THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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FRIDAY MORNING, JAN. 26, 1849.

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

COMMERCIAL LIST AND PHILADELPHIA PRICE CURRENT.—Subscriptions to this valuable paper will be received and forwarded from this office.

NEW YORK EXPRESS.—We will receive and forward free of expense, advertisements and subscriptions for this paper.

☞ The Pittsburgh Daily Gazette is published Daily, Tri-Weekly, and Weekly.—The Daily is Seven Dollars per annum; the Tri-Weekly is Five Dollars per annum; the Weekly is Two Dollars per annum, *strictly in advance.*

☞ 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.

☞ The 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.**

Rail Road Meeting this Evening.—We would call the especial attention of the public to the Lecture of Mr. Roberts, this evening, at Apollo Hall, at 7 o'clock, and have no doubt they will be richly repaid for their time.

Plank Roads.—The *Washington Reporter* copies our remarks in relation to a Plank Road from this city to Washington, and says:—

"The citizens of this county have long felt the necessity for some better means of communication with the city of Pittsburgh, a Railroad has been repeatedly suggested, and, we believe, an Act some years ago, was passed by our Legislature, incorporating a company for the purpose of constructing one. But the project was abandoned. The subject is again exciting considerable attention, and a *Plank Road* has been suggested. We would earnestly invite the attention of our enterprising business men as to the practicability, expense and utility of such a Road."

Although we should rejoice to see a Railroad constructed from Pittsburgh to Washington,—and such a thing is not unlikely at some future day,—yet our opinion is decided, that for the present, it will be much wiser to attempt a Plank Road.

Railroads are expensive in their construction, in their outfit, and in their management, and unless they have sufficient business to keep them well employed, cannot be conducted with success. They are best adapted to long lines of communication, where no other means of communication can come into direct competition with them, and where the amount of business is heavy. The exceptions are, where Railroads run to coal mines, or where they unite other extensive means of transportation. The projected railroad to the Coal mines up Saw Mill Run, and Chartier's valley, is a safe and judicious undertaking. It has an amount of transportation secured which must render it successful. But that a Railroad from this city to Washington would pay at present is extremely doubtful.

But admitting that it would pay, is there any probability that the means to construct it, and give it an outfit can be procured? While projects which are to open up whole states, and, to connect with hundreds of miles of Railroads already built or in process of continuation, are pressing upon the public attention, is it not idle to suppose that capital can be secured to construct a road to the county seat, even of as wealthy and productive a county as Washington?

We offer these suggestions, not that we would discourage a Railroad to Washington, were the thing possible, but to direct the attention of the people of that county to what is within their grasp, and to what, in our candid opinion would better subserve the convenience of the whole population, at present than a Railroad. We mean a *Plank Road.* This project is feasible, and would prove highly useful. We confess, that for our part, if we lived twenty or thirty miles from a market, we had much rather have a Plank Road to our village or farm, than a Railroad.

We hope, the people of Washington will not suffer the idea of Railroad to turn away their attention from a possible, tangible, present and permanent good, one which will answer all their present purposes and pay them well for their outlay.

Saw Mill Run Rail Road.—We understand that efforts are making to procure an act of incorporation from the Legislature, of a company to construct a railroad from the mouth of Saw Mill Run to the valley of Chartier's Creek—a distance of about five miles. The object of this is to bring coal to the river, this opening up vast beds of coal which are now worked at great disadvantage, from the expense of transportation by wagons.—We would commend this project to the favorable consideration of the Legislature, as one every way worthy of the most prompt attention.

We learn, also, from the *Washington Reporter*, that the people of that town have taken some steps to ascertain the expense of a rail road from Washington to the coal mines in the neighborhood of Canonsburgh. The transportation of coal, alone, to Washington, it is believed, would justify the undertaking.

If both of the above projects should be carried out—the first we have no doubt will be—the terminii of a Pittsburgh and Washington rail road would be constructed, and the filling up of the middle section would give us a continuous road between the two points.

Portrait of Henry Clay.—We have had the pleasure of inspecting the Portrait of Henry Clay, painted by our talented young townsman, Mr. McClung, for the young Clay Whigs of Pittsburgh.—Mr. Clay's face is a perilous one for an artist to undertake, and not a few, of acknowledged ability, have entirely failed to give an adequate conception of it. Mr. M'Clung's portrait, if not entirely what we could wish—which it is perhaps hopeless ever to expect to see—is the best, we think, that has yet been executed, and is, we believe, so considered by Mr. Clay's family. The coloring, attitude, and drawing, are all excellent, and the whole picture presents unmistakeable evidence of the hand of a thorough bred artist.

There are other pictures of Mr. McClung, in his studio, which gratified us exceedingly, and which we take the liberty of saying are of a very high order of merit. Mr. McC. we understand, has studied in Rome and Dusseldorf, the two best schools in the world, and he has certainly made excellent use of his opportunities.

