

STAR OF THE NORTH.

Harrisburg, Wednesday, May 13, 1857.

Demographic Nominations. FOR GOVERNOR, WILLIAM F. FACKER, of Lycoming County.

COURT PROCEEDINGS. The case of Jane M. Berninger vs. W. A. Kline involved a nice legal question as to how far a married woman may do business for herself.

Let the People Think about It.

It will be remembered that a few years ago the Know-Nothing legislature increased the pay of members from \$3 per day to \$500 for the session. The silly excuse was given that when the legislature worked by the job it would not sit so long; and therefore, the incidental expenses of the session being less, the State would actually save money by paying the members a higher salary.

It is now proposed to fix the pay of members at \$700 instead of \$500 for the session; and the extraordinary expenditures of this long session will amount to a very handsome sum. It was foolishly said in 1854 by some men who pass for smart that by increasing the pay of members from \$300 to \$500 a session would get a better class of men as members.

Our readers know that we keep our columns pretty clear of the thousand murder, riot, rape and seduction cases which fill many newspapers, and which can only degrade nature, and never elevate or refine it.

There have been two bloody pitched battles on Clearfield Creek between large bodies of riflemen and floaters, in which, we understand, one or two persons were killed and several severely wounded.

On last week Mr. Steele called up the bill in relation to the State Road between this place and Laporte, and advocated its passage. Mr. Gregg opposed the bill, and it was negatived by a vote of 11 yeas to 13 nays.

Our readers are well aware that we have never advertised patent medicines—but we now published an advertisement of Ayer's Pills, not because we are paid for it alone, but because we honestly believe that Dr. Ayer is one of the best Physicians and Chemists of the age, and because we know from experience that his Cherry Pectoral is the best medicine for a cough, that was ever invented.

The School Directors of Montour county met in Danville on Monday last, and elected A. B. Putnam, County Superintendent, and increased the salary to \$500. It was a very bad day to turn out, which reduced the attendance of Directors to some 25 or 30.

Dr. Edward D. Worrell, formerly of Wilkesbarre, was executed in Missouri, on the 17th of April, for the murder of Gordon, a Railroad Engineer.

Catawissa Railroad.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Catawissa Railroad, on Monday last, Thomas Kimber, Jr., Esq., was unanimously elected President, and Messrs. S. V. Merrick, M. L. Hollowell, E. M. Davis, D. Solomon, Joseph B. Myers, and Joseph Paxton, Managers. The law incorporating the Catawissa Railroad Company, a vacated branch of the Catawissa Railroad, was read to the meeting and its great importance explained. This branch, which is about ten miles long, extends from the Summit of the Catawissa Railroad to the Beaver Meadows Railroad above March Chunk, and gives the Catawissa road a direct connection with New York, by way of the Lehigh Valley and New Jersey Central railroads. It also affords to the Catawissa Road another connection with this city. On the completion of this Branch Road, which is already graded, and may be brought into requisition by the expenditure of some \$200,000 the trade and travel of the Catawissa road to this city will have the choice of routes, either by the Reading or by the North Pennsylvania Railroad. The advantages resulting to the Catawissa Road by the completion of the Quakake Branch and the establishment of a direct line to New York are estimated as equivalent to 100 per cent upon the present business, opening out, as it would, the iron, coal, and lumber districts of Pennsylvania to the great Eastern markets, and even enabling this chain of railroads to compete for the Western and Lake trade to New York City—that it also would develop the coal property of the Company situated on this route, and by means of the Lehigh Valley and North Pennsylvania Railroads, create another feeder to the Catawissa Road from Philadelphia and the South.

The duration of Slavery in Virginia, it appears, depends altogether upon the capability of the soil for the growth of tobacco, and the continued demand for the article. The Richmond South says: "Tobacco is the support of Slavery in Virginia. It creates in the State a demand for negro labor which checks the rapid current of southern slave emigration. Men, pre-slavery men, will not keep slaves out of mere love for the institution. They will sell their negroes and employ free labor when the value of slaves gets so high as it soon may, that they find it to their interest to make the exchange. That can never be the case in the cultivation of tobacco. Like cotton its growth is limited to a particular region and a special sort of labor; and that labor will be in demand while tobacco is in demand. So, the price of tobacco will determine the vitality, strength, and may be, the duration of slavery in Virginia."

