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BY ERASTUS BROOKS & Co.

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

Whig and Anti-Masonic Nomination,
FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
HER MIDDLESWARTH,
OF UNION COUNTY.

Fugitives from Justice in Pennsylvania.

The Law Journal, for the present month, introduces the subject of the question at issue between the States of Pennsylvania and Maryland, growing out of an act of the Maryland Legislature, making it a felony for a slave to escape into any of the States of the Union against the will and consent of his master and owner, with a view to escape from servitude. This law was the authority of the Governor of Maryland for demanding from Governor Shunk that John Mark, and other persons named in the indictment, should be delivered up as fugitives from *justice*, not from *labor*. Governor Shunk referring to the Constitution for his guide, under the advice of the Attorney General, refused to comply with the demand made upon him. The Constitution contemplated the surrender of fugitives from labor, not from justice; and the State of Maryland could change neither the terms, nor the spirit of the Constitution, by legislative enactment. The act of Congress, of 1793, made it unnecessary that Maryland should pass any law upon the subject, as it required the surrender of fugitives from labor "on the claim of the party to whom such labor is due." It was the owner of the slave, and not the Governor, who had a right to make the demand; and the Law Journal argues this question, we think, to a just conclusion, in sustaining the decision of the State Executive, and upon the ground that the act of Maryland conflicted with the Federal Constitution.

The law of the State of Pennsylvania, passed in March 1847, and so much discussed at home, and denounced abroad, we must also think with the Law Journal, is no infringement of the Constitution. That act repealed all laws for the surrender of fugitives from labor, and abolived all State Judges from exercising authority in such cases. It presumed that Congress had no power to employ State Officers for the enforcement of Federal Legislation. The State not being bound to take original jurisdiction in such cases, left the Federal Government and Federal Officers to enforce the law in their own way. Nor does this much abused law of March 3d, 1847, in any way obstruct the act of Congress or the Constitution, as we have seen by the act of the Circuit Court, at the term held in this County, where the heavy fine of $500 was imposed by Judge Grier, upon a citizen charged with violating the act of Congress of 1793.

According to several decisions quoted by the Law Journal, state officers might act, if there were no prohibitions by State authority, as there are here, but a score of decisions might be quoted from both the northern and Southern Courts, going to show that the States are under no obligations to execute federal laws. According to a decision in the Virginia Courts, Congress has no power to con fer criminal jurisdiction upon State Courts or officers. In the celebrated Rig case, Chief Justice Taney sustains the act of the Pennsylvania Legislature by declaring "that State officers are not bound to execute the duties imposed upon them by Congress, unless they choose to do so, or are required to do so by a law of the State, and the State Legislature, has the power, if it thinks proper to prohibit them."

Such authority as this, we should think would be deemed orthodox in the Slave States, for the much abused Law of the Pennsylvania Legislature. We are glad that the law is as it is, and that the State authorities do not require her Courts or citizens to volunteer for the arrest of those escaping from Slavery. We do not interfere with the Constitution, nor with the law of Congress, while it remains upon the Statute book, but seek not to be too eager to lay our clutches upon any man who may be seeking his personal liberty.

The Post has at last announced that it is in possession of a statement demonstrating the prosperity of the iron trade. With abundance of flourish it proceeds to say that—

"The fact which we shall adduce is this—the Messrs. Shoenberger own one of the largest iron manufacturing establishments in our country. We have before us a statement of the amount and value of the business done in this vast establishment—in the manufacture of boiler and sheet iron, bar iron, nail cutting, and the manufacture of steel.... The whole amount of their annual business, in these several manufactures, was valued, in June last, at seven hundred and ten thousand dollars, and the cost of the materials used in the manufacture, at three hundred and eighty two thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars. The manufactured articles taken to make up the first of these great sums are—35,080 kegs of nails, 3,000 tons of bar iron, 1,500 tons of boiler and sheet iron, &c., and about 240 tons of spring and blister steel. Estimating the expense of manufacturing these articles here at a higher rate than they have been computed to cost elsewhere, the profits on these manufactures would amount to the very handsome sum of two hundred and five thousand dollars, (say $200,000,) or fifty per cent upon the investment, after deducting all expenses, (excepting, perhaps, that of house rent; and assuming, as we do, that the different articles referred to, can be manufactured as cheaply here as elsewhere, we are fully justified in stating the clear profits at fifty per cent upon their whole investment."