Invitation to General Taylor.—On Saturday last, the city councils of Baltimore passed resolutions officially inviting General Taylor to partake of the hospitalities of the city.

What is doing in this city in this behalf? Gen. Taylor is expected to be here early in February, and yet no arrangements have been made for his reception and entertainment. A host ought to be chartered to meet him at Wheeling, and other judicious arrangements made to give him a distinguished and hearty reception.

Florida.—We learn from the Tallahassee Sentinel that the following State officers were elected by the Legislature of Florida on the 5th instant:

David P. Hogue, Attorney General.
Charles W. Downing, Secretary of State.
Simon Towle, Comptroller of Public Accounts.
Wm. R. Hayward, Treasurer.
Robert S. Hayward, Clerk Supreme Court.

The Legislature has passed laws giving the election of Register of Public Lands and Judges of Probate to the qualified voters of the State and counties respectively.

Gen John McQueen has been elected to Congress from the Georgetown district of South Carolina, to fill the vacancy caused by the death, of Mr. Sims. His majority is upwards of 700 votes. Mr. McQueen is elected both for the unexpired term of the present Congress and for the next Congress. He is reported to be a Taylor Democrat.

All is not Gold that Glitters.—A distinguished chemist in New York lately assayed five different parcels of California gold, one of which proved to be pure gold, but the other four, supposed to be worth $20,000, turned out to be a mineral totally different from gold, and of no sort of value.

Connecticut.—James F. Babcock, Editor of the Haven Palladium, has been nominated for the by the Whigs of the second district, comprising Haven and Middlesex counties.

Maryland.—The Rockville Journal has the following:

"It is thought that there is [illegible] covered on Mr. Ellicott's [illegible] there. A specimen [illegible] Mint, which was pro[illegible]n of curiosity, reside[illegible] Thorn's place, ne[illegible]

Further News from California.

The following letters to the editors of the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, will be read with the deepest interest. A most extraordinary state of affairs certainly exists in California—the people have gone gold-mad; a most degrading mania, highly dangerous both mentally and morally.

Correspondence of the New York Courier and Enquirer

FROM AN OFFICER OF THE U. S. NAVY.

U. S. ship Dale,
At anchor off San Joseph,
Lower California, Nov. 17, 1848.

I have been waiting to write to you for some months (but the state of the country hitherto has prevented me from so doing until this moment) for the purpose of giving you the news relative to the state of affairs on this side, of the continent. The war has at last come to a close, and I am in hopes that all disturbances with the Mexicans are at an end. The squadron sailed from La Paz on the first of September for this port, which was the last port delivered up to the Mexican authorities. On the sixth we saluted the Mexican flag and took our departure for Monterey, and arrived on the 16th of October, when we found all of the squadron.

The Saint Mary had not arrived on the station on the 2nd November, when we sailed for this port. Here I was detached from the Warren and ordered to this ship.

The Southampton and Lexington sailed in company with us for San Francisco—the latter is ordered to sail soon for home, and touches at the above named place for gold. On the 13th November we arrived here to wood and water, after receiving which we sail for Mazatlan, and thence to San Blas and the Sandwich Islands, expecting to be in San Francisco by the first of February, where we shall meet with the Commodore and receive further orders. We anticipate a pleasant cruise.

Our stay at Monterey was short, but I remained there sufficiently long to get all the news. Upper California is, at the present time, in an extraordinary state of excitement, and every body is making a fortune "hand over first," as we sailors say. The recent discovery of a Gold mine, which is already ascertained to be several hundred miles in extent, inexhaustible, and the ore easily obtained at a trifling expense to the diggers, has induced nearly all the inhabitants of Monterey to leave their homes to reap the golden harvest. The rancheros have left their farms, and unless supplies are sent into the country there must be a famine. More than five thousand persons are said to be engaged digging at this time, and they daily receive large accessions of numbers. Every thing in the shape of goods and provisions commands the highest prices at the mines, payable in gold,—which has been sold at the mines for five dollars per ounce, Troy weight, and in some cases for even less. At San Francisco and Monterey it sells for from ten to twelve dollars in trade. A vessel sailed a short time before from Monterey for Mazatlan, with twelve hundred pounds of this gold, which I found upon our arrival sold for over sixteen dollars per ounce, avoirdupois weight. The gentleman who owns this gold came out to this country in January, 1847, in one of the store ships chartered in Boston to bring out provisions for the squadron; he brought out with him between four and five thousand dollars worth of goods, which he bought at auction for a venture. He located in San Francisco, and in August of the same year, he told me that with the goods he brought out and his purchase of two lots, he was worth thirty thousand dollars. Leaving enough originally for fifteen dollars are now worth five or six thousand dollars; all of this took place before the discovery of the mines. This gold has been assayed and found to be twenty-three and a half carats fine—pure virgin gold. The largest piece found weighs twenty-five pounds,in one solid block; the next weighs seven pounds, and so on, down to fine black sand.