While the Black Republican journals are charging the "Border Ruffians" of Missouri with attempting to force slavery into Kansas, the Missouri people themselves are discussing the propriety of liberating their slaves! From what we see in the papers, we have no doubt that the cause of emancipation is gaining ground there; nor do we doubt that Missouri will eventually cleanse herself of slavery, if the Black Republicans do not interfere to prevent it. We fear they will interfere, however. They cannot permit any slave State to manage her own affairs—least of all, to free her negroes without their advice.

There were some startling views of the cover and designs of the Mormons. It is written by a gentleman who is said to have spent twelve months in the Salt Lake Valley, engaged in the transit of the mails through the Territory, and to and from the Pacific, and who, while thus residing in a Mormon community, studied attentively the character and Government of Brigham Young, the supreme head, as well as the customs, habits, morals and laws, if laws they can be called, which consist simply in the will of a despot. He confirms fully the statements and apprehensions of Judge Drummond, whose letter was published two weeks ago, and insists upon the necessity of taking some very prompt and decisive measures to protect the country from the dangers which threaten it from this quarter. He says the Mormons are 100,000 strong in Utah, besides having 200,000 spies and agents scattered throughout the country, and being in close alliance with 300,000 Indians upon our western border.

The Burdell Murder Case.—Mrs. Cunningham has been acquitted of the murder of Dr. Burdell, the Commonwealth having failed completely in fanning the crime upon the inmates of the house. The verdict was received with marks of popular approval. It was only a few months ago that she could not appear in public without being groaned by a mob. Sudden popular feeling is a very uncertain indication of guilt or innocence, though the public mind, when possessed of all the facts, forms generally a very correct judgment of a case. Its common error is in coming to conclusions before the facts are known; but when the error of judgment is discovered, the party injured has the benefit of a strong tide of popular sympathy running in opposition to its former direction.

Brilliant Democratic Victory.—On Tuesday last the Democracy of Philadelphia elected their City Treasurer, City Commissioner, carried 20 of the 24 wards giving the Democrats nearly the whole of the Select and Common Councilmen, and pointing the way to the triumphant election of the Democratic State Ticket next fall.

Trade of Great Britain.

The exports from England continue as for several months past, unusually large and beyond those of all former years. For the month of February the returns show an export trade similar to that of January, far exceeding the amount in the corresponding months of 1856 and 1855. The export of textile fabrics alone for February amounted to \$28,537,846, while in the same month in 1855 they were \$23,296,000, and in 1856 only \$16,672,630. Of the whole amount of these fabrics exported in the present year, \$13,471,790 were in cotton goods nearly one half, and adding the cotton yarn exported to the continent, considerably more than one half; woolen goods, \$3,007,265; worsted stuff goods, \$1,426,865; and worsted and wolen yarns, \$1,049,650. Notwithstanding the activity of the export trade, the shipments of gold to the continent still continue, and the bullion in the Bank of England is again diminishing. There is still great complaint of want of employment among the class of out-of-door laborers, the number of unemployed in London alone being set down at 50,000. This is in consequence of the falling off in the demand for shipping and houses, which is a sure indication that large and increasing as is the export trade of the kingdom, the business is not profitable, and there is not only no disposition to add anything to the investments, but there is no accumulation of profits, such as is always manifested when the business of a country is prosperous, by its use in the erection of dwellings and stores, and the employment of laborers in making improvements of every kind.

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The National Intelligencer publishes a letter which presents some startling views of the cover and designs of the Mormons. It is written by a gentleman who is said to have spent twelve months in the Salt Lake Valley, engaged in the transit of the mails through the Territory, and to and from the Pacific, and who, while thus residing in a Mormon community, studied attentively the character and Government of Brigham Young, the supreme head, as well as the customs, habits, morals and laws, if laws they can be called, which consist simply in the will of a despot. He confirms fully the statements and apprehensions of Judge Drummond, whose letter was published two weeks ago, and insists upon the necessity of taking some very prompt and decisive measures to protect the country from the dangers which threaten it from this quarter. He says the Mormons are 100,000 strong in Utah, besides having 200,000 spies and agents scattered throughout the country, and being in close alliance with 300,000 Indians upon our western border.