We are glad the Post has at last touched bottom, and amid all its flummery, given a "*fact.*" We now demand the publication of the statement you allude to. We want to draw our own inference from your premises, and make our own calculations of profit. *Perhaps they may not amount to fifty per cent.* Out with it—so that the people of Pittsburgh can see how fortunes are made. Spare us your political homily, and let us have your facts. Perhaps, as you have before stated—

"The iron men do not want to be made the subjects of a political controversy. But if the leading organ of the Whig Party in Western Pennsylvania persists in using them as a weapon against the Democratic Party, and they remain passive instruments of a newspaper mendacity, we shall be compelled to publish statements of their business, obtained from themselves, with commentaries that will open the eyes of Democrats, in other sections of the Union, on the subject of the profits of iron men under the Tariff of 1846."

You have dragged the names of iron manufacturers into the controversy, and we now *persist* in terminating the Democracy, by once more asking for the facts. We are put in the *preface*, as yet, of the subject.

At a meeting in Washington, on the 28th, in honor of the French Revolution, Mr. Cass apologized for his work on the "King and Court of France," in which Louis Philippe is so highly maligned. Hey, Mr. Cass, do not turn your back on us in this fried, because he is in adversity.—[Transcript.

Why not? Would you have the distinguished Senator inconsistent with himself. In four years he has been against and for the annexation of Texas—for and against the Wilmot Proviso—opposite and frigid in regard to River and Harbor improvements; and why should he not retract his eulogies of Louis Philippe, when it is popular to denounce that discarded monarch? General Cass belongs to the class of men who prefer a live jackass to a dead lion.—*Balt. Jour.*

St. Louis, April 9.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.—A fire broke out in No. 24 (Levee,) last night. The building was a large store owned by Richard Gerner Wood, of Pittsburgh, and occupied by B. P. Pratt, Groves, Catherwood, Rector, Mathews, Commission House.

The whole loss is about $20,000, on which amount there was an insurance of $13,000. Catherwood's loss is $7,000, insured for $5,000. His books were in a safe and secured from damage.

Nos. 23 and 25, occupied by Ruth, Ray, Helfenstein, Gore and Ramsey, were much injured, but the insurance will cover the loss.—*Jour.*

A HARD QUESTION.—A St. Louis paper asks the Union whether the sending Lieut. Gillespie, disguised as a merchant through Mexico to California, to join Lieut. Fremont, who was surveying in California, and both to act vigorously there six months before the commencement of hostilities, was right or wrong, provided Mr. Polk had not determined to commence the conquest of that country so soon as he could provoke hostilities.

PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The bill has passed its final reading in the Senate of this State.

THE Vienneese children are at St. Louis, and may be expected in our city in the course of the Spring months.

Colonel Tolten and family, passed through our city on Saturday.

Editorial Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

British Possessions in North America.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1848.

The President has appointed a Minister to Guatemala, under authority recently given him by Congress. The object of the mission is not so much to look after the interests of Brother Jonathan, as to keep a vigilant eye to John Bull, whose movements upon the Mosquito Coast have recently been the subject of much remark. This Mosquito Coast, so called, covers about 40,000 square miles, and the claimant, alike distinguished for modesty and moderation, has enlarged this Mosquito boundary, recently, by extending his claim to the river San Juan de Nicaragua, in the neighborhood of the 11th parallel of latitude. The Mosquito people are a tribe of Indians, insignificant as to numbers, and still more degraded in character. There is a connection with the country nearly a century old, but under treaty stipulations with Spain, the English claim was surrendered to the Spanish Government, and the country abandoned. The coast was a portion of the old Spanish possessions in America, and became a part of Central America, and is now of the States of Honduras and Nicaragua. The territory, we are told, abounds with rich forests of Mahogany and other valuable woods, both upon the coast and for many miles in the interior. Spice, indigo, cochineal, and hides are also sent from this coast. A late British Minister says the right of his country extends from the Cape of Honduras down to the mouth of the river San Juan. This King, in fact, is a small boy, living in the house of a British Consul, and, according to the speech of Mr. Dix, of N. Y., made a few days since, his subjects consist of a few hundred naked Indians.

It is well for Brother Jonathan to keep an eye upon John Bull, and between the two, the King of the Mosquetoes will no doubt be well taken care of, as well as his few hundred naked Indians.—What have we, of right, or what has England to do with these people? The crying sin of the age is that of the greater powers of the world using that power to oppress the weak and helpless. The only remedy to be found probably lies in a Congress of Nations, where the smaller powers shall be represented, and suffered to exert their just influence among the nations of the earth. The Congress of Vienna parceled out governments at its will and pleasure, and one would hardly regret to see all despotisms shaken to their foundations, and all governments upholding any form of despotism, if the remedy were an appeal to the principles of equal and exact justice. If the United States was less ambitious, less aggrandizing, less insincere than she is, with what a moral force—the force of great example—could she preach to the governments abroad! but when we carry on wars of conquest, allow the authority of the Government, in all its departments, to be used and abused by one man, we have not the power to retort, or the boldness to venture upon a rebuke for an offence common to ourselves.

