THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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PITTSBURGH:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 7, 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 on.

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

See next page for Telegraphic News.

See Local Matters see next page.

Hon. WALTER FORWARD requests us to state that his name was used in the call of the "original friends of General Taylor," without his knowledge and consent.

JOHN BISSELL, Esq. also requests us to make a similar statement, in his behalf.

JAMES MCALLEY, Esq. also requests to have his name removed from the list, for the same reason.

Hon. HARMER DENNY also joins in the same request, for the same reason.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

SIR—I never authorised my name to be appended to the call, in your paper of today, for a meeting of the original friends of General Taylor at Esq. John's office; nor do I claim to have been an *original* Taylor man.

R. MCKNIGHT.

Feb. 6, 1849.

PLANK ROADS.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 3, 1849.

D. N. WHITE, Esq.

Dear Sir—I forward you by the mail which conveys this letter, a pamphlet copy of the act regulating Turnpike and Plank Road Companies—approved January 29th. This act, which is a highly important one, was prepared with great care by Mr. Speaker Darsie, to whom the State is indebted for many valuable suggestions and improvements in its system of legislation, within the last few years. This general law regulating turnpike and plank road companies, and another bill proposed by the same gentleman, regulating rail road companies, will be productive of a great saving of time of the Legislature, as special laws will refer to the general law for all details. Instead of bills of 20 or 30 sections, it will, hereafter, become necessary only to pass one or two short sections—thus saving great labor to the clerks in transcribing—the expense of their time, and the costly paper used for that purpose, together with the printing of those long bills, and the great reduction of the size of the volumes of the Pamphlet Laws, and the cost of printing the same. Another great advantage will be found to the public, in thus simplifying and making uniform all the laws relative to such corporations, and rendering a reference to them in the published laws more easy and accessable. From the great interest which you have taken, through the columns of your valuable journal, on these subjects, I have no doubt you will be gratified with the facilities afforded by this act to all such enterprises, and communicate this information to the public. Yours, respectfully

We shall take an early opportunity of presenting the above noticed Plank Road Law before our readers, and in the mean time congratulate them on the facilities it affords for organizing plank road companies, in every section where they may be considered feasible.

Plank roads are becoming popular in every part of the country; and CHARLES ELLETT, Esq., Civil Engineer, in an article in the North American, recommends that a plank road be built to the Pacific instead of a rail road. The whole work, he says, can be accomplished in two years, at a cost of some ten millions of dollars—less than the newspapers say, has been expended during the past year on rail road lines tributary to the city of Boston alone.

He proposes to accomplish the work with locomotive saw mills. The concluding passages of his article are as follows:

"The proposal to accomplish such a work in so brief a period, will seem extravagant. But it is not too great a task for republican vigor and American skill.

Let the strength of the country be applied to this noble object as it has been applied to purposes of War. Let the call for volunteers in this service be extended, as in the recent Mexican campaign, and the world will witness an energy developed such as has never been seen in the work of peace before.

Swarms of intrepid adventurers, headed by skilful engineers, will be found on the summits of the Rocky Mountains—and paths will be opened to the locomotive and its train before the bewildered Buffalo can retire from its range.

Apply the force employed on the march to Mexico—apply only 10,000 of all the men sent into that foreign field—to *this* glorious work, and the road will be made as fast as that army proceeded on its way to the enemy's capital, and by one half of the cost of that single march.

What a glorious career of conquest would here be offered to ambition—the lasting fame of the country, based on the extension of civilization from ocean to ocean; the commerce of China and India grasped at once; our possessions in Oregon and California secured for ever.

Here the highest order of human skill and power will find room for action, in a field where glory may be won, without horror and without blood.'

Of one fact we feel assured—if the Government will make such a road, and retains the lands for five miles on each side of it, until it was constructed, they could sell them immediately for double the cost of the road. An ordinary stage coach, over such a road, could go from Independence to the Pacific in less than two weeks.

Exemption.

An impression obtains that the Homestead Exemption bill, introduced by Capt. Small, of Philadelphia, and the bill exempting property to the value of $300, from levy and sale on execution, which was read in place by Mr. Johnson, of Erie, are one and the same.

We learn from a letter in the Philadelphia News that this impression is erroneous. Capt. Small's bill is yet in the hands of the committee on the Judiciary, and has never been before the Senate.—Mr. Johnson's bill has been reported from that committee without amendment, and has been, for some days past, the subject of discussion. The first section, which is as follows, will explain its object:

"*Be it enacted &c.* That in lieu of the property now exempted by law, from levy and sale on execution, and distress for rent, property to the value of $300, exclusive of all wearing apparel of the defendant and his family, and all bibles, school books in use in the family (which shall remain exempted as heretofore) and no more, owned by, or in possession of any debtor, shall be exempt from levy and sale on execution, or by distress for rent." The remaining sections provide for the appointment of appraisers to determine the value of the property, whether real or personal, which the debtor may elect to retain; and the last declares that the provisions of the act shall not take effect until the 4th day of July next, and shall apply only to debts contracted on and after that date.