The Black Republicanism Always the Same. The adjournment of the Black Republican legislature of New York, is the occasion of the following remarks in the Albany Atlas and Argus. They cannot be too carefully read or too extensively circulated: "The Black Republicanism commenced with an overwhelming majority. They passed 800 laws. They emptied the treasury. They anticipated its resources for years to come. They sanctioned hundreds of illegitimate claims. They overrode the votes of their own chief magistrates. They rejected his nominations. They assailed the constitution of the United States and of the State; declared defiance of the courts and overturned the charters of the chief cities. They reversed the roles of the common and commercial law, and unsettled every vested right in the State. While doing this they cried 'Liberty, liberty, liberty—the negro, the negro, the negro!' But they passed no liberty bill. They tossed the measure from house to house, and abandoned it. They voted for vaporizing resolutions; but the lover of liberty will look in vain through the immense statute book of the year for a single word in protection of human rights. He will find nothing but acts of spoliation and disorganization. "Black Republicanism is the same everywhere—corrupt, hypocritical, impudent and false."

Mrs. Polk.—A communication published in the Nashville Union contradicts the statements which have lately appeared in the N. Y. Evening Post, and other papers, in reference to Mrs. Polk. That lady has no intention to reside in Washington city. She has never been in London, nor out of the United States. Nor has she been out of the State of Tennessee since the death of President Polk. Nashville is her home for life.

Dividend.—The Directors of the Bank of Danville, at their meeting on last Tuesday declared a dividend of 5 per cent, for the last six months, payable in ten days, from that time.

Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

Harrisburg, May 6, 1857.—The Governor informed the legislature this morning that he had signed the following bank bills. The amount of capital of each is set opposite to it, in order that it may be seen how much the banking capital of the State is increased by this act.

Table listing bank bills and their capital amounts: Union Bank of Reading, \$120,000; Bank of Catawissa, 400,000; Bank of Kitzing, 400,000; Bank of Beaver county, 150,000; Pittston Bank, 200,000; Commonwealth Bank of Philada., 500,000; Corn Exchange Bank of Philada., 500,000; Union Bank of Philadelphia, 400,000; Chester Valley Bank, 100,000; Allegheny Bank, 500,000; Lewisburg Bank (increase), 100,000; Doylestown Bank, 150,000.

Total, \$3,420,000. Three million four hundred and twenty thousand dollars of an increase to the banking capital of the State in one week by the act of a Governor who, two years ago, in a veto message to the Legislature, opposed the indiscriminate increase of banking capital.

To contrast this act of Governor Pollock with the sentiments expressed by him at the session of 1855, in his veto of the Polkstown bank, and show how widely his opinions and his actions are apart, I make a few extracts from that document. It is pointedly applicable to the present time. "But the number of applications is no just criterion by which to determine either the wishes or the wants of the community in this regard. Their number and the pertinacity with which they are pressed, have startled and alarmed the public mind; nor has the favorable action of the Legislature in granting these demands, served to allay the apprehensions and fears thus excited. The policy of the past few years may have been too severely and unnecessarily restrictive; yet this policy should be preserved, rather than abandoned to the State and the interests of her people, to the destructive indulgence of a wild and reckless system of banks and banking. That some increase of banking capital is necessary in certain localities, will not be denied; but a large increase is not demanded, either by a public sentiment, or the public well, is a truth equally undeniable. In the creation of banks, a sound and honest discrimination as to number, locality, and the demands of trade, should be exercised. The sudden and unnecessary expansion of the currency should be avoided; and whatever tends to produce such a result, ought to be discountenanced, if possible, prevented."