It was good Democracy, in Jefferson's day, to keep clear of all entangling alliances, too; but now we are following bad European examples, and paying more heed to foreign things than to ourselves.

E. R.

The Question of Privilege.

The Circuit Court yesterday gave another long sitting to the case of the arrest and custody of Mr. Nugent. The counsel for the prisoner had the argument pretty much to himself, having the privilege of a reply to the counsel for the Senate. The popular appeal being upon the side of Mr. Bradley, he used it to the utmost, and gloried in the boast that he was the first counsel to whom had been entrusted the resistence of an arbitrary act committed by the Senate, in depriving an American citizen of his liberty, after having tried him in secret session, and without counsel. It was argued, of course, that the court had power to release the prisoner, and that the court did not bring itself in conflict with the Senate, by setting the prisoner free. The decision would be in behalf of a citizen against an unconstitutional act of the Senate.—The Supreme Court have so far decided upon this question, in the case of Anderson and Dunn, which was tried many years gone by, as to give the Senate a legal precedent to hold one in custody for contempt; but some legal exceptions to the cause of the action, and other matters, are taken in the case now before the court.

The Senate, I understand, claim no power over the Departments—supposing the Treaty to have been furnished by any one of them; but from him who had the Treaty, and who furnished it, they claim the power to know where he derived it, in order to punish any one of their own body, if any one is guilty. The case is a very delicate one for the Court, but will be decided without fear or favor. The Senate, no doubt, will seek to remove the case of doubt, as to its power to punish contempt, by the passage of a law for the guidance of those who may be disposed to interfere with Executive Proceedings and confidential Documents.

E. R.

Harbor and River Improvements.

A report has been made to the Senate, at its present session, giving a statement of appropriations for the construction and repair of roads, and for the improvement of harbors and rivers in the United States; and showing, as far as practicable, the amount expended in each State."

The statement commences with the year 1806, and enumerates all the objects of improvement of roads, harbors and rivers, and the appropriations in their favor for each year, up to and including 1845, going uninterruptedly through every Administration during that long period of years.

It appears from this official document that the whole amount expended on all those objects during that period, not including expenses of surveys, was $17,198,222. Of this amount there was expended—

Under Mr. Jefferson		$48,400
" " Madison		250,800
" " Monroe		706,000
" " J. Q. Adams		2,310,475
" " Gen. Jackson		10,589,852
" " Van Buren		2,222,544
" " Tyler		1,070,500

This gives an aggregate sum of 17,198,222, and for the period of forty years, through which it extends, makes an annual average of about $430,000.

The first thing that will strike the reader of this statement, is the gradual increase of the expenditures up to Gen. Jackson's administration, when the climax of over ten millions and a half was reached. The next thing for remark is the fact, that these expenditures were commenced under Democratic rule, and were greatest under the administration which is regarded by the party now in power, as the beginning of their peculiar organization.

It is thus demonstrated, that at no time in the history of the government, and under no party, were appropriations by the General Government, for the improvement of harbors or rivers, held to be unconstitutional; and that the pretence now attempted to be set up for withholding the aid of the General Government from such works,—that it is not within the constitutional authority of Congress to lend such aid—is a new fangled notion of the new fangled democracy, which now rules in the White House.

The National Intelligencer publishes a full synopsis of the document, from which the above facts are collated, and enters in an historical examination of the progress of these improvements. From this it is made manifest, that up to the era of Locofoco rule, that the only limit upon the General Government, in improving harbors and rivers, whether they are in the West or the East, or the North or the South, was the general usefulness of such improvement and the necessity of making it at the time.

The cession of Louisiana was not obtained until 1805, nor was the use of steam introduced into our waters until after that time. The war of 1812 gave to us a knowledge which we did not before possess of the value and importance of the Lakes. Florida was ceded in 1819. It was therefore, as the National Intelligencer says of necessity, after these events, that the General Government had the information required, and felt the necessity of improving its Eastern rivers and Lake harbors, as well as the harbors on the more extended line of sea coast. It would have been worse than useless to attempt it before, and singularly unmindful of the great and increasing interests of the country to have neglected it after. We accordingly find, after the events stated, and as the Lake and Western river country became known and inhabited, that the system of harbor and river improvements expanded itself. In a word, as the country expanded, as its western regions became inhabited, as its great rivers and lakes and its Atlantic harbors became better known, as its internal and external commerce increased, means of rendering navigation "easy and safe" a principle adopted by the first law on these subjects of the first Congress of the United States—had to be commensurately extended.

And this necessity still existing, the duty of the General Government to make these improvements remains intact, and unless the West is false to herself, the Government will be held to the faithful performance of the duty.—*Balt. Patriot.*

IMPORTS OF BAR IRON.—We repeat the details, in relation to the imports at New York, adding another day's work.