The Post will see from this, that it does Mr. Darsie injustice in charging him with opposing the Homestead Exemption Bill, for that has not yet been under discussion in the Senate.

☞ GREAT MEN IN THE SENATE—The announcement that HENRY CLAY, of Kentucky, and Hon. H. SEWARD, of New York, are to grace the United States Senate, of the next Congress, cannot but be hailed with pleasure by the whole country.—Of Mr. Clay we need not speak. His name and fame are familiar to the country. Of Mr. Seward we can only speak in terms of admiration. An abler or a better man could hardly have been found. He is a man of noble impulses, of fine abilities, and of an excellent education. He has a large well-stored head, but a far larger heart, which always throbs for the well-being of the great masses of man. He will be a brilliant accession to the list of great men in the Senate.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

THE PLOUGH, THE LOOM, AND THE ANVIL, by J. S. Skinner & Son, Philadelphia. The February number of this excellent work is to hand, full of choice and instructive matter. As we are about to have an Agricultural Society in this county, we hope this excellent work will obtain a large circulation.

HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE, for February, is to hand, with a very interesting table of contents. This is one of the most valuable periodicals in the country.

HOLDEN'S DOLLAR MAGAZINE, for February keeps up the improvement and promise of the January number. Among other illustrations, is a portrait of the American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1849.

The contract for executing the public printing, for the next Congress, was to have been let to-day. The law prescribes that advertisements shall be issued, stating the kind of work to be done, and appointing a time for opening proposals, and upon that time arriving, requires that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall proceed, in presence of the presiding officers of the Senate and House, and of persons who make proposals, to open the bids, and to adjudge the contract to the lowest bidder, who can give satisfactory security for the performance of it. The time named in the advertisements was ten o'clock this morning. The Vice-President, the Speaker, and the Secretary and Clerk, together with eight persons, understood to be bidders, assembled accordingly; but the Secretary of the Senate coolly informed all concerned, that he should not comply with the law, because the Senate had yesterday passed a resolution for postponing the time to the 14th of this month, which was now before the House for its action. The Board would therefore adjourn to Wednesday next, and would continue to receive proposals until then.

The Senate resolution originated in a determination to abrogate the contract system, and return to the old extravagant and corrupt plan of bestowing the public printing as a magnificent donation upon some party favorite. Had the bids been opened to-day, as the law required, it would have been found that nearly all the printers in Washington, representing the politics of every party in the country, and many residing in distant cities, had sent in proposals, under which the printing might have been secured to be done in the best possible manner. But the truth is, democrats and whigs are hostile to the present system, because it dries up one of the fountains of public patronage, which might be equally divided between them. If the old mode is restored, the whigs will elect their men, printers to the House, and the democrats theirs, in the Senate. It would be a most shameful abandonment of one of the most necessary and loudly called for economical reforms which have been enacted in our day.

For the last two days the House and Senate have been engaged upon business of a private or unimportant character, with the exception of a short time spent in the Senate yesterday, on Mr. Niles' bill, reducing postage, and regulating the affairs of the post office generally. Mr Niles made a speech in support of his plan, proving as its friends say, that a uniform rate of three cents for letters and one cent for papers, will abundantly support the department, which, of course, is the great desideratum, after the accommodation of the people. I do not believe this bill, or any other with the same object in view, will be reached in the House, nor do I think it would pass if reached. The proposed rate is too low for revenue.

It is said that there is a prospect of the conclusion of a bargain with the Hudson's Bay Company, for the purchase of their reserved rights to land, and the navigation of the Columbia river in Oregon, secured to them under the treaty of 1845, by which Mr Polk gloriously vindicated our clear and indisputable title to the whole of Oregon, by giving away half of it. The company ask a million of dollars for a complete cession of all they own or claim. The sum is not too great. The project now alluded to, is the same as that brought before the public through the public prints, last summer. It is still before the Senate, but I believe negotiations are in progress, which will be brought to the conclusion of accepting the company's offer, whether that body take any action upon the subject or not.

