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

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

Antimasonic and Whig Nominations.

FOR MAYOR OF PITTSBURGH,
CAPT. JOHN HERRON.

FOR MAYOR OF ALLEGHENY,
JONATHAN RUSH.

See next page for Telegraphic News. For Local Matters see next page.

The Fine Arts—A Singular History.

All our readers, we presume, have read and admired Shakspeare; if any have not, they have a rare treat in store. But all, probably, have not heard of "Boydell's illustrations of Shakspeare," and very few have had the happiness of seeing them. We have had the pleasure of examining a few of them lately, and of reading their history, which we found sufficiently curious and interesting, to prompt us to make a sketch of it for publication.

J. Boydell, an Alderman of London, an Engraver by profession, and a lover of the Fine Arts, and possessed of a large fortune, some sixty years ago conceived the idea of establishing a "Shakspeare Gallery," upon a scale of extraordinary magnificence. To this end he employed all the first painters of the age, among whom were Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Benjamin West, Fuseli, Romney, Northcote, Smirke, Sir William Beechy, and Opie.

Allan Cunningham, in his "Lives of Eminent Artists," mentions that Sir Joshua Reynolds was a' first opposed to Boydell's project, as impracticable on such an immense scale, and Boydell, to gain his approbation and assistance, privately sent him a letter enclosing a £1000 Bank of England note, and requesting him to paint two pictures at his own price. What sum was eventually paid by Boydell for these pictures, was never known. A magnificent building was erected in Pall Mall, to exhibit this immense collection, called the Shakspeare Gallery, and was for a long time the pride of London.

These paintings were one hundred in number, and the best engravers which could be procured were employed to transfer them to copper. So immense was the labor performed, and to such perfection was the work carried, that nearly twenty years were consumed in the work of engraving; in some instances five years being spent on a single plate. The price fixed for these plates, and which was never reduced, was two guineas each, for the first three hundred impressions, and one guinea per plate for the succeeding prints. This price, however, did not remunerate Boydell for his magnificent enterprise. The cost of the whole work was over *one million* pounds sterling. It ruined its projector, for notwithstanding his great wealth, he died a bankrupt to the amount of 250,000 pounds.

Chalmers, in his Biog. Dictionary, says: "The services of Boydell were universally appreciated. He was eulogized even from the pulpit for his zeal in making the fine arts subservient to the cause of religion. Such was the enormous cost of his favorite project, the *Shakspeare Gallery*, which he had intended to have presented to the city of London, as a lasting monument of his love of the fine arts,—that he became inextricably involved in difficulties, and petitioned and obtained from Parliament an act to enable him to dispose of his Gallery by lottery." He lived till the last ticket was disposed of, and died on the 12th day of December, 1804, at the advanced age of 85 years; his death being hastened, as is asserted by his son, Mr. Wm Boydell, by the chagrin he experienced at being compelled to dispose of the *Shakspeare Gallery*, contrary to his cherished designs.

After the death of Boydell, the copper plates, (weighing about two tons,) many of them being much worn, and requiring great labor to restore them, were laid aside and forgotten by the public altogether, until they suddenly made their appearance in America, having been purchased by Dr. S. Spooner of New York, some six years ago. This gentleman has now been quietly at work, for some time past, in the labor of restoring them, and has had the good fortune to secure the services of Mr. George Parker, who, in addition to his own genius and enthusiasm in the art of engraving, has the advantage of having been a pupil of Robert Thew, who was Alderman Boydell's principal assistant in getting up the work originally. About twenty of the plates most worn in the whole series have been fully restored, and others are in the hands of the engraver.

Copies from the restored plates have been compared with the originals, by some of the best artists and judges in this country, who give it as their deliberate opinion, that the restoration of this magnificent work has so far been entirely successful, and that it is worthy of the patronage of the American public! Certificates to this effect are signed by Washington Irving, John Inman, Horace Greeley, George P. Morris, N. P. Willis, Theodore Frelinghuysen, Harper & Brothers, S. H. Tyng, D.D., G. & W. Endicott, John J. Audubon, Wm. C. Bryant, and a great number of others, men of high character, artistic skill and sound judgment.

Dr. Spooner's price for the work to subscribers is $1 per plate. They are printed on fine linen paper, 24 by 30 inches, and each print is accompanied by a letter-press description of the design. The American subscriber thus obtains for $100, what cost the British subscriber originally $1000. Mr. John D. Davis is the agent for the work in Pittsburgh, who has a copy of the restored plates on hand as far they have been issued, for the examination of the public.

The Locofocos have taken up Mr. CALVIN ADAMS, of the Novelty Works, as their candidate for Mayor. Mr. Adams, we believe, is an excellent man, and would make a good mayor. He happens to be on the wrong side of politics to expect success, however worthy he may be. As both parties have first rate men, the canvass will be pleasant and good humored, and party lines will be pretty closely drawn. The Whigs, however, have the strength, and will win the victory.