Monday,	20,488 bars	. . .	850 tons
Tuesday,	10,004 "	. . .	523 "
Wednesday,	16,436 "	. . .	470 "
Totals,	46,928		2143

Forty six thousand nine hundred and thirty eight bars, and twenty one hundred and forty three tons.

BRANCH MINT AT NEW YORK.—A bill is before the Senate of the United States providing for the establishment of a branch mint in the city of New York.

STATE VALUATION.

To the Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

The annexed letter has been forwarded to me, with the request of the writer to furnish the same for publication. As the article replied to, appeared in your columns, the answer should take the same channel.

The interest evinced by its patriotic author in the proceedings of the Board, of which he was the most experienced member, has no doubt, prompted this explanation. His moderation, impartiality, great practical and legal talent, well justified the selection of the City and County of Philadelphia, in inducing him to sacrifice the valuable results of his high professional exertions at the Bar, and insisting on his assuming a second time, the arduous, invidious and unprofitable office of Revenue Commissioner. His character will entitle his every word to the greatest respect and influence.

After having discharged this ungracious duty to the County, in a manner which may be best described by others, who witnessed it, I feel no further personal solicitude as to the result, than may arise from the difficulty of raising the taxes, which amount to thirty three per cent. of any limited revenue from taxable property, and the preservation of some board of Revision, which returns may prove as much our protection as it now seems to be the subject of censure. The truth is, from my study and intimate connection with this affair, I believe the County can gain nothing *now*, by an agitation of this subject. If they had sought to say why the sentence they have received should not have been passed upon them they had their day and hour before that Board approached the subject, by sending testimony in answer to the interrogations circulated through the County. Mr. Price assured Mr. Bigham and others who declined to testify, when called by the former Board, so neither did he nor any other officers or citizens forward a single reposne supporting by proof the sufficient approach of our assessments to their real value.—It is to be presumed that the financial fact assumed by him as a political economist was not withheld when this opportunity was offered him to correct the depreciated results in order and that fault might be found with the decision of the Board on the imperfect materials furnished to them after every exertion to procure more had failed of success. It is more charitable to believe that they were not forwarded because they did not exist.

The manner in which this County slipped thro' the first Board was regarded so objectionable that the whole machinery of the second was remodeled led to prevent the occurrence of such a result to this or any other county and every one was held in suspense, so as to remain subject at *any period to the action of a majority.* The time at which any County was acted on became immaterial and its safety from retaliation could not be used to bear heavily on the counties in the rear of the alphabet. Without reflecting on my predecessor who done his duty conscientously there, as every where, the pressure attributed to him on the old counties, was no doubt changed to the immunity gained for the county, under the rules which it was the first act of the present board to abolish and then increasing study and ability was directed to raising our county, to raise her as they had been raised themselves. They are receding relatively in prosperity, and felt the inflictions of the Board most bitterly, but bore them with patience and resignation. We escaped them by the rigid enforcement of the legislative manual and have in truth to thank that for four years exemption.

The review of the whole ground would show little cause of complaint in the whole course of the Board. For example, there was no distinctive return of the county for state purposes made for the year 1847 and 1848 and the same made up to this hour for the year 1848, as required by law. Our tax laws being complex and obscure, that such obedience to them is almost impractable. The Board were therefore under the necessity of making four estimates for the year 1848 to supply the want of an actual return, and assumes the amount which has been added as not more than equivalent for what would be realized in this additional year, and the result will justify their opinion—as the increase of the amount for that year will produce all the advance required and there will be no occasion for a fraction of a mill increase on our rates.

I most earnestly implore my fellow-citizens to beware how they disturb this question. Some may have an object I cannot see in raising a breeze about it, but most certainly the citizens of the county at large have nothing to gain by such a course. Let every man ask himself the question, whether his individual property is assessed at the standard fixed by law, viz: "*What we would be seen sell for, if sold singly and separately at a bona fide sale, after full public notice.*"

And to no person could this inquiry be more appropriately addressed in respect and good will than the gentleman whose observations have called forth the annexed letter. If contrary to anxious and interested advice they shall vex themselves for what will prove to be trifles, I must abide the result with them for, let who will escape taxation in this country, my lot is here and I have no place beside.

JAMES S. CRAFT.

LETTER FROM ELI K. PRICE, REVENUE COMMISSIONER OF PHILADELPHIA.

The address of T. J. Bigham Esq. to the tax payers of Allegheny County, has just reached me.—It is to be regretted, that it was made before full explanation could be received from the able representative from that County in the Revenue Board.

The data of the calculation was apparently correct, but the increase of tax upon that County is erroneously deduced, because the writer was not aware of all the proceedings of the Board. The returns made by the Commissioners of the County, was the basis of the proposition submitted by the representative and was as follows.

