THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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☞ ADVERTISERS are earnestly requested to hand in their favors before 5 P. M., and as early in the day as practicable. Advertisements not inserted for a specified time will invariably be charged until ordered out.

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

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

EXPLOSION OF STEAM BOILERS.—At the last session of Congress a resolution was adopted by the Senate, calling upon the Commissioner of Patents for information in regard to *explosion of steam boilers*, with a view to further legislation for their prevention, should it be deemed proper. In obedience to this resolution, Mr. Burke submitted to the Senate last week a full, interesting and valuable report upon the subject, of which the New York Courier has received a synopsis in advance of its publication in Washington. We copy from that journal the following summary of its statements:—

Whole number of boats on which explosions have occurred	233
" of passengers killed [enumerated in six cases]	140
" officers killed [enumerated in 3 cases]	57
" crew	28
Whole number killed [in 164 cases]	1805
" wounded [in 111 cases]	1015
Total amount of damages [in 75 cases]	$997,650
Average number of passengers killed in the enumerated cases	23
" officers, " " "	2
" crew, " " "	4
" killed, " " "	11
" wounded " " "	9
Average amount of damages	$13,302

The cause is stated in 98 cases; not stated in 125; unknown 10; together 233

I. Excessive pressure gradually increased was the cause in	16
II. The presence of undue heated metals	16
III. Defective construction	33
IV. Carelessness or ignorance	31
Accidental [rolling of the boat]	2

NATURE OF THE ACCIDENTS.

Bursting boiler	101
Collapsing flue	71
Bursting steam pipes	9
" flue chests	1
Bolt of Boiler forced out	1
Struck by lightning	4
Blew out boiler head	1
" aking cylinder head	2
" flange of steam pipe	1
Bridge wall exploded	1
Unknown	38
Not stated	233
Total	233

GENERAL ESTIMATE.

Of the total loss of life and property, calculated from the average of the given cases.			
Pecuniary loss,	233 cases,	at $13,302 each,	$3,099,366
Loss of life,	"	11 each,	2,563
Wounded,	"	9 "	2,097
Total killed and wounded,			4,660

The This average is not a fair one, as it is derived from but six cases, in one of which (the Pulaski) the very unusual number of 120 lives were lost.

ERIE CANAL COMPANY.—The annual report of this company is published in the Erie Commercial Advertiser. We glean from it the following items in relation to the condition of the Company.

Although the income for the season has fallen short of the estimate, it has nevertheless exceeded that of last year by about 20 per cent.

Total Revenue for 1848	$71,270 42
Total Expenditures	56,935 79
Appropriated to settle balances in hands of Superintendent	3,240 22
Surplus of revenue over expenditures and appropriations	11,094 37
In treasury at last settlement	21,371 59
Total in hand unappropriated 1st, January 1849	32,465 96

The directors decided to appropriate the fund on hand to the annual interest falling due the first of January 1849 on Bonds and Certificates—the amount enabling them to pay 6 per cent on the Certificates, and 3 per cent, on the bonds, now payable, and paying in cash at the Treasury, again issuing Certificates for the balance of the interest unpaid.

The total liabilities of the Company as liquidated and estimated up to the first of January 1849, are as follows:

Stock paid	$64,950 00
Bonds outstanding	742,159 00
Interest calculated up to 1st, Jan. 1849	172,045 44
Due on award of damages by Canal Commissioners	2,160 00
Outstanding accounts on the line—estimated	3 240 32
Total liabilities	$984,554 76
Deduct cash on hand	35,706 28
Total beyond cash on hand	$948,848 48

THE METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY QUESTION.—The committee, consisting of Messrs. George Lane, Levi Scott, Leroy Swormstedt, and John H. Power, appointed by the last Methodist Episcopal General Conference, held at Pittsburgh, to whom was referred the proposition of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, relative to the division of the Church property, have come to the following decision:

'Having taken the advice of eminent legal counsel, in compliance with the direction of the late General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, we are satisfied that no power which we possess, whether corporate or otherwise, will warrant us to submit the claim made by you in behalf of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, to a portion of the property of the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to the decision of arbiters.'

A suit at law for the recovery of the property claimed, is now the proposed remedy of the Church South, and the case will, therefore, speedily come before the Circuit Court of Ohio or New York, and anon find its way to the Supreme Court of the U. States.

STARTLING GOLD RUMOR.—The New York Tribune mentions a rumor in that city, that the steam' ship Falcon, (which arrived at New Orleans on the 9th, from Chagres,) brought $100,000 in gold dust; but as the New Orleans papers say nothing on the subject, it is doubtless incorrect. The Tribune says:

'A more reliable rumor, which is also current, states that a merchant in this city has received a letter from the captain of the ship John Parker, at San Francisco, which vessel was entirely deserted by the crew. It is said that she has been manned by volunteers from the mining districts, who are coming home with their earnings, amounting to the total value of $800,000. If the half of this be true, there will be work enough for the mints next summer.'

