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☞ 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.

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

☞ WM. THOMPSON, Esq., S. E. corner of Baltimore and South Streets, is our duly authorised Agent for Baltimore, Md.

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

COUNTY AFFAIRS.

The People of Allegheny county, we think, will be surprised to learn that there is a bill now pending before the Legislature, which takes from the High Sheriff of the county the custody of the County Jail, and gives it to the County Commissioners. That the growth of the county renders some change in the management of its prisoners desirable, we have long seen and held, but it by no means follows that the desired reforms cannot be as well, indeed better, carried out under the supervision of the Sheriff as of the Commissioners, and we are by no means in favor of having the one office shorn of its importance, in order to add to the importance, and increase the patronage of the other.

The bill reported proposes that the Commissioners shall have joined with them a board of inspectors, to consist of four discreet and reputable persons, to serve without pecuniary consideration, to be *elected*—by whom? By the People! No, to be *elected* by the joint vote of the County Commissioners, and the President Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions. Now, the Commissioners being three and the Judge only one, it is quite evident that the board of inspectors are to be the creatures of the Commissioners. A pretty check upon their proceedings truly! To serve, too, *without compensation*—so it may be very safely inferred that they will very seldom trouble the county dignitaries with their presence. Could any plan be better devised, which, while seeming to give a check upon prison management, in reality affords none.

We are opposed to all, and every scheme of service, without compensation, except in the case of School Directors, and some few other rare instances. They are vicious and anti republican in their very nature, and rarely, in the end, fail to work injuriously. Individuals of unusual philanthropy and public spirit may, for a time, render gratuitous service; but it cannot, as a rule, be relied upon, and in this case it is rendered peculiarly vicious, from the fact that they are sure not to appoint—or *elect*, as they call it—any one likely to be very vigilant in watching them. The public is amply able to *pay* for all the services it requires, and, as a general rule, that service will be pretty much on a par with the amount of pay received for it. That of the Commissioners, we agree, is too small, considering the amount and responsibility of their transactions; but it by no means follows that the Sheriff receives too much. The office is one of the very first responsibility. Life or death, large destruction of property, or otherwise its safety, may depend upon the discretion, and first rate qualities of the Sheriff in trying moments. We are therefore opposed to any scheme which shall rob that office, for the sake of aggrandizing the Commissioners—and we are particularly opposed to the present one, because it is essentially bad, and susceptible of the largest abuse—in fact commits the purse and the sword to the same hands. The *power* of incurring large expenditures and the means of paying them are vested by it in the Commissioners, with no check but what is afforded by an *unpaid* board of Commissioners appointed by themselves!

The plan proposed involves the necessity of new buildings and various machinery, to an extent limited only by the discretion of the commissioners. Who can doubt, that with our past experience, that they would be sufficiently costly at the best; and they might be made the excuse for erroneous expenditures, under cover of which, the inspectors elected by the commissioners might very easily find compensation for their unpaid services.

We trust our representatives will not launch us upon any such untried sea. A scheme so portentous of evil should not be hurried through without the full and deliberate sanction of the *people* of Allegheny, and we venture to predict, that any one who may be instrumental in doing so, will have leave to attend to his own business for the rest of his life.

We are far from denying that the increased growth of the county renders some reforms and improvements in the jail management necessary. The prison should be more frequently inspected than is at present done, by the grand juries. But the inspectors should be truly *elected*, and by the people, and totally independent both of the Sheriff and the Commissioners, and paid for their visits, for so only can we insure their being punctual and regular. And whatever improvement is necessary should only be adopted, after mature consideration and should be such as would not fear the light of the newspapers, before it is sent to Harrisburg. It is only by accident, that we became aware of the mischief that was brewing.

A County Workhouse, for the punishment of all criminals, drunkards, and vagrants, who are now sentenced to the county jail, placed under the charge of a Warden, and a Board of Inspectors elected by the people, is greatly needed, and ought to be immediately erected.

Appointments by the Canal Commissioners.

