THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

BY ERASTUS BROOKS & Co.

PITTSBURGH:
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1848.

☞ THE PITTSBURGH DAILY GAZETTE is published Daily, Tri-Weekly, and Weekly—The Daily is Seven Dollars per annum; the Tri-Weekly is Five Dollars per annum; the Weekly is Two Dollars per annum, invariably in advance.

PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN.
Advertisements and Subscriptions to the North American and United States Gazette, Philadelphia, received and forwarded from this office.

☞ ADVERTISERS are earnestly requested the hand in their favors before 8 P. M., and as early in to day as practicable.

FOR LATEST Commercial Intelligence, Domestic, Markets, River News, Imports, Money Markets, &c. see third page.

THE communication of many voters of the city and county is unavoidably postponed until to-morrow.

MOVEMENTS OF MR. CLAY.—Mr. Clay was to leave New York yesterday, and would proceed directly to the West, he will probably reach Pittsburgh on Friday or Saturday of this week.

THE GUEST OF PITTSBURGH.
The call below we would commend to the attention of every citizen. It is signed by men of whom Pittsburgh may well feel proud. Let our expected guest, whose honor is the nation's wealth, receive at our hands a welcome that shall be alike honorable to us, as it is merited by him. The call is without distinction of party, and Pittsburgh will do her duty, and we are much mistaken if Mr. Clay does not find here, a reception as cordial as that which has been extended to him by any city of the Union.

Reception of Hon. Henry Clay.

To the Hon. Gabriel Adams—Sir:—The undersigned citizens of Pittsburgh, would respectfully request you to call a meet ing of the people, with out distinction of party to assemble in the New Court House, on Tuesday, the 14th inst. at three o'clock, to make suitable arrangements for the reception of the Hon. Henry Clay on his visit to this city.

Walter Forward	R E Sellers
Morgan Robertson	W J Howard
Thos Bakewell	Sam'l Snowden
Geo Ogden	Geo Beale
B C Sawyer	Jno B Bell
Harvey Woods	Jos Woodwell
R C Stockton	Edward Dolt
Geo W Jackson	Michael Kane jr
James Marshall	Geo Singer
Caleb Lee	Benj Patton jr
H S Magraw	Wilson McCandless
Geo P Hamilton	Wm Kerr
Chas Barrett	John J Mitchell
Wm McCandless	John Coyle
A Kirk Lewis	Wm G Alexander
Jas McFadon	Wm Wilson jr
Jas Fenlon	M W Bethmover
John Forsyth	C B Scully
Alexander H Miller	J Herron Foster
	John E Parke

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Pittsburgh, March 13, 1848.

In compliance with the above call the citizens of Pittsburgh, without distinction of party are requested to meet at the New Court House, on Tuesday the 14th inst. at 3 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of adopting measures to insure a suitable welcome to one who has devoted the whole energies of a long life to the service of his country—the Patriot and Statesman HENRY CLAY.

G. ADAMS, Mayor.

MARRIAGE OF VULCAN AND VENUS.—At a public meeting held in Sheffield, England, on the occasion of laying the corner stone of a new building for the Sheffield Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution, Lord MORPETH made an admirable speech, in the course of which he made allusion to the fabulous story of VULCAN and VENUS in the following happy manner:

"Those of you who have had the opportunity of consulting the old legends and classical mythology, are aware that among the fabled deities with which they peopled their world, one more especially was regarded as the god of labor and of handicraft, Vulcan by name, who, you have been informed, was represented as an ugly dwarf, in large smithies and workshops, hammering at heavy anvils, blowing huge bellows, heating furnaces, and begrimmed with soot and dirt. Well ladies and gentlemen, for this hard-working and sweaty-looking divinity they wished to pick out a wife, (loud laughter.) And they did not select for him a mere drab—a person taken from the scullery or kitchen dresser, but they chose for him Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, pick out for me the moral of this tale, for I believe that nothing ever was invented—certainly nothing by the polished and brilliant imagination of the Grecian intellect—which has not its moral and its moral. I have no doubt that all the legends of our own country—that the one even of your own neighborhood, the Dragon of Wantly, itself, has some appropriate allegory and meaning, if we only knew how to find it out. I believe that the special meaning of the marriage of Vulcan with Venus—of the hard working artificer with this laughter-loving queen—of labor with beauty?

