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BY ERASTUS BROOKS & Co.

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Editorial Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

ANTI-SLAVERY AND WAR DEBATES, MR. PALFREY AND MR. DIX, &c.

Washington, Wednesday night, Jan. 26.

There were two speeches in the House,—the one by Mr. Palfrey, of Mass., known for his Anti-Slavery views, and for his opposition to the Speaker of the House as Speaker, though his own colleague, and distinguished for his ability and attachment to the Union. He was long a Unitarian Minister, a Professor in the Divinity School of Cambridge, and is "a scholar, and a ripe good one." I did not hear much of his speech to-day, but there was a very close attention of members, and those who heard the argument,—which was Anti Slavery throughout,—speak of it as very able. What a change is this speech compared with the state of feeling in the House of Representatives a few years since. I remember when Mr. Slade, of Vermont, by a mere Anti-Slavery sentiment, put the House in a fever of excitement, and when Mr. Rhett, of South Carolina, proposed to leave the Hall, because any man was brave enough to venture a whisper of opposition to Slavery, whether in the District of Columbia, in the territories, for Florida was then a territory, or among the States. Then too, a caucus was held, at which the war was made upon the Right of Petition, and Mr. Atherton, (one of the Senators from N. H.) introduced the celebrated Atherton Resolutions, concluding with the Rule which flung all Anti-Slavery memorials back into the faces of the Petitioners. Now Petitions are received, and in the House respectfully treated. The freedom of speech, too, goes hand in hand with the right of Petition, and a member is heard in Congress without alarming consequences to the Union. This is a wholesome progress of public sentiment, or rather a return to the sentiment of the Constitution, which guarantees to all men the freedom of speech and the Right to Petition Congress for a redress of grievances.

The second speech was from Mr. Henley, of Ind. and it had the honor to be the most leveling and groveling of any made thus far during the session, and I do not think it will be possible to match it during the time left from this to the end of his term of service. Mr. Henley understands what it is to go so low as to be upon the level with the under ground Loco Focoism of the country. His speech must have been intended for the pot-houses and subterraneans of his own home, though there can be but a very few low enough to endorse such stuff.

There was a Democratic speech made in the Senate *per contra*, well worth hearing, however much one might differ in sentiment from the speaker. It was chaste, dignified, instructive and ably supporting the war, it is true, and its vigorous prosecution, and advocating the continued occupation of Mexico. But all this was done with much personal kindness for the opinions of others, and with the greatest respect for gentlemen differing from his own views of public measures. Nevertheless Mr. Dix did not advocate the extreme views of those now administering the Government. He held a war of conquest to be wrong, and the dismemberment of Mexico to be wrong also. He concurred entirely in the sentiment of Mr. Calhoun's speech, as to the wreck made upon institutions like our own, by departing from the land marks laid down by those who framed our Civil Institutions. Much, too, he discovered of intervention and conquest,—and was disposed to find excuse for the conduct of his own party towards Mexico, from the fact that Guizot in France, and Palmerston in England, had avowed, adretime, the abstract right of their respective countries to make settlements upon this continent. The ambitious views of Christina of Spain, (to place a favorite upon a Mexican throne) were also mentioned, to prove there was danger of a formal occupancy of Mexico by one or more of these European powers. This is the old bugbear raised again, like Banquo's ghost, to frighten men from all honesty of purpose. *If we do not steal Mexico, some other power will.* The moral sentiment resolves itself into this and nothing else.—Now, every man knows,—nobody better than the Senator from New York, for he avowed it,—that the People of Mexico are averse to Monarchical Government,—and all know, too, that for a quarter of a century this country has proclaimed the doctrine that European settlements were not to be tolerated upon this Continent. This has been avowed a thousand score of times by so called Democratic authority, though Mr. Polk did depart from it in allowing England so liberal a slice of the Oregon territory, after declaring the claim to be "clearly and unquestionably" in the United States.

Mr. Dix unwittingly pronounced a severe condemnation against the Administration, by citing the conduct of Russia, Prussia and Austria towards Poland. They begun the work of Partition three quarters of a century since, and Poland is now blotted from the map of nations. They commenced piecemeal, too, and each of the three Governments with every slice they took off, affected to believe that every additional weakness was the signal of additional danger to these overgrown dominions. So they said in excuse for their tyranny, until Poland was all demolished. Mr. Dix in like manner affects to be alarmed in regard to Mexico,—and even quotes a sentiment from Lord Bentick, to frighten our [countrymen into the belief that perhaps England will seize upon what we leave of Mexico, to obtain payment for the Mexican Bonds due in England. A proposition having been once made to seize Spanish territory for the payment of Spanish Bonds, by Lord B., and Lord Palmerston having more recently spoken of the non-payment of American States, as "a stain upon our character," the Senator from New York would stir up a little of Jonathan's blood against his Brother Bull.