The Board of Canal Commissioners met at Congress Hall, in Philadelphia on Saturday last, and made the following appointments:

Collectors—William Gamble Parkersburg; J. J. Keller, Lancaster; S. S. Rutter, Harrisburg; William Wilson, Northumberland; A. White, Dunsburg; D. W. McCormack, Lewistown.

Weighmasters—C. Weygandt, Easton; J. Dunlap, Lancaster; A. W. Dennison, Columbia, G. M. Dentinger, Portsmouth, Samuel Galbraith, lock, Hollidaysburg; F. R. West, dres do.; J. Reamer, scales, Johnstown; J. Ritter, lock, do; J. A. Hays, Pittsburg; J. O. Chesny, Northumberland.

State agents—J. A. Cunningham, J. Rankin, John Burd, Isaac S. Waterbury, Charles Brady, James Hunter, Thomas McMichael, Columbia Railroad. J. F. Nelson, Joshua Kemp, James Murray, Portage Railroad.

Large Inspectors—J. Zeigenfuss, Easton; S. J. Smith, Columbia, A. L. Dittenbacher, Hollidaysburg; T. McKiernan, Johnstown, James Folly, Pittsburg.

Collector Outlet Lock, Portsmouth—S. Marquart.

These appointments and removals have made no little stir in the Locofoco camp, which sends forth both murmurings and threats. It is loudly talked that the friends of Mr. Bigler have all been proscribed, and those that held appointments on the public works driven off. It is said there is fun brewing—we shall see.

The New York Herald gives a list, down to Saturday 17th inst., of all the vessels that have sailed from the several ports of the United States for California, since the breaking out of the gold fever with the number of passengers conveyed by them. The following is the recapitulation of the statement in the Herald:

Total in 141 vessels,	via Cape Horn.		8,484
" 24	"	Chagres	1,760
" 6	"	the Brazos.	406
" 6	"	Vera Cruz.	440
" 1	"	Tampico,	50
" 1	"	San Juan River.	2
Total in 178 vessels,			11,142

The Cincinnati Times of the 17th instant says: Col. J. W. Weller, the Mexican Boundary Line Commissioner, and Suite, left that city yesterday for New Orleans, on the steamer Daniel Webster, en route for the field of their operations. The party consists of Lieut. Col. Emory, Topographical Engineer, Mr. Gray, of Texas, Surveyor, Dr. Chamberlin, of the city, Surgeon C. L. Weller, disbursing officer, Capt. O'Donnell, Commissionary, H. A. Robinson, Secretary. They are to meet the Mexican Commission at San Diego, in May next, and then proceeded to work.

PAPER HANGINGS.—Those who go to New York to purchase Paper Hangings, are referred to the advertisement of the extensive establishment of Cowdin, Manningham Company, in another column.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1849.

The demonstration upon the General Appropriation Bill, is stronger than it was expected that it would be. Mr. Bell, of Tenn., has concluded an able speech on his proposition to engraft upon that bill a section providing for the admission of California and New Mexico as a State into the Union. Mr. Bell enforced his position at great length, and with profound earnestness. He asked the Democrats if they meant to neglect the crowning act of duty required of them. They had made the war, whether just or unjust; they had brought into the Republic these territories, with the long train of sundries that had followed the acquisitions, and he now asked if they meant to flinch from the greatest achievement of all, that of providing for them a government.

Mr. Foote said—No, they meant to discharge that duty also.

Mr. Bell—I am glad to hear it, and I mean to help you.

But after the whole day had been consumed in this discussion, Mr. Bell's amendment was rejected, by the vote of 89 to 4, the four being Messrs. Bell, Downs, Dodge and Douglass. But though this plan has been disposed of, there is little doubt that several days will yet be required to satisfy such gentlemen as Mr Foote that this bill cannot be made a stalking horse to bear their burthens. Mr Walker called up his amendments, and the Senate forseeing a long debate, precipitately adjourned.