"What is it, ladies and gentlemen, but this: That even here, upon a spot which is in many respects no inapt representation of the fabled workshop of Vulcan—even here, amid the clang of anvils, the noise of furnaces, and the spattering of forges—even here, amid these roaring sounds and sooty blackness, the mind—the untrammeled mind—may go forth, may pierce the dim atmosphere which is posed around us, may wing its way to the freer air and purer light which are beyond, and may ally itself with what is more fair, genial, and lovely in creation, (applause.) So, gentlemen, I say, your labor, your down right, hard, swarthy, labor, may make itself the companion, the help-mate, and the husband of beauty.—I dare say, and have reason to believe from the inspection which I am able even now to command, and I have no doubt a more intimate acquaintance with your wives, sisters and daughters, would enable me to prove that I was not wrong in my illustration. But so long as that I say your labor may ally itself with intellectual beauty—be beauty connected with the play of fancy, with the achievements of art, and with the creation of genius—beauty such as painting fixes upon the glowing canvas—such as architecture developes in her stately and harmonious proportions, such as music clothes with the enchantments of sound. But there is a beauty of a still higher order, with which I feel more assured it is still open to your labor, beauty connected with the play of feeling—beauty connected with the affections, the conscience, the heart, and the life, (loud cheers.)

"Take man in the lowliest and blackest of your workshops—in the monotonous and monotonous tasks of daily drudgery, as also in the very humblest of your own dwellings—by the smallest of your firesides—you may, one and each of you, in the zealous and cheerful discharge of the duty of duty, in respect for the rights of others—in a meekness and sobriety of spirit, and in the thousand charities and kindnesses of social and domestic intercourse—even thus you may attain to, and exhibit the moral beauty (of which I have spoken—beauty beyond all others in degree and excellence, because in proportion as it can be reached it makes up the perfection of man's nature here below, and is the most faithful reflection of the will of his Creator, (applause,) and this I claim my explanation of their marriage of Vulcan with Venus, of labor with beauty."

MERCANTILE HONOR.—Edward Wiley, Esq., a merchant of Savanah, who failed in business some years ago, and compounded with his creditors by an equal distribution of his means among them, has since discharged the moral obligation resting upon him by paying up all the arrearages from which he had been legally discharged. His creditors, to mark their high sense of Mr. Wiley's mercantile honor and moral integrity, have presented to him two elegant silver pitchers, with appropriate inscriptions.

THE Great Comet, now rapidly approaching the sun, is looked for nightly at the Washington Observatory. It is expected to be visible about the 10th inst. Without the aid of *Camera-on* which to rely for proof, we have, of late, detected several small spots on the *Sun*, in this latitude, one of which looks like a peacock, with a pair of donkey ears, peeping from beneath his wings.

IRON MANUFACTURE WITH ANTHRACITE.—Messrs. Jevons, Sons & Co., among the failures by the last foreign arrival were the oldest iron house in Liverpool. The Tribune says "The Messrs. Jevons have been very wealthy, but have lost a great deal of money in trying experiments in manufacturing iron in Wales with anthracite coal. Their regular iron business is understood to have been profitable.

THE Ocean steamer "Hermann," the second in the Bremen and Southampton Line, will leave New York for Bremen on the 20th instant, on her first trip.

The new steamship "United States" will leave New York for Liverpool on the 7th of April.

FUTURE PRESENT.—The City Council of Philadelphia are to present Mr. Clay, on his return from New York, with a small highly burnished bell, cast from the filings of the "Independence" bell.

A SAVEN will live 100 years; a partridge, 25; swine, 25; a bull, 15; an ox, 20; a hare, 10; a cat, 10; a goat, 8; a ram, 15; a dog, 15.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

LOUISVILLE, March 13, 1848.

STEAMER SWAN.—A Collision occurred a few days since in the Dogtooth Bend, between the steamers Yamo and Swatara, by which the latter was stuck in her boiler deck. The Swatara was damaged to the extent of $1,000. The cargo was covered by an insurance of $7,000. The Swatara was owned, and built at Pittsburgh.

The report of the blowing up of the Frolic, is a mistake.

Mr. Hampton's Speech.

Mr. HAMPTON, of Pennsylvania, was and the floor from a day long since past, when the subject was last before the House, commenced by observing that, prior to taking up the subject which he intended to discuss at the present time, it might not be inappropriate to submit a few remarks, and they should be very few, on a subject intimately connected with the making of appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors. He preferred to the question of the tariff. He should not now go fully into the discussion of that question, because it had been already ably discussed by several gentlemen on this floor, and particularly by his colleague, (Mr. Stewart: was understood by the allusion.) But the district which he had the honor to represent on this floor was deeply interested in the question of the protection of American labor and American capital. They believe that, notwithstanding the boasted benefits of the tariff of 1846, the old-fashioned American Whig tariff of 1842 was best calculated to promote their interest and the interests of the whole country; and, accordingly, at a recent county convention held in the county of Allegheny, resolutions were passed calling on Congress to repeal the tariff of 1846 and restore the tariff of 1842. He regretted that he had not the paper before him containing those resolutions, for he should cheerfully submit them to the consideration of the House. He was not ashamed of the contents of those resolutions, for he meet cheerfully and cordially concurred with the sentiments expressed in them. He believed the tariff of 1846 ought to be repealed, and the tariff of 1842 restored; and he hoped the appropriate committee would bring in a bill for that purpose, and that the House would be brought to a direct vote upon it in a short time. He believed it was due to the interests of the country, and to its industry; that that odious free-trade British act should be repealed and an American tariff restored.