MR. HORACE GREELEY, who is the 'observed of all observers' in Congress, has brought a hornet's nest about his ears, which it will take all his adroitness to escape from, without a severe stinging. A few days ago he published in his paper a list of the members of Congress, whom, as he affirms, have received extra mileage, with the amount so received attached to their names. The list comprehends nearly all the members of both Houses. Of course such an exhibition from an honorable member of their own body, sits rather ill upon the stomachs of members. Mr. Sawyer, of Ohio, who owes the Tribune an old grudge, on account of the sausage story, has brought up Mr. Greeley's statement on a question of privilege, and we may look for some rare sport. We'll back Greeley against the whole of them in a case of this kind.

MOST IMPORTANT MOVEMENT—$200,000 subscription to the Ohio and Pennsylvania Rail Road.—We learn, with undisguised pleasure, that the City Councils of Allegheny, by a unanimous vote, authorized the mayor to subscribe $200,000 to the stock of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Rail Road Co. We trust now that but a few days will elapse before an equal sum is subscribed by individuals to this interesting object, and the work go on early in the spring.

TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC.—Mr. O'Reilly has a petition before Congress to aid in running the Telegraph from the Missouri frontier to the Pacific.—He says it will be accomplished within 18 months, or less, whenever Congress will make an appropriation to extend it through the public domain. The project, he says, has been maturely considered, and in connection with the military stockades, that may be erected at reasonable distances for protecting the emigration and forming the germs of important settlements, he and his associates entertain full confidence in results more favorable than are generally anticipated, with comparatively little [illegible]. Nothing is asked of the government which [illegible] be repaid in telegraphing.

FROM NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23, 1848.

Last night was a festival to a large class of New Yorkers, nor will the history of the evening be without interest throughout the Union. The drawing of the "Art Union" was made last night, in the presence of five thousand spectators. At half past five the Tabernacle was crowded with the possessors of the tickets in this lottery of the fine arts, and at six every inch of ground was filled, and thousands unable to get in. The pictures distributed were 464 in number, costing nearly fifty thousand dollars, and their distribution lasted until near midnight. The great prize, the magnificent series of the "Voyage of Life," by the lamented Cole, was obtained by Mr. Brodt, of Binghampton, N. Y., one of the pupils of the black art, as taught by Faust.—The pictures are valued at $6,000 so that the lucky printer may be considered, in the language of the compositors to have secured a very fat "take."—The west seems to have been rather unsuccessful in obtaining prizes, but the Western Art Union, of Cincinnati, has secured one of the best in the collection. The views in Central America, by Catherwood, drawn by Samuel N. Kier, of Pittsburgh, is also valuable.

The New England Societies of New York and Brooklyn celebrated the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, last night, the Brooklyn folks substituting the fair sex for the usual stimulus of ardent spirits, to the manifest improvement of the festival. The New Yorkers, less abstemious, had abundance of the blood of the grape, and prolonged their celebration to an hour that would amuse the worthy puritans, and make them say, the day was ended by their successors, when in old times it was begun.

Holiday festivities and preparations are now more the order of the day than business, which is rather abandoned. The last great bubble that excites the loquacity of the fashionable world, is the doings at the grand fancy ball given by Mr. Stevens, in College Place. The invitations were two thousand, and the "regents" only four hundred.—The preparations were upon a scale commensurate with the immense company and the whole affair for splendor was never equalled in New York. Among the guests was a grandson of John J. Astor, Woodberry Langdon, Esq., who wore a dress costing in Europe $2,000, nor was he alone in the richness of his outfit.

The steamer Crescent City, went to sea, bound for Charges this afternoon with one hundred and eleven passengers, their departure was witnessed by full two thousand spectators, who rent the air with cheers as the steamer cast off, and fired a parting salute. The expeditions of Columbus or Vasco de Gama, never exceeded in point of *fervor* the enthusiasm the spectators testified in this case at the departure of these adventurers, not in search of new routes to the Indies, or new continents, but to reap the golden harvests that stimulated the discovery of this western hemisphere. There would soon be a want of ships for transports could the gold hunters raise $600, the amount required for an outfit, but for the want of so much of old fashioned gold, like Columbus, the achievement of their wishes is sadly delayed.

A new attraction is to be added to New York in the way of amusements. A proper room has at last been prepared for the extensive and valuable Chinese Museum imported some years ago, by Alderman Peters and selected by his son while attached to the embassy of Caleb Cushing (or Cowshing as the Chinese rendered it) to the Celestial Empire. An examination of this collection, gives one a clearer idea of Chinese manners, than all the books that can be written. In it are whole rooms, exhibiting, not only the appearance of the Imperial Court, the counting rooms of the Hong merchants, and private houses, but others, showing the appearance of the domestic animals, the peasantry and their rude implements of agriculture. The boats in which so many Chinese pass their lives, are shown, together with all the variety of works of mechanism, that puzzle our most scientific workmen even to imitate. Such a collection as this is a rare treasure and no stranger should deprive himself of the pleasure of a visit to it.