Since my last there has been an immense influx of political pilgrims. The deputations from New York are particularly strong, the reason for the same being obvious—the offices there are more numerous and more profitable than those which belong to any other part of the country. Col Webb, of the Courier, presents his full bluff face among others. He is said to be desirous of going abroad. However, every State, and almost every considerable city in the Union, is represented here.

The rumors are to day that Mr. Truman Smith of Conn., is likely to be called into the Cabinet, as Secretary of the Treasury. It is not likely,—Mr Smith has before him a term of six years service in the Senate. Should he vacate his seat in that body, it certainly is not impossible that an opposition majority may be chosen in April next to the State Legislature, in which case, of course the administration would lose a vote in the Senate, which it cannot well spare.

We have had another struggle in the House, over the bill for the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia, although the measure was not once alluded to in the proceedings of the day. It lies upon the Speaker's table, and would have come up for consideration in one hour, had that order of business been proceeded with without interruption from the time when the struggle to stave it off commenced. To avoid making any progress in the calendar, an adjournment was moved and carried at an early period of the day, considering the lateness of the session.

The bill recently introduced by Mr. Dixon, of Conn. for the abolition of the franking privilege, was before it. An attempt was made to amend that bill, by adding to it a clause for the reduction of postage to two cents. It was lost by only one vote. So close a vote induces me to think that there may yet be some chance for the adoption of Mr. Goggin's plan of low postage. It is a

THE SCHOOL ACCIDENT IN PHILADELPHIA.—A FRIGHTFUL SCENE.—We gave a telegraphic account of an accident of an appalling character, which happened on Tuesday morning, at one of the public schools of Philadelphia. We find the following description of it in the Philadelphia Pennsylvanian of Wednesday morning

The school contains some six or seven hundred pupils, of both sexes, whose ages range from six to fifteen years. The building is a two story one, and the upper portion of it is occupied by the female scholars. Some mischievous boys in one of the front lower rooms, to amuse themselves, lighted pieces of paper and put them in the flue. The burning paper was carried upwards by the draught, and blazed out through the grating of the valve of the flue in one of the front class rooms, up stairs—The scholars—all girls—in this part of the building, hearing the roaring sound ascending in the flue, and seeing the sparks and blaze, made by the ignited combustible, as was natural for children, became frightened, and thinking that the school was on fire, were instantly seized with a general panic, and no control whatever could be exerted over them by their teachers.

A terrible scene ensued. The affrighted children, numbering some 2 or 300 ran scrambling out of the rooms, and, wild and frantic, rushed pell-mell down the back stairs. At the last descending turn of the flight, near the bottom, a somewhat undestructed bannister gave way, when a crash, under the heavy pressure of the animated torrent that came streaming resistlessly downwards, and the whole mass of children were precipitated the distance of several feet, into the entry, where they were literally piled, ten or twelve deep, upon each other, with the fragments of the broken railing on the top of them.

A Miss Caroline Hess, a young lady about fourteen years old, daughter of Mr. Hess, broker, in Front street, near Catharine, sustained a compound fracture of the leg, both the fibula and tibia being badly broken. The carving of one girl caught in the railing, as she was tumbling into the passage way, and was torn completely from her ear, leaving a shocking laceration. Some fears were felt for the life of Miss Smith, residing, we are told, in Federal street, whose face was dreadfully contused. Catharine Burk, Plum street, sister Third, had her face and head horribly cut; and Agnes Moat, Mead alley, laid for a long time before she evinced any signs of life.

A number of others were also slightly injured, several physicians were speedily in attendance, and rendered prompt professional aid to the sufferers.

STEAMERS.—The steamship Sarah Sands arrived at New York on Tuesday in twenty-five days from Liverpool.

The steamer Hermann sailed from New York on Tuesday for Southampton and Bremen.

The Cunard steamer Niagara was to leave Boston for Liverpool Wednesday; The New York, Post of Tuesday afternoon says:

An Express Messenger was despatched this morning via New Haven, to Boston, to take the Merchants letters for the steamer. The letters that the regular mail of this afternoon will not reach Boston in time, in consequence of the continued severity of the weather.