Much was said, too, of English encroachments in the world over,—the mind of the Senator,—himself once an able officer of the Army,—gave evidence how his mind was dazzled by such false glory as this.—England, upon our own continent,—England, in Central America, as the nominal guardian of a tribe of Mosquito Indians, but in reality, seizing a territory as big as New York,—England in the East,—England upon the Island of the Sea,—her Steamers everywhere,—always committing robbery, but never surrendering one inch of territory except upon compulsion. The Army, too, which thought it was very wrong that such should be the fact, were to be the propagators of civilization and christianity. So have all oppressors declared from the foundation of the world, and unless national immorality is to be presented as entirely distinct from personal immorality, no excuse can be found for the conquest of a neighboring Republic. War, Mr. Dix thought, might be prosecuted for three purposes:—to obtain indemnity for wrongs received,—to secure a boundary upon terms which we thought to be just, and to pay for the expenses of a war.—This last cause for war, the wise men who secuded peace entirely forgot in the treaties between this country and Great Britain. All wise Nations have forgotten to make such exactions,—and it remains for this great and prosperous country to exact such terms from a weak, crippled and conquered people like the Mexicans.

Among the Senators in their seats to-day, was Colonel Benton. He has finished his defence of Colonel Fremont, and the finding of the Court will soon be known. In the mean time, the Missourian chafes like an old tigress which has lost her young.

Among the applicants for the office of Marshall of the Western District of Pennsylvania, are Messrs. Foster, of Allegheny, Grafton, of Washington, and Bell, of Westmoreland. They are, I believe, all in the city of Washington, and a day or two will decide upon the fortunate competitors among the gentlemen here, and the many at home. E. B.

Debates in Congress—the War—Finance, Supreme Court, &c.

Washington, Jan. 27, 1848.

The two Houses of Congress have had some very good debates to-day, upon the War and the Finances of the Government,—the former subject being discussed in the House, and the latter in the Senate. The Speakers in the House were Mr. Thompson, of Ia., and Mr. Rhett, of S. C., both old and able members. Mr. Thompson's speech was one of rare merit, and drew crowds to hear it, the members upon both sides being compelled to listen, whether they would or not. The speech was a searching review of the President's policy in conducting the War,—and the violations of Legislative and other rights in prosecuting the war. The statement that the Administration was now licensing "gambling houses in Mexico at $500 a piece, for the purpose of procuring revenue to carry on the war," created something of a flutter among the adherents of the President,—but such is no doubt the fact. This is quartering on the enemy with a vengeance, but it is all of a piece with the morals of the Mexican War. The President's "Pass" withdrew the chieftain Santa Anna from his cock-fighting sports at Havana, and placed him at the head of the Armies of Mexico. The natural sequel to such a proceeding is the $500 license for each of the gambling houses in the city of Mexico.

Mr. Rhett, in his speech, showed a rare devotion to the President, and unaccountable zeal in his behalf. He had been let into the President's secrets, and came to the House the President's defender. He had a peep into the documents of the State Department, denied to the House: and undertook to prove from these that the President had not ordered the troops to move to the Rio Grande, until Mr. Slidell wrote the President that he would not be received, and on the date of that letter, (Jan. 12, 1846,) the order was given. *The public documents warrant no such statement as this, and the dates of Mr. Slidell's letter, and the order, render it improbable*,—but the important part of Mr. Rhett's speech, and that on which no doubt, the President hereafter means to defend himself, was the bold and novel declaration that the PRESIDENT ALONE WAS THE WAR MAKING POWER. There was some doubt of the avowel of such a creed in Congress, and particularly from a State's right man and nullifier. Mr. Vinton, of Ohio, sought to make assurance doubly sure by direct inquiry, and it was avowed over and over again,—that "the war making power was in the President." It was said and naturally enough, too, after this, that the President had not caused war to exist by ordering the troops to remove to the Rio Grande, and that war did not exist before Congress declared it to exist on the 13th of May, 1846.

Mr. Ashmun, of Massachusetts, wished to know then, how the gentleman and the President's friends came to vote that *it did "exist,"* and "by the act of Mexico." "Oh, that," said the abstractionist "is another thing."

Mr. Ashmun then read from the President's Message, where the President avowed on the 11th of May that *war then existed*,—and Mr. Rhett, to save himself, was obliged to fly from the Executive and to throw himself upon what he called the Constitution.

He argued now long and earnestly to show that the Executive was the war making power, and not Congress,—and certainly deserves the credit of novelty for this high federal doctrine,—the most Federal I have ever heard in Congress.—From the attending circumstances, it seems probable that the Executive means to fall back upon this high handed assumption of power.

The ten Regiment Bill was the subject of debate in the Senate.

FINANCES.