Lieut. Revere left Monterey, I saw Mr.——, who came out to this country in the——store ship as purser's steward. He, with four others, went to the mines in April last, and in seventeen days, he says, the five dug out twenty thousand dollars worth, when he was taken sick, and the co. partnership dissolved. He had fifteen thousand dollars with him, and does not intend to dig any more, but to trade in goods.

Clerks get eight dollars per day at the mines, which are distant not one hundred miles from Monterey. I will give you the prices of different articles; blankets have been sold for eighty to one hundred dollars each; shoes one dollar per number. Lasting in pans, three ounces of gold. Sailors sheath knives, six to eight dollars. Revolvers six to eight ounces of gold, and I saw a man who paid six hundred dollars for a barrel of flour. Liquors are very scarce and command the highest prices. Shovels have sold for twenty dollars and picks for the same. I was offered six ounces of gold for my old cloak, which cost twenty five dollars, and has suffered six years of hard wear. All articles of clothing sell well, and there are none in the market.

A cargo of china goods realized $200,000 in one week at San Francisco.

Some of our officers bought this gold at six, eight and ten dollars per ounce, and on our arrival at Mazatlan on the 20th of November, sold it for sixteen dollars per ounce.

We sail in a few days for San Blas on our way to the islands.

San Blas, Nov. 24.

We arrived at this place to day, and shall remain until the first of December.

From our own Correspondent.

Monterey, California, Oct. 20, 1848

The Pacific Squadron has arrived at this place from Lower California, coming in from day to day, from the 4th until the 18th inst. The ships now here, are the Ohio, Dale, Warren, Lexington, and Southampton. The St. Mary's is expected hourly, from the United States.

Here, at San Francisco, and in fact, throughout all Upper California, gold, gold, gold, is the cry.—Fortunes are being made, squandered, and recuperated. Everybody is going to the placer, is there, or has been there. Even the Governor could not resist making another visit to that region, and he has now removed his head quarters to the Pueblo. Desertions from the fort and the ships, of course, occur frequently, and the master of a merchantman now in port offers one hundred dollars a month for seamen to carry his ship to Callao, but has been unable to ship any even at that price. Between twenty and thirty ships are lying at San Francisco, without the slightest prospect of cleaning crews.

Commodore Jones, with a numerous suite, was to have taken his departure for the mines yesterday. The object of his visit it is impossible to imagine. However, in consequence of the numerous desertions in the squadron, he has sent a party, but remained here himself. A circular letter from the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Squadron, was but recently read on the quarter decks of all the vessels, in which he speaks of the placer, as a ridiculous 'golden dream,' &c, &c. But, immediately on arriving in Monterey, and ascertaining that, in Alta California, there is a gold deposite of about four hundred square miles, the edge of which can be reached in three or four days travel, and that even the Governor of the newly acquired territory was amongst, if not among, the diggers, he prepared for a journey to the land of dreams.—It must be admitted that in this case, precept was much better than example.

But you can form no conception of the state of affairs here. I do believe, in my soul, everybody has run mad—stark, staring mad. Officers of the navy have so far forgotten their dignity, as to commence a system of speculation. Upon the road to the *placer*, wagons, with the brand U. S. upon them may be seen, travelling at a brisk rate, and surrounded by parties of gentlemen in high spirits, mounted on fine horses or strong mules, some of which are also branded as above, all steering a northwest course. In these wagons are—*civil*—saddle bags and pots, kettles, and other camp equipage; but if one could have a close examination, he would find, nicely stowed away, underneath all these, goods or barter. What I tell you is the truth, and you need not be surprised at it, all the world, for, as I before said, everybody is mad. Talk of *Much here*—nonsense!—the similitude must be changed to *Yankee in California.*

Navy officers, with the exception of the chosen band spoken of above, are obliged to look on at all this from their floating prison, and no ship will leave the coast until the return of this party from the mines whose service upon which they are now engaged. Meanwhile men are deserting, and officers threatened with courts-martial, for allowing what it is utterly impossible to prevent: viz—poor sailors and marines to be as much excited and carried away as the two chief functionaries out here, and most of subordinates. It can hardly be expected that a man will work for ten or twelve dollars a month, when a certain fortune is almost within his grasp More particularly, when he is brought up face to face with temptation; a temptation which those of superior minds to himself, he sees, pretend not to resist. If then, this visit should be a protracted one—that is, if the exigencies of the public service should require the suite to remain long in the land of dreams, where they dig gold as they do potatoes at home, the Pacific squadron will, in all probability, remain on this coast longer than the Commodore himself anticipated.