FEMALE INSTITUTE.—We understand that the Female Institute, in this city, under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Goshorn, is in a highly prosperous state, more so than at any former period of its flourishing existence. It numbers among its pupils a large number of young ladies who are making great proficiencies in the various branches of a sound female education. At the commencement of the next session, on the first of February, a course of Scientific Lectures will be introduced, a new philosophical and chemical apparatus having been provided for the purpose of illustration and experiments. See advertisement.

Judge Patton's charge in the Factory Riots case, will be found under our local head today. A very general anxiety has been manifested to read this charge, which is said to be one of very considerable ability. As we placed it in the hands of the compositors as soon as received, we have had no opportunity of reading it ourself.

GEN. CASS.—This gentleman is not yet elected Senator from Michigan, and a fierce struggle appears to be going on for the office. The Free Soilers and Whigs are pressing free soil resolutions upon the Legislature, which they wish passed before the election takes place.

MR. CALHOUN.—Our Washington correspondent's description of Mr. Calhoun's bitter disappointment is calculated to excite no little compassion for the fallen Statesman. Poor man—he has fallen on evil times for the growth of his hobby—slavery.—What a pity, that so great a man should sacrifice himself in so miserable a cause.

HOT FOR CALIFORNIA.—Those who intend to leave these parts, for a trip to California, by the Cape Horn route, will find a ship advertised in our columns.

To-day, Mr. H. Williams will again take charge of his day and evening school.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1849.

My expectations are fulfilled in respect to the nomination of Mr. Weller, late candidate for governor of Ohio, to be Commissioner to run the boundary between the United States and Mexico. He was immediately confirmed, because the Senate was assured that the interests of the government required the presence of the Commissioner on the line at the earliest practicable moment. Perhaps he is as well qualified for that frontier service as any man selected merely because of his party position would be likely to be, and no one else at present stands any chance for the favor of the administration.

The ultra Southern men are awfully despondent on account of the miserable ending of their scheme for agitation and ultimate disunion. They are especially appalled at the unexpected course of the two Senators from Texas. It is said that Mr. Calhoun was affected almost to tears, when in the meeting of the Committee of fifteen, at which the address was adopted by the meagre majority of a single vote, Mr. Rusk, of Texas, rose to oppose it. Like the first Cæsar, the South Carolina Senator exclaimed, 'and thou too Brutus!' Texas he had made a state of this union. He was her political father. He had brought her in as a shield of defence, a security and bulwark to the South and Slavery against the advances of the liberalizing spirit of the age. Mr. Rusk had been, in his youth, his *protege*. He had been to him a protector, a guardian. And yet, this first, representative from his own Texas, his beloved foster son and ward, rose to flout him, to oppose and defeat the dearest wishes of his heart. The scene between him, the venerable arch-conspirator and his rebellious pupil, in that 'dark conclave,' is said to have been most moving and pathetic. Mr. Calhoun appealed to him in the name of all their past recollections, not to persist in his opposition. But Mr. Rusk replied that he considered these proposed measures preparatory to more serious ones for shaking this Union. He feelingly acknowledged the obligations of Texas and all her sons to Mr. Calhoun, and the personal kindness which he in his youth had experienced at his hands, but his duty was plain, he must cling to the Union as their ark of safety and the citadel of their honor.

This scene was followed by others in the general meeting of Monday night, equally harrassing to Mr. Calhoun. His mind, and at length his frame has felt the effects of it. To day, while conversing in the Senate Chamber with Judge Douglass and other friends, he suddenly fell. He soon recovered, took a coach and returned to his lodgings.

The whigs feel that they are well out of a bad scrape; very few of them I fancy will attend the meeting on Monday night.

The death of Col. Croghan is confirmed. A vigorous scramble is already going on for the vacant place. It seems to be agreed that Col. Duncan, of the artillery service stands the best chance of success. The Secretary is pledged to him, and the President has expressed himself favorable.

Foote, of Miss., has again made himself conspicuous as a laughing stock, by a virulent and most malignant attack upon Judge McLean, and by cutting up sundry other antics in the Senate Chamber. Foote mistakes the attention which the tricks of the mountebank and the extravaganzas of the Harlequin always attract, for reputation and honorable fame. Mr. Underwood had moved to amend the bill for the reduction of postage, which was then under discussion, by conferring the franking privilege upon the judges of the Supreme Court. Foote immediately gathered himself up for a philipic against Judge McLean on the pretence that he had been meddling in politics by writing letters on the Wilmot Proviso, the Mexican war, &c., &c. He was impelled by fiendish malignity against the South, he had soiled the ermine, he had degraded the bench, and so on—and then Mr Foote sat down, imagining that he had annihilated Judge McLean.