The N. Y. Journal of Commerce of Tuesday, 2 P. M., says:

The boat from Boston, with the Eastern Mail, arrived in tolerably good season this morning. We learn by her that the ice does not interfere in the Sound, to any great extent, with steam navigation.

The same paper says that the steamer United States has been sold to the Prussian Government for a War Steamer, at $270,000 so reported. The negotiation was conducted through the German mercantile house, under a letter from the Rothschilds, guaranteeing the ratification of the arrangement.

The British steamship Chicora is advertised to sail from New York about the 20th proximo, for Valparaiso, Callao, San Francisco and Vancouver's Island.

The steamship Hartford sailed from New York on Tuesday, for San Francisco, with fifty to sixty passengers.

MR. WEBSTER AND THE CABINET.—We feel under obligations to our Philadelphia correspondent for his able communication on the formation of the President's Cabinet, published yesterday. We are always pleased to receive and publish communications distinguished by eminent ability and profound thought, although the sentiments and opinions which they contain may not in all respects concur with our own.

Touching the subject of the article, we speak advisedly when we say that Mr. Webster did not desire the nomination, and that recently, in conversation with an intimate friend, who suggested the hope that it might be offered to him, he expressed a hope that it would not be.

We have no reason to doubt that the nomination which will be made, of the Hon. John M. Clayton, will be entirely acceptable to Mr. Webster. These gentlemen have never, it is believed, differed in respect to the policy of this Government, in the management of its foreign relations. We all know that they concurred, most heartily, and exerted themselves with great zeal, in opposition to the late treaty with Mexico.—*N. Y. Com.*

THE CABINET.—The Frankfort Commonwealth says, authoritatively, that Gov. Crittenden has declined accepting at present any appointment in the Cabinet of Gen. TAYLOR. That while the Governor duly appreciates the high compliment paid him personally and through him to the State of Kentucky in the offer of an appointment, he could not feel justified in accepting it so soon after being called, by the people of his own State, to the Chief Magistracy.

It being determined that Governor Crittenden will not be a member of the Cabinet, at present, there is an increased anxiety in the public mind, in this vicinity, to ascertain who *will be*. A few days will settle the question, but we will venture the prediction, that Mr. CLAYTON of Delaware will be Secretary of State; Mr. BINNEY or Mr. SARGENT of Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. CRAWFORD of Georgia, Secretary of War; Mr. LAWRENCE of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Navy; that the Attorney General and Post Master General will be taken one from a free State, and that either Mr. EWING or Mr. VINTON of Ohio, will be selected for one of the places.—*Cin. Gazette.*

The beautiful mansion of Mr. W. Van Rensselaer opposite Albany, which cost $140,000, is now offered for sale for $60,000.

Proceedings of the Temperance League of Allegheny County.

Pursuant to public notice a large and respectable number of citizens assembled, on Thursday evening, Feb. 22nd, in the 1st Presbyterian Church, (Dr. Herron's) to transact business relating to the cause of Temperance.

At the proper hour, the President, Rev. N. WEST, took the chair and called the meeting to order.

Rev. Dr. DILL, of the Irish Delegation, was then called upon, and opened the business of the evening with a solemn and impressive prayer, after which it was announced by the President that the Report, moved at the last meeting to be made, relative to the cost, increase, and evil of intemperance, was ready to be presented.

The Secretary was requested to read the report of which the following is a true copy

REPORT.

The Committee appointed at the last regular meeting of the League, to ascertain the number of commitments resulting from the evil of Intemperance, the expense to the county of such commitments, and whether the evil itself is in progress or abatement, beg leave respectfully, to report

That your Committee have visited the offices of Mayor, Aldermen and County Commissioners, the Jail, and various editors of the city in order to obtain necessary information on the subject in hand. As far as statistics could be obtained, the following will present a brief result of their investigations—The number of commitments for drunkenness and vagrancy, during the first quarter of the year 1849, are as follows.

FIRST QUARTER, ENDING FIRST MARCH.