If I write harshly I write truly. What I say of classes or individuals, they deserve. Let them, when away from here, and free from the excitement under which they are now laboring, calmly and dispassionately reflecting upon what they did in California, let them searchingly examine their consciences, and they will be astonished at the enormous littleness of which they stand charged, by their own inward convictions. "But conscience doth not make cowards of them now," and they will have gold! But enough of this—perhaps I shall be mad myself in a day or two.

The Lexington (store ship) will leave here in a few days for San Francisco, to take in gold (only think of that!) whence she will proceed to the Sandwich Islands, and from there to the U. States via Valparaiso and Rio de Janeiro. What is the destination of the rest of the squadron the land-lubbers have not learned, but I heard a rumor that another ship would sail for home on the 1st of January, taking the route of the Lexington. I have understood that the Commodore hopes to obtain permission to return home to the Ohio, by way of the East Indies. This is all provided crews be left for the ships.

X. X. X.

Distressing Accident.—Mr. John M. Phillips, of Monongahela City, while engaged with two other men in rolling up a log in the Saw Mill, on last Friday, was so seriously injured by a stroke from a cant bar, which he held in his hand, that he died at 9½ hours afterwards. Mr. P. was an estimable man and worthy citizen. He has left a small family, and a host of friends to mourn his untimely fall—*Wash. Reporter.*

Ladies for California.—The Philadelphia Times says:

"In New York a very respectable widow and her two daughters are going. From this city some gentlemen are about to take their wives with them to El Dorado. A fine woman there will be worth a fortune to any man."

The Times might have added—"any where."

The Evil Tendency of Theatrical Representations.

To the Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

Many years ago, a writer in the New York Christian Advocate—probably the Rev. Dr. Bangs, who was then editor of that excellent paper—boldly affirmed that the Theatre should be regarded 'as the *Vestibule of Hell.*' I endorse the sentiment, and honestly believe that the designation, however grating to the ear, is peculiarly appropriate. So deteriorating and debasing is the influence produced on the human understanding, by the promiscuous exhibition of theatrical representations, that persons who uniformly witness them, will soon acquire a fitness for the company of the worst people, and the occupancy of the worst place of which we have any account, in sacred or profane history. Indeed, in the nature of things, it cannot be otherwise.

Shakespeare himself, who, in the language of fulsome adulation, has been called "the father of the English Theatre, the great Poet of Nature, and the glory of the British Nation," never wrote a play, comic or tragic, fit to be heard throughout, by *chaste and modest women, or moral and pure minded men.* Every one of the works of that misguided, though distinguished author, contains numerous sindelicate sentiments, and indecent allusions, which, however concealed or covered up by the trappings and ornaments of style, are, notwithstanding, quite obvious to persons of even ordinary penetration.

With regard to other authors who have written for the stage, they generally, have the faults, without, what many consider, the redeeming qualities of Shakespeare. It is, however, a source of great consolation to the friends of virtue, that no individual, in the private walks of life, would dare, in a *respectable social circle*, to use such language, or utter such sentiments, as abound in dramatic writings generally. Could a person be found sufficiently reckless thus to act, he would soon discover that 'his room was preferred to his company,' and that, by common consent, he had been removed beyond the precincts of good society. While established usage, to a considerable extent, protects, in this way, what may be deemed the citadel of morals, the philanthropist should take courage, and confidently expect, at no very distant period, the dawn of a better and brighter era.

The *Drama* of the actor and actress—particularly the latter, is another decided objection to theatrical representations. How single women of stainless character, while in company with unmarried men of their acquaintance, can gaze, hour after hour, with apparent satisfaction, upon the lascivious attitudes of the Monkey Ballet, and exposed limbs of actresses, disposed to make the most indecent exhibition of their persons, and throw themselves into all kinds of attitudes, for the sake of money, or the gratification of a corrupt public taste, I cannot imagine. The uninitiated, to say the least, would be ready to suppose, that the face of a modest lady, placed in such a position, would well nigh burn with shame.

Upon young men of warm temperaments, and strong passions, the effect produced by scenes similar to that which has been described, is very unfriendly to virtue. The temptations to which they are, thus exposed, instead of being resisted, are usually yielded to, and their ruin directly or indirectly, is not unfrequently, rather than to the domestic circle, or parental abode. Habits so formed gather strength by indulgence, and there is no telling to what deplorable consequences they may lead. How true it is, that

'Vice is a monster of such frightful mein,
That to be hated, needs but to be seen;
But soon too oft, familiar grows its face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.'

Whether there is a *Bar Room* connected with the Theatre here, I know not; but such is the arrangement in most large and populous cities.—Many of the audience, after the principal piece has been played, or during the recess, resort to the bar and indulge in the use of intoxicating liquors. Can this way an insatiable love for the intoxicating bowl is often constructed, which ends only with life. The habits formed here, have probably caused many a gifted and promising member of society to descend to a premature and dishonored grave, mourned, it may be, by a heart broken widow, and orphan children, cast upon the charity of a cold and unfeeling world.