Presently after, Mr. Underwood, spoke of the attacks by journalists and others against members of Congress of abusing the franking privilege.—This again set in motion Foote, of Miss. Did he bear a Senator say he cared for the attacks of editors and scribblers in newspapers? He was astonished! He dispised them all with a scorn too lofty for utterance! He was the worst abused man in America, yet it had never disturbed his equanimity, nor lessened his self esteem. Foote won't have justice done him for this flight. The official reporters will be afraid to record his silliness, as it came out of him and the independents in the gallery were too much occupied with their own merriment to take notes. The facetious "Doctor," of the Herald, tried to do him justice, but was unequal to the task, stuffed his handkerchief in his mouth put his hands on his side, and fell back exhausted. But Foote will be heard of again. 'You may tax woollens, but you can't keep down genius.'

JUNIUS.

FROM NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette

NEW YORK, Jan. 16, 1849.

Nothing has occurred to break the monotony of the city, except a movement in the Common Council to extend the rights of suffrages to all "unmarried white females, over twenty one years of age, who may be the fortunate possessor of any taxable property within the city limits," and who has paid such taxes as may have been levied. The reason given for this extension of the area of voting freedom in city matters, is that representation and taxation should go together. The right to vote in this city could hardly be exercised by a lady, who would be obliged to contest the field with half an acre of rowdies, and not accomplish much after all.

Crowds still flock in from the country en route for California, which still continues the leading topic of conversation with all classes. The most glowing accounts are told by those interested in ships, and the truth is indeed hard to get. Amid all the confusion it may however, be taken as a fixed fact that, at the last advices there were two million of dollars worth of gold waiting shipment from San Francisco for New York. The promulgator of this story is one of the first merchants here, and needs no endorser.

'The southern tier of counties are full of enthusiasm on account of the opening of the railroad into their before distant region. Passengers for beyond all calculation come to us from thence, and the freight for abundance and variety is unprecedented. A train left Binghampton that paid tolls of $1031, with others from intermediate places equally profitable. At all the depots, the rush of freight exceeds all the means of storage, and the Erie road in truth, has even proved itself as great a thoroughfare to market as the Erie canal. Its stock and bonds are advancing, and, what's better are passing into the hands of capitalists who will hold them permanently.

'Steps have been taken to secure the early construction of the great "Astor Library" which has been so much talked about. The act of incorporation has been reported at Albany, and will soon be a law. The Library building is to be erected on Astor Place near the Opera House, at a cost o $75,000. Care has been taken by the Legislature to avoid troubles such as attended the disposition of the Girard fund, and we shall have a popular and extensive library open all the time.

'The erection of another splendid building on Astor Place binds still more strongly the wealth of the city to that quarter. The stranger who now confines his examination of New York to a distance of two miles from the Battery, knows nothing of the town as a fashionable residence. The lower part of the city is devoted to the practical, but the upper part even now rivals in appearance European cities in its appearance of wealth—Churches of unrivalled elegance,—public buildings of magnificent proportions, and private residences of palatial dimensions and splendor unite in forming a city that gives pleasure to any New Yorker as well as the multitude of strangers.

'The Hon. Zadoc Pratt, late M. C., has returned to public life, and accepted the Presidency of the Mechanic's Institute of this city, and one of the most honorable offices in the gift of New York.—The possession of a good deal of money will enable him to do much for the society in return for the notoriety he will gain by his connection with it. His speech on taking the chair was a model of research and bathos, and will have extensive circulation as an advertisement.

'Money remains very abundant here and almost any amount can be had at the legal rate of interest, and less upon short time well secured.

'In the markets there is rather a pause. Ashes, foreign and domestic, may be quoted at 7 cts; Cotton has fallen upon the last news 1@1c; Flour has yielded a little, and is 6c lower; Grain is in less demand, and buyers refuse to operate, except at lower rates. The large arrivals of Pork, and the fact that much more is to come has put down prices and mess Ohio sells at $15 and dull, beef is cheaper, as well as pickled meats, which have sold at 6@8c for "Winchesters" and Dana's sugar cured.

C.

Private letters from London state that the new United States loan had been sold there at par, and a few small sums at 100½. There were free purchases made at the brokers' board here on Saturday morning at 109½, and after the board at 110. The price here is helped notoriously by the rise in London, but also by the opinion, which some are propagating, that the subtreasury act will ere long be repealed and a return made to the deposite system, under which the banks gave the Government its own stocks as security for the faithful discharge of their trusts.—*Journal of Commerce.*

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

ASTOR, NEW YORK, Jan. 15, 1849.