Mr. Phelps, one of the Vermont Senators, and a member of the Finance Committee, discussed the subject of our finances this morning in a very sensible and practical speech. First of the estimates. They were $45,000,000 for the present fiscal year and the actual expenses were $58,000,000. They were $55,000,000 for the present year and would reach at least *seventy five millions*, deducting the $7,000,000 discovered, or not before mentioned by some unaccountable blunder in the Treasury Department,—they would be $63,000,000. We were said Mr. Phelps, overrunning Mexico, as the locusts overrun Egypt, and like the locusts, were devouring the substance of the country they overrun.

It was argued, that neither a loan nor Treasury notes could relieve the Treasury if the war continued. The reason that the war had not stopped long ago far want of means, was owing to the extraordinary state of affairs in Europe and the shipment of specie from that country to our own. There was not now twenty millions of specie in all the Banks of the country, and continual demands were made upon it for foreign export. The Banks could not much longer bear this work of depletion, and yet the drain continues, as long as the war continued and there would be an end of paying specie at all. While money in the market is quick at one and a half per cent. a month, the Government would have to pay this price as well as others The work of depreciation would go on, as long as the war went on. The Government could not be believed by Treasury notes, and if we tried it, we should find the system of continental money and of the French *assignats* returns upon us.

SUPREME COURT.

Mr. Webster made his argument upon the Rhode Island case to-day, hardly occupying two hours, where one of the counsel upon the other side was engaged three days. The Court room was crowded to excess, and the Judges had hardly elbow room for the crowd of ladies. Mr. Webster reigns as a lawyer, monarch supreme of the Court room, and draws immense audiences to hear him. His argument to-day was upon the Rhode Island question, and embraced questions of high national and political consideration. Mr. Webster traced the progress of English and American liberty, contrasting the two,—the one from before the Stewarts down, and the other through the Revolution, confederation, convention and constitution. It was argued that there was but one way to procure a change of Government and that the customary, legal and authorized way, common in all States and Governments. It was not by the meeting of a multitude at Chepacket or Newport, and each setting up a Government of their own, and maintaining it by force of arms. That was not true liberty, nor was true liberty an "airy nothing," but something rather which had

"A local habitation and a name."

Mr. Webster assured the opposite counsel that if they wanted to confront the idea that in this country the people were sovereign, they would have to go somewhere else to find an adversary. A man would be deemed more mad than Don Quixote, who should deny it. The people here were the source of all power, and delegated it to whom they would, but when they delegated it they required that those who were invested with authority should exercise it in the manner and forms prescribed in our constitution and by legislative enactments. They could not overturn authority at their pleasure and at the instance of every primary assembly, which might chose to take authority into its own hands.

I have not time to follow the argument, but may do so when it is printed, as it embodies in the smallest possible space an admirable commentary upon the constitution and conservative liberty. Any other kind of liberty though boisterous as the North wind, in its professions, has no foundation to rest upon and imparts no hope of safety to those who possess it. E. B.

Mexican Affairs.

The papers from Mexico contains numerous peace rumors, but we see none more credible than those we have before given. A letter date Mexico Dec. 20 says: "Yesterday, Gens. Butler and Lane arrived in this city, and this afternoon Col. Johnson came in with his command from Ayotha. Riley's brigade is now comfortably domiciled at Nacubys, and on Sunday, Cushing's brigade out to San Angel. This command consists of the 1st and 2d Pennsylvania, New York, South Carolina and Massachusetts Volunteers. These remove valuable room for the new troops, and, as Gen. Marshall is expected in a week or two, with some five or six thousand men, still further movements must be made.

An expedition left the city of Mexico on the 26th of December to collect the rent of a silver mine at Pachuca worked by an English company. The party consisted of the 9th Regiment of Infantry, a squadron of dragoons, and a couple of pieces of artillery, under the command of Col. Withers, of the 9th. They return in 10 or 12 days.

Movement of troops.—It is reported by a letter of the 26th, that "orders have been issued for the departure of the divisions of Maj. Gens. Butler & Patterson the latter end of this or commencement of next week. They are to move on San Luis Potosi, and at a point this side of that place are to diverge—the one to Zacatecas and the other to a town to the southeast of San Luis. This is the plan of operations at present, and all I have been able to gather on the subject. The movement will take place as soon as the quartermasters can fit the expedition."

Mexican congress.—The news from Queretaro is not of much importance. There has been an attempted revolution there, which was put down by President Anaya, assisted by two corps of artillery The ringleaders are determined to wait until Anaya leaves the presidential chair, which was on the 8th of January, when Congress meets, and the Constitutional President be declared. Herrera is said to be the man. The leaders of the revolt have written to the Governors and Legislature of the different states, denouncing Anaya as a friend of peace.

Another Court Martial.

Washington, Jan. 25, 1848.