Lt. Robert T. Williamson, of the Topographical Engineers has left this city en route for California with the orders to proceed at once with the preliminaries of a survey of the California Territory.—The head of the Land Office has most strongly urged the survey of that part of the public domain and advocates the policy of allowing the location of soldiers' lands there without restrictions. Some 40,000 have been located, leaving 42,000 more to be disposed of, and should the government adopt the policy recommended, and allow an unrestricted location, Land Warrants will be valuable. Soldiers who are able, will do well to look after their claims until the subject is disposed of, and not let the brokers get all the profits. In no event can warrants be much cheaper than now, while there is every reason to think the California speculation will cause an advance.

Stocks close rather dull, and the improvement of the past week has been nearly lost. Treasury notes close at 107½ and not firm at that rate. Sound State stocks maintain the advance well, and until after dividend day will continue so.

GEN. TAYLOR AND THE SLAVERY SUBJECT.—We find in the Natchez Courier an article relative to the remarks which, it was stated, (on the authority of a letter from J. F. Claiborne, of Natchez, to Governor Brown, at Washington,) Gen. Taylor had made, since his election, to Judge S. S. Boyd of Mississippi, on the subject of any interference by the North with the slavery question. It will be remembered it was alleged Gen. Taylor had declared, in case of such an event, he was in favor of drawing the sword and throwing away the scabbard.' The Courier says:—

"We can set this matter right in a few words.—Judge Boyd has been either misunderstood or misrepresented very grossly. In the conversation that occurred between Gen. Taylor and Judge Boyd on the subject of slavery, not one word, so we understood Judge B to say, was uttered, having reference to the Wilmot proviso, slavery in the Territories, or any other question growing out of the subject of slavery in the States, farther than that concerning the *right of property* in slaves, in slave *States*

"General Taylor said that if the *northern fanatics* attempted to interfere with *that*, he was in favor of drawing the sword and throwing away the scabbard. He said nothing farther concerning the slave question, and all the hubbub raised at the North and elsewhere, about these alleged remarks, has no authenticity or foundation.

"These remarks were made by Gen. Taylor in social conversation with Judge Boyd, of his city, who afterwards repeated them as they recollected them his friends, not with the most remote idea that they would be misrepresented or misconstrued, and telegraphed to Washington."

In reference to this statement, the New Orleans Bulletin says:

"As to the remarks which Gen. Taylor actually did make, in case the North attempted to interfere with the *rights of property* in slaves, in *slave States*, we presume no one doubts that it would be unanimously responded to by the entire South."

In the Washington Union, we find, that Hon. A. G. Brown publishes the following letter from Mr. Claiborne, bearing out the above interpretation of Gen. Taylor's meaning, and which, in compliance with Mr. B's request, we here insert:

NATCHEZ, Dec. 12, 1848.

Dear Sir: I have noticed a brief extract from a letter of mine to you going the rounds of the press. The extract purports to be a remark of Gen Taylor to S. S. Boyd, Esq. on the slavery question.

I fear the meaning of my letter is misconstrued; and, indeed, I may have used stronger language than I should have done, in the haste in which I generally write. *Gen. Taylor, in his conversation with Judge Boyd, did not mention the word territorries, and spoke entirely of our rights under the constitution in the slave States.* He expressed no opinion as to the propriety of extending slavery into the new territories, or of restricting it to its present limits. It is well understood here that the General studiously avoids indicating his views on this exciting point.

I know Judge Boyd would not misrepresent Gen. Taylor, and I am sure I would not knowingly misrepresent Judge Boyd.

In justice to all parties, may I ask you to give publicity to this letter, and oblige yours, truly.

F. L. CLAIBORNE.

Hon. A. G. Brown.

FUGITIVE SLAVES FROM VIRGINIA.—The frequency and facility with which slaves escape from Virginia to Pennsylvania has become a subject of earnest and even excited consideration in the Legislature of the Old Dominion. Mr. Faulkner, a member, has called the attention of that body to the subject in an elaborate speech, which has made much sensation. He is reported to have said that he had been informed by those whose avocations ought to make them familiar with such statistics, that the annual loss to the people of Virginia, from this source, could not be less than $90,000. Of the slaves who made their escape beyond Mason & Dixon's line, not one in fifty had of late years been re-captured. Pennsylvania had become the proclaimed asylum of the runaway slaves; and her legislation, in broad and bold language on her statute books, announced to every slave in the South that she stood forward his defender and protector within her limits.