Property subject to 3 mill tax	$18,222,517.	Yielding a tax of . . . $54,967
Property subject to 1 per cent	$1,529,562,	yielding a tax of . . . $15,295
Property subject to 2 per cent	$6,950,	yielding a tax of . . . 138
		$70,390
The Revenue Board adjusted the valuation thus,		
Property subject to 3 mill tax	22,155,856,	yielding a tax of . . . $66,467
Property subject to 1 per cent	729,562	yielding a tax of . . . $5,295
Property subject to 2 per cent	30,950	yielding a tax of . . . $618
		$72,378

Difference of amount of tax annually as increased by the Board but $1986, instead of $5572.01, as Mr. Bigham has supposed it out.

That gentleman thinks there was not legal evidence before the Board to justify its decision.—Perhaps not. But the absence of explanation after an opportunity has been afforded, has been, and neglected may be some ground for action. The Board knew that interrogatories have been addressed to many citizens of Allegheny County; a number had visited the capital; the indefatigable representative, had addressed many letters as well as messages by Telegraph which had produced no explanatory response to the Board. Nearly all the testimony received came from one of the County commissioners, whose own work was the subject of revision. And there was other testimony available to the Commissioners—both written from the County to the Auditor General, and in the personal knowledge of members of the Board who were well acquainted with the taxable property of Allegheny County—its value, and the valuation for assessment, derived from inquiries personally made. It would have been a great relief to the members, if full explanation had been made, but in its absence they are bound by their oaths to act on the knowledge they possessed. The writer would have preferred leaving the tax of the County just where the commissioners return placed it, after correcting the error of that return and advocated and voted accordingly. Yet he thinks as between that County and the State, there can be little room for complaint, excepting only that a few of the other Counties were not raised as much as they should have been.

Mr. Bigham then refers to loud complaints existing in the legislature for the past four years that Allegheny did not pay her full quota of State taxes. This is true, and it is true that such complaints existed out of, as well as in the legislature, and no doubt that this dissatisfaction increased the difficulties Mr. Crail had to contend with in our Board. But this was not all; for the minutes of the former board, as well as the recollection of cotemporaries made it manifest that Allegheny being at the head of the Assessment tax passed through that Board at an early day of its session upon imperfect testimony, and before a reconsideration was moved for and obtained, rule reported by her own representative had placed her beyond the reach of reconsideration, and that subsequent efforts to get Mr. Bigham and other citizens of that County, then in Harrisburg, to become witnesses proved unavailing. The contribution of Allegheny county was thus, at that time left under an estimate of $14,669,925 and all who know her enterprise and successful manufacturing business and mineral resources, believed this to be greatly deficient when compared with those of other counties. It was the only error committed by the able and distinguished gentleman who represented that County on that occasion—whose services were felt so invaluable for the general welfare of the State, and his too great zeal for his immediate constituents has made the increase now the more manifest, yet when calmly reviewed, it will be found more in the appearance than in the reality.

These causes placed the representative in the late Board in a difficult and unenviable position; but he did all that Man could do, to explain, convince, persuade and satisfy the members of the Board, and the humble component part of the writer to moderate their justice, in consideration of the lenity of their judgement, in other quarters, but there prevailed with the majority an unavailing sternness of decision, proceeding from a conscientious conviction that all were bound to respect.

The constitutionality of the Board of Revenue commissioners is next question by the learned correspondent, and especially that their appointment proceeded from the Judiciary. This I think must proceed from a misapprehension of the functions of the Board. It is not to levy a tax—it is only to adjust to a scale of equality the valuation of taxable property. He can put it higher or lower according to his best judgment. This is all the Revenue Commissioners can do. It is the legislature, and it only fixes the rates of taxation, or the County and municipal authorities, within the limits prescribed by the Legislature. That the Judiciary appoints the Revenue Commissioners is the best feature in the law. It is some guaranty that the Board shall exhibit no political complexion or bias, but perform their duties in a judicial manner, upon fixed principles, uninfluenced by party or sectional jealousy, under a predominating feeling of devotion to the best interests of the Commonwealth.

This brief vindication is deemed due to the Board and the representative from Allegheny; and is offered in the kindest feeling and highest respect from Mr. Bigham and the people of Allegheny.

April 3d. 1848. ELI K. PRICE.

CHEAP TRAVELLING.—So great is the opposition on the Hudson this spring, that the fare is reduced to 25 cents from New York to Albany.

Review of the British Corn Trade.

DURING THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 6.

Written exclusively for the Mark Lane Express.