In most of the drinking houses in the vicinity of the Theatres, *Gambling* is a common and favorite amusement. This is a vice of extraordinary fascination, and has destroyed its thousands and tens of thousands. It has often happened that husbands and fathers, once highly esteemed for their many and excellent qualities, have, in the moment of unnatural excitement, produced by their heavy losses, rushed unbidden and unprepared into the presence of their Judge—to give an account of the deeds done in the body.' Nor has this inconceivable calamity been exclusively confined to married men—many, very many, young men, have met a similar fate.

To a few of the frightful consequences resulting from an attendance at the Theatre, I have endeavored to direct the reader's attention. Upon the discharge of this important duty, I did not enter in the hope of deriving either pleasure or profit. If, however, any portion, or even any member, of the community shall be benefitted, by this feeble, tho' well meant effort to promote the general welfare, I shall heartily rejoice.

Allow me, in conclusion, most earnestly to press upon the attention of the heads of families, of persons clothed with official authority, and of all, wealth and elevated position, who, by their influence and example exert the most decisive and fascinating shoot of vice, which has hitherto been established among the civilized nations of the earth.

January 24, 1849. EXAMINER.

Telegraphing Time.—Electric Clocks.

When invented and by whom?

It is due to the truth of History—it is due to the World of Science—that some of the misapprehensions (I will not say misrepresentations) recently published respecting the *original discovery and application of Electric and Telegraphic Clocks* shall be corrected now, lest silence under such reports may be considered as an acquiescence in their accuracy.

The public press, while justly sensitive to every thing which American honor may *properly* claim, will probably consider it more honorable to American character to award justice to real inventors or discoverers in art or science, *no matter from what land they spring*, than to countenance any movement that may tend to deprive any individual of his just claims to scientific discovery and mechanical invention.

The current history of electricity, readily accessible in the scientific and other journals, shows that Alexander Bain, to whom a patent has been granted by the United States, as well as by several foreign nations, for his mode of *electric and telegraphic* telegraphing, is *the inventor of electric and telegraphic clocks.* It is well known to persons familiar with scientific progress that those clocks were invented and constructed by Mr. Bain between the years 1837 and 1840, put in successful action in 1840, patented by Great Britain in 1841, and successfully used for railroad and other purposes—*telegraphing time*, by the electric galvanism, between cities, like Edinburgh and Glasgow, &c.

Without controverting the merits of any gentlemen who have applied clock-work in telegraphing time within the last three or four months, justice to the public, as well as to Mr. Bain, (who is now temporarily absent, arranging for permanent settlement in this country as an American citizen,) requires that the facts should be stated, showing that electric and telegraphic clocks were invented and successfully used by him several years ago, and are among the contributions to science which he presents to his adopted country.

The following letter, dated the 4th of December, addressed to the Journal of Commerce, and since published in that paper, in the New York Express, and other journals.

The name and services of Joseph Henry, the distinguished American philosopher whom the "*Smithsonian Institution*" has honored by placing in a prominent position, were known and appreciated throughout Europe rather earlier than they were fully appreciated in his native land; for, even now, the immense practical value of the scientific discoveries which he threw out for public benefit (such as demonstrating the *practicability* of the "Electro-Magnetic Telegraph" proposed by Barlow in 1825,) are very inadequately known in the United States, where their benefits are most largely experienced. And shall any mere *national prejudice*, to which appeals are made in certain quarters, be now aroused to prevent a just appreciation of the scientific and mechanical inventions of Alexander Bain, because (though now establishing himself as an American citizen) he had the fortune or misfortune to be born on the same land with the founder of the "Smithsonian Institution?"

Any one familiar with the generosity of the American character may readily anticipate the response of all men worthy of esteem among Americans freemen.

HENRY O'REILLY.

Washington, January 20, 1849.

N. B. The telegraphic clocks of Mr. Bain have been seen by thousands, including the editors generally, during the last year, in New York, along with the other telegraphic inventions which are to be used on the new lines now commenced between Washington, New York, Boston, &c.

Prof. Locke, of Cincinnati, has been considered the inventor of the Telegraphic or Magnetic Clock. According to Mr. O'Reilly's statement, Mr. Bain has a prior claim.

Homestead Exemption.—There are exemption laws in the State of Wisconsin, which protect from execution the personal property of a citizen to the value of one thousand dollars, and real estate not exceeding forty acres of land, or a town lot not exceeding one fourth of an acre—with the improvements on them, to which no value is attached—These laws, it is said, clear three fourths of the population from all legal responsibility for debt.—Laws of a similar kind exist in Michigan.