Great excitement exists among naval men here this morning, in consequence of a prevailing report that the officers of the Gulf Squadron, in reply to a circular upon the subject, have returned for answer that the conduct of a Post Captain at the batteries before Vera Cruz was unbecoming an officer in the presence of an enemy.

The Magnetic telegraph is now in operation between Milwaukie and Chicago, and will be completed to Detroit in a few weeks.

Misgivings of the Administration.

The Baltimore "Sun," which has long been used by the Administration as the means by which its policy can be foreshadowed, semi-officially, has the following letter from Washington, which throws more light upon Gen. Scott's recall, and other matters equally important:

I have not time to write you a long letter, but will endeavor to make a few points. *First*, as to Mr. Trist. You may take it for granted, beyond cavil or dispute, that Mr. Trist has sent to Washington a *project* of a treaty, (not a treaty,) and that the same has been submitted to the President, and discussed in Cabinet council.

2d. You may take it for granted that Mr. Trist had no direct and positive authority to make a treaty, and that, consequently, the whole, thus far, is a mere *ex parte* arrangement between Mr. Trist on one part, and Mexican Commissioners, acting without direct authority of Congress on the other.

3d. That Mr. Trist and General Scott co-operate with each other in these preliminary arrangements, and that both are sanguine that a treaty on the basis contained in the project, may be ratified by the Mexican Congress.

4th. That the administration will seriously consider the proposition and that, in all probability, the President will communicate it to both Houses of Congress; and thereby lengthen a tale.

The question is, what will Congress do? My opinion is, that they will advise a treaty, on that basis, to be made, and that the treaty itself will eventually be ratified. I do not say that all this will be done toward the close of next week, but perhaps between this and the 4th Monday of May next; and that is all I can tell you at present. The treaty is not quite as good as General Taylor's Sierra Madre line; but then the question is, did the old General mean this line as a permanent frontier of the United States, or merely as a line of military defence, to be surrendered after the conclusion of peace. On this subject Major Bliss might perhaps enlighten the public.

That the project of a treaty does not stop the fighting in Mexico, is evident from the last advices, and that the project itself does not contain any tangible guarantee of a peace in the future, seems to be highly probable. Meanwhile, has Mr. Trist the power of disposing of the three millions?

Another question is, can Mr. Trist act as a plenipotentiary after he is recalled, and what relation does he hold to the distinguished Secretary of State? And again if General Scott has authorized Mr. Trist to act, does not that authority cease with the suspension and positive recall of Gen. Scott?

Gen. Scott, as you will have learned from yesterday's Congressional proceedings, is no longer commander-in-chief of the army. He has gone to Perote as a witness, not to be tried, and will, in the course of six or eight weeks, arrive in Washington. He will, I believe, be one of the most prominent candidates for the Presidency. On the democratic side, the case seems to be narrowed down to Cass, Dallas or Walker, with more chances of harmony and successful combination than there are at this time between Clay, Scott and Taylor."

In further explanation of this "fire in the rear" upon Gen. Scott, we copy from the Washington letter of the North American, the following:

Gen. Scott, presuming the operations of the campaign to be ended, applied in November, for leave to return to the United States. The result of the Court of Inquiry will not affect this application, and he may be expected home as soon as its proceedings have closed, if he determines to attend it, which is questional, or sooner, unless the President considers it *politic* to change his views.

It can be no harm to repeat that Gen. Scott arrested Gen. Worth, because he refused to communicate with the Department of War, through the Commanding General, according to the recognised usage of the service. The arrest grew out of a correspondence between the two officers, in reference to an order of Gen. Scott concerning letter-writing from the camp, which the Secretary of War caused to be revoked with immediate application to Gen. Taylor for his letter to Gen. Gaines.

General Worth has won no enviable distinction throughout these difficulties, however valuable may have been his services as an officer. There are *facts* of a grave character, which if brought to light may give a different shape to public opinion in regard to General Worth and others, who have not been *depreciated* in the public correspondence from the seat of war; in the contrast with others, whose gallantry and achievements might have claimed some respect with these very *impartial* historians, as they profess to be. I honor General Worth for all that he has done; but I cannot honor him at the expense of brave soldiers, who deserve as much of public gratitude and consideration.—Political aspirations, encouraged and originated by selfish partisans, at home have greatly altered the relations of many distinguished officers, whom the country delighted to admire and appreciate for their conduct in the field.

The Prosperity of our Manufactures.

Some time since in noticing an assertion of the free traders, that our cotton manufacturers were making money fast, we took occasion to say that the prices of factory stocks did not bear out the free traders story. To show this matter of prosperity in its true light, and to confirm the position we then took; we give the following letter from Boston which we copy from the National Intelligencer.

THE MANUFACTURING INTEREST.