Some fears are expressed lest the editor of the Union, and that interesting class of politicians which he represents, shall crowd themselves, maugre all opposition, into the ranks of the supporters of the new administration. Nothing is more likely, for there never was a man engaged in political life in this country, who better knew on which side his bread was buttered, than Father Richie. A few days since, he had a paragraph, strongly censuring the newspapers of the Barnburners, for their attacks upon General Taylor, and now within a week we have a covered attack upon General Cass, refusing to believe that he is coming to the Senate to vote for the Wilmot Proviso, declaring that he cannot do it consistently with his past professions, and savagely hinting that he will incur the ban of excommunication if he does. This first rate notice of the last convert to the Wilmot Proviso, reminds one of Mrs Candour's zeal in defence of a maiden friend, when she ran round the neighborhood, beseeching all her acquaintances not to believe a report, that she had been delivered of twins, in case it should be set afloat.

There are some other reasons supporting the opinion that the Venerable Padre, is hankering after the flesh pots, and means to stand well affected towards the keepers thereof, whoever they may be. JUNIUS.

From the Cincinnati Commercial of Feb. 3.

AWFUL TRAGEDY.

It is our painful duty to record this morning the brief events of a tragedy which is unparalleled in the bloody annals of our city, and throws the wildest of romantic fictions into the shade. Love, abandonment, and revenge were the inciting causes to the fearful tragedy.

The details of this bloody affair is, in brief, as follows:—Not many years since, Captain John Howard married the daughter of a physician residing in Montreal, Canada. They lived together in apparent happiness and domestic comfort for some time in this city, but difficulties occurred, such as it is necessary here to name, and the parties separated—the wife taking the two children, a boy and a girl. Not long after the separation, Capt. H. obtained the two children by violent means—having no redress in the law—and placed them in charge of a friend in Kentucky, at the same time an application for a divorce was pending in a court in that State. Mrs. H. was of an impetuous and determined temperament—a woman of many accomplishments, and capable of high places in society—and felt her humiliation to a keen degree, and had often sworn revenge. Heaven knows, she has got it.

Captain H. married again—*it is said*—and was living at the time of this terrible transaction, with the lady—quite handsome, by the way, and amiable in her manners—who fell a victim to the wild fury of jealousy and vengeance—and perished under the knife of the abandoned wife. The circumstances of the tragedy are as follows:

At about five o'clock last evening, a woman called at the boarding house of Mrs Wolf, on Fifth street, between Plum and Western Row, and walked into the entry. Meeting Mrs W. she said, 'Madam, I saw your door open, and took the liberty of walking in. I came to see Mrs Howard.' Mrs W. said she would call Mrs H., and immediately went up stairs for that purpose.

Mrs H. soon came down, and upon meeting the stranger, the latter sprang at her, and plunged a knife into her neck, severing the jugular; and then walked off. Mrs H. staggered back into the kitchen, the blood gushing from the wound, cried, 'O, Mrs Wolf, I am killed!' and expired in a short time. Mr Howard was in the house at the time, and upon being made acquainted with the facts, he seized a knife, and calling the name of the murderess, rushed down stairs—but she had escaped. The bleeding object of his love was writhing in death before him, and to became frantic.

Pursuit was made for the murderess, but she could be found no where. Mr. John L. Scott, member of Council from the Second Ward, however, met her a short time after the murder, on Fourth Street, near Vine, when she called his attention, by showing him a knife reeking with blood, and exclaimed—'I have done it!—killed her!—can I get this much out of Howard' She was determined in her manner, and her eye had the glare of a maniac! Her hand and arm to the elbow were bezmeared with blood, and there were some spots upon her face. Mr S. was so completely confounded by this singular meeting, that he suffered her to pass on. She was arrested at a late hour last night by officer Hulse, jr., near her residence.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

PITTSBURGERS FOR CALIFORNIA.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 2, 1849.

MR. EDITOR:—It may perhaps be interesting to your readers to know what Pittsburghers have left for California, if so I will give you a list of our company. We go out under the name of the Iron City Mining Co., under the superintendence of Wm. J. Kane. Our company numbers nine—their names are as follows:

Wm. J. Kane, W. Arnold, J. O'Donnell, H. Merrick, J. Barker, L. McElherron, F. J. Griffiths, P. H. Grigg, Virginia; W. T. Holman, Virginia.

We sail in the ship Xylon to-morrow, 3d inst. and hope to realize our *golden* visions.

We have about twenty-five Pittsburgers in this city now, all bound for California. K.

We learn from the *Patriot*, that the Xylon sailed on Saturday morning. Her manifest exceeds in length any that has yet been noticed, being *twenty-five* feet. The cargo has, among a variety of machines and utensils, one steam engine, several horse power machines, with the materials for a saw mill.—She takes out some one hundred and fifty passengers.