I am glad to perceive that you are awaking the attention of your good citizens to the importance of Plank Roads. In no portion of the country are they more desirable than about Pittsburgh, which is famed for her miserable roads. In this State we hear of them being built in every direction. During the past autumn, I travelled over a portion of one now building from Utica to Sackett's Harbor, on Lake Ontario, and which when finished, will be over two hundred miles in length. The cost of this road—which is a double track, laid with five inch hemlock plank—is about twelve hundred dollars the mile, and it is said it will last eight years, with very trifling repairs. Nothing can be more agreeable than the motion created by riding over these; and we feel assured, that if once introduced into the west, they will come into universal use.

The cholera, you will be glad to learn, has left us entirely, having been swallowed up by the California Fever; it is to be hoped the same results may occur on your side of the mountains.

We are now anxiously awaiting the advent of General Taylor's administration, and public feeling is on the tip-toe to know who is to form his cabinet. Anxious to allay as much as lies in our power, this excitement, we have to state, that we have received a private dispatch from a North River Bird, that annually migrates to a winter residence in Louisiana, who says that while eating his breakfast on the top of old Zack's chimney, he heard the General read over to Col. Bliss the following names, as being the most likely to form his body guard:—

John J. Crittenden, of Ky., Secretary of State.
George Evans, of Maine, (as a compliment to the Vice-President, by whom he is strongly backed,) Secretary of the Treasury.
John Bell, of Tennessee, Secretary of War.
Robert C. Winthrop, Mass., Secretary of Navy.
John M. Clayton, of Delaware, Attorney Genl.
Andrew Stewart, of Penn., Postmaster General.

I give this as I received it, and have no doubt that it will prove nearer the truth than the many guesses which we have seen going the rounds of the papers. This will make three from the Slave States and three from the Free States, Delaware being as yet a Slave State. Talking of the President reminds me of the fact, which is somewhat singular, that out of the eleven Presidents of the United States, seven have been born in Virginia, viz:—Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Harrison, Tyler, and last Old Zack. This is glory enough for one State. I cannot say, however, I envy her the birth of John Tyler.

I understand that Chloroform is likely to be superseded entirely, by a recent accidental discovery of a distinguished physician at New York. Being in to visit a patient, he discovered, after being seated by his side a few moments, that his patient fell suddenly into a most profound sleep, from which, he could not awake him; on endeavoring to ascertain the cause, he discovered that he had accidentally brought in his coat pocket, [which he had just bought from a news-boy] a copy of President Polk's last Message, which he immediately threw into the flames, and his patient gradually recovered his senses. He has since tested its efficacy upon various diseases, and finds it a perfect specific for the cholera in its worst stages, by merely placing a copy of it in the hands of the patient. The disease disappears as if by magic.

The weather here has been intensely cold for the last week—the thermometer having, in several instances, receded to 10 degrees above zero. The ice in the Hudson above Poughkeepsie is two feet thick. Money is plenty here, and every thing commercially speaking, has a buoyant appearance. It is generally supposed that the spring trade will be a very large and prosperous one. The New Yorkers are perfectly sanguine of ultimately having an unbroken connection with Pittsburgh, via the Erie Roil Road.

Major Lewis Cass, jr., whose name would be much more appropriate by the abstraction of the letter C from it—has, as you have doubtless observed, been appointed and confirmed as Charge d'Affairs to Rome—as an evidence of his fitness for the position, I desire to relate a little incident of which I was a spectator. Some time last fall, while sitting in the public parlor of Jones's Hotel, Philadelphia, in company with a distinguished friend, we were much amused with observing for two full hours the operations of this distinguished son of the great Michigander—who wore his sack coat upon his arm, in full opera dress, was walking during the entire time from one looking glass to the other—there being two—now adjusting his cravat, now his hair, and then taking a general survey of his entire person, with an expression of evident satisfaction. A worthy representative of a sensitive Democratic People, truly! We trust General Taylor will not hesitate in returning this young gentleman to his anxious Papa, as soon as possible.

S.

A HINT TO CALIFORNIA EMIGRANTS.—Persons emigrating to California, and who are desirous of reaching that distant destination as speedily as possible, are earnestly recommended to take, before leaving, a box of Brandreth's Pills, which will be certain to secure them a speedy passage. The life is perfectly sanguine, that they will also obviate the necessity of taking along with them spades and pick axes to dig out the gold with, as two or three pills, placed in the ground, over night, will, if there is any gold in it, work it entirely out by morning.

From the Sandwich Islands.

CALIFORNIA, GOLD, EMIGRATION, SHIPPING, &c.

