming, petition for the repeal of the Three Hundred Dollar Exemption Law, also, for the recharter of the West Branch Bank.

Mr. Frick, from citizens of Dauphin county, asking the passage of a law closing the Public Works on the Sabbath Day. Also, a petition in favor of the new county, "Conewago."