By Mayor and Aldermen of Pittsburgh, 346 at $1 09,	$377 14
By Mayor and Aldermen of Allegheny, 56 at $1 21,	67 76
Sheriff's fees for subsisting the same,	137 91
Total,	$582 81
SECOND QUARTER, ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH.	
By Mayor and Aldermen of Pittsburgh, commitments, 431, at $1 09,	$469 79
By Mayor and Aldermen of Allegheny, 68 at $1 21,	82 28
Sheriff's fees,	449 57
Total,	$1001 64
THIRD QUARTER, ENDING FIRST OCTOBER	
By Mayor and Aldermen of Pittsburgh, 429, at $1 09,	$467 61
By Mayor and Aldermen of Allegheny, 73, at $1 21,	88 33
Sheriff's fees,	497 44
Total,	$1053 38
FOURTH QUARTER, ENDING JAN. FIRST.	
By Mayor and Aldermen of Pittsburgh, 447 at $1 09,	$487 23
By Mayor and Aldermen of Allegheny, 49, at $1 21,	59 40
Sheriff's fees,	497 75
Total,	$1033 38

From the foregoing statement it appears, therefore, that during the past year there have been 1,950 commitments to our county jail, the cost of which commitments amounted to $3971 24, or nearly $4000. For each one of these commitments, the magistrate's fee is, as your committee were informed, 31 cents, the Constable's fee, 75 cents, and the Jailor's fee, including an allowance of 10 cents each day for the subsistence of each prisoner, 47 cents; making each case of commitment to cost the county $1 56.

By a reference to the Commissioners' Report for the year 1847, it will be seen that the cost of commitments for drunkenness and vagrancy alone, the amount of jail fees and expense of subsisting the prisoners, equalled $3236 90. This compared with the statistics of 1848, shows that the evil of intemperance is rapidly increasing, and has subjected the county during the last year, to an expense of $734 36, over and above the preceding, simply in cases of commitment. There are in our jails at present, confined in only 36 cells, 80 prisoners, left there without work or restraint, in a state of legalized debauchery and idleness. From January 1st, 1849, to February 12th, there have been commitments to the amount of 291, nine tenths of whom may be attributed to Intemperance. The catalogue of crime might be swelled still greater, were that number included, who, being brought before the magistrate, pay their fines and are discharged.

Thus far, your committee have endeavored without unnecessarily multiplying statistics to furnish a statement of the aspect of Intemperance, as it exists at this moment, in the community. Many philanthropist may mourn, that after all the boast made by the multitude of organizations instituted throughout the community, but little has been done to reclaim man from his social and personal degradation. In truth, if we consider the magnitude of the evil, and the rapidity of its progress, and the revert to the misguided zeal and often inefficient efforts of the friends of virtue and order, notwithstanding the sacrifice of money, time, talent, and labor they have made, they appear to have been but tilting with a straw a monster masted in adamant.

The fact stares us in the face, that the evil is rapidly increasing. As has been shown, an additional expense of about $800, has been, during the last year, saddled upon the county, merely in cases of commitment. In the Report of the County Commissioners for 1847, it was declared, that the present system of treatment towards criminals, was 'productive of no good, as summary convictions of offenders were largely on the increase, and must continue to be so, unless Intemperance, the source of this, with a thousand other evils, should be suppressed.' Time has elapsed since then, and no brighter prospect awaits us. What shall be done? Your committee believe, that the province of the League is to enlighten public opinion so far as they are able, on all questions relating, whether directly or indirectly, to the causes and consequences of Intemperance, and punishment of its adherents. They would, therefore, mention a few things for its consideration.—

1. With reference to the period of commitment, your committee believe, that the law in this respect, is calculated, unquestionably, to increase rather than diminish the expense and crime of intemperance. The utmost time, as your committee were informed, that a drunkard can be retained in prison, is but twenty-four hours. Some poor wretch, who, it may be, has been decoyed into his favorite habit, is brought by our police before the Mayor, and in a state of inebriety scarce better than brutality, sent to prison for a period of twenty-four hours. The time passes away almost unconsciously; then, at the expiration of which, he is liberated from confinement, returns again to his cups, is apprehended by the police, sentenced by the magistrate, and returned to prison a second time, to remain there until sober, when he is a second time released, but to repeat his offence a third time, and so on, and thus travel through the same unsalutary discipline. Here is a radical error. There is no terror in the punishment, nor punishment in the period of commitment.