LAKE SUPERIOR LANDS.—The General Land Office report says the sale of lands in the Copper District, on Lake Superior have not met the expectation of the government. The amount sold is 2,016 acres at $5, and 6,496 under lease at $2 50 per acre; amounting to $26,245. The leasing system is injurious, and farther facilities for the sales of the lands recommended. He is for putting them at $1 25 the acre—same as other lands. The agency has yielded $7000 above expenses in two years.

Webster's Eulogy on Mason.

Among the truly great men of New England, was Jeremiah Mason, a distinguished lawyer and politician, who after a long course of honor and usefulness, died in Boston, on the 14th of October last. At the opening of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, on the 14th of November last, Mr. Webster presented to the Court the resolutions of the Bar, on the occasion of Mr. Mason's death, and proceeded to pronounce upon his deceased friend a eulogy, that in simplicity, impressive dignity, and true eloquence, has rarely been equalled by any similar effort. It was, we remember, warmly commended at the time, but we have never seen it in print till now. It was published in the Boston Advertiser, of last week. The following extract is very fine. After rapidly sketching the principal events in Mr. Mason's life, and dwelling upon his political eminence and professional fame and character, Mr. Webster said:

Nothing of character is really permanent but virtue and personal worth. They remain. Whatever of excellence is wrought into the soul itself belongs to both worlds. Real goodness does not attach itself merely to this life, it points to another world. Political or professional fame cannot last forever but a conscience void of offence before God and man, is an inheritance for eternity. Religion, therefore, is a necessary, an indispensable element in any great human character. There is no living without it. *Religion* is the tie that connects man with his Creator, and holds him to his throne. If that tie be all sundered, all broken, he floats away, a worthless atom in the universe, its proper attractions all gone, its destiny thwarted, and its whole future nothing but darkness, desolation and death. A man with no sense of religious duty is he whom the scriptures describe—in terse but terrific manner—as "living without God in the world." Such a man is out of his proper being, out of the circle of all his duties, out of the circle of all his happiness and away, far far away from the purposes of his creation.

A mind like Mr. Mason's, active, thoughtful, penetrating, sedate, could not but meditate deeply on the condition of man below and feel its responsibilities. He could not look on this wondrous frame—

"This universal frame thus wondrous fair,"—

without feeling that it was created and upheld by an intelligence to which all other intelligence must be responsible. I am bound to say that in the course of my life I never met with an individual, in any profession or condition of life, who always spoke and always thought with such awful reverence of the power and presence of God. No irreverence, no lightness, even no too familiar allusion to God and his attributes ever escaped his lips. The very notion of a supreme being was within him made up of awe and solemnity. It filled the whole of his great mind. It was the habitual thought of his life. To him, with all his proper sentiment and sensibilities alive in him, must, in this state of existence, have something to believe and something to hope for; or else as life is advancing to its close and parting, all is heart sinking and oppression. Depend upon it—whatever else may be the mind of an old man cold age is only really happy when, quietly feeling the enjoyments of this world pass away, it begins to lay a stronger hold on those of another.

[Mr. Mason's religious sentiments and feelings were the crowning glories of his character. One with the strongest motives to love and generate him, and the best means of knowledge, says:

"So far as my memory extends, he always showed a deep conviction of the Divine author of the Holy Scriptures, of the value of the institutions of Christianity, and of the importance of personal religion. But he did not, until his residence in Portsmouth, make any profession of religion. He then very soon entered the communion of the church, and has continued since regularly to receive the Lord's Supper.] From that time he has also habitually maintained domestic worship, morning and evening. The death of his sons produced a deep impression upon his mind, and directed it in his retirement to religious subjects.

"Though he was always reserved in expressing religious feeling, still it has been very apparent for several years past, that his thoughts dwelt much upon his practical religious duties, and especially upon preparation for another world. Within three or four years he frequently led the conversation to such subjects, and during the year past, immediate preparation for his departure has been obviously the constant subject of his attention. His expressions in regard to it were always deeply humble, and indeed the very modest and humble manner in which he always spoke of himself was most marked.

"His whole life, marked by uniform greatness, wisdom, and integrity, his deep humility, his profound reverence for the Divine Majesty, his habitual preparation for death, his dependence upon his Saviour, left nothing to be desired for the consolation of his family under this great loss. He was gradually prepared for his departure. He came to the grave passed in calm retirement; and he died as he wished to die, with his faculties unimpaired; without great pain, his family around his bed, the precious promises of the Gospel before his mind, without lingering disease, and yet most suddenly called away."