GERRIT SMITH'S COLORED SETTLEMENT in Florence, New York, is now in full progress. A building to hold 70 families will be finished by the 1st of January. The property has plenty of water power and grist and saw mills have been projected. Mr. Smith has given a number of farms to enterprising colored persons, and the Florence Association intend to purchase several hundred acres around them. In the settlement, the village lots are selling for three dollars per lot; the lots contain a quarter of an acre each, which will enable each person to have thirty acres, with the advantage of the timber. Messrs. Fillmore, Fish Morgan, Spencer, and other prominent men of New York, have contributed to promote the object. Subscriptions will be received by Dr M'CuneSmith, 105 West Broadway, New York.

Latest from California.

Evidences accumulate of the demoralization of the population in the mining districts of California.

The Washington Globe contains a series of letters received by Gen. Jessup, from Capt. J. L. Folsom; the latest of which is dated San Francisco, Oct. 8, 1848, from which we make the following extracts;

'Something should be done here at once for the establishment of peace and good order in the country. All law, both civil and military, is at an end. Among the mines, and indeed in most parts of the country out of the villages, no authority but that of the strongest exists, and outrages, of the most disgraceful nature are constantly occurring, and the offenders go unpunished. There are now about twenty-five vessels in this port, and I believe there is not one of them that has a crew to go to sea.—Frequently the sailors arm themselves, take the ship's boats, and leave in the most open manner, defying both their officers and the civil magistrates.

"We have not had an American man of war in this port for more than a year, and all the naval resources of the United States on this coast are concentrated at Monterey; which is not a harbor, but an open roadstead, and which has not one-tenth of the business on its waters which is done in this bay. For months past there has seldom been more than one merchant vessel at Monterey at a time, and frequently none at all, and still that is the general place of resort on the coast for men of war. At this time such is the state of affairs' here, that at least one armed vessel ought to be constantly in port.

"In a few months the line of ocean mail steamers will be in operation from Panama to Oregon, and this port is to be a depot for coal, and of course a stopping point in passing, both ways. The starting of the line of steamers on this coast is likely to be an undertaking of very great difficulty, and, at this time, such is its importance with reference to both Oregon and California, that its failure might be looked upon as a national calamity. Still, unless some kind of protection is extended to the shipping of this port, it is not at all improbable that it may fail for want of the necessary laborers as soon as the boats reach this harbor. Indeed, it is altogether probable, unless some competent authority is found here at the time to preserve order, that the crew will join in a body as soon as the first vessel arrives. Every possible assistance should be extended to insure the success of this company, and every reasonable latitude should be granted in the execution of their contract. It is now uncertain if the steamers can enter Columbia river at all times in the winter, and they may find it necessary to run up to Puget's Sound. This would be a small inconvenience in comparison to the loss of one of these vessels upon the very dangerous bar at the mouth of the Columbia—an event not at all improbable, if they enter that river in the winter.

'All sorts of labor is got at enormous rates of compensation. Common clerks and salesmen in the stores about town often receive as high as $2,500 and their board. The clerk of one in my office is a young boy, who, until a few weeks since, was a private of the volunteers, and I am now paying him $1,500 per annum. This will not appear high when I tell you that I have just seen upon his table a wash bill, made out and paid, at the rate of $8 per dozen, and that almost every thing else is at corresponding prices. Unless some thing is done, I am unable to see how it is possible for officers, living upon the salaries granted by law to military men, to support themselves in this country.

"For some time last summer—August and July—the officers at Monterey were entirely without servants, and the Governor (Colonel Mason) actually took his turn in cooking for his mess. Unless some prompt action is taken to pay both officers and men serving in this country in proportion to the unavoidable expenses to be incurred, the former will resign and the latter will desert, and it will be impossible to maintain a military force in California. It cannot be expected that officers will devote their services to the government at rates of compensation which will not enable them to employ a servant, to say nothing of living in such a manner as may become their station; and it is utterly impossible to do it in California upon the salaries allowed by law.

"I think California affords means for the investment of capital such as few other countries offer. Any person who would come in here now with ready cash, would be certain of doubling his money in a few months. Large fortunes will be made here within the ensuing year, and I am told that there are some hundreds of persons who have already made, on an average, $25,000 each. Whole cargoes of goods are sold at an average of about 150 per cent. clear profit, and ready pay in gold dust.

"When I came to this place I expended a few hundred dollars in waste lots, covered with bushes, and sand hills. The chapparal, under which has followed is likely to make this property quite valuable, if I am able, to look after it. What cost me less than $800, I suppose I could now sell for $8000 or perhaps $10,000."