2. Your committee believe that the whole system of prison discipline is wrong. There is, or there ought to be, an *educating* power in the law—which it inflicts *punishment*, primarily, for delinquent duty, and if the authority, it nevertheless should assert by its efficient operation, that the *reformation* of the offender is equally important. If this position be correct, the system of treatment to which our prisoners are subjected defeats the very design of all law. If, however, this system of treatment is to remain unchanged, let not the period of commitment be extended—rather let it be shortened, for the less frequently individuals become inmates of our county jail, as it now is, the less exposed will they be to corruption. The noise of industry is never heard within its walls. Persons of all ages and all conditions, and of both sexes, are mingled in one indiscriminate mass, without the least check to their immoralities or blasphemies. To the visitor all appears disorder, filth, carelessness, and confusion—a system of legalized idleness—a nursery of crime rather than a house of correction. Your committee believe that never until the entire method of punishing offenders is destroyed, and a new order of things established, more in conformity with the principles of justice and morality, will it be of any benefit to sentence the violators of law to such discipline. Referring to the Report of the County Commissioners for 1847, we find the correct deductions enunciated. Some change should be made in the management of our prisons, and that instead of the practice of committing for a short period, and instead of being sentenced to *imprisonment and labor*. Under the present system, this cannot be done—there being no provision made for conducting our prisons upon the plan adopted in 'work houses,' such as are in Philadelphia, Dauphin, and Chester Counties, which we understand is not only productive of a reform in the morals of their inmates, but also a saving in the expenditure of the funds of their county.

3. The power already delegated to the Ward and Township Constables, and which, if executed, would more than any thing else, contribute to the suppression of Intemperance, is in fact nullified thro' their personal neglect. It is their duty, to the discharge of which they are sworn, to return once in every three months, every individual who sells intoxicating liquors, whether licensed or not, to the Court of Quarter Sessions, whose duty also it is to put the law immediately in execution upon the offender. It is the common practice of winking at the violation of law and the breach of oath on the part of the *executive* authorities, which subjects private citizens to the dilemma either of becoming private informers, or of tolerating the nuisance.—Indeed this neglect on the part of officers seems to have particularly arrested the attention of the Grand Jury, who, in their Presentment at the December Sessions, say—they have determined to notice not only all known violations of the laws, on the part of the people, but likewise omissions of duty, and injurious practices on the part of those invested with the power to detect, arrest, and commit offenders.'

Finally, in view of the foregoing facts, your committee would urge upon the people, deliberation in the choice of their officers. Let men be selected for their moral honesty, respect for their official oaths, and fearless in the discharge of their duty. Let correct public sentiment be formed, in reference, particularly, to our prison discipline. Let prudent legislation correct whatever is injurious. Let the executive authorities feel, by the force of public opinion, that it behooves them promptly and without partiality, to pronounce judgment upon every one who violates the law, and your committee believe that the time is not far distant when the community will hail a reform, radical and permanent.

All which is respectfully submitted by the executive committee.

NATHANIEL WEST, Jr., Secretary.

After the Report was read, Rev. Dr. Riddle moved that it be accepted—motion carried.

Dr. Rodgers also moved that the report be adopted, which was done unanimously.

On motion of Dr. McCracken, it was Resolved, That the Report be published in the Gazette, Chronicle, Journal, Dispatch, Post, Temperance Banner, Presbyterian Advocate, Christian Advocate, or as many of the city papers as will accept it for publication, without charge.

The following Resolution was then offered by Dr. Wray, to wit:

Resolved, That a Committee of four be raised, who shall take the subject of an additional city ordinance into consideration, and prepare and present the same, together with the petition recently adopted at a public meeting, held in this house, in relation to Sabbath Desecration and Tippling Houses, to our City Councils, and take this whole subject in charge, until the proper and final action be had thereon by said Councils.