In commercial communities it is deemed politic to facilitate transfers of property. Mortgages, in such communities, are so easily and promptly convertible, *New York*, are so easily and promptly convertible, that real estate may be used for purposes of trade and for financial operations almost as readily as money itself. Among an agricultural population the tendency is different. Laws of small and of primogeniture are designed to do for the families of land holders in England, what the exemption laws of Wisconsin propose to do for the individual laws of Wisconsin propose to do for the individual land holder there. The policy of the English feudal law, throughout, is to burden the transfer of real estate.

One result of exemption laws, of whatever kind, is to limit the extension of credit. The papers in Wisconsin and Michigan indicate that the exemption laws in those States work very well. We observe that a bill providing for a similar exemption has been introduced into the Senate of Ohio.—*Balt. Amer.*

Judge M'Lean.

This able and upright Judge, and good man, having been grossly assailed in the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Foote of Mississippi,—better known by the cognomen of "*Hangman Foote*," has addressed the following calm and dignified letter to the editors of the Nation Intelligencer in reply:

Respect for the Senate, where remarks were made abusive of myself on the 17th instant induces me to make the following statement:

The first accusation was, that I have said "that our institutions will never be well and wisely and successfully maintained and administered until what he is pleased to call moral influence can be brought to bear upon the Government; who dares to denounce the selected candidates of the great political parties of the country as mere prize fighters." The term "prize-fighters" was never used by me in reference to any individuals: the thought of making the application to the late candidates for the Presidency never entered into my mind.

The second accusation was, that I "urged upon Congress that no more pecuniary supplies should be voted for the maintenance of this war, in order that the Government might be forced, for want of the means of war, to withdraw our victorious armies from the enemy's country in disgrace." &c. Here I was entered such a sentiment to any one. My friends know that I was opposed to the withholding of supplies.

The third accusation was, that I "undertook to adjudicate a question before it had yet been submitted for decision, and which he [I] well knew was more than likely to be presented for decision in the Court where he sits, with others, for the discharge of high judicial duties," &c. This, I suppose, prefers to a letter written by me last summer to four or five gentlemen at Cleveland, in Ohio, who urged me to permit my name to be brought before the Buffalo Convention. In declining that honor, and in answer to other parts of the letter, I stated, as nearly as I can recollect, (my letter not being before me,) that "slavery existed by virtue of the local law, and consequently could not exist without the sanction of law." This had been settled by several Judicial decisions, and I supposed was doubted by no one. In the case of Graves and Slaughter it was recognised by the Judges following the head of my opinion; and it was held that the commercial power of Congress did not extend to the slave trade among the States; that Congress had no power over the subject, and that it belonged exclusively to the respective States.—As a political question, which can never come before the Supreme Court, I expressed myself opposed to the extension of slavery. This so far as I can recollect, was the substance of the communication.

The gentleman to whom the letter was addressed, so far as I remember, did not not represent others, and I did not consider the publication of the letter as necessary. It was not written with that view, but there was no restriction as to its publication.

Some two or three other letters were written in answer to letters received, and were published without my permission and against my wishes—to suppose, that the face of a modest lady, placed in such a position, would well nigh burn with shame.

Upon young men of warm temperaments, and strong passions, the effect produced by scenes similar to that which has been described, is very unfriendly to virtue. The temptations to which they are, thus exposed, instead of being resisted, are usually yielded to, and their ruin directly or indirectly, is not unfrequently, rather than to the domestic circle, or parental abode. Habits so formed gather strength by indulgence, and there is no telling to what deplorable consequences they may lead. How true it is, that

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In most of the drinking houses in the vicinity of the Theatres, *Gambling* is a common and favorite amusement. This is a vice of extraordinary fascination, and has destroyed its thousands and tens of thousands. It has often happened that husbands and fathers, once highly esteemed for their many and excellent qualities, have, in the moment of unnatural excitement, produced by their heavy losses, rushed unbidden and unprepared into the presence of their Judge—'to give an account of the deeds done in the body.' Nor has this inconceivable calamity been exclusively confined to married men—many, very many, young men, have met a similar fate.

To a few of the frightful consequences resulting from an attendance at the Theatre, I have endeavored to direct the reader's attention. Upon the discharge of this important duty, I did not enter in the hope of deriving either pleasure or profit. If, however, any portion, or even any member, of the community shall be benefitted, by this feeble, tho' well meant effort to promote the general welfare, I shall heartily rejoice.

Allow me, in conclusion, most earnestly to press upon the attention of the heads of families, of persons clothed with official authority, and of all, wealth and elevated position, who, by their influence and example exert the most decisive and fascinating shoot of vice, which has hitherto been established among the civilized nations of the earth.

January 24, 1849. EXAMINER.

Telegraphing Time.—Electric Clocks.

When invented and by whom?

It is due to the truth of History—it is due to the World of Science—that some of the misapprehensions (I will not say misrepresentations) recently published respecting the *original discovery and application of Electric and Telegraphic Clocks* shall be corrected now, lest silence under such reports may be considered as an acquiescence in their accuracy.