We have the New Bedford Mercury, of Monday, containing in full the accounts briefly given heretofore by telegraphic despatch. The news from the Sandwich Islands is to the 2d of Sept., furnished by files of the Polynesian and Sandwich Island News, received by the late arrival of whaleships from the Pacific. We copy additional items from the Mercury, as follows:

'The excitement which the accounts by this arrival create in our village is very great, and every body is packing up for California. The ship Rhone and brig Euphemia, have already sailed with passengers, and others are preparing to follow. The companies or associations are composed of old residents at the islands, and are men of steady habits.

The Polynesian of Aug 26, says: During this week no less than three vessels have been despatched for San Francisco.

Our trade with California is rapidly increasing.

It gives us much pleasure to notice the good conduct of the crew of the U. S. ship Preble, during their stay in our port.

The Honolula Friend, of the 1 st September says:

'At the latest intelligence from the gold region there was no falling of in the amount of gold that rewards the labors of the miner, but the hot season and exposure had produced a fearful amount of sickness. The probability was that the 'ague and fever' and other disease would make sad havoc among the crowd of adventurers. Intemperance, gambling and kindred vices were fearfully rife and attended with their usual evils and mischief.'

The editor of the Polynesian, in speaking of the gold in California, seems to apprehend that the diggers will eventually have great trouble with the Mormons, who are there in great numbers, and who claim a preemption right to the land.

He also estimates that there will be twenty thousand persons there digging by January 1st. As an instance of the fever at Honolulu, it is mentioned that one person actually started in a whale boat. The U.S. ship of the line, Ohio, was daily expected to arrive at Honolulu. She is ultimately bound to California.

At Tahiti all was quiet at the latest dates.

The following is given under the date of Honolulu, Aug. 31st:—

'By a letter received from Captain Finch, of the whale ship Lagoda, we learn, that during the night of the 2d of June last, while in the Japan Seas, fifteen men belonging to the Lagoda, took three of that ship's boats, and made off, since which, nothing has been heard of them. At the time the men left the ship, they supposed they were not more than 30 or 40 miles from the land, but Capt. F. says they were at least 120 miles, and there being a very thick fog at the time, it is more than probable that they have perished.

'From the same source, we also learn that the ship Wiscasset, belonging, we believe, to New Bedford, (an error, no such vessel in the whaling fleet) was wrecked upon one of the Japanese Islands, and her crew, with the exception of six, were lost. The six that escaped were taken and put in confinement by the Japanese. One of the men endeavored to make his escape, but was immediately massacred by the guard. The remaining five were afterwards sent to some ship."

Appointments by the Attorney General.

Attorney General DARRAGH has made the following appointments of Deputies:

Philadelphia county—William B. Reed.
Lancaster—Isaac E. Heistpr.
Chester—Washington Townsend.
Blair—David H. Hoffius.
Clearfield—G. W. Hecker.
Columbia—Robert F. Clark.
Indiana—Alexander Taylor.
Armstrong—Thomas T. Torrey.
Westmoreland—W. H. Markip.
Northampton—H. D. Maxwell.
Dauphin—James Fox.
York—William R. Morris.
Lebanon—T. W. Killinger.
Delaware—John M. Broomball.
Erie—Matthew Taylor.
Franklin—Hugh W. Reynolds.
Adams—James G. Reed.
Fayette—A. W. Barclay.
Somerset—John R. Edie.
Washington—R. H. Koonts.
Greene—William Bailey.
Luzerne—Washington Lee.
Bedford—Francis Jordan.
Cumberland—James R. Smith.
Huntingdon—J. Lewell Stewart.

THE HEALTH OF THE CITY.—It affords us much gratification to be able to announce that the disorder which has proved so fatal within a few weeks past, has run itself completely out, and that now not the slightest danger need be apprehended.—We feel perfectly authorized in saying that all danger is past, and that those who fled from our city at the breaking out of the disease, may now return without fear of sickness, save the "ills that flesh is heir to," in ordinary seasons. The weather has cleared up, and a hard frost with a sharp wind has dispersed the foul vapors and purified the atmosphere, so that the city is now completely restored to its usual healthy condition.—*N. O. Picayune, Jan. 10.*

INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNOR.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16th, Wm. F. Johnston, the Governor elect of Pennsylvania, was inaugurated at the capitol at Harrisburgh.

At half-past 11 o'clock, the Governor was waited upon by a joint Committee of the two Houses, accompanied by the Heads of Departments, Canal Commissioners, and a large concourse of strangers and citizens, and the Military companies under the command of Colonel E. C. WILLIAMS, and Adjutant ISAAC WATERBERRY, at his lodgings at Coverly's Hotel, and escorted to the Capitol. The certificates of his election were then read, after which Mr. Darsie, President of the Convention, administered the oath of office.