The President, in his laudation of the Tariff of 1846, attributes to it all the prosperity of the country, and asserts in so many words that our manufactures are also in a prosperous condition."

He thus attributes to the tariff the high prices for our products created by the famine of the last year in Europe, whilst the fact which he states in regard to our manufactures is wholly *thine*. *They are not in a prosperous condition. The Cotton manufacture is more depressed than any other interest in the United States.* The profits of the Lowell companies for the first half of the year 1847 were less than four per cent., and for the last half still less, several of them making no dividend whatever.

The actual state of this branch of business is pretty accurately gauged by public opinion as exhibited in the prices of manufacturing stocks. These have been gradually but regularly declining for the last eighteen months, during which the depreciation may be estimated at full twenty per cent. They are now the species of property most difficult to sell. It may fairly be stated that an interest in the best and newest concerns cannot be sold without a loss of at least twenty per cent.

It is true that, during the last year, a good many spindles have been put in motion, but this has been the result of undertakings previously commenced, and of contracts which could not be rescinded.

The President and Mr. Walker attribute all the prosperity of the country to the tariff of 1846. Let them, then, place the depression of this interest to the same cause. It is true that the great increase in the import of cotton fabrics has interfered very materially with our own productions.

The cotton manufacture has been peculiarly depressed the year past in England, where many mills have stopped work entirely. We have not yet come to that, and perhaps may not, under reduced prices of cotton and the reduction of wages which is becoming inevitable.

It is one of the wise consequences of free trade to make us common partakers in the distresses of other countries, and it is one of the especial objects of the protective system to guard us against them. When any branch of manufacture is prospering and paying a good profit in England, a protective tariff is inoperative with us, as in the iron trade for the last five years. But let that branch of manufacture in England share in the general depression, as it seems about doing, as it did in 1842, and we start find that interest in this country involved in the same ruin. In fact, this state of things appears to be rapidly approaching, and there is little or no doubt that before many months we shall see the iron interest in the same state of depression which the cotton manufacture now presents.

It is true the price of labor is yet very high, under the prosperity of the last few years. Labor is always the last interest to be affected; but it cannot escape. Already, we see symptoms not to be mistaken of a change. Capital will not long be content to be the only sufferer. Labor must share with it its proportion of hard times.

The present Administration has committed four egregious blunders. It was so emulous of military glory that it rushed into a war without counting the cost or its consequences. It reduced the revenue some five millions of dollars, after this war had commenced, instead of increasing it as it should have done. It made war upon the labor and capital of the country, by stimulating the import of foreign labor in the shape of foreign fabrics, in the effort to break down the protective system. And, finally, it undertook to establish an exclusive currency in the Treasury at the same moment that it was commencing the issue of its own paper by untold millions in the form of loans and Treasury notes—a combination of operations filled with all the elements of financial ruin.

A sort of miracle, the mysterious potato rot, combined with a short crop of breadstuffs in Europe, postponed the natural operation of these causes for a year. But we are now approaching *the beginning of the end.* The gold so unexpectedly brought to us a year ago is leaving us by every packet. Our merchants are bleeding at the rate of one to two per cent. a month. Trade stagnates, prices are falling, failures impending. Our Subtreasury begins to present a contrast to the entrance to the cave of the sick lion. The flight of our eagles is all outward; there are no returning tracks. *Nulla vestigia retrorsum.* What shall we see before the end of another year of war? One thing, I opine, an Administration retiring from office amid single shouts of curses and delight, which will wake the echoes of all our hills from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains.

Steamer Yallabusha

This boat bound for New Orleans from Red river was burned opposite Donaldsonville on the 18 ins. The Picayune says: "The following is as full a list of passengers lost as we have been able to obtain. Mrs. Jane Chamberlin and child; Mr. Nicholes and child; Miss Frances Johnson; Mrs. Bernald and children; Rev. Mr. Page, of Shreveport, and his two children, and a son of Judge Wells.

Among those who were saved were Mrs. Page, (wife of the Rev. Mr. Page.) Mr. and Mrs. Piles, of Texas, Miss Godwin, of Illinois, Mr. P. E. Johnson, wife and daughter, Mr. Benj. G. Ware, Mr. N. E. Batesman, W. Culvert, of Kentucky, J. M. Yancey, and W. Osburne, of New Orleans, A. Boggs, of Illinois, F. Buck, of Ohio, W. Pelson, A. W. Owings, Gen. L. A. D. Givens, of Mississippi, Dr. Wall and lady, of Texas, and several others whose names we have not learned. A gentleman who was a passenger and escaped injury, informs us there were over one hundred souls on board, and that in his opinion fully forty were lost.

By an act of Congress, passed at the last session, the President established a Land Office at Sault Ste Marie, in the State of Michigan, to provide for the sale of the mineral lands in the northern part of that State.