Mr. Bedinger rose and said the question, as he understood it, was on the veto message of the President in relation to the improvement of rivers and harbors; but the gentleman was discussing the tariff. Now, he asked if the gentleman was in order?

The Speaker was understood to say that the gentleman was not out of order.

Mr. HAMPTON said, if they proceeded to make appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors, it would be necessary to look to the revenue whence the means to make the expenditures for that purpose must be derived. That, therefore was a question affecting the tariff, as the means of creating a revenue, and he should proceed, being perfectly in order, to express his opinion that the tariff act of 1842, if it were substituted for the act of 1846, would furnish ample means for the purpose.

He did not propose to go into a discussion of the details of that bill; but, as a member of the Whig side of the House, he wished to take up the glove which was thrown down some time since by a gentleman on the other side of the House from the city of New York, (Mr. Nicoll,) who asked if the Whig members of this House would have the boldness to meet them on the question of protection or free trade? For one, (and he was not authorized to speak for his brethren,) he was ready to join issue with them on that question. Gentlemen, to meet them there or elsewhere on the question of the protection of American industry, or the odious system, the bumbug of free trade. The gentleman from New York stated that, as between the question of protection and direct taxation, he was in favor of the latter. In so many words, he was in favor of direct taxation. Now, (said Mr. H.) I take issue with that gentleman for myself and my constituents, and I may safely say for the State which I have the honor in part to represent that, on the question of protection or direct taxation, they will find Pennsylvania where they have not found her very lately. She will be found on the side of protection, for it is her own interest; she will be found on the side of protection, for the labor of her own citizens in opposition to the pauper labor of Great Britain. The people that I have the honor to represent have been taxed until they are unable to bear taxation any longer. But what will be the effect of a system of direct taxation on her? Why, if the revenues of this Government are to be raised by a direct tax, her proportion of the amount will be some six millions of dollars, which she must raise by direct taxes on her citizens.

But, sir, I did not rise for the purpose of discussing this question. I propose to discuss, for a short time, with the indulgence of the House, the question of appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors. On that subject, sir, I shall spend a few minutes, and but a few, on the question of its constitutionality. This has been denied by the President in his message; and I regret that I have neither the time nor the ability to take up that message, item by item, and examine and refute it, as I would do, high as the authority that asserts the doctrines which it contains may be. The argument of the President is, that it is unconstitutional to make appropriations for the improvement of harbors and rivers. But I presume I need not go into a discussion of that question at all, for this House has vetoed the President's veto, itself. We have already passed on that question, and I doubt not a large and overwhelming majority of this House is ready at any time to decide it constitutional to make appropriations for that purpose.

But, sir, I propose to submit a few remarks on that subject before I proceed to the discussion of the propriety of making appropriations for objects of the kind contemplated. Prior to the formation of this Union, I would like to know if any gentleman will deny that the States possessed power to make appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors within their respective jurisdictions? Well, if they possessed that power, what has become of it? Did they surrender it to the General Government, or did they retain it, or is it lost? One of these three propositions must be true. It is admitted on all hands that the States do not possess it without the authority of Congress. The President has stated in his message, and the constitution proved, that the States cannot levy a duty on tonnage without the consent of Congress for that or for any other purpose. Well, if the States cannot do it without the consent of Congress, I should like to know if Congress cannot do it without the consent of the States. Does the Constitution provide that Congress must ask the States if they will make such appropriations for purposes of this kind. Not at all. Suppose Congress should refuse to grant the consent of which the President speaks, have the States the power to levy a duty on tonnage? Where then is the power to make these appropriations and to levy this duty on tonnage?—It is nowhere. No power possesses it if Congress refuses its consent; for the States cannot do it without Congress, and Congress refuses to grant its consent. But, sir, I would like for a moment to call the attention of gentlemen to the provisions of the constitution. The 10th section provides that—

"No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

"No state, shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the nett produce of all duties and imports, laid by any State on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress."

Here the power is unconditional and unqualified. But may not Congress consent that the State of Pennsylvania, or Massachusetts, or South Carolina, shall make her own tariff in her own way?—Unquestionably it may, under the same provisions of the constitution which authorizes Congress to consent that States may levy a duty on tonnage. I ask men why they single out the duty on tonnage when that subject is but one of many which are embraced in the same general provisions? The clauses of the constitution which make provision on the subject of "imposts or duties on imports and exports" also provide that no tonnage duty shall be imposed but with the same sanction of Congress. The words are:

"No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another State, with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay."