The twelve months for which the Corn Laws of 1846 were suspended, in consequence of the failure of the potato crop in 1847, expired on the 1st instant, and for one year from this time importations from abroad will be subject to the payment of a moderate scale of duties, regulated by the average prices of the different descriptions of grain: On wheat 6s. per quarter, and 2s 6d, on all other grain; on flour 3s 9d per bbl, and 2s 6d per sack. The immediate effect of the cessation of totally free importation will probably be to inspire holders with more confidence, and some slight advance in prices may perhaps ensue. We are, however, still of opinion that in the existing state of affairs no material rise can occur in the value of breadstuffs, unless brought about by circumstances of which nothing can at present be known, such as bad weather in the spring or summer, or political events, resulting from the recent occurrences in France.

Looking at matters as they now stand, there is no reason for supposing that supplies will not prove fully equal to meet the demand so long as the latter continues to be only for real consumption. A speculative demand, founded on future contingencies, would of course alter affairs; but after the disastrous results of the past year's experience, we are inclined to think that capitalists will be cautious how they embark in fresh investments in corn.

The vast quantity of rain which fell during the month just terminated, has flooded some of the low lands, and the soil is generally too wet to allow of its being immediately worked, with advantage. The weather has, however, within this day or two, assumed a more settled appearance, and drying winds would soon absorb the superfluous moisture, and permit the plough to be brought into active operation. In regard to the aspect of the autumn sown wheat, the reports are still, on the whole, favorable; but it is admitted that a much longer continuance of wet might have proved prejudicial on some descriptions of land.

The tone of the wheat trade has undergone very little change since our last; sellers have endeavored to establish a small advance; and in some instances they have succeeded in obtaining rather more money for fine qualities, owing to the inferiority of the greater proportion of the wheat brought for sale; but the same want of activity by which the trade has so long been characterized has prevailed, and the operations have not been by any means extensive.

"SCOTT AND HIS ENEMIES."—Our paper yesterday, containing an article, under the above heading, in reference to Scott's arraignment before a court of inquiry, we presented also recent news from Mexico and from the court of inquiry itself, but which was received at the last hour, after the article was disposed of, and when it was too late to make any comments.

That we regret the trouble, adds a double measure of indignation and shame to the feelings with which the country must read the tale of Scott's wrongs. The government degrades him from his command—him, too, the General-in-chief and conqueror of Mexico,—he sends him, cashiers him, so to speak, and orders him before a court of inquiry to be tried upon charges brought by his subordinate, General Worth, whom the government, with scandalous partiality, had released from charges preferred against him by his commander. Well, General Scott submits, like an obedient soldier and good citizen, to every order and to every wrong; he appears before the court; and there, in that tribunal, the accuser, General Worth, withdraws the accusation against Scott, and the Court finds it has an innocent man before it, and nothing to try against him.

But, in the meanwhile, General Scott has been taken from the command of the army, and presented to the eyes of the world as a military culprit worthy of the harshest censure and deepest disgrace. The wrong has been done,—the innocent man has been punished.

It will be observed, also, that General Scott has, on his part, withdrawn from before the court the charges preferred by him against Lieut. Colonel Duncan. The reason for this is manifest enough; the court refused "to read the documents relating to the charge against Colonel Duncan."

We know not what the object of court the President has sent to Mexico, or what it is expected to do in black-balling or white-washing the characters of officers; but we know very well that when it refuses to read documents embracing the evidence in support of charges which it was appointed to try, it was the only step left for the accuser to withdraw the charges themselves.

Very probable, the charges against General Pillow will be abandoned in the same way and for the same reason and the Court of Inquiry will vanish away like a puff of smoke or a summer dust raised by a moment's whirlwind, changing nothing, hurting nothing in the lesser world below, and only leaving the old oak of Chippeway stripped of a few leaves or a little scarred by the bolt and blast of petty executive vengeance.

Yes, the Court of Inquiry will end in nothing—only that it will leave General Scott within his army, and his army without its General.—*North American.*

A VALUABLE ARTICLE.—Mr. William Blake, of Akron, Ohio, called on us two or three days ago, and exhibited an article that must, we think, become of great value. It was discovered some time since in the township of Sharon, Ohio, and is taken from an excavation in a rock about twenty feet deep, and spreading over some six or eight acres. The substance is black, resembling indigo, and about the consistency of cold tallow, when taken from the mine, but an exposure for a few days to the atmosphere, turns it to a hard slate or stone. It has been found upon analyzation to contain about one half silica, one fourth alumina, and one eighth pyrites of iron, with lesser proportions of magnesia, lime, and carbon. From the extraordinary character of the article, it is supposed by geologists who have visited the mine that there must be some fissure or crevice in the bottom of the ditch, through which, the article, in a liquid state, was ejected from below.

When the substance is taken out, dried, ground to a fine powder, mixed with linseed oil, and applied with a brush to either wood, tin, iron, cloth, paper, or bricks, and then exposed a few months to the atmosphere, it becomes a perfect slate, impervious to the action of the weather, or to fire; the weather serving only to turn it to stone, and burning it harder the longer it is exposed, while fire will cause the substance to which it is applied before the slate will give way.