The public press, while justly sensitive to every thing which American honor may *properly* claim, will probably consider it more honorable to American character to award justice to real inventors or discoverers in art or science, *no matter from what land they spring*, than to countenance any movement that may tend to deprive any individual of his just claims to scientific discovery and mechanical invention.

The current history of electricity, readily accessible in the scientific and other journals, shows that Alexander Bain, to whom a patent has been granted by the United States, as well as by several foreign nations, for his mode of *electric and telegraphic* telegraphing, is *the inventor of electric and telegraphic clocks.* It is well known to persons familiar with scientific progress that those clocks were invented and constructed by Mr. Bain between the years 1837 and 1840, put in successful action in 1840, patented by Great Britain in 1841, and successfully used for railroad and other purposes—*telegraphing time*, by the electric galvanism, between cities, like Edinburgh and Glasgow, &c.

Without controverting the merits of any gentlemen who have applied clock-work in telegraphing time within the last three or four months, justice to the public, as well as to Mr. Bain, (who is now temporarily absent, arranging for permanent settlement in this country as an American citizen,) requires that the facts should be stated, showing that electric and telegraphic clocks were invented and successfully used by him several years ago, and are among the contributions to science which he presents to his adopted country.

The following letter, dated the 4th of December, addressed to the Journal of Commerce, and since published in that paper, in the New York Express, and other journals.

The name and services of Joseph Henry, the distinguished American philosopher whom the "*Smithsonian Institution*" has honored by placing in a prominent position, were known and appreciated throughout Europe rather earlier than they were fully appreciated in his native land; for, even now, the immense practical value of the scientific discoveries which he threw out for public benefit (such as demonstrating the *practicability* of the "Electro-Magnetic Telegraph" proposed by Barlow in 1825,) are very inadequately known in the United States, where their benefits are most largely experienced. And shall any mere *national prejudice*, to which appeals are made in certain quarters, be now aroused to prevent a just appreciation of the scientific and mechanical inventions of Alexander Bain, because (though now establishing himself as an American citizen) he had the fortune or misfortune to be born on the same land with the founder of the "Smithsonian Institution?"

Any one familiar with the generosity of the American character may readily anticipate the response of all men worthy of esteem among Americans freemen.

HENRY O'REILLY.

Washington, January 20, 1849.

N. B. The telegraphic clocks of Mr. Bain have been seen by thousands, including the editors generally, during the last year, in New York, along with the other telegraphic inventions which are to be used on the new lines now commenced between Washington, New York, Boston, &c.

Prof. Locke, of Cincinnati, has been considered the inventor of the Telegraphic or Magnetic Clock. According to Mr. O'Reilly's statement, Mr. Bain has a prior claim.

Homestead Exemption.—There are exemption laws in the State of Wisconsin, which protect from execution the personal property of a citizen to the value of one thousand dollars, and real estate not exceeding forty acres of land, or a town lot not exceeding one fourth of an acre—with the improvements on them, to which no value is attached—These laws, it is said, clear three fourths of the population from all legal responsibility for debt.—Laws of a similar kind exist in Michigan.

In commercial communities it is deemed politic to facilitate transfers of property. Mortgages, in such communities, are so easily and promptly convertible, New York, are so easily and promptly convertible, that real estate may be used for purposes of trade and for financial operations almost as readily as money itself. Among an agricultural population the tendency is different. Laws of small and of primogeniture are designed to do for the families of land holders in England, what the exemption laws of Wisconsin propose to do for the individual laws of Wisconsin propose to do for the individual land holder there. The policy of the English feudal law, throughout, is to burden the transfer of real estate.

One result of exemption laws, of whatever kind, is to limit the extension of credit. The papers in Wisconsin and Michigan indicate that the exemption laws in those States work very well. We observe that a bill providing for a similar exemption has been introduced into the Senate of Ohio.—*Balt. Amer.*

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

THE BUTLER DIVORCE CASE.

On Saturday morning Judge King delivered the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas in the libel for Divorce filed in the case of Pierce Butler vs. Frances Ann Butler. The only matter properly before the Court, was the libel and answer, with its voluminous statements, and exceptions to these statements, so far they went beyond the mere denial of the facts averred in the libel. The decision of the Court on this point is that the answer setting out the facts fully is inconsistent with the Pennsylvania practice, which is plain and simple. The Court decide that the narrative of facts beyond the mere traverse of denial is pure surplusage, and extraneous to the case, and must be stricken from the record, and with it the exceptions filed. The case then stands upon the libel and simple answer denying its averments, and must go to a jury trial. The jury will then determine whether the abandonment by the wife was with the consent of the husband, and whether the reasons set up by her are sufficient. Here the judgment of the court might end; but as the case is to go to a jury, it will be necessary to settle some principle of law discussed on the argument, and which must rule the case.