Would, Mr. Chief Justice, was the life, and such the death of JEREMIAH MASON. For one I would pour out my heart like water. I would embalm his memory in my best affections. His friendship, so long continued, I esteem one of the greatest blessings of my life; and I hope that it may be known hereafter, that—without determination of coldness for so long a period, Mr. Mason and myself were friends.

He died in old age, not by a violent stroke from the hand of death, not by a sudden rupture of the ties of nature, but by a gradual wearing out of life. He enjoyed through life indeed, remarkable health. He took competent exercise, loved the open air, and avoiding all extreme theories or practice, controlled his conduct and practice of life by the rules of prudence and moderation. His death was therefore not unlike that described by the Angel, admonishing Adam:

"I yield it just, said Adam, and submit.
But is there yet no other way, besides
These painful passages, how we may come
To death, and mix with our connatural dust?

"There is, said Michael, if thou will observe
The rule of—'not too much'—by temperance taught,
In what thou eat'st and drink'st; seeking from these
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight;
Till many years over thy head return,
So may'st thou live; till, like ripe fruit thou drop
Into thy mother's lap; or be with ease
Gather'd, not harshly pluck'd; for death mature.
This is old age."

Rail Road Meeting in Ohio.

In pursuance with hasty verbal notice, the citizens of Loudonville and vicinity convened at the Baptist Church, on Thursday, the 25th day of January, 1849, for the purpose of deciding upon the course of policy they should pursue, relative to the construction of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Rail Road.

On motion, Hon. GEORGE H. STEWART was appointed chairman, and Dr. C. SAFF, Secretary. By resolution, N. Haskell, Esq., E. B. Fetter and Samuel Lloyd, were appointed a committee to draft and present resolutions for the action of the meeting.

During the absence of the committee, the meeting was addressed by John M'Cormick, Esq., in his usual happy manner, giving a detail of the disadvantages consequent upon the want of railroad facilities, and the many advantages that must consequently result from the construction of a general thoroughfare from east to west, through the counties of Columbiana, Stark, Wayne, Ashland and Richland, and thereby securing to the citizens of the West a *cheaper speedier* and *nearer* route by which the trade of the West can reach a choice of three markets at any season of the year.

After the address, the committee reported the following resolutions, which were read and adopted unanimously.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the future agricultural and commercial prosperity of the western region of the state will be greatly and equitably increased, by the construction of the Ohio Railroad through the route and upon the terms named in the charter.

[*Resolved*, That it is the duty of every farmer, merchant, and mechanic and manufacturer to become stockholders according to their ability, and thereby aid in the construction of said road, upon the route most available.

Resolved, That the surplus trade that yearly accumulates by means of industry, should urge the citizens of this portion of the State to bring into speedy operation a thoroughfare running from east to west, by which inducements may be held out to the merchants of the cities of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Baltimore, as well as New York, to bid for our trade.

Resolved, That the citizens of Ashland county, in conjunction with such of the citizens of Holmes and Knox as may deem it to their interest to cooperate, will raise by subscription stock sufficient to grade the Railroad through the counties of Ashland and Holmes, provided the present surveyed route, by the way of Loudonville be adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting, and of the public generally, are due to John M'Cormick, Esq., for his indefatigable exertions in obtaining stock for the construction of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers at Mansfield, Millersburg, Wooster, Massillon, Salem, and the Pittsburgh Gazette.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

G. H. STEWART, Chairman.

CALVIN SAFF, Secretary.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MR. WHITE—Our thanks to you, for your attention to the note you published on the 15th., and for the offer of your columns for the support of agriculture.

I see in your paper of the 24th, an inquiry made to know where the Agricultural Society met, and who the officers are. I reply with the greatest of pleasure, and feel gratified that there is one individual, so interested as to inquire after our Society; and would be glad to correspond with him as an individual, or a representative of another Society.

The meeting spoken of, took place at a school house, ten miles from Pittsburgh, on the Butler turnpike. Samuel McCoslin, was elected President; Robert Wallace, Esq., Vice President; Chas. Anderson, Recording Secretary; Capt. Hart, Corresponding Secretary; John Herron Jr., Treasurer. Our Constitution will soon be published for the encouragement of those who wish to form other Societies. I would fain hope, that your correspondent would be one of the members. A FARMER.

The Legislature and the late Gov. Shunk.

The following correspondence between Gov. Johnston and Mrs Shunk, wife of the late Gov. Shunk, is not devoid of interest, as it relates to the notice taken by Gov. Johnston of the late Gov. Shunk, and the action of the Legislature thereon. It will be seen that Mrs. S. expresses "a most grateful sense for the sympathy and generosity manifested towards" her, in the liberal appropriation, as it is presumed, made by the Legislature, for her benefit:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Jan. 23, 1849.