Mr. Johnston then rose and read his inaugural address as follows:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The kindness and confidence of the people having cast upon me the Executive functions of the government, and the prescribed oath to support the Constitution having been administered, I should be false to the sacred trust reposed in me, and unworthy the confidence manifested, did I not deeply feel the responsibility of my position, and firmly resolve to merit your support.

Profoundly sensible, however, of my own weakness, and fully conscious that without the encouragement and assistance of the people, the Chief Magistrate is unable properly to discharge the high duties of his station, and instead of the substance of popular power, becomes the empty shadow of Executive authority, I would earnestly invoke at the hands of the citizens, the efficient aid of the same spirit which called into existence the free institutions of our country, to assist me in supporting and defending them.

At the commencement of an administration, it has been a custom with the Executive to indicate the principles which will govern his councils, and the measures he may desire for the benefit of the people. The annual message delivered at the opening of the present session of the Legislature, has superceded the necessity of a strict compliance with this usage, and on this occasion it will suffice to refer to a few general views of the public policy that shall receive my hands the fullest and steadiest support and consideration.

At all times and under all circumstances, the highest obligation of the public servant, is the maintenance and defence of our Republican institutions. That these shall receive, in the exercise of Executive power, a sound interpretation—that no impediment shall interfere to prevent the salutary influence of their principles—that the popular mind, when understood, shall be obeyed, are indices which no public officer will disregard.

The founders of the Republic, inspired with profound wisdom, declared that all men are born equally free and independent; that the right of defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and reputation, are indefensible; that all power inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority; that no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious establishments, or modes of worship; that no man can be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, unless by the judgement of his peers, or the law of the land; that no man's property shall be taken or applied to public use, without the consent of representatives: that education should be promoted, and the blessing of intellectual culture placed well within the reach of every citizen. History and experience have demonstrated the justice of these principles, and private feelings as well as public duty, demand for them a cordial support.

It is said of a venerated maxim that the object of all just government is the greatest good of the greatest number. In reducing this theory to practice, it should be a constant endeavor to procure such legislation as shall promote religion and morality, and encourage science and literature. It will also be deemed a duty to elevate by proper means, the condition of the laboring classes of society; to advance the active industry of the citizen, and foster commerce, agriculture and manufactures. Measures for the reduction of the public debt, and the consequent relief of the tax-paying and burthened people, shall at all times receive a most cordial support.

An indebted nation cannot command the full measure of its independence, nor feel the entire blessings of its institutions. Whatever may be its desire to promote some objects of general benevolence, its resources refuse a compliance with its will, and national justice is thereby frequently delayed. With a deep conviction of the importance of this subject, and a settled confidence that the people will sustain any safe measures having in view the payment of the debt of the State, it shall be a cherished object with our councils in a condition to discharge every public obligation, to maintain unsullied the honor of the Commonwealth, and to preserve unspotted, its motto of *Virtue, Liberty and Independence.*

The intentions of the people are pure, and are uniformly directed to advance the general prosperity. When, therefore, they confer a public functionary feels an anxious desire in unison with their own, for the public welfare, they will willingly pardon errors of judgement, and sustain him in his public course. It is hoped the same generous and manly sentiment, the same construction of motives, the same indulgence of public functionaries, which have been extended to others in similar position, will shield the administration about to commence, from at least, unmerited censure.

An evil spirit is at work among us, against whose malign influence all should be on their guard. It is that spirit which creates a wrong where none exists—which in advance condemns the public servant, and labors to destroy confidence in the honesty of his design—which, unwilling to judge of works, draws from its guilty imagings the spectres of a corrupt heart, and holds them up to public gaze as substantial truths. It is the same spirit which would array in hostile position the classes into which society divides—that would place capital and labor, the rich and the poor at variance with each other. It is the spirit that animates the bosoms of the Catalines of every age.

In Europe there are noblemen and peasants, political and social distinctions, created and sustained by law and sanctioned by prescription. In this country all are equal under the law; and no politician, no party in our country, would desire a change in this fundamental principle of our constitution. Factious distinctions can have no residence where they are not sustained by law, and such are the sudden transitions of wealth among the citizens, that the rich man of yesterday is the poor man of to day, and the poor to day the rich of to morrow. Where property is not secured by legal enactment to particular classes, and wealth is unguarded by immemorial privileges, an enlightened self interest will teach the rich to hold in reverence the rights of the poor, for their condition may be changed in themselves or their offspring.

The rich and the poor are equally dependent on each other for the comforts and luxuries of civilized life—separate them, and the interest of both perish—the capital of the rich is valueless without the assistance of the capital of labor.