Why then, I repeat, are we called upon to single out one particular power that may be exercised by States with the consent of Congress, leaving all other powers to be exercised by Congress? Why, the President tells you you have no power to make appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors with one breath, and with the next he tells you that you have that power if you chose to exercise one of the powers granted by the constitution with the consent of Congress. Well, how is this matter? Has Congress the power to consent that the States shall levy duties on tonnage, and has she not the right to exercise that power herself? Has Congress the power to declare war?—Undoubtedly it has. But has it the power to consent that a State may wage war? Who ever heard it pretended for a moment that Congress does not possess the power to declare war and to keep troops and ships in time of peace? Who ever heard it doubted for a moment? And yet these powers are placed in the same category with that of levying duty on tonnage. If Congress does not possess the power to levy a duty on tonnage and to improve rivers and harbors, then Congress does not possess the power to keep ships in time of peace or to declare war; and perhaps the President so thought when he brought on this Mexican war himself. Perhaps that was the reason why he did not apply to Congress to declare war, and, Jackson like, "take the responsibility."

Now, I say we should either exercise this whole power in a judicious manner, for the good of the whole people of these United States, or give back to the various States the power on these different subjects which they possessed before the Union. Will you split up these powers, and apportion them among the States? It is impossible. You cannot do it.

But, sir, the President tells us further that we may go on and improve rivers and harbors by means of this tonnage duty. I ask how this is to be done? Here is the State of Pennsylvania, for instance; how is she to improve the Ohio river, which is beyond her borders? Here are Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois, all interested in the improvement of the Ohio river.—Suppose Pennsylvania were permitted by law to levy a duty on tonnage, where would she expend her money? How is the Ohio river to be improved by that? Here is the State of Ohio on the one side and Virginia on the other. We are told that two States may enter into an agreement for that purpose; but they cannot do it. The constitution forbids States to enter into any compact. "No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation," is the language of the constitution. But, if you remove that difficulty, what then? If Ohio agrees, Virginia may disagree. If Kentucky consents, Illinois may not do so. How, then, are you to improve your harbors and rivers? I mention these as instances to show the difficulties which present themselves, for we have rivers passing through many States. The thing is impossible.

Well, sir, if you have no power to improve these rivers and harbors—if you have no power to remove a rock or a sandbar or a snag, which in the West are known as "Poll Stalks"—I should like to know how you get the power to erect lighthouses and to place buoys to point out the dangers of navigation on the seacoast, and to put up marks for the guidance of mariners? Where do you derive your power? How does it come to pass that you pass laws regulating the number of long boats and steamboats, and give tokens or signs to the boatmen that they may know which course to steer and which to avoid? Where do you get that power? If you have no control over the Western rivers at all; if you have no power to improve them, where do you get your power to erect custom houses, and to take money from the pockets of the steamboat owners before you allow them to sail on those rivers, or to legislate at all on the subject of steamboat navigation, imposing heavy penalties for not having longboats, water buckets, lights, &c? In my city of Pittsburgh the President appoints custom-house officers, and there he takes money for licences for boats to run on the river, and inspectors of engines. But this is not regulating commerce in the sense contended for by the President. He takes money for a license to run on that river, over which he says he has no control. I should like to know what right he has to send custom-house officers there to take our money, if he has no business there—if he has no control over them whatever.

What right have you to collect duties from our owners of steamboats, and put it into the treasury of the United States, if those rivers are exclusively within the jurisdiction of the States, and if Congress has no control over them? That right is founded alone on the assumption that these rivers are great national highways, open to all the citizens of the United States. As far back as 1787 it was expressly declared, by an ordinance of Congress, that all these Western rivers—the Mississippi and all its tributary streams—are public highways, and free and open to all citizens of the United States.

Its language is, that "the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways." Now, if the General Government has power to declare that these streams are public highways, and that all the citizens of the United States have the right to pass and repass upon them, I should like to know if it has not committed itself to keep these public highways in repair? It is that fact that enables the General Government to take toll on these waters, to erect custom-houses, and to receive money for licenses. It is because they have declared them to be highways, free and open for all citizens of these United States. And as the States have surrendered their power to the General Government, it is bound in good faith to carry out the power for the general good of the whole people.