The gold regions are of vast extent and are remote from the regular settlements, and from the operation of the laws. In the solitary recesses of the Sierra Nevada are little clusters of men, with nothing but the trees for their covering, and no protection but their own vigilence and strength. Many of these people are known to possess very large amounts of gold (sometimes as much as $20,000), wrapped in their blankets, beneath their heads, to see and no agent to pursue the guilty. It is strange when the temptation is so great, that the robber and the assassin should be abroad among the mountains! Many robberies and some murders are known already to have occurred, but little attention is excited by these events, where all are in the eager pursuit of wealth. No one can conjecture the extent of those outrages, for living witnesses are not at hand, and "dead men tell no tales." The strong and firm hand of Government must be promptly extended over this country from the most revolting acts of violence.

During the year commencing July 1st, 1848, there will be $5,500,000 removed from the mines, reckoning the ounce, troy, at $16. This sum is considerably greater, according to McCulloch's Dictionary, than the total amount of gold taken from the mines in the U. States for the fifteen years ending in 1838, and it is nearly three times as great as as the entire gold coinage of the United States Mint and all its branches for the same year.

From the best information I have been able to collect, I believe that something over $500,000, at $16 per ounce, troy, will have left California in the three months ending Sept. 30th; and of this amount at least four fifths will find its way to foreign markets, and consequently to foreign mints.

CONGRESSIONAL EXCESSES.—The Tribune of yesterday contains an article which we hope will have a very extensive circulation, that the people may see how they are defrauded by their Congressional representatives, and also what they the people, have to pay for the travelling expenses of those honorable gentlemen

The Tribune's article contains a complete table of the excess charged by every individual member of the House of representatives and the Senate for travelling expenses over the sum which he is legally entitled to. The excess, or cribbing amounts to $62,10520, extra mileage, of the House $47,223 30, of the Senate $14,881 40. Six members of Congress it appears, have actually charged less mileage than they are entitled to.

Mr. Benton's extra mileage, at each session of Congress, is no less than $669 60. As he lives altogether in Washington, his entire mileage is extra, but the law allows him $647, which should satisfy him. The largest excess charged—or rather the greatest fraud committed, is by a representative from Louisiana, who receives $2,240 mileage, being an excess of $1,299.

Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, comes next in the list, whose excess is $1,056 dollars. The largest mileage received is by Senator Houston, of Texas, who is paid by the nation for his travelling expenses from Texas to Washington $2 495. The actual expense of the honorable Senator, is probably not much over a hundred dollars.

Mr. Calhoun charges but $313 60 more than he is entitled to, but we see no good reason why he should not have as large an allowance as a Senator from Texas: he is certainly quite as valuable a man to the nation. Mr. Webster gets but $68 more than he is entitled to, while the Hon. Solon Borland, of Arkansas, receives $956 over his proper mileage when. But as he is the only Solon in the Senate, he may have his extras, but really we cannot but think that Mr. Webster is quite as well entitled to a gratuity of the kind as the Arkansas Solon.

Mr. Webster receives for his travelling expenses from Marshfield to Washington only $420, while Mr. Borland receives $1808 for his travelling expenses from Arkansas. We think it is about time that some of the Bunsbys of the Senate delivered themselves of an opinion as to the meaning of that sentence in our bill of rights which declares all men free and equal, and whether it is meant to be applied to Senators. There are our representatives from this city receiving but $4 extra mileage, while the honorable gentlemen from Louisiana and Mississippi are receiving their $1000 and $1200 extra, each. Why does not some advocate of democratic reform propose to divide the $62,105 20 extra pickings for mileage among all the honorable gentlemen, that, like the Cornish parson, when he went a wrecking with his parishoners, they may all share alike.

It is time somebody kicked up a bobbery about the matter. The smallest extra charge is made by C. J. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia, who receives but $1 60 more than his due, while his brother, J. R. Ingersoll, from the same city, receives $1 60 less. So that these two sums offset each other, and between them the two brothers receive just what they are entitled to, which is the only instance among all the members of Congress.

Mr. Greeley is entitled to the thanks of the people for his courage and industry in making this expose, and if he should do nothing else during his congressional term, he will have done enough to justify his constituents in sending him to Washington.—*New York Mirror.*

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1848.

The following gentlemen have been appointed the committee on the part of the slaveholding States, in accordance with the resolution of the meeting held in the Senate Chamber on Friday:

Messrs. STEPHENS, of Georgia,
CLAYTON, of Delaware,
CHAPMAN, of Maryland,
BAYLY, of Virginia,
VENABLE, of North Carolina,
CALHOUN, of South Carolina,
KING, of Alabama,
FOOTE, of Mississippi,
DOWNS, of Louisiana,
MOREHEAD, of Kentucky,
GENTRY, of Tennessee,
ATCHISON, of Missouri,
BORLAND, of Arkansas,
CABELL, of Florida,
RUSK, of Texas.