DEAR MADAM:—The accompanying resolutions, passed by the Senate of this State, have been presented to me with a request that I should transmit them to you, and at the same time express "the regard of the two Houses for your elevated character and their profound regret at the late providential dispensation," which deprived the State of an illustrious citizen, and you of a devoted friend and husband.

In presenting these resolutions, which I would beg you to accept from the Legislature as a tribute to your worth, and a proper testimonial to the memory of the illustrious deceased, allow me to mingle in their regrets the expression of my personal regard for the social and public virtues of the late Governor Shunk, and my unfeigned condolence for your afflicti ng bereavement.

I am, Madam, with the highest regard,
Your obedient servant,
WM. F. JOHNSTON.

HARRISBURG, Jan 29, 1849.

His Excellency, WM. F. JOHNSTON:

SIR:—I have had the honor to receive from the Secretary of the Commonwealth your communication of the 23d inst., enclosing the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly relative to the decease of my beloved husband, the late Francis R. Shunk.

The kind and generous manner in which you were pleased to refer, in your Annual Message, to the private virtues and public services of the deceased, and the promptness, liberality and unanimity which marked the action of the Legislature in the adoption of the proceedings and resolutions transmitted to me, have inspired feelings of the most profound gratitude.

Of the public character and services of the deceased, it is not for me to speak; but of his private and domestic virtues none can so fully appreciate them as myself.

He was an honest man and a sincere christian, a devoted husband and an affectionate father, whose greatest delight was in the family and social circle, and in making all around him cheerful and happy. Be pleased to convey to both Houses of the General Assembly my most grateful sense of the honor they have done to his memory, and for the sympathy and generosity manifested towards myself under the afflictive bereavement which I have sustained; and for yourself accept the tender of my heartfelt thanks.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully,
Your ob't serv't,
JANE R. SHUNK.

His Excellency, WM. F. JOHNSTON.

General Taylor—His retirement from Military Service.

The following orders, says the New Orleans Picayune, of January 27th, announce the final withdrawal of General Taylor from the military service of the country. Though called to higher and more responsible duties, we can readily conceive the pain it has cost him to sunder his connection with the army. It is more than forty years since he received his commission from President Jefferson as lieutenant of the 7th Infantry. Never was a military career more perfect in its proportions. In each grade of the service he won honorable distinction, and the crowning glory of his military life was not achieved until after he had attained by brilliant deeds the highest military rank known to our laws. Then the people took him up, and they have placed him in a position to develope the great capacities of his nature on the grandest theatre of action. The qualities of his mind are of the heroic sort, which adapt men for momentous issues. No shade of distrust disturbs our anticipations that the civil career of General Taylor will confer new splendor upon himself and his country.

ASS'T ADJ'T GEN'S OFFICE, WEST. DIV.,
Baton Rouge, Jan. 25, 1849.
ORDERS No. 1.

Having received official notice of the acceptance of his resignation, Maj. Gen. Taylor relinquishes the command of the Western Division, which, in conformity with 'General Orders' No. 1, will be assumed by Maj. Gen. Gaines.

In resigning his command to the veteran and distinguished officer appointed to succeed him, the General cannot withhold an expression of his regret at his separation from a service to which he is attached by so many pleasing and proud recollections. To the officers and men who have served under his immediate orders, he would bere express his parting thanks for their zealous and cordial support in the execution of the duties confided to him, during a long and eventful service. To them and to all he extends a heartfelt farewell, and his warmest wishes for their continued happiness and success in the arduous and honorable career which they have chosen.

By order of Maj. Gen. TAYLOR:
W. W. S. BLISS, Ass't Adj't Gen.

OVERLAND ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.—The Expositor published at Independence, Mo., contains a letter written by Col. W. Gilpin, in relation to the overland route to California. As the letter conveys information of much interest to emigrants, we lay it before our readers:

JACKSON COUNTY, Missouri, January, 8, 1849.

GENTLEMEN: Independence, now for twenty years the emporium of the commerce of the prairies, possesses indisputable and peculiar advantages over all other places as the point of rendezvous and final embarkation for emigrants and travellers going to the Pacific.

Apart from the decided excellence of Independence as a geographical point, it recommends itself from the unlimited abundance of supplies to be had at all times, their excellent quality, and adaptation to the journey of the plains and mountains.—The habitual annual departure and arrival of emigrants and travellers has created a body of skillful mechanics and all kinds of complete manufacturing establishments in every department of the trades, combined with stores filled with supplies for all wants and tastes. Here may be had the small tough horses and mules brought from California, Mexico, and the Indian tribes of the mountains and prairies, as well as the horses, cattle, mules of larger size and good blood, raised upon the prairie grass of the settlements.