The most dangerous, because the most insidious enemies of the Republic, are those who prowl among the honest, unsuspecting citizens, whispering insinuations against men whose every interest is connected with the welfare of the country.—Such men should be rebuked as dangerous to the well being of society, as sacrificing at the shrine of party, truth, honor, patriotism, and as tearing asunder the confidence which holds us together as one people.

In the discharge of my official duties, I shall ever bear in mind the oath of fidelity to the constitution, and shall endeavor with my utmost ability to perform the sacred trust committed to my charge. If I shall err in judgment when most anxious to do right, must be anticipated, for human intelligence is incapable of reaching unerring truth, and the hope that a generous forgiveness on your part will accompany honest intentions, will sustain me; and if, at the end of my term of service, it shall be my fortune to leave the people of my native State happier and more prosperous than I found them, I shall ask no prouder inscription over my grave.

With a firm reliance that the God of nations will preserve our happy country as the home of his people, and will lend his support to an anxious endeavor to promote the happiness, and perpetuate their civil and religious institutions, I enter on the discharge of the duties of the Executive department of the State.

WM. F. JOHNSTON.

January 16, 1849.

After its delivery, the band in attendance struck up "Hail Columbia," and the ceremonies being completed the Convention adjourned, and the spectators gradually dispersed.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.—The subject of homestead exemption is attracting more or less attention in all the States of the Union. We perceive that a bill of this character is now before the New York Legislature, with indications auguring its success. We are in favor of the adoption of such a law in Pennsylvania.—Differing somewhat from our respected friend who has the honor of representing Erie County in the State Senate, we are in favor of it, mainly, because, aside from its inherent justice, it is a measure of RIGHT to classes in community who, till recently, have been entirely overlooked in legislation. We refer to women and children. There is no reason, either in nature or justice, why they should sink their identity in the husband and father, and be made to feel the full force of all his faults, errors and misfortunes. A woman, with a drunken or spendthrift husband, and surrounded by helpless children, has a right to shelter from the storm. She should not be punished for the crimes of her husband. Her condition, in such circumstances, is often worse than absolute widowhood; and she, as well as her children, is entitled to the merciful consideration of the law, and so, in fact, should she be in cases of misfortune involving no moral guilt on the part of her husband.

We rejoice that this tendency of the age is towards beneficent legislation, and that all laws having for their object the protection of the weak and innocent are received with favor by the people. Of this character is homestead exemption. We should be much gratified to be enabled to make record of such a law as among the wise acts of the present Legislature.—*Erie Gazette.*

Curious Epitaph.

Here lies
Two Grandmothers, with their two Grandaughters;
Two Husbands, with their two Wives;
Two Fathers, with their two Daughters;
Two Mothers, with their two Sons;
Two Maidens, with their two Mothers:
Two Sisters, with their two Brothers:
Yet but six Corpses in all lie buried here,
All born legitimate, from incest clear.

The above is from the old Virginia Gazette, of 1748. The Lady reader may find some amusement in studying out its meaning.

Scotch men and Scotch music.

The following instance shows that Scotch music will make a Scotchman do anything when out of his own country.

A gentleman who was a first rate performer of Scotch music on the violin, spent a winter in Exeter, and of course soon became well acquainted with the musical dilettanti of the place. Dining one day with a professor, the conversation turned upon Scotch music, and a strong argument arose as to its bearing competition with foreign music; the Scotchman, whom we shall for the present designate the Fiddler insisting that when properly played, nothing could excel it—the Professor on the other hand insisting it was only fit for a barn yard.

'I'll tell you what,' says the fiddler 'I'll lay you a wager of £5, that if a party of Scotchmen can be gotten together, I'll make them shed tears one minute, sing the next and dance the third'.

'done' said the erofessor, 'and if your music is capable of that, I will not only pay you the £5 with pleasure, but will be convinced that it is the most enlivening, pathetic, and best music in the world.'

The difficulty arose as to getting an opportunity for a trial. But this was soon obviated by a third party informing that a number of young Scotch dined annually at the Old London Hotel, on the anniversary of Burn's birthday. This was a capital opportunity for the fiddler; for these young men being principally raw-boned, overgrown Scotch lads, who had recently left their own country to carry tea in the neighborhood, were the very best ones upon which he was sure to make a hit.

All now being arranged, and the utmost secrecy being agreed upon, the eventful day was anxiously looked for. At length it came, and the Fiddler and Professor, by an introduction to one of the party got an invitation to the dinner. There were twelve altogether sat down; and a right merry party they were. The Fiddler was not long in perceiving that he had got among a right musical set, and he waited patiently till they were fit for anything. At length he gave a wink to the professor, who at once proposed that his friend should favor them with a Scotch tune on the violin.