This committee has been formed without consultation with all the gentlemen named upon it. Some of them may decline to serve, or may consent with a view of arresting the agitation and soothing the excitement.

GENERAL TAYLOR.

Extract of a letter to the Boston Atlas, dated N. Orleans, Dec. 4.

The President elect is a little above the middle stature, with a compact frame, and rather stout withal. He has just completed his fifty eighth year, and though his hair is beginning to be a little silvery in hue, he has none of the marks of age upon him. His ruddy countenance and almost wonderful activity, bespeak him in the enjoyment of the most perfect health. As he sits in the rotunda of the hotel, chatting with all, his appearance is that of a downright honest man of sound sense and great frankness, good humor, and urbanity in his character. You would hardly take him to be one of the few whose names were not born to die." He has not the commanding figure of Scott, the ferocious dignity of Twiggs, nor yet the aristocratic bearing of that Orson of *Warriors*, Harney. Neither is that stamp of intellectuality upon his brow which marks Webster, Clay, or Calhoun, among a thousand—but he has a high and lofty brow—that amplitude forehead which proclaims the intellect within.—The characteristic expression of his countenance—that which lights it up in conversation and makes you both to take your eyes from it—is benevolence. The sunlight of his heart beams right through it, and warms you at once towards him. But such an eye as General Taylor has I have rarely, if ever, seen in a human being. Each particular wink of it seems to fall upon you like a flash of lightning; and did not the smile upon his face forbid the idea you would expect a small clap of thunder to follow it, immediately. Knowing him to be, as we do, a master in what the poet calls

"The art Napoleon, the mystery of commanding."

I can easily imagine how the fires of that eye must kindle and flash amid the discharge of artillery on the battle field. I do not doubt it will keep a vigilant watch over the constitution and the best interests of the country. Gen. Taylor has been accustomed to sleep on the ground, on plank, and platform, and he sleeps everywhere equally well. I do not know that he sleeps with one eye open, but if he should be beset at Washington by an army of office holders and office seekers, forcing their way into the White House I should not be surprised to hear that, wrapping himself in his blanket, he threw himself upon the floor, some night near the entrance of the Executive mansion with one of his eagle eyes wide open, to "see that the Republic receives no detriment."

Gen. Taylor is one of the most sociable men in the world, and when there is a large crowd around him, he may be seen running about, chatting and laughing as pleasantly as if it was his particular business to make every one happy; and you come away with the conviction that he is the only man of the whole crowd who has not been thinking of President Taylor. In a mixed assembly, he makes no allusion to political topics, though in a company of personal friends, he speaks his mind very freely. His off hand speeches—and he has made quite a number here—show uncommon intelligence and concentration of thought, clothed in simple yet beautiful language. Take, for instance, his response to the girls in one of the schools of the city, a day or two since, in which he spoke of them as "the future mothers of our future heroes in the field, and sages in council." How beautiful in diction, and characteristic of the hero it is! There is not the slightest particle of egotism in any of his addresses—but that same modesty and forgetfulness of self which have ever characterized his military dispatches. He is ever ready, and equal to every emergency. They who have prophesied that he is not equal to the great work before him, I sincerely believe are destined to disappointment. I predict that his civil career will be as bright and glorious as his military, and that he is destined to show himself as great in the councils of peace as the world knows he has been in those of war. He says the people have demanded a change in the administration of the government, and he is determined, so far as in himself lies that they shall never regret the choice they have made.

THE SPIRIT OF NORTHERN CHIVALRY is illustrated in the following article, from the Charleston Mercury, Dec. 19.—

We give below an extract from a letter of a gentleman now in Washington, whose opportunities of information are of the amplest character, and whose opinions are entitled to much consideration. As represented by him, the aspect of affairs at Washington, in reference to the South, is anything but encouraging, and it is a matter of no surprise, that he should feel deeply and speak strongly upon the subject.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1848.

Governor Whitcomb of Indiana, is elected to the Senate of the United States, over Mr Hannegan the present member on the ground, as one of the Northern Representatives informs me, that he took position in his late Message to the Legislature, in favor of the Wilmot Proviso. Thus, one by one the supporters of the South and of the Constitution in the Free States, fall before the Anti-Slavery spirit of the North. The stand by us is now political death to any statesman at the North. By our impotency we have earned a so-called moral victory of the North and united the whole North and Northwest against us on the Slavery question. And now, what shall we do? Still do nothing!