This was the deliberate opinion expressed by Governor Pollock two years ago, yet at the same session of the Legislature he set at naught his own doctrine, and signed nearly every bank bill that was presented to him, where the legal requirement as to notice had been complied with. It is fair to presume that he intends to sign all the bills passed at this session, having already forgotten to exercise that sound and honest discrimination he once promised the public. No such discrimination has been applied thus far, there is no reason to believe that it will be. The fact is that the Governor, although an honest and well-meaning man, has not the nerve to resist the impetuosity of bank applicants, and the pressure brought to bear upon him. The House was engaged all day in the consideration of the Senate amendments to the General Appropriation Bill. They were generally concurred in, including the section decreasing the rate of State tax on real estate from three to two and a half mills on the dollar, and increasing the pay of members of the Legislature from \$500 to \$700 for the session. In order to avoid a direct vote upon the section increasing the pay of members, the amendments were agreed to in a body. Members dislike to have their names recorded in favor of voting extra compensation into their own pockets, and resorted to this artful dodge to accomplish it without seeming to do so.

The Senate is at work on the bill for the sale of the Main Line, and so far, it has had a large majority in its favor. It seems to be a foregone conclusion that this bill will be pushed through the Senate without being materially amended.

The Outgoing and Incoming Auditor and Surveyor Generals. Ephraim Banks and J. Porter Brawley have vacated their respective offices of Auditor and Surveyor General and their successors Jacob Fry of Montgomery and John Rowe of Franklin have been regularly installed. Gen'l. Banks and Brawley each, filled the offices named for two successive terms, and discharged the duties with ability and fidelity, and bear with them into their retirement, the best wishes of a large number of admirers and friends.

How America was Peopled.—Rev. Dr. Hawks, a learned and eloquent scholar, has recently been delivering a series of lectures, intended to show that this country was peopled by successive migrations from the old world, at different eras and by different races. First from the shores of the Mediterranean, which was the earliest seat of commercial enterprise, and the people from which have left their record upon the vast ruins of Yucatan; next from China and Japan to Mexico, Central and South America, and next from the Northern Asia, from which the American tribes of Indians came. These theories are sustained by remarkable analogies between the languages prevailing in different parts of the Eastern continent with those to be found on this continent.

A Boston merchant who, during the war with Russia, lost \$50,000 by speculating in hemp, has just cleared \$50,000 on a sugar investment. Mr. Barnum is holding forth in England, with brilliant pecuniary results, in favor of the Maline liquor law.

The Norcross Murder—Trial of McKim.

Hollidaysburg, May 5—Yesterday's proceedings closed with the examination of L. Wormelsdorf, of Pottsville. He testified to renting a house to prisoner at the bar, under the name of Thomas Bragg—that prisoner said he was a master builder, and was going into business early in the Spring—that he paid to witness \$100 in advance rent, in notes of the Farmers' Bank of Reading, and that prisoner mysteriously disappeared from Pottsville.

The first witness called this morning was Robert Cline, of Pottsville; Mr. Cline keeps a furniture store, and testifies to McKim purchasing furniture of him to the amount of one hundred and thirty-eight dollars, which sum he received in notes on the Farmers' Bank of Reading. Witness also testified that prisoner said he had formerly resided at Tench and Poplar, Philadelphia, where he had sold a house, that he had sold some money, and a bond or bonds, and that he wished to purchase a property in Pottsville; prisoner also told witness that if he knew of any good fellows to send them around.

Joseph Lockard, keeper of the tavern at Long Pond, Sullivan county, testified to the arrival of the prisoner at his house on the 17th of February last, and to his staying there three weeks and one day, when he was arrested and taken off by Koons and Wolf; prisoner gave his name to witness as Samuel White, and said he resided in Columbia, on the Susquehanna, where he had two sisters residing, with one of whom he had been making his home.

Miss Julia Lockard, the landlady's daughter, recognized the prisoner at the bar. The first of her evidence corroborated that of her father; the father testified that after prisoner had been there a week, he asked her to run away with him, to which she replied, "I would not run away with you for a thousand dollars, and leave my friends;" prisoner said he would give her half a thousand then, and drew from his pocket two pocket-books; one of these books witness described as being of a light red color, with a strap at each end, which she supposed had in it nearly one hundred notes; the other was a black note-book, and contained silver and gold; witness supposed the money to be counterfeit, said she thanked him for his counterfeit money, to which he replied that it was good money; told her he was a single man, but never proposed marriage to her.