We were shown specimens upon cloth and wood that were as fine specimens of school slate as we have ever seen, and would show pencil marks equally well, and not be susceptible of the highest polish, as we saw a piece upon wood that was polished, and had the appearance of the finest Egyptian black marble. The article is of much value, and we should suppose, for covering roofs, steam boats, dams, factories, buildings, and every thing else requiring protection from fire or the weather, or for fire proofs, carriages, or centre or pier tables, as it is in fact slate in a liquid state when applied, and in a few months acquires the solidity of the finest slate.

We learn from Mr. Blake, who has secured a patent for his discovery, that it is sold at his place at $3 per 100 lbs. which will cover the roof of a building thirty feet square, or nine hundred superficial feet.—*Nat. Intel.*

Central Rail Road.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted at a special meeting of the Board of Trade Association, on Thursday, the 6th instant.

WHEREAS, Unparalled exertions are now making by neighboring States, to divert to other routes the traffic and commerce of the Ohio, and its tributaries, which has so eminent a degree promoted the welfare of this County, and the prosperity of the whole Commonwealth:

Whereas, The provisions of the late supplement to the Charter of the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company, afford important facilities for a subscription to its stock by the County of Allegheny, by means of which the people would be in a great measure relieved from the Interest on the Loan necessary to meet such subscription, and other advantages would be secured, &c.

Whereas, Satisfactory assurances have been given by the officers of said company, that a subscription of a million of dollars from this county would be expended in an equal sum to be advanced by the city of Philadelphia, to be entirely expended on the Western Section of the line, and would insure the speedy completion of this great work, by the actual construction of a Railroad from this place through the Gap of the Allegheny, under the liberal charter recently granted by that State, would be rendered absolutely certain.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting it is highly desirable that the County of Allegheny should make a liberal subscription to the stock of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed, whose duty it shall be to confer with the County Commissioners, and devise the most efficient means of ascertaining the opinion of the citizens of the County, in relation to such a subscription, and report to a meeting to be held at this place on Thursday next, at 7, P. M.

The association have appointed Messrs. T Bakewell, T J Bigham, Jesse Carothers, W J Totten, and Joseph Pennock, that Committee.

☞ THE special attendance of dealers in Ready-Made Clothing is invited to the sale of over 5000 fashionable spring and summer garments on a credit of six months to be held at the store of John D. Davis, auctioneer, corner of Wood and Fifth sts., on Tuesday morning, the 11th instant, at 10 o'clock. This will be the largest and best sale of clothing ever held in this city, as the garments are fashionably cut and of good material, the whole of which are to be sold without reserve or limit, to the highest bidder. The goods will be sold in lots of from six to twelve garments each.

Catalogues will be ready and the goods open for examination early on the morning of the sale. ap10

NOTICE.—A stated meeting of the members of the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association and Mechanics' Institute, will be held at the Hall on Tuesday evening, April 11th, 1848, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

ap10:2t ROBERT FINNEY, Sec'y.

GREAT SUCCESS OF
Donnavan's Great Serial Panorama of Mexico, at Apollo Hall, 4th street.

THE highly flattering reception of this Great Moving Picture, by the citizens of Pittsburgh and vicinity, has induced the proprietor to remain a few evenings longer in the city. The painting occupies nearly two miles of canvass, on which is faithfully represented all the battle-fields, chief town and cities on the lines of operation by the two great divisions of the American Army under Gens. Scott and Taylor, the whole forming the most delightful series of views ever offered for public exhibition, and conveying an accurate idea of that country to which the eyes of the world have; with more or less interest, recently turned. For particulars see bills of the day.

Admittance, 25 cents. Doors open at 7 o'clock.

ap10.

CLOVER SEED—3 bbls for sale by
ap10 WICK & McCANDLESS

LARD—47 kegs No 1 Leaf Lard, for sale by
ap10 WICK & McCANDLESS

DEER SKINS—4 sacks for sale by
ap10 WICK & McCANDLESS

Local Intelligence.

FIRES—INCENDIARIES.—No less than three fires occurred on Saturday night, between ten and one o'clock, in different parts of the city. The first broke out about half past 10, in a frame shed, used as a stable, situated on Plum Alley, near Grant Street, and in the rear of the tavern lately occupied by George H. Bell, and at present by three brothers Messrs. Hagey. From this shed it communicated to an adjoining one, and thence to a large two story brick stable, also situated in the tavern yard. The two sheds were entirely consumed, and with them two fine horses, which belonged to Alexander McFloberts, and another, the property of a stranger from Ohio. The upper part of the brick stable, with a quantity of hay, was consumed, but all the horses, mules, &c., were taken out safely. The fire communicated to the shutters of a smoke house, cornering on Plum Alley and Grant Street, which was filled with meat; but here, most fortunately, the devastation was arrested.