The only road practicable for wagons at present from the States to the Pacific, is the one through the South Pass, beyond which it branches near the Salt Lake; the right hand fork descends by Snake river to the Columbia; the left hands traverses directly west through the Great Basin of High California, crosses the Sierra Nevada by the sources of Salmon Trout river and the Rio de los Americanos, descending the latter to the Sacramento, and so on to San Francisco bay. These roads which only four years ago were uncertain, difficult, and dangerous, are now become permanently established, easy, and safe. The large and prosperous settlement of the Mormons at the Salt Lake affords a central point to rest and recruit—Families travelling with horned cattle accomplish the trip in one hundred and twenty days, and if judicious in the management of their animals, at no expense but the small cost of provisions and groceries, so excellent are the roads, the climate, and the pastures.

The following table of latitudes and longitudes show the directness of the routes and the distances.

	Lat.		Lon.	
Independence,	39 deg.	07m.	94 deg.	
South Pass,	42	29	109	
Mormon City	40	26	112	
N. Helvetia, California,	39	40	120	34
Astoria, Oregon,	46	10	124	30

Resolved, That the citizens of Ashland county, in conjunction with such of the citizens of Holmes and Knox as may deem it to their interest to cooperate, will raise by subscription stock sufficient to grade the Railroad through the counties of Ashland and Holmes, provided the present surveyed route, by the way of Loudonville be adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting, and of the public generally, are due to John M'Cormick, Esq., for his indefatigable exertions in obtaining stock for the construction of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers at Mansfield, Millersburg, Wooster, Massillon, Salem, and the Pittsburgh Gazette.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

G. H. STEWART, Chairman.

CALVIN SAFF, Secretary.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MR. WHITE—Our thanks to you, for your attention to the note you published on the 15th., and for the offer of your columns for the support of agriculture.

I see in your paper of the 24th, an inquiry made to know where the Agricultural Society met, and who the officers are. I reply with the greatest of pleasure, and feel gratified that there is one individual, so interested as to inquire after our Society; and would be glad to correspond with him as an individual, or a representative of another Society.

The meeting spoken of, took place at a school house, ten miles from Pittsburgh, on the Butler turnpike. Samuel McCoslin, was elected President; Robert Wallace, Esq., Vice President; Chas. Anderson, Recording Secretary; Capt. Hart, Corresponding Secretary; John Herron Jr., Treasurer. Our Constitution will soon be published for the encouragement of those who wish to form other Societies. I would fain hope, that your correspondent would be one of the members. A FARMER.

Improvements in Dentistry.

DR. G. O. STEARNS, late of Boston, is prepared to manufacture and set BLOCK TEETH, in whole sets, upon Suction or Atmospheric Suction Plates.—TOOTHACHE CURED IN FIVE MINUTES, where the nerve is exposed. Office and residence next door to the Mayor's office, Fourth street, Pittsburgh.

REFER to—J. B. M'Faddan, F. H. Eaton. ja19

Local Matters.

REPORTED FOR THE PITTSBURGH DAILY GAZETTE.

Professor Stephens's Lectures.

The society for the increase and diffusion of useful knowledge, obtained Professor Stephens to deliver a course of Public Scientific Lectures and exhibitions before our citizens in the Sixth Ward Scool House, which were attended by large audiences. At the close of the Lectures, on motion of Mr. Harper, Mr. Charles Rowan, Vice President took the chair, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, that the thanks of the Society and the citizens of the upper wards are due, and they are hereby tendered to Professor Stephens, for his very interesting and instructive lectures and exhibitions, and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to him by the Secretary and the same be also published in the papers of the city favorable to Science. CHARLES ROWAN, Chairman.

SAML. ALLENDER, Secretary.

ATTENTION CALIFORNIANS.—We stepped into the Warehouse of Parry, Scott & Co. yesterday to look at a machine invented by Mr. Parry for washing gold. The machine is extremely simple in its construction, and without the frames which can be made in a few moments, will not weigh more than twenty pounds. The inventor asserts that three men by the aid of one of these machines can wash out more gold than twenty men can in the ordinary way. From some experiments that have been made with it, we do not doubt the truth of his assertions. On Saturday a couple of pounds of brass filings were washed from a cart load of sand, with which it had been mixed in an incredibly short space of time. See advertisement.

ACCIDENT.—Yesterday, about two o'clock, a german named John Geis, in the employ of Mr. Bell, at the Planing Mill on Duquesne Way, in attempting to put a band attached to the pully of a circular saw, on the cylinder or drum above, caught his hand between the belt and the drum and was carried up over the drum, and between it and the ceiling of the shop. His arm was so badly injured as to render amputation necessary. He also had two or three ribs broken, and his head was most shockingly bruised.