The Resolution was seconded by Rev. Dr. Rodgers, and unanimously carried.

The President appointed Dr. McCracken, Dr. Wray, Ex-Mayor Adams and Mr. Shinn as the Committee.

The Rev. Jonathan Simpson was now introduced to the meeting by the President, and delivered a very forcible address, on the subject of Total Abstinence—at the close of which, the following resolution, read by Rev. A. W. Black, and seconded by Mr. Edwards was carried with great spirit and unanimity

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the Rev. JONATHAN SIMPSON, for his excellent address, and that the hearty wishes of this meeting are hereby expressed, that Mr. Simpson, and his worthy colleague, the Rev. Dr. DILL, may be speedily redeemed—regenerated—sanctified—and elevated to true dignity among the nations of the earth.

The Rev. Dr Dill was excused from making a public speech at this meeting, but he will (D. V.) entertain an audience with an address on some interesting topic previous to his departure from our city

After some further brief remarks, the meeting adjourned to the call of the President

Benediction—by Rev. Mr. Simpson

NATHANIEL WEST, Pres't.

NATHANIEL WEST, JR., Sec'y.

(City Papers Copy.)

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURGH, Feb 20, 1849.

SENATE.

Petitions Presented.—Mr. Brooke from manufacturers and operatives against any alteration in the Ten Hour bill.

Mr Sterrett, a remonstrance from Luzerne, against rechartering the Wyoming Bank.

Mr King, from citizens of Pa. for the enactment of a general manufacturing law.

Mr. Lawrence from Washington county, for a reduction of tolls on the Monongahela Navigation.

Reports—Mr Johnston, from the Committee on Corporations, reported the bill for the relief of the creditors and stockholders of the Bank of the United States, with amendments.

Mr Harris (Corporations) reported the supplement to the act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with an amendment.

Bills Read in Place—By Mr Lawrence, to incorporate a company to construct a railroad from Pittsburgh to Wheeling.

Mr Small offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of three of each House (of the latter concur.) to prepare and report a suitable mode of expressing the admiration entertained by the Legislature for the liberal system of international exchanges proposed by Mons Vattemare, and of making a suitable return by this State for the valuable donation of books, &c, we have received through the hands of that gentleman.

The resolution was agreed to, and Messrs Small, Mathiot and Lawrence were appointed Committee on the part of the Senate.

On motion of Mr Konigmacher, the bill to extend the charter of the Columbia Bank and Bridge Company was taken up on second reading.

Bill was discussed by Messrs Crabb, Small, Sterrett, King, Johnson, Konigmacher, and Mason, and it was amended by the insertion of a new section, which reads as follows

Sec. 4 And if any Bank or Savings Institution shall hereafter pay out, exchange or receive, except on special deposite, or in payment of debts, any paper the circulation of which is, or may hereafter be prohibited by law, shall suffer the penalty of forfeiture of its charter.

The vote on the section was as follows.

Yeas—Messrs Red Rose, Brawley, Crabb, Cunningham, Dean, Forsyth, Hugus, Ives, Mason, Matthias, McCaslin, Overfield, Potteiger, Rich, Small, Sterrett, Streeter—15.

Nays—Messrs Frick, Harris, Johnson, King, Konigmacher, Lawrence, Levin, Richards, Sadler, Sankey, Smyser, Sure, Turner, Speaker—13

Mr Small moved to insert the individual liability clause, which was rejected—yeas 11, nays 20.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for the third reading.

Mr. McCaslin, on leave, read in place a bill to authorize the Western Telegraph Company to extend their line from Baltimore through Pennsylvania, in a direction to the Ohio river.

On motion of Mr. Drum, the bill to establish a uniform standard for the measurement of bituminous coal, was taken up and passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House agreed to hold afternoon sessions on Friday, for private bills, and to meet at 9½ o'clock A. M., daily.