Miss Lockard was subjected to a very severe cross-examination, but her answers were all straightforward. F. A. B. Koons, one of the men who arrested McKim at Long Pond, next took the stand. He testified to the arrest, and to certain admissions made by the prisoner to himself and Mr. Wolf, while taking him to Bloomsburg. These admissions in effect were that the prisoner was the man that travelled with Norcross—that his name was McKim—that he had left Daniieth in company with Norcross, but that he had left him at the first station west of Altoona. That it was McKim who had killed Norcross—that he knew who had passed Altoona when the body of Norcross was there. In answer to a question why he did not go and say he was Norcross's friend and companion, he replied that he was afraid the people would lynch him.

The defence instituted a vigorous cross-examination, with a view probably to invalidate the evidence, on the ground that the witness is influenced in getting a conviction to receive the reward. Aaron Dougherty testified to having known the prisoner as a carpenter, employed on the Pennsylvania Railroad, a mile and a half above Altoona, four years ago. The next evidence was in relation to the Norcross letter. This letter, which, it will be remembered, was found in Philadelphia, upon the person of Michael Bonner, a witness for the defence, at the time he was subpoenaed, he being intoxicated at the time, is verbatim et literatim as follows.

Letter from McKim to Bonner. 1857 April 6 Hollidaysburg Blair county Pa. Dere Sir I Rite to You with Aching hart to Let You know my Fix at Present Dere Sir I am hobbled Both Lages and Sometimes handout And Dere Sir it is you that can clear me from this crape By coming to See me Be For Cort I wont you to com Be for the Cort And Swair wher You saw me Git of the Cars on the morning of the 16th of January Last Between the ours of 2 o'clock And 3 o'clock in the morning By My Self and Bid You Gude Nite and whair I got out of the cars was About 15 or 20 Miles west of Altoona it was at Altoona the Say wher this Max was kid And I Lean Prove by You and James Yousen And Gorg Wolfow that You Al Saw Me git out of the cars 15 or 20 miles west of Altoona that will clear me of the Galas [galows] And I will go home with you Al that I Love So wel And I will Msk it Al Rite with You Al for s summers work I cant took to Plain on that Subject to You in the Letter But You will under Stand and when I ce You will tel You Al About it Your all Spensed By me to tend Cort on the 4 Monday in April Dre Brothers Stike to me for You can clear me with Avin [a few words Dere Brothers You ce me have A gude Bit of Monny with Me And it was Gold 20 Dollar Peses And ten Dolars Peses And You Saw Me Chang to fifty Dollars Bil for a man At Pittsburgh just Befor And the Nots was Both Boston Nots And was very Rich Lucking Platos I asked you Al if you that it was gude Monny And Said we thout it was And then You give the Man the change for the notes in gold and that will clear me And I wont you to go to James And Show him this Letter And he will tel Jorge About it Dere Dere Sir Dont Let Anther Man on this Erth know one word that is in this But your Selfs You Can Com and Nobody know about it Dere Sir I rite that it is you that I can trust to Dont Rite to me for the Shorf has to Rede the Letters Befor i get them But you furt tel Sarah Ann to rite to me, And tel me that you got the Letter and Sarah Anne James and whether you would Com Dere Miske I rite you a va lines Befor And Sliped them to my Brotherulaw to give to you But i was afraid that you didnt git them So i had a chane to Rite A letter to You And Git it Sliped out of the Jail with out the Schurf

EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE. James Fries, re-called—Stated that on the morning of the 16th of January two other men got off the train at Altoona on the opposite side of the platform. On cross-examination, however, it appeared that he had this knowledge from hearsay. Evan Powell went to living at Fleck's hotel, and had frequent conversation with him about the Norcross murder, in none of which Fleck ever alluded to McKim taking breakfast there. Charlotte E. McKenzie, Kate Nagle and John Davis were re-called to prove the striking deformity of prisoner's fingers. [Deformity of hand shown to jury.] James Funk, re-called, and testified that Fleck was one of the jury of inquest; did not mention anything about McKim taking breakfast there at that time; told him some four weeks ago that McKim took breakfast there on the morning of the murder; that is since McKim has been brought here.