One would suppose, that if selfintereat is too weak, a spirit of generosity and duty to these faithful friends like Mr. Hannegan who stand by our rights would inspire us with the determination of righting ourselves. After sacrificing them in the Free States, are we now prepared to surrender ourselves on the altar of cowardice and meanness? A spectacle of scorn and contempt is the whole world! I assure you, you cannot imagine the low esteem in which the whole South is held by the Representatives from the Free States. They include all suggestions that the South will in any contingency, on account of Slavery (or on any other question) dare disrupt the Union. They believe we have no more spirit within us than the dead body of Hector dragged along behind the car of Achilles. They are our masters, and can do as they please. If you were here you would see it heard, feel it. It is clear that the whole question of the rights of the South is transferred to the State Legislatures in the South. It is here settled, and will sweep Slavery first from our Territories, then from the District of Columbia, then from passing from one State to another, and then in the States themselves, and in this progress, if not arrested by prompt and efficient measures by the Southern States, the last step is as certain as the first.

THE HON. ANDREW BARTER NOEL.—We find in late London papers a stress which exposes why this popular and useful minister of the Church of England, decided to leave his congregation in Bedford Row London to which he had ministered for twenty years and to secede from the Church of England immediately. We understand he now thinks he decided to leave the Church of England until much had intended to remain with his people until midsummer, in order to give them time to choose a successor and to make the necessary arrangements for carrying on the schools and the various religious charitable institutions maintained by his people. But, his intention to secede from the Church of England, having reached the ears of his diocesan, the Bishop of London, Mr. Noel was sent for and questioned on the subject, and on his admission that it was his intention ultimately to leave the English Church, the Bishop intimated to Mr. Noel that he would be prohibited from again preaching in any church or chapel within the Diocese of London. Mr. Noel replied, that he would not consent to act in accordance with this prohibition as he had not yet spoken to his congregation, in their collective capacity, on the subject of his intended secession. The Bishop expressed his determination to enforce the prohibition, but finally consented so far to withdraw his prohibition, as to allow Mr. Noel to preach to his people once more, on the following Sunday. At the following Wednesday evening lecture the Reverend gentleman announced to his people, that as the result of opinions deliberately formed which he knew not how to alter and the force of conviction, which he was not able to resist, he had felt himself obliged to announce his intention of leaving that congregation, where he had ministered for so long a period, with comfort and satisfaction to himself, if not with profit to others. He then related his interview with his Diocesan, and announced that the only reason which was the last that he should be permitted to minister to them, and that the present would be the last Wednesday evening on which he would enjoy the privilege of addressing them. It is understood that the leading members of his congregation have held a meeting and unanimously resolved to present a memorial to the Honorable and Reverend gentleman, entreating him to reconsider his resolution to leave the church, and expressing an ardent hope that the result of such consideration would be his still remaining with them. It was then agreed to nominate a deputation to wait upon him with the memorial, and to receive his answer, but it was found that those who were nominated could not be prevailed upon to undertake the mission, owing to its very delicate nature.

Mr. Noel's Reasons for seceding from the Church of England" were announced as in the printer's hands, and would soon be given to the public.—*Boston Traveller.*

PANAMA.—It has been stated that there is a great crowd of people at Panama, waiting passage to San Francisco, and that much distress and misery must inevitably ensue among them. Some persons who are interested, have addressed the Consul of New Grenada, Gregorio Dominguez, Esq., upon the subject, and he has returned the following answer.

Consulado de la Republica de la Nueva Granada
New York, 22d Dec., 1848.

Messrs. CHAMPLIN & HAIGHT

Gentlemen—In reply to your favor of this date, I have to announce that by my last advices from Panama, no passengers were waiting at that port to proceed to San Francisco. Should a demand exist for conveyance from Panama for any large number of passengers to San Francisco, the neighboring seaports of Callao, Valparaiso, and Guyaquil, and sundry others, would in all probability supply such demand, in addition to what exists at Panama. The prevailing winds are from the South to North, which are favorable at this season of the year for passage up the coast to San Francisco from Panama. Yours, respectfully,

GYO. DOMINGUEZ.

FINANCES OF VIRGINIA.—It appears from the report of the finance committee of the Virginia legislature, that the actual debt of the State is $6,903,891,30. The State is liable for guaranteed bonds for different works to the amount of $6,031,736,76. Of the amount of the State's indebtedness, $215,000 of 5 per cent, stock will be due January 1, 1850, and $500,000 more, that may now be redeemed, will have to be paid within the next ten years. The committee recommend its sufficient, the payment annually of $75,000, commencing now. The balance in the State treasury on the 1st of October next, is estimated at $131,923,68. The bill increasing the Governor's salary has been indefinitely postponed.

A Free Voice from the South.

In speaking of Senator Douglas's California Bill, the Mobile Herald uses the following sensible and manly language:—

"The destiny of California is to be free; and we presume this destiny might as well be fixed now as later. It may save contention in Congress, from which no possible good can come to the South."

