THE STAR AND BANNER.

GETTYSBURG.

Thursday Evening, Dec. 23, 1853.

CHRISTMAS.—We are requested to state that the Stores in this place will be closed on Monday next—Christmas falling on Sunday this year.

We observe by our exchanges that the same day will be observed in effect throughout the country generally.

The examination of the Public Schools of the Borough took place during the present week. On Wednesday evening the pupils connected with the High School under Professor Mr. Arnim gave a public exhibition in Temperance Hall, which passed off quite creditably.

The Rev. Dr. Bethune, of this place, is announced to preach "the next sermon in the series to the Young" in the Lutheran Church, in York, next Sabbath evening.

CRASH.—On Sabbath last, while the Congregation was worshipping in the Presbyterian Church near Marsh Creek, Mr. Clabaugh's barn, with a buggy attached, belonging to Mr. Kinzer Wilson, became frightened and made off, and the buggy, striking a tree, was dashed to pieces. Another carriage close by was joined upon its side, which is supposed to have been overthrown by the force of a blast of wind and thus alarmed Mr. Wilson's horse.

Whig State Convention.

The Whig State Committee have fixed upon the 15th day of March next as the time, and Harrisburg as the place for the assembling of the Whig State Convention. The Democratic Convention will meet at the same place on the 8th of March, so that the candidates of both parties will be in the field at an early day.

The State officers to be chosen at the next Fall election, are a Governor, Canal Commissioner, and a Judge of the Supreme Court in place of Chief Justice Black, whose term will expire about the first of January, 1855. Gov. Bigler will, undoubtedly, be nominated for re-election by the Locofoco Convention; and Judge Black, most probably, for the Supreme Bench. J. Gordon Mason will probably be the candidate of the Opposition for Canal Commissioner.

We had hoped to see a much later day named for the assembling of the Convention, but the matter having been now determined by the proper authority, of course all must submit. Although it is not to be disguised that the Whig party in this State has been prejudiced by the overwhelming defeats sustained by it in the last two campaigns, and the prospects for an effective and successful campaign are not the most cheering, yet triumph is not to be expected, even improbable, if our political friends are judicious in making their nominations and careful in the subsequent management of the campaign. The opposition, we know, will be strengthened with some disaffections which will insure the defeat of Gov. Bigler, if the Whigs do not permit themselves to be distracted by impossible aspirants. The party must be harmonious and united, and determined to revive, and the union must be resolute by renewed zeal. Although the Democracy are not united, the Whig party in Pennsylvania needs every vote it can command and it will do no good to "cut and run" at such time who does not happen to look at every thing through the same glasses as his neighbors. "Union and Harmony" must be our watchwords in the next campaign if we look for continued success.

Congress.

Nothing of special importance occurred in either Branch of Congress during the past week. The death of Senator Atchison was announced in both Houses on Monday, and the customary resolutions were adopted.

The Senate has made another drive at the Administration by passing a Bill to take the appointment of First Assistant Secretary of the Treasury out of the hands of the Secretary, and making his appointment dependent on the President, who, and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Mr. Washington, the present incumbent, although a Loco, is obnoxious to some of the Senators, but Mr. Guthrie refuses to remove him. Hence the Senate Bill.

The bill went to the House, where, after some debate, it was laid over for a few days.

Garrett Smith made his debut in the House on Tuesday in an able and eloquent but ultra Anti-Slavery speech. He was listened to with marked attention, however, and Mr. Preston, of Kentucky, took the floor in reply.

A bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to purchase Mount Vernon for the United States Government was tabled in the House by a vote of 88 to 85.

In the Senate, Mr. Shields gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to authorize the President to confer the brevet rank of Lieutenant General on Winfield Scott for his endlest military services.

The Kansas-Nebraska Bill has been up in both Houses, and there seems to be disposition to accomplish Capt. Ingraham for his agency in it. In the House a bill has been reported that, with a sword and chaplain in Congress.

In the Senate the debate was continued by Messrs. Douglas, Mike Walsh, and Wright in opposition, and Messrs. Dodge, of Iowa, Pratt, of Maryland, and Bayard, of Delaware, in support of the measure.

A large number of prominent politicians from New York, represented by Messrs. Cole, Sickles, and others, are in Washington, with a view to effect the Maine action on the new apportionment.

Excitement in New York.

For some days past there has existed an intense excitement in New York on the subject of what is termed "street preaching," involving the question of Free Speech vs. Catholicism. A person by name of Parsons has been "preaching" or lecturing on the subject of Romanism, and being somewhat severe in his strictures, some difficulties occurred which led the police to infer that a riot might ensue, if the preaching were not stopped. Application was made to the Mayor, who ordered Parsons to be arrested on Sunday afternoon the 11th inst., while holding forth to a crowd in a public place near the foot of Third street. The police did so, and soon after a crowd of some 5,000 persons repaired to the residence of the Mayor to demand Parson's release. The Mayor declining to do so, the mob threatened to tear down his dwelling. In the meantime, Parsons had been taken before a Justice, who, after hearing, discharged him on the ground that by lecturing in a private ship yard he had violated any ordinance.

The incidents of the day produced an intense excitement, and during the week an immense "indignation meeting" was held in the Park, at which the Mayor was severely denounced, and resolutions passed to preach at the same place on the succeeding Sabbath. Hennenocand that he would do so, the meeting pledging himself to see him sustained. The excitement extending, fears of a serious riot prevailed. The Mayor issued a Proclamation to the people of the city, asking them to refrain from every thing calculated to increase or keep alive the excitement, and counselling moderation. The Catholics met on the 19th and called upon the members of that Church not to attend the meeting, and Bishop Hughes issued a card advising a similar policy. As this card has been a good deal commented upon of late we give it in full:

LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.

Received brethren of the Clergy and dearly beloved children of the laity, health and benediction in Christ Jesus!

It has been communicated to us that certain persons claiming to be amongst us of religion have thought it proper to preach in the public streets, in such a manner as to excite against us the hatred of our fellow-citizens who are not Catholics. The object of this communication is to request us to avoid all such preachings, and to leave the parties who approve of them to to the entire and perfect enjoyment of their choice. The Catholic community of New York have merited well of their fellow-citizens by their uniform moderation and respect for the laws of their country and the authorities of its government. I fear that this system of street-preaching is intended by a portion of the public, of which we do so, the meeting pledging himself to see him sustained. The excitement extending, fears of a serious riot prevailed. The Mayor issued a Proclamation to the people of the city, asking them to refrain from every thing calculated to increase or keep alive the excitement, and counselling moderation. The Catholics met on the 19th and called upon the members of that Church not to attend the meeting, and Bishop Hughes issued a card advising a similar policy. As this card has been a good deal commented upon of late we give it in full:

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