Private Calendar—A large number of private bills passed Committee of the Whole in the morning, and in the afternoon were read a second and third time and passed. All have passed the Senate, but several were amended, so that they go back for concurrence.

Among the bills passed were.

An act for the repeal of the act of 16th of March, 1847, and of the act of the 8th of April, 1848, in reference to the National Road.

An act to incorporate the Erie and Wattsburg Plank Road Company.

The bill raising the salary of the Prosecuting Attorney to about $3000 per annum, was passed this afternoon.

The House passed the Senate resolution relative to Mr Vattemare.

For the N American and U S Gazette

Railroad Movements.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company is about to make a strenuous effort to push its road through from Cumberland to Wheeling. The trade upon its finished road has been unusually great the winter. Maryland State bonds, of which the company holds $3,000,000, have improved, and in the Baltimore Patriot of the 14th instant, is an advertisement, signed by the President setting forth that the Company are about to put under contract one hundred miles of their road west of Cumberland.

This is a movement to the importance of which Philadelphians should not shut their eyes. The road of ohio has chartered a number of Railroad Companies, to make railroads running in an easterly direction and to strike the Ohio river at different points. There is one to strike it at Wheeling, another at Steubenville, twenty miles higher up, another at Yellow Creek near Wellsville, twenty miles above Steubenville; and another to go to Beaver and Pittsburgh, and there to connect with the Pennsylvania Railroad

It is as easy in Ohio to get a charter for a railroad as it is difficult to get the money to construct it.

The people of Wheeling are going on rapidly with the construction of their vast bridge across the Ohio river, the span of which will be 1010 feet, and its height above low water 97 feet, to avoid obstructing the steamboats. Its cost will be about a quarter of a million of dollars, or more than that of grading and bridging forty miles of railroad of the average degree of difficulty in Ohio. It is not likely that many such bridges will be erected considering the cost and risk attending them. Neither is it probable that all the roads projected in Ohio, to strike the river will be made in the next fifty years.

If one road is pushed out westward from Pittsburgh, affording a connection with Cleveland and Massillon as well as with Columbus and Cincinnati, and another made to connect Wheeling with Columbus, it is as much as is likely to be consummated for some years to come. All of our merchants are aware of the importance of our obtaining the shortest and best line from Pittsburgh through the Western Reserve to Cleveland. When one line is essential to success. Let us urge on our central road to Pittsburgh, and thence to the state Line of Ohio, for that is the true policy of every

PHILADELPHIAN.

SUICIDE OF ROBERT M. N. SMYTHE, LAND BROKER.—About 6 o'clock on Saturday morning Robert M. N. Smythe, the well known land speculator and broker, was found in a corner of the carriage yard of the Providence railroad depot, with his throat cut on both sides of the windpipe, which was untouched. He had probably been dead two hours. A pocket knife, with the large blade open, was lying by his side.

He had been residing in New York some six months engaged in speculative projects, promising brilliant results, but things took a hopeless unfavorable turn, and he came back to Boston on Thursday, and in the course of the afternoon he called upon H. A. Hawley, an old friend in Hanover street, and in a very dejected mood stated to him that he had lost all his property, and was afraid of being arrested. He could not be pursuaded to go to Cambridge and see his family, and Mr. Hawley very kindly went out and brought Mrs Smythe to the city. That night Mr. Hawley obtained lodgings for him at a neighbor's house. On Friday he continued in the same 'worried state' and stated to his counsel that he would never live to see his family go to the poor house. He called at the Pemberton House to pay a visit to Mr. Murdoch, but avoided conversation. Afterwards, about dark, Mr. Murdoch saw him pass by the corner of Hanover street eight or nine times in rapid succession. This was the last that was seen of him till he was found dead. Mr. Hawley took charge of the body, and conveyed it to Cambridge. In the afternoon Coroner Smith held an inquest on the body, and the jury returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of temporary insanity. He had in his pocket a gold watch and $126 in money.

Mr. Smythe had not been heard of much here since his deposition was used for the defence in the trial of George Miller, the purport of the deposition