These are the words of wisdom and patriotism; and were they the words uttered by Southern gentlemen in Congress, instead of the wild, bitter, menacing, yet cockerel terms calculated to kindle every feeling, and exasperate every prejudice of Northern opponents, we should have no quarrels, no half-ventured secessions or sedition-caucuses to recommend secessions—none of those moon-struck imitators of Mexican *pronunciamentos*, schemes for *emeutes* and projects of revolution—grand schemes, stupendous projects, compounded equally of the treasonable and the puerile—which stir equally the anger and scorn of every good citizen. Long live the Republic—and may its foot be heavy on the necks of traitors.

There is one remarkable fact connected with the Southern demonstration, now too much the fashion, which, for the honor of the South, ought to be properly noticed. The ringleaders in most of them, the particularly ultra incendiary gentlemen who are so forward in proposing the most violent Southern measures, are often renegades from the North, who approve their attachment to their new friends by the usual superservicable zeal of apostates. It is such persons who instigate wrongful ideas and bad feelings, which would not, in many instances, otherwise exist, and create a fashion of Southern patriotism, which the native citizen of the South commonly despises. In the Friday-night Washington meeting of Southern delegates, one or two of the fiercest Hotspurs were precisely such northern worthies; while the moderate counsels that prevailed were due to the good sense and patriotic spirit of men whose Southern origin enabled them to dispense with all immoderate professions of Southern fidelity.—*North American.*

Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad.

A writer in the Commercial Journal, who signs himself "*Candor*" (I hope no decendant of the Lady of that name immortalized by Sheridan in the 'School for Scandal,') finds great difficulty in understanding what the 'Pennsylvania interests' are, which influenced the mind of the Engineer of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Rail Road in his selection of the route of that road. It is highly desirable that the writer who, if not luminous, threatens to be voluminous, should be fully posted up on this point, and I will endeavor very briefly to enlighten him.

In the first place, then, it is the interest of Pennsylvania, and especially of Pittsburgh, that the passengers and trade of the Ohio valley should come here, and be taken eastward through this state. And, per contra, it is not our interest that they should be diverted at Wellsville, and carried through Lake Erie to New York and Boston.

Secondly—It is our interest that the Western Railroad should strike the Ohio River at such a point as to insure the passengers and trade of the lakes and of Central Ohio coming here: and, per contra, it is not our interest that it should go to Wellsville, which is nearer to Wheeling than it is to Pittsburgh.

Thirdly—It is our interest that the Western road should be the best, shortest, and cheapest line that can be obtained, and should pass through the most productive country, and, per contra, it is not our interest that it should go through Wellsville, as we have the positive assurance of the competent, disinterested and skillful engineer, who has examined all the routes, that in all these particulars the route diverging at the mouth of Big Beaver, bears the palm of excellence.

"Candor" will probably consider these statements rather explanatory than satisfactory, but every "*Farmer*" will appreciate their force, and it is our duty to shed *Daylight* upon dark subjects.

PENNSYLVANIA INTERESTS.

A PRAYER.—The following prayer, to be used in this Diocese, when the disease called Asiatic Cholera is impending, is put forth in conformity with Canon XLVII of 1832, of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

A. POTTER,
Bishop of the Diocese of Penna.

Philadelphia Dec. 25, 1848.

PRAYER.—O God, with whom are the issues of life and death, to whom it justly belongeth to punish sinners and to be merciful to them that truly repent, we humbly beseech thee, from the ravages of that pestilence with which we are threatened. We have provoked thy righteous judgements by our manifold transgressions and hardness of heart, and though we should utterly perish for our punishment would be less than our sins deserve. But, O God, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, spare thy unworthy creatures and grant this our fasting and humiliation, and breaking our sins, may experience thy saving and protecting grace. Let thy dealings with thy people of old, when they turned to thee from their rebellion and didst cease thy destroying angel to cease from punishing, to turn thine anger from us who meekly acknowledge our vileness and truly repent us of our sins. Spare those who are now suffering from this grievous sickness, restore the voice of joy and health to their dwellings and grant that all who shall visit the sick bed, may devote their days to thy service, and so minister to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIFE IN MISSISSIPPI.—We take the following from the last Louisville Mess. Telegraph

MARRIAGE.—On Saturday, Nov 11 in the Court House, by Rev. Isaiah M. Wm Peavy to Miss Caroline Hudspeth all of this county.

The minister had just been elected Regulator General of this brigade, and when called upon to officiate at the marriage ceremony, was busily engaged in calculating the majority, which was large, and so composed. In another corner of the house was a group of men calculating the loss of cass and gain of Taylor, and in the door of the house stood the Deputy Sheriff selling a poor fellow, even for a small suspicion of debt, while the Probate Court, at the table, was busily engaged in calling on the parties concerned, and in another corner of the house stood a group of boys swapping marbles. The minister commenced the ceremony, while the Taylor man called out 104 guns for Taylor, and the Cass men said 'd—n the cors—who the d—ll cares for the corn?