'Capital, capital,' cried the whole party.

The violin was brought, and all were in breathless anxiety. The Fiddler chose for his first tune,—'Here's health to them that's awa,' and played it in the most solemn and pathetic manner.

'That's a wareful tune,' said a great big raw boned youth to his next neighbor.

'It is that Sandy. There's mickle in that tune, mon. It reminds me of a that's gane,' Jamie, at the same time giving a deep sigh; and drawing his hand over his long gaunt face to hide the tears which were trickling down his cheeks.

The Fiddler with his keen eye soon perceived that before he had got through the second part of his tune he would have them all in the same mood. He therefore threw his whole soul into the instrument, played the tune as he had never done before; and as the last four bars of the tune died away like a distant echo, there was not a dry cheek among the company. Now is the time thought the Fiddler: and without stopping a moment, struck up a bold, vigorous style, "Willie Brew'd a Peck Maut." Out went the handkerchiefs, away went the tears.

'Chorus' cried the Fiddler, and in an instant all struck up—

'For we are nae fou', we're nae that fou',
But just a drappie in our e'e;
The cock may craw, the day may daw.
But aye we'll taste the barley bree'

The song ended, up struck the Fiddler in his best style, the reel of 'Jenny dang the Weaver.'

'Hey, ye devils' cried Sandy

'Scotland forever!' cried Jamie: and in an instant, tables, chairs, and glasses were scattered in all directions and the whole party dancing and jumping about like madmen.

Out ran the Professor, (for he did not know what would come next,) up came the landlady with her terrified train of inmates. But none durst enter the room, the hurrahs and thumps on the floor being so boisterous; and it was only upon the entry of a Scotch traveller, who had just arrived, and who cried to the Fiddler for any sake to stop, that order was restored.

It is needless to say that the professor paid his bet cheerfully, and was fully convinced of the effect of Scotch music when properly played, and the landlady took care that the Fiddler never came into her house again on Burn's anniversary dinner.—*Eng. Paper.*

Late from Oregon—The Indian War, &c.

The New York Commercial has files of the Oregon Spectator to the 13th of July inclusive—three months later than the Oregon papers last received.

The President's Message of December, 1847, is published in the Spectator of June 29th. The Spectator of July 13th, says it would be read with gratification and pride by every citizen of Oregon, but adds that 'so far as relates to Oregon, it fails to satisfy its citizens.' The appropriations seem to be, the President's recommendation of grants upon no terms at all; that is a donation of land and not a purchase.

The chief matter of interest is the war with the Indians, who, it will be remembered, some months previous to these dates, massacred a number of persons in the Walilah Wallah valley. An army was raised and proceeded against the Indians, and had defeated them in several encounters. By the last intelligence, this army was composed of 450 men, who are still out in the Nez Perces country, following the murderers, who had fled towards Fort Hall. The army is under the command of Col. Waters and Colonel Lee. The latter, who was appointed chief in command in place of Col. Gillam, accidentally killed, refused to accept it, but acted under Colonel Waters, writes to Governor Abernethy, under date of 14th of May:

'Telequoit and party are said to remain in the vicinity of the Pelouse river, and if this prove true, there can be but little doubt of our success in capturing them. The friendship of the Indians here increases with our numbers. I feel no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that we have a sufficient force to accomplish every thing that might be reasonably expected at our hands; and rest assured that no time shall be lost in effecting the one grand object of our mission.'

A letter from Mr. McBean, chief trader of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Fort Nez Perces says he had received information on the 4th of June, that Serpent Jaune, chief of the Walla Wallas, had taken and hung one of the murderers of the missionaries, and was in pursuit of another.

A proclamation signed by H. A.G. Lee, superintendent of Indian affairs dated July 6, declares the territory of the Cayuses forfeited and subject to be occupied and held by American citizens, resident in Oregon. A company appears to have been formed for such occupation.

A notice from Mr. Lee to "Messrs. Blanchet"—Roman Catholic missionaries, we believe,—informs them that missionary labors with the Indians East of the Cascade mountains, must be suspended until "the presence of well organized and disciplined troops, under command of United States officers, shall render such efforts safe and judicious."

Messrs. Eels and Walker, missionaries at Fort Colville, with their families, had been brought to Oregon city, there to remain until safer times.

The Rev. G. Atkinson and lady had arrived from Boston.

Rev. T. McBride was drowned in June, while attempting to cross the Willam-tte river.

The Hudson's Bay Company's barque Vancouver was wrecked, in May, on a bar at the mouth of the Columbia river. A small part of the cargo was saved. The loss would be severely felt by the citizens of Oregon as well as by the company.

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