From the Uniontown Democrat.

Pittsburgh & Connellsville Rail Road Meeting.

The President and Directors of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Co., having determined, as soon as the necessary surveys could be made by the Corps of Engineers, to place a four mile section of the eastern division under contract, the 20th inst. was advertised as the day of letting and commencing that division.

The time having arrived, and Col. Larimer, President of the Board, with Walter Bryant, Esq., another Director from the city of Pittsburgh, being present at the Clinton House, in the village of Connellsville, constituting with the members from Fayette county, John Fuller, Esq., Col. A. M. Hill and George J. Ashmun, five members of the board present, when the following proceedings were had by the citizens of the town and vicinity. T. G. Ewing, Esq., in the chair, and Jas. Cunningham, acting as Secretary.

Gentlemen: Your communications of this date on behalf of the Stockholders of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Rail Road Company and their citizens, your place, inviting me to break the ground on the eastern section of the Rail Road at 2 o'clock, and accept a dinner at the Ashland House this afternoon at 4 o'clock, have been duly received and accepted.

In doing so I cannot express my feelings of gratitude for the interest you have taken in the preservation of the Charter and zeal in the construction of the Rail Road, that will connect Pittsburgh with the sea board by the nearest and most natural route—opening up an easy transportation for the agricultural and mineral wealth of the rich and fertile valleys of the Youghiogheny river both east and west. I feel confident, gentlemen, that this improvement when completed, will in connection with the natural position at the head of the Ohio, and other Rail Roads now being constructed, East and West, having their terminus at Pittsburgh, make our Iron City the great inland city of the Union for all time to come, for population, commerce, and manufacturing.

I feel confident that you will concur with me in every improvement that will add to the prosperity of Pittsburgh. I subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant.

WM. LARIMER, Jr.

To Messrs. T. G. Ewing, J. W. Phillips, A. A. McLean, L. Lindly, H. Walter, J. G. Gibson and J. Collins.

The directors having, according to the terms of letting, examined the different bids, awarded the contract to James Fenlon, Esq., he being the lowest bidder, the large assemblage present from the town and surrounding country, under the direction of Col. J. W Philips and Major A. A. McLean as chief, formed the line of procession, according to the following programme of the Committee of arrangement. First, that excellent military company Youghiogheny Blues, commanded by Capt G White and Lieut. Buttermore,—2nd, the President of the board and Directors present, 3d, the engineer corps, preceded by Mr. Smith chief engineer, and R. Torrence his assistant, 4th, committee of Arrangement and Resolutions, 5th, the large concourse of citizens, the procession having arrived on the land of Mr. E. Rogers, the place of beginning the first section of the eastern division of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, when John Fuller, Esq., was nominated by acclamation, president of the day, Daniel Rogers and H. Walter, Esqs., vice presidents and John Collins and John F. Hurst, Secretaries.

The President of the day opened the ceremonies by congratulating the people present, and the County, upon the commencement of the Eastern section of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Rail Road, having heretofore labored under such adverse circumstances he recounted the many strange of this route by the Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road, company, which had been shown from time to time ever since 1827 to be the nearest and natural route between the East and the West—he dwelt ably and largely on the prospects of this company, and at the conclusion of his speech, introduced Col. Larimer of the city of Pittsburgh, and president of the board—loud cheering.

Col. Larimer then addressed the meeting, he congratulated all the friends of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Rail Road, and all the west in the city, the city of Pittsburgh, upon the preservation of the charter of this road, he spoke emphatically of the preservation of the charter—pronounced this certain—said he had been a warm friend for a Rail Road by this route from the beginning—told the people that they might rely, on his zeal and devotion to the cause, in the promotion and prosecution of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Rail Road. Col. Larimer spoke with great energy & at length, of the great interest he felt in the prosecution of the work. At the conclusion of his speech he took the spade from the contractors, and struck it into the ground and threw up the earth, evidencing to the crowd that he had handled a spade before. The President then declared the commencement of the Eastern division of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Rail Road, when the people made the welkin ring with cheer, and acclimation.

Dr. Cummings then for the committee appointed for that purpose, introduced and read the following resolutions which were adopted unanimously.

Resolved, That people in western Pennsylvania, view with a high degree of approbation, the energy and promptitude with which the present Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Railroad Company have entered on their duties; having on the Yough. division under contract. Resolved,—further, that the placing of another section under contract of our miles, of the eastern division or Connellsville extension towards the Maryland line, under contract this day, evinces a praiseworthy determination on the part of the present Board to prosecute this work to an early completion.