While the engines were still playing upon this fire, another broke out in another small frame stable, on the hill, above the canal, and south of 7th street, at the opening of the Tunnel. This stable was owned by Mr. W. Kirkpatrick, chandler, and was located close to the end of his chandlery, which fronts on 7th street. He informed us that his horse and cow, which were in the stable, had been untied by the incendiary, and thus escaped. This stable was of no value, and was quickly overturned and thrown down the steep bank of the canal. No other property injured.

Somewhere near 1 o'clock, a third fire broke out, also in a frame stable. This was situated between Irwin's Alley and Irwin Street, close in the rear of Wilmarth's Lumber Office, which fronts on Penn Street, the stable being in his lumber yard. The fire had been, apparently, thrown into the end of the hay loft, above the stable, and spread so rapidly, that here also two noble horses were consumed. Thence it spread to an adjoining stable in the same yard, in which another horse was haltered, which the owner succeeded in saving, at imminent risk of his own life. The poor brute, finding the flames reaching his back from above, and unable to break his halter, lay down, and remained passive till his humane owner untied the halter and set him free. The two horses lost were in the stable of Martin Connelly, baker, and belonged to him. The one saved belonged to James McFeely, and the stable was also his.

There can be scarcely a doubt that the last two fires were kindled by incendiaries. The first was probably accidental. Fiends must they be, who could thus torture noble brutes to death; and horrible the malignity which could kindle flames amid so many frame dwellings as were proximate to each of the last two fires.

The firemen merit unstinted praise for their promptitude and good management at all these fires—without which an immense number of families must have been deprived of homes, and a great deal of valuable property destroyed.

THE DRAMA.—Among the strangers in town is Henry Placide, Esq., a most accomplished actor.—It is understood that he has made a professional engagement, and will give us an opportunity of witnessing an exhibition of art not often presented here. As Grandfather Whitehead he has no equal, nor can his Sir Peter Teazle, Sir Harcourt Coutts, 'Touchstone,' or other gems *ad-infinitum* be rivalled by any actor. Pittsburgh has been lavish in its support of imported merit, it has now an opportunity of witnessing the efforts of one whose native land is the United States.

THE HONORED DEAD.—A telegraphic despatch has been received in this city, announcing that the remains of S. D. Sewell, John H. Gilchrist, and H. B. Alward, left Cincinnati yesterday morning, and will arrive in this city on Wednesday forenoon. A committee of five, consisting of Messrs. William B. Mowry, H S Fleming, John R Robinson, William C Stockton, and William B Erskine, will leave at five to-morrow, to meet the remains at Wheeling, and escort them to this city.

A RAFTSMAN, very much intoxicated, and staggering through the streets above the Canal Bridge yesterday afternoon, fell violently among the stones in the gutter, whereby his forehead was dreadfully cut, and his skull supposed to be fractured.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Correspondence of Pittsburgh Gazette.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

CONGRESS.

Washington, April 7, 1848.

SENATE.—The bill releasing Judges of the Supreme Court from circuit duty, was defeated.

HOUSE.—Nothing done except the discussion of Private Bills.

April 8, 1848.

SENATE not in Session.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Rockwell, the House went into committee of the whole on Private bills, and occupied the session in that way.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

New York, April 8, 1848.

Queen Victoria has been delivered of a princess.

The Bank of England has declared a semi-annual dividend of four and a half per cent.

Provisions, March 20.—The quotations exhibit no change. Lard is in fair demand, 49s to 51s in bbls; 52s to 60s in kegs. Beef and Pork steady. Butter has advanced 2s ⅌ cwt. Bacon, 30s to 32s Hams, 28s to 52s. Beef, 40s to 90s. Tierce Pork 28s to 52s.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Cincinnati, April 8, 1848.

The Cashier of the Bank of Sandusky is here calling in the paper of the bank. He has redeemed nearly all the circulation. The credit of the bank of Norfolk, and of Sandusky, is now considered undoubted.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

CINCINNATI MARKET.

CINCINNATI, April 9, 1848.

Flour—The only effect of the Foreign News has been that of checking business.

Grain—Sales of Oats to day at 27@28 cts.; of prime red Wheat at 90 cts; of Corn, prime yellow, at 27 cts.

Whiskey—Sales continue at 15½ cts. No change.

Provisions—No change in prices has occurred. The market is inactive. Sales of 300 kegs Lard at 5½ cts; of Bacon Hams at 4½ cts; of Sides at 3½ cts; of Shoulders, 30,000 lbs., at 2½ cts.

Freights to New Orleans—Flour, 30 cts; Pork, 40 cts; Whiskey, 50 cts.