CRAZY.—William Keillgore, a deranged young man, whose parents are unable to confine him, was arrested yesterday, and lodged in the watch house. Previous to his arrest, he had attacked a young lady, injuring her person considerably. He also amused himself, by throwing stones and other missals through the windows of a gentleman's house.

We, the undersigned, desirous of having a representation of the original friends of Gen. Taylor, at his approaching visit, will meet at the office of L. S. Johns, Esq., Exchange Buildings, on Wednesday evening next, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of selecting a committee to act in concert with other committees appointed for the same purpose, and invite all original friends of General Taylor to meet at that time:—

H Smyser	Hiram Kaine
Frederick Lorenz	James Woods
E Phillips	John B M'Fadden
W H Denny	Samuel Church
James B Irwin	Jesse Carothers
John Sewell	David Chess
John H Page	John Brown
H Sterling	Wm. M'Mahon
O H Ormsby	George A Bayard
L S Johns	Robert M Riddle
George Hogg	

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 2, 1849.

SENATE.

Numerous petitions were presented, but none of a new character.

Mr Ring a bill providing for a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the public debt.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker presented a communication from Bradford county signed by C L Ward, J C Kirby, and others, offering to complete that part of the North Branch Canal which runs through the county of Bradford, on certain liberal terms, provided the Legislature pass a bill making an appropriation to complete the work. Also, the annual report of the Danville and Pottsville Railroad, and likewise a memorial from the Board of Directors of the Kensington Gas Company, asking for an increase of the capital stock of said Company.

The bill to reinstate the capital and extend the charter of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Philadelphia, was debated by Messrs Crabb, McCalin, King, Mason, Smith and Fortney, on second reading, and finally postponed for the present.

Mr Small called up the bill to repeal the proviso to the ten hour bill of last session which was discussed and postponed for the present.

Mr. Eckleman offered a resolution that the Committee of Ways and Means inquire into the expediency of exempting the estates of minors and orphans from the payment of State taxes, where such estates do not exceed $2000. Adopted.

Propand Investigation.—On motion of Mr. Swartzwelder, the House resumed the consideration of the resolutions relative to the appointment of a joint committee of the two Houses to investigate the affairs of the Canal Board in relation to the letting of contracts, &c.

The amendment pending was that offered by Mr. Myers to confine the investigation to a committee of the House only.

Messrs. McCalmont and Myers advocated the amendment, and Messrs. Evans (Chester) and Eshleman opposed it, when the question was taken, the amendment was rejected—yeas 47, nays 49.

Mr. Wilcox then moved an amendment that the Committee inquire into the expediency of resuming on the part of the State the entire carrying and transportation trade on the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, which was agreed to.

The House then resumed the consideration of the supplement to the act to incorporate the North Branch Canal. [It authorises the Governor to negotiate a loan sufficient to complete the work.]

Mr. Little obtained the floor, and made a speech in support of the bill, and he was followed by Mr. Grittinger on the same side.

Dr. M'LANE'S CELEBRATED PILLS in his practice several years before he could be induced to offer it to the public in such a manner as to make it known all over the country, the quick remedies so frequently advertised and forced upon the public by means of forged certificates and a system of puffing, preventing frequently regular and learned physicians, such as Dr. M'Lane undoubtedly is, from entering the lists against such competitors. Convinced, however, of the real value of his medicine, and influenced by the plain dictates of duty, which would not permit him to keep from his fellow-creatures a medicine by which he could restore them from suffering, he finally offered it for sale. Since that time it has become known all over the U. States; and wherever it has been tried, has proved its superiority over all other remedies ever offered for sickness of the liver. In fact, the prescriptions of physicians are no longer required in cases of liver complaint. All that is necessary for the patient to purchase and use, Dr. M'Lane's Liver Pills, to secure a restoration to health. Read this:

"I, Kidd & Co., Please let me have two boxes more of Dr. M'Lane's Liver Pills. My wife has used two boxes of the Doctor's Pills, and I assure you they have done her more good than my family physician has for two years. My wife says she will not be without them in attendance. These two boxes I think will effect a cure. JAMES JONES.

Wilkins tp., Allegheny co. Pa., March 10, 1847.

For sale at the Drug Store of

J KIDD & Co

feb5

LAWYER'S EXPECTORANT.—We would call attention to this excellent remedy for Coughs, Colds, Consumption, Asthma, and all affections of the Throat and Lungs. Having several times written a few pages puffing the expectorant, we will not be guilty of such a silly ex