Resolved, That the straight-forward honesty, integrity and ability of the present Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Rail Road company, with Col. William Larimer, jr., of the city of Pittsburgh, will, in the opinion of the Stockholders of this Road Company, recommend said Road to the attention and patronage of not only the people in all western Pennsylvania, but also of the business men and capitalists on the Atlantic seaboard; and more particularly those of the cities of Baltimore and Philadelphia, and the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That the valleys of the Monogahela and Youghiogheny rivers to the State line or upon of the tributaries of the latter (Castleman's river) to the summit of the Allegheny mountain, presents a splendid highway of easy grade for a Rail Road, superior to any other, either in Pennsylvania or Virginia, leading from the waters of the Ohio to those of the Chesapeake;—superior, because shorter in distance and cheaper in construction, as has been several times demonstratedby scientific Engineers in the service of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company and Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road Company.

Resolved, That the six counties *alone*, in South western Pennsylvania, through which the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Rail Road will pass, containing a population of some three hundred thousand, and a production from the three kingdoms, animal, vegetable and mineral, greater than all the tier of Counties from Cumberland to Wheeling, (the present route of the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad,)—will contribute more to the local trade and travel, *twice told*, of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, than the other locality will to the said main stem, the city of Wheeling included.

Resolved, That the city of Columbus, in the State of Ohio, never can become (as lately attempted to be shown) the great centripetal and centrifugal position of trade, travel and commerce, for the immense north and west, or any considerable portion of it—because the world know that produce seeks the highest and best market—and the immense annually increasing productions of that new and fertile region will continue to follow the great highway of navigable lakes and rivers, until it gets within striking distance of the great commercial mart of the world, (city of New York,) and then will take stick in the shortest space of time. It is a universal rule that large cities increase up streams, and population up the country—and therefore, if you would grasp the carrying tide, you must tap the point of either.

Resolved, That the route by the Youghiogheny and Upper Mississippi rivers and the great lakes, and tide water, the place of exchange and exports, there is nothing wanting but a good rail way and commerce between the East and West.

Resolved, That we, stockholders in the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, invite the attention of capitalists and the business community in the Atlantic cities, to the importance of this Rail Road connection with the West, to the end that by succoring and assisting in its construction, it may be prosecuted to an early completion.

Resolved, That the thanks of the meeting are kindly tendered to Col. William Larimer Jun., president of the board, and Walter Bryant Esq., both from the city of Pittsburgh, for their cooperation in the ceremonies of this day, and for their general zeal in the interests of the company.

On motion.

Resolved, Unanimously, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the newspapers of the counties of Fayette and Westmoreland—in those of the city of Pittsburgh, in the Baltimore American and all other papers not unfriendly to the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Rail Road.

The procession then in the same order as before returned to town about 4 o'clock. The field ceremonies of the day being over the company repaired to the Ashland Hotel, kept by W. Whaley, and sat down to a very sumptuous dinner prepared for the occasion. After the first and second courses were gone through with, which were truly copious and excellent beyond surpassment. The company having continued the field organization as to officers. The table was now covered with a profusion of rich viands, raisins etc par excellent—during the repast over this third course, the company were regaled with a variety of sentiments, speeches, and anecdote, appropriate to the occasion, the speeches and toast came off, with a lively aptitude to the occasion, and were responded to with this enthusiasm which keepsake a unity of feeling interesting to all.

The company adjourned about 9 o'clock, well pleased with the festivity and hilarity of the evening, and not a little gratified with the liberality of their excellent host and hostess.

D. ROGERS, } JOHN FULLER, Pres't.
H. WALTERS, } Vice Pres'ts.
John Collins,
John F. Hurst, } Secretaries.

The Wilderness of Tamaulipas.—The territory between the river Nueces and Rio Grande (or Del Norte) is still the same "stupendous desert" as when proclaimed by Mr. C. J. Ingersoll to be a neutral ground which neither the United States nor Mexico would ever attempt to appropriate until there to moved and instigated by the Spirit of Evil.

The American Flag (published at Matamoras) contains, under date of 3d of this month, a draught of a memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Texas from the few persons who have settled on the Rio Grande, from which we extract the following statement:

"From the settlement on the Rio Grande to the county seat at Corpus Christi it is full five days' journey, *through a wilderness country, almost destitute of water, not a habitation in the whole distance, dens and bands of lawless Mexicans.* When persons residing on the Rio Grande border of the county are cited to appear at Corpus Christi, it takes at least two weeks to comply with the citation, besides subjecting them to the difficulties and dangers of the road."

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Harrisburgh, Jan. 26, 1848.

Senate—The nominations of Wm. Colley and John A. Speaker, to be Associate Judges of Sullivan county, were confirmed by the Senate. Nill was rejected, 19 to 13. No business transacted.

House.—Bills to regulate firemen in the city and districts introduced. The bill relating to wills and testaments was passed.

Local Intelligence.