1. That if there was an agreement of separation, the absenting herself by the wife could not be wilfully malicious, from the fact of its not being wilful, if by agreement and consent. Where there is a mutual arrangement, and it is clearly in evidence that each is in equal fault, neither can claim the benefit of the law in reference to desertion.—Where there is an agreement of separation, the right of each party to remain absent continues until revocation and recall by the other. When that occurs, the agreement ceases, and the party continuing the absence will be guilty of desertion.—In such case, however, the question may arise whether there was a previous cause for absence. If there was, the party would be justified in absence.

2. That the cause which would justify desertion must be such as would entitle the party withdrawing to a divorce, if he or she were disposed to apply for one.

3. In relation to cruelty. Though the English cases seem to establish that "cruelties" are personal indignities and injuries, our law differs somewhat from it. The refusal by the husband to give the wife necessaries, according to her habits, would be cruelties in England and here. The question what are necessaries, depends upon the education and habitudes of the woman. What to a lady delicately and tenderly reared might be absolutely necessary for her comfort, might be superfluities to a woman raised under sterner and less favorable circumstances. This only applies to necessaries, and this Divorce is one of the first ever manufactured in Europe, I flatter myself that any one who wants to purchase a good article, will find the price very low, and the Piano superior to any one offered in this market. Call soon. Enquire at Mr. Gottman's Hotel, Diamond. ja26-d3t H KNAUER.

TO LET.

STORAGE for 500 barrels, in the dry Vaults, corner of Liberty and Market street.

Also, one basement store room, and two upper rooms, suitable for shoe rooms or offices. Enquire on the premises of ja26 ALEXANDER & DAY.

JOHN WATT, (successor to Ewalt & Gebhart,) Wholesale Produce and Commission Merchant, dealer in Produce and Pittsburgh Manufactures, corner of Liberty and Hand streets, Pittsburgh Pa. ja26

MACAULEY'S ENGLAND.—The History of England, from the accession of James II. By Thomas Babington Macaulay. Just rec'd and for sale by ja25 JOHNSTON & STOCKTON

ABBOTT'S ALEXANDER THE GREAT—History of Alexander the Great, by Jacob Abbott, with engravings. Just rec'd and for sale by ja25 JOHNSTON & STOCKTON

JAMES' NEW NOVEL—The Forgery, a tale, by G P R James, Esq. For sale by ja23 JOHNSTON & STOCKTON

OILS—50 bbls pure Flaxseed Oil, in good order; 20 do best winter strained Lard Oil; 300 gals pure Sperm Oil; 200 do winter whale Oil; for sale by ja25 SELLERS & NICOLS

FINE FLOUR—200 bbls fine Flour, for sale by ja25 SELLERS & NICOLS

DRIED BEEF ROUNDS—55 tierces sugar cured dried Beef Rounds, for sale by ja25 SELLERS & NICOLS

MOLASSES—125 bbls N O Molasses, new crop; 10 do do Sugar House; for sale by ja25 SELLERS & NICOLS

SUGAR—23 hhds prime Sugar, old crop; 5 " " new " for sale by ja25 SELLERS & NICOLS

COTTON—103 bales Cotton in store; 106 do do to arrive in a few days For sale by ja23-d5t* A. GORDON

ROLL BUTTER—6 bbls Roll Butter; 8 kegs do do; just landing and for sale by ja25 J S DILWORTH & Co

SEEDS—4 bbls Cloverseed; 2 Timothy; for sale by ja25 J S DILWORTH & Co

LARD—7 bbls No 1 Lard; 30 kegs do do; for sale by ja23 J S DILWORTH & Co

FLOUR—600 bbls Flour, in store and for sale by ja25 J S DILWORTH & Co

FRUIT—500 bush Peaches; 200 do Apples, in store and for sale by ja23 J S DILWORTH & Co

ROLL BUTTER—2 bbls fresh Roll Butter, to-day received and for sale by ja23 ARMSTRONG & CROZER

POTATOES—30 bbls red Neshannock Potatoes, for sale by ja25 ARMSTRONG & CROZER

RYE FLOUR—7 bbls Rye Flour, to-day rec'd by ja25 ARMSTRONG & CROZER, 22 market st

GOLD PENS—A large additional supply of first rate coral and ivory gold pens, with silver and gold cases, varying in price from 75 cents to $12,00 each, and for sale by ja24 W W WILSON, corner market and 4th sts

DIAMOND SPARKS—Fifty Diamond Sparks, for glass cutters, received and for sale at $2,50 each, being the real East India diamonds. W W WILSON—

COUGHS AND COLDS.—The frequent changes in the weather at this season of the year, invariably bring along with them coughs and colds, which by timely attention are easily cured by simple remedies. SILAS LEROY'S IMPERIAL COUGH SYRUP has been in use for the last 12 years, and has gained more reputation for the