Moses Donny, Esq., re-called, and examined as the location of the hotels and houses on either side of the railroad track in Altoona. Here the evidence for the defence closed. After argument from counsel and the Judge's charge, it will go to the jury.

known About it By a Girl ooms to see her Brother and Al Altona it will be maid.

David S. McKim Be Shur And Com on or two Days Befor Cort And Say Not About it to Eny Body But them menchent in the Letter.

You know that the train of cars started from Pittsburgh [enlarge] on the nie of the 15 of January Last Between the ours of 10 And A 11 o'clock At Nite when we Al got on the cars And you And James told Me that you wor going to Philadelphia And I Set in the Set with you and was tocking together About things in the west wher the Gars Stoped About 15 or 20 miles west of Altoona, when I got of the cars By my Self And Bid you Al good Nite and it was between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning of 16 of January Last and will clear me Beure And com and then I will cel out and Sarah Ann Clemon and you and me will go to Duneth and S-ant Pals we can git \$3 and 4 dollars Alay thair I got it thair and was going back again as soon as i oud git things fixt at home But the aquesed me for the murder and Put me in Prison But Befor my God I am a innocent man No More At Present But I Remain Your Aflectionet friend unotl Death Parts us.

And Dere Boys I Know you wont let me Be hung for you Al Know i would go any Lenth for either of you to rite you out of trouble So come the wont Be Eny Body here that Knows Either of you from a help of Brush So cum to me in the time of trouble and you will Al Du wel By coming.

Mickle Beure you And com if Nobody Els Dos cum for you i depend on. John Bruhaker, lately confined in jail, testified to receiving the letter from McKim, directed to Bonner; that he opened and read it, re-enclosed it, and sent it to the Post Office by Margaret Bolden, wife of one of the prisoners.

Margaret Bolden testified to placing the letter in the post office. Michael Bonner was next called—Said he got a letter. [Letter shown but could not be identified.] Said he could not read; gave the letter to Ewing, who said he could not read; Ewing gave it to Applebaugh, and it was afterwards taken from witness by Williams. The letter was here proved by Sheriff Fort to be in McKim's handwriting, and was then read by Mr. Stokes. The allegations in the letter were answered in the affirmative by witness, who said he had never been in Pittsburgh, never travelled with McKim, and never knew him to have any considerable amount of money.

Charles Williams knew the prisoner at the bar; had known him for the last ten years; he resided about two miles from Chester, in a house belonging to him. Never knew him to reside at Tench and Poplar, in Philadelphia; never knew him to own property there; his wife resided in the country last fall; never knew prisoner to have any considerable amount of money. He left Chester about the first of October last. I never saw him again until I saw him here. Tuesday Afternoon, May 5.—Jeremiah Stevenson, police officer of Chester, knows the prisoner at bar; has known him from six to twenty years; was present when a letter was taken from Bonner in the Chester lock-up; (letter identified) prisoner never lived in Philadelphia to witness' knowledge. Claudius F. Eaton was re-called and testified to having been told by prisoner that he worked one season at Altoona.

George Wanilow and James Ewing were separately sworn, and both denied in toto all allegations in the Bonner letter, in regard to having travelled with prisoner. James Funk, Coroner, testified to holding an inquest on the body. He also identified numerous articles. Here Mr. Stokes, for the Commonwealth, offered in evidence to the jury, the following articles:—The carpet-bag, violin case, the razor, the club, coat, cap and pantaloons of Norcross, woolen comforter, McKim's coat, rule, and pistol case; watch and breast-pin belonging to Norcross and McKim, all of which were admitted.

Thomas McCragor, brakeman on the Express train, testified to leaving Pittsburgh on the night of the 15th of January. That the hind car was locked between Galizin and Altoona, and no person could get out of it without a key to unlock the door; that he stood upon the front platform of the hind car, and saw no person leave the car between said points. After the cross-examination of this witness, counsel for Commonwealth rested their case.

On the 11th inst., by the Rev. D. J. Waller, THOMAS RODGERS of Bloomsburg, and BARRA ANN HOFFMAN, of Kingston, Luzerne Co. **DIED.** In Barwick on Friday morning the 8th inst., CHESTER B., son of Jacob W. and Harriet Deiterich, aged 2 years, 4 mos. and 10 days.