We were shown a counterfeit $3 bill on the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati, on Saturday, by Messrs. Cook & Harris, and would warn the public to be careful. Letter A. different numbers, bearing date October, 1845 and 1847. General appearance of the note well calculated to deceive; paper yellower than the genuine. James Hare, cashier; Jacob Strader, president; signatures good imitation.

A man calling himself Norton, we understand, was arrested in N. Holmes & Son's Broker Office, at the instigation of Messrs. Cook & Harris, for passing counterfeit money.

Spurious money.—A man named Twicher was arrested on Saturday, upon whom was found $1044 in counterfeit threes on the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati, $190 in counterfeit 10's on the La Fayette Bank of Cincinnati, also $10 in spurious coin; he has a large amount of genuine coin about him, and was committed.

Blackwood.—We have from Messrs. Johnson and Stockton, the December number of this old favorite, to commend which would be labor wasted. We would say, that the next number commences the new volume, and affords a good opportunity to subscribe. It is as cheap as any modern magazines filled with trashy love stories, and worth them all for one who reads for amusement or information.

Brownsville Boats—The elegant new boats commence their trips to-day, an event that will give travellers much pleasure. The boats are first class in every respect. That most important route has now, comfort and elegance to offer to its patrons, and must continue to draw as before, the largest part of eastern travel.

Fire—The Grocery store of Mr. Fitchey, corner of Federal street and North Commons Allegheny city, was destroyed by fire about one o'clock Sunday morning. The fire is supposed to have originated from the stove.

Scientific Association.—The Business Committee of this association will meet this evening in the Rooms of the Board of Trade, at 7 o'clock.

We learn that Professor Mitchell has been written to by a committee, for the purpose of ascertaining when, and upon what terms, he can be induced to deliver a course of Astronomical lectures in this city.

Mail Irregularities.—We have a letter dated Beaver, which makes loud complaint of the irregularity of the reception of the Gazette. We can assure the writer that the fault is not with the Pittsburgh Post office or ourselves.

Mr. Allen will address the Sons of Temperance and Washingtonians this evening in Temperance Hall. He will treat the subject in a new manner.

Quick.—A telegraphic despatch was forwarded a few days since, from the office in this City, to St. Louis, and an answer received in five minutes.

Fire.—On the night of the 20th inst, the barn of James McCurdy, in Butler county, was entirely consumed by fire, with its contents. The loss is heavy. It was the work of an incendiary.

Appointments by the Canal Commissioners.—The Board of Canal Commissioners at Harrisburgh have made the following appointments:

Collector, Pittsburgh—Levi G. Clover; Weigh Lock, Pittsburgh—J. A. Kurtz.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Correspondence of Pittsburgh Gazette.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Philadelphia, Jan. 29, 10, P. M.

The mail arrived at Petersburgh to-day, but brought no news from the seat of War.

Arrivals from Yucatan bringing dates to 25th December, represents affairs in that quarter in a most deplorable state. Propositions had been made for sending Commissioners to Washington to treat for annexation to the United States.

The American frigate Brandywine, and mail schooner Ankalye were at Campeachy on the 20th December.

Owing to some derangement in the telegraphic line East, we have received no despatches from Philadelphia since Saturday afternoon.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

CINCINNATI MARKET.

Cincinnati, Jan. 29, 6, P. M.

Flour—Sales to a limited extent at $4681@4750 ⅌ bbl.

Whiskey—Moderate sales are effected at 17½@18c ⅌ gal.

Provisions—There is less inquiry in the market, but prices are without change. Sales of 200 bbls Mess Pork at $7,75 ⅌ bbl.

Killed Hogs—Sales at $2,68@2,81c ⅌ 100 lbs.

Groceries—The market is steady with no change in prices.

Democracy in Illinois.—The Democrats in the district represented by the Hon. Thos. J. Turner of Illinois, held a Mass Meeting at Freeport, Stephenson county, at which a number of speeches were made and resolutions passed, on the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans. It was voted, according to the Prairie Democrat sent to us, that the proceedings be published in the Washington Union as those they would probably have appeared but for the following *treasonable* resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That the long and abundant use of tea and coffee in our country have made them articles necessaries of life, and that we are opposed to the taxing of a tariff upon said articles, for the strong reason that it makes the poorest day-laborer pay as much to defray the expenses of Government as the wealthiest millionaire in the land.

Resolved, That it is the duty of Government, as soon as practicable, to improve our lake harbors and the rapids of the upper Mississippi.—*Nat. Intelligencer.*

Army Court Martial.—Lieut. Col. Fremont has concluded the reading of his defence; after which the Court went into closed session. When the doors were opened, the Judge Advocate stated that he would offer a brief paper on a single point received in the defence; and then the Court adjourned.

The Pipe Trade of the West.—More than four hundred thousand Hogs have already been packed in Cincinnati, for the season of 1847—8—an unprecedented number, [even for this city. With the exception of a very few places, our information le