But the friends of these improvements, sir, have been charged with a violation of the constitution. We have been told that Congress has no power to make appropriations for such improvements, from whom does that allegation come? From the President of the United States and his party. Not all his party, sir; for a portion at least of them who occupy seats on this floor have come up and sustained the right of Congress to make these appropriations. The President talks about strict construction of the constitution. In one of the closing paragraphs of his celebrated veto message he says:

"In the meantime I deem it proper to add that the investigation on this subject has increased me more strongly than ever with the solemn conviction that the usefulness and permanency of this Government, and the happiness of the millions over whom it spreads its protection, will be best promoted by carefully abstaining from the exercise of all powers not clearly granted by the constitution."

Yes sir, "carefully abstaining from the exercise of all powers not clearly granted by the constitution." That *all* sounds very well sir. If the President's position was in accordance with his faith, he would be an exemplary statesman, indeed. But I would like to propound to his excellency two or three questions on this subject. I would like to know in what clause of the constitution he has found power to create a Foreign Government in this Union? I would like to know in what part of the constitution he finds power to extend our laws over China? And yet he recommended in his annual message that our laws should be extended over the people of China. The President would confer an obligation on me and on this House if, under his rule of strict construction, he would point out the section and paragraph of the constitution whence he derives that power? I would like to know, too, whence he derives his power to authorize a survey of the Dead Sea? I would like to know whence he derives his power after he has conquered by the arms of this Union a neighboring republic, or even portions of its territory, to establish a system of civil government in Mexico? Yes, sir, by a single dash of the same pen that wrote the passage which I have just read, our revenue laws are extended over the Republic of Mexico. I should like exceedingly, to hear from the President, or from some friend of his on this floor, whence the President derives his power to establish a system of civil government in New Mexico, or California, or Tamaulipas, or Coahuila, or Santa Fe; or to authorize a survey of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec? What is the object of the survey of that isthmus? Why says a gentleman near me, it is for the purpose of making a canal or railroad. I suppose it will be a canal.

So then the President derives power from the constitution to go into the territory of a sister republic and conquer it, and then go to work to make canals there, while we are told we have not power to improve the great highways that nature has made in our own country, which are laid down on our maps. Why, it would seem from this hasty review of the subject that the constitution was made for the benefit of foreign nations, and not of this country. Every thing that tends to benefit the people of foreign countries must be constitutional, while all that is calculated to benefit foreign trade and foreign nations is perfectly constitutional. When our forefathers framed this sacred instrument they were egregiously in error, if this construction is true. They thought they were adopting a form of constitution which would be beneficial to the people of this country. That opinion was shadowed forth in the preamble: "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America." But that was all a mistake and a delusion. Our forefathers were making and establishing a constitution for the benefit of foreign nations, and for the welfare of other countries.

He went on to say, that if it was possible that such an instrument could have been framed by the makers of the constitution, and by any fair interpretation be susceptable of being so perverted.

Gentlemen may talk about the constitution as much as they will, but, as was not inappropriately said in jest by the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. ——) you have no constitution. Has the constitution ever stood in the way of the party now in power? Has it prevented any thing which the President and his ministers have thought proper to carry out? All power is now vested in the dominant party; and so long as that party shall continue to reign, whatever does not square with the views and purposes of the party is unconstitutional; while, on the other hand, whatever they wish to accomplish, be it what it may, is all perfectly constitutional. All the powers of this Government are rapidly concentrating in the person of the President. Gentlemen talk about the Balkinas more resolutions and but of paralyzing the will of the people; but what is it that the President can ask that he has not always got, so long as he had a majority in this House? What great measure, whether of a financial or of any other kind, has not been first proposed by the President or by one of the heads of Department who have been selected to do his pleasure? I detest, I abominate and abhor this one-man power. I am utterly opposed to a consolidated government. What I mean by consolidated government is what has been pointed out by gentlemen on the other side? How eloquently they can declaim against the threatening dangers of a consolidated government; yet what else is our Government at this hour? All power, the whole Government, is now virtually in the President, and he wields and exercises it just as he pleases. Let a man have the boldness to differ from his views and let him have the temerity to avow that difference on this floor, and he is denounced in the Union he loved as best as twenty-four hours. Forthwith he must walk the plank. He had but one alternative, either to stand on the platform with the Executive or to be pushed into the sea. And that is not consolidation? Certainly not consolidation! Not at all. Measures are rolled by the President and the President is elected by the people: ergo, whatever measures he wishes are the measures of the people, and his will is the will of the people. That is the argument. But I go for a truly popular Government, by which I mean a Government in which all great measures of public policy originate with the people themselves.

But time will not allow me to dwell longer on this question of the constitutionality of the bill. Suffer me on this point to read a short extract from a letter addressed by a very distinguished gentleman, to whom I presume gentlemen will not object as a high constitutional authority. I refer to the letter of Col. Benton.. What does he say? I will read it for the benefit of our friends over the way:

"The lake and river navigation of the Great West, to promote which the Convention is called, very early had a share of my attention, and I never had a doubt of the constitutionality or expediency of bringing that navigation within the circle of internal improvement by the Federal Government, when the object to be improved should be one of general and national importance."

A voice. "That will not be admitted as good authority now."

Mr. H. 'Possibly it may not be now: for they change their principles so often that one can scarcely tell what they are: it once was good authority.

I propose now to call the House to the importance, necessity, and propriety of appropriating money, and that with no stinted hand, but to an extent commensurate with the magnitude of the great interests involved, to the improvement of our Western rivers.

I shall be forced to confine my attention to some of the great points in the Mississippi valley, and unwilling to omit a reference to the trade of the lakes and the propriety of improving the large harbors. Other gentlemen who will follow me will do ample justice to that subject. If I say nothing now on that part of the subject, it is not because I do not most ardently desire to see those great interests regarded and provided for as they deserve to be: but my time is limited, and I fear I shall not have opportunity to say half I desire and intended. I refer gentlemen on that subject, to the report of the Chicago Convention, and to the official survey of the lakes by our topographical engineers submitted during the present session.

What is the extent of the great Mississippi valley?

It is a vast fertile valley extending from the sources of the Mississippi in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south, and from the Alleghenny Mountains on the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west.

But yesterday this vast region was an unbroken wilderness, now it embraces eleven entire States, with parts of two others, and two Territories. It contains about 1,900,000 square miles, or 768,000,000 of acres—more than ten times as large as the kingdom of Great Britain—containing a population of nearly 12,000,000; equal to that of all the Atlantic States, and nearly equal to one half the population of the kingdom of Great Britain—*that being* 27,530,105.

Cast your eyes into the future for a period of only sixty years, and suppose the population to increase in the same ratio of the past sixty years, (doubling every ten years,) at the end of that period you would see spread over this fertile valley, if capable of sustaining them, more than six hundred million of human beings! Make every reasonable deduction in this calculation, and your children now living will see the population of this valley equal at least to that of the whole of Europe:—Europe comprises 61 independent States, of these 3 are empires, 19 kingdoms, 7 grand duchies, 4 electoral, 11 duchies, 1 landgraviate, 11 principalities, 1 lordship, 1 ecclesiastical state, and 9 republics." The, population of the whole is about two hundred and forty millions.

What is the length of the navigable and of the boatable rivers in this great valley? On this subject permit me to quote from the same document. I mean Col. Benton's letter to the Chicago Convention:

"Many years ago the late Governor Clarke and myself undertook to calculate the extent of the boatable water in the valley of the Mississippi: we made it about 50,000 miles, of which 30,000 were computed to unite above St. Lofiis, and 20,000 below. Of course we counted all the infant streams on which a flat, a keel, or a bateau could be floated, and justly; for every tributary, of the humblest boatable character, helps to swell not only the volume of the central waters, but of the commerce upon them."

An official report states the length of streams navigable by steamboats at 16,000 miles. The navigation of these "inland seas," these mighty rives, is obstructed by rocks, snags, sandbars, and "They need the fostering hand of Government to improve them, what nature designed them to be, the great arteries of this immense region of country, along which shall flow, free and unobstructed, its commerce, its agricultural products, its mineral wealth and its manufactures.

We invoke the fostering hand of the General Government to improve the navigation of these great national highways, and thus increase the facility of bringing the agricultural products of the interior to a market. We have not the vast advantages enjoyed by our brethren of the Atlantic or on the Gulf. We are shut in between two vast chains of mountains; but we believe our Government has the power to confer on us a benefit so greatly needed, and we call on it to exert that power for good.

And here let me invite the attention of the House to the increase of the commerce and agriculture of this great valley, exhibiting a growth as astonishing and almost incredible as that of its navigation.

The first vessel which navigated our streams was the frail Indian canoe, constructed of bark.—This sort of vehicle has even yet scarcely ceased; and, though the Indian war-whoop had scarcely ceased to echo through our forests, these rivers are already covered with steamers of the largest size. Next came the Mackinaw boat, carrying from 1,500 pounds to three tons; and next came the keelboat, or barge, of from thirty to forty tons. With these the commerce increased from three to four months in a year, which navigated our streams. Now it leans to St. Louis. In 1819 the voyage occupied a steamboat twenty-seven days. Now it is accomplished in less than four days.

The annual exports from the lower part of the Mississippi valley for the year 1802 amounted to about $2,100,000, and the imports to about $2,500,000. For the year 1846 the receipts from the upper country at New Orleans amounted to $77,194,461. In 1847, when steam was first introduced upon the Ohio, the whole commerce, from New Orleans to the upper country was transported in about twenty barges, of an average of 100 tons each, and making one trip in a year. The number of keel boats on the Ohio was about 150, carrying thirty tons each. The whole tonnage was estimated at between 6 and 7000 tons.

In 1836 (a period of nineteen years) the number of steamboats on the Mississippi and its tributaries was 1230, and their tonnage 99,000.

In 1840 the number of steamboats, 255 ton 49,500
1842 " " 450 " 90,000
1843 " " 672 " 134,400
1844 " " 680 " 144,150
1845 " " 792 " 165,713
1846 " " 1190 " 249,050
1847 " about 1200

The value of the property transported in 1847 was—

Western produce shipped at New Orleans	$81,912,810
Produce shipped from port to port for home consumption	90,000,000
Shipped through Pittsburgh and the canals for the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi	81,000,000

Total value of produce shipped, $253,912,810

It is estimated that the foreign merchandize, coin, bullion, and other articles received in exchange amount to the same sum. The value of the property, then, shipped on the Mississippi and its tributaries would amount in one year to the sum of say $500,000,000, a sum far exceeding in value all our commerce with foreign nations.

Mr. Hampton here gives the statistics embodied in Mr. Bigham's report which we are compelled to omit.

About ten millions of bushels of coal from the Monongahela and about seventy-five millions of feet of lumber from the Allegheny river descend the Ohio every year.

Other statistical details, which rest on the highest authority, it will appear that the internal commerce of our great Western valley amounts in value to double that of the foreign commerce of the country. Yet, notwithstanding this well authenticated fact, while we send ambassadors, charges, and consuls to all the countries of the world and maintain fleets in every sea; while we spend millions on millions for the protection of foreign commerce, not a dollar is expended to aid this great interest of the people of the valley of the Mississippi valley. We do not complain of what you do for the foreign commerce of the country, it is all as it should be; what we complain of, and justly is that while this is the commerce double in amount get not a dollar for ours

We are taxed to sustain this Government; we fight your battles. I know not how many men may have gone from the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Smith) over the way, but I do know that five companies were mustered in in the county of Allegheny alone, whose numbers, according to our latest accounts, have dwindled down so that the average diminution averages twenty-four men, to each company. We bear your burdens; we sustain your interests; we pay your taxes; and all we ask in return is the fostering hand of our own Government to protect so vast an interest as I have stated. Nor do we beg this as a favor. No; the West asks no favors, as she shrinks from no responsibilities. We demand it as our right.

Mr. HAMPTON's hour here expired.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Correspondence of Pittsburgh Gazette.

CONGRESS.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1846.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

In the House, the Speaker announced as the first thing in order, the business on the table, viz: Petitions from the different States. Many of which were offered and referred.

Mr. Singerland offered a resolution providing for the sale of Public Lands at 50 cents per acre to actual settlers, in order to guard against extortions and speculation. Laid on the table.

Mr. Johnston, of Tenn., offered a resolution declaring that farmers and mechanics should not be overlooked in the dispensation of the spoils of office.

A resolution was also introduced to change the office of the Supreme Court Judges to a term of years instead of for life both of which were laid on the table.

The Speaker then laid before the House sundry communications from the Executive Department relating to Ocean Navigation, Patents and the Mails, which were ordered to be printed.

On motion, the House then adjourned.

Exclusive Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette
PHILADELPHIA MARKET.
PHILADELPHIA, March 13, 4 P. M.

Flour—Moderate sales were effected to-day at $6 per bbl.

Grain—Sales of good prime Red at $1 30@1 33 per bu. Sales of prime Yellow Corn at 51c per bu.

Corn Meal—The market is quiet at $2,25 per bbl.

Whiskey—Sales are offered at 25c per gall.

Provisions are steady and Groceries are quiet.

Exclusive Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette
BALTIMORE MARKET.
Baltimore, March 13, 3 P. M.

Flour—The market is heavy, and I hear of limited sales only of H. S. brands at $6 per bbl.

Corn Meal—Sales at $2,50 per bbl.

Rye Flour—Market quiet, with moderate sales at $4 per bbl.

Grain—Sales of prime Red Wheat at 133@135 per bu. Sales of prime White Corn 43@46c per bu, and of prime Yellow at 48c per bu. Rye is selling to a moderate extent at 80c per bu.

Clover seed—Sales at $4,25 per bu.

Provisions are without change with a fair inquiry in the market.

Groceries—The market is quiet, with no change in quotations.

Whiskey—Sales at 24c per gall.

Exclusive Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette
NEW YORK MARKET.
New York, March 13, 3 P. M

FLOUR—The Market is firm, with a good Eastern and home demand. Moderate sales of Genesee at $6,25@6,62½, and of good Western at $6,431 per bbl. Sales of Southern (N. O.) at $6,25@6,37 per bbl.

Grain—Holders of Wheat are very firm, and buyers do not meet them. Other grains are in steady demand at previous rates, excepting Corn, in which less is doing, and the market tending downward. Prime White Wheat is held at 130c per bu, but buyers do not appear. Sales of prime White Corn at 52c, and prime Yellow is selling at 55c per bushel.

Mess Pork—Sales of Western No 1. at 10,37½ per bbl. There is less movement in Pork the market being heavy.

Mess Beef—Sales of Western No 1, at $8,12½ per bbl.

Lard—Western is scarce with sales at 8c per lb market firm. The market for beef is weaker.

Cornmeal—Sales at $2,50 per bbl.

Oats—Sales at 48@49c per bu.

To the Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette

GENTLEMEN—I shall regard it as a final favor if you will insert in your paper of to-row the statement published in the Post of this ning. over my signature, addressed "TO THE PUBLIC." I would make this request of the Editor of Journal, but I do not cherish the belief that he is capable of the manliness to do me an act of justice, of retracting and repeating the gross slander which he deemed it my duty to take notice of. I anxious that this statement of facts shall be placed in hands of your respectable Whig readers, many whom are my personal friends. Yours truly.

L. HARPER.

Editor of the Ring Post:

Pittsburgh, March 13, 1848.

TO THE PUBLIC.

It is extremely unpleasant, nay pain for me to engage in a personal controversy at time, or introduce before the readers of the Post letters of a private character, in relation to which patrons and the public can take no interest; but respect, and a duty I owe to my family as well myself, impels me to make a brief public statement, here, in regard to a difficulty in Cadiz, Ohio, during the Presidential campaign of 1844; and toil to silence forever, as I hope, the wanton amalicious falsehoods which have been published I circulated by certain newspapers concerning it.

The gross and wicked falsehood to wh I have reference, first appeared in the columns the Commercial Journal, of this city, about a year ago, and was to the effect, that I had been "tarred and castigated with a cowhide"—had "submitted to the disgrace of a cowhide," &c; while lding in Cadiz. I did not see proper, at that time to repel this malignant lie, because I was fully aded that there was not a respectable person in Jaburgh, Whig or Democrat, who believed it was true. The story was fabricated by my adversary, ar being foiled and driven to the wall, in a controversy with the Post, and when he was unable to find any substantial data upon which to base an argument or a reply.

At the time when the falsehood alluded to was published in the Journal, it so happened, that there were three gentlemen in this city, on siness, who resided in Cadiz, at the same time resided there, none of whom belong to the Democratic party. Two of these gentlemen, upon seing the article in the Journal, voluntarily, without my solicitation on my part, drew up statements, which I shall now take the liberty of publishing, or the first time; not for the purpose of whitening reputation, which, if I know my own heart, innurbled by a stain of reproach, or a dishonorable act; but to set the indelible brand of falsehood on a wanton calumny.

The first statement I shall introduce, was written by Dr. A. G. OSBUN, who is well known most of our citizens, as he formerly resided in ts city, and was the senior partner in the Drug Warhouse of OSBUN & HOGAN, at the corner of Fourth and Wood streets. Dr. O. is a decided Whig, bt is an estimable, high-minded and honorable man

PITTSBURGH, March 5th, 847.

L. HARPER, Esq.—Dear Sir:—I see in the Commercial Journal, published this morning, an article, stating, that while you resided in Cadiz, you we "assaulted and castigated with a cowhide" it is but an act of justice to you, for me to state, that nothing of the kind occurred during your residence in that place. This statement you may use if you think best, in order to remove an impression that might be injurious to you. Yours, respectfully,

A. G. OSBUN.

The following statement in reference to the same matter, was handed to me by M. H. URQUHART, Esq., formerly editor of the Liberty Advocate, at Cadiz, a very intelligent and highly respectable man. He is also known to a large number of our citizens:

PITTSBURGH, March 5, 1847.

L. HARPER, Esq.—Sir: Having my attention called to the Commercial Journal of this city of the 3d and 5th inst., in which I find it stated that you had, while residing in Cadiz, Ohio, been subjected to a disgraceful castigation with a "cowhide;" and having been myself a resident during the whole time of your stay in that place, I take pleasure in saying that the statement in the *Journal* is wholly without foundation in truth. You are at liberty to use this fact the purpose of satisfying any of your friends who might be led to give credence to the calumious statement alluded to above.

Yours, respectfully, M. H. URQUHART.

I shall now introduce the statement of W. R. ALLISON, Esq., formerly Editor of the Cadiz Republican, and now Editor and proprietor of the Steubenville Daily Herald and Gazette. Mr. ALLISON and myself have had many "warm engagements" with the pen, but in our private relations there always existed the best feelings—and I was as much astonishing to be gentlemen should meet, with a polite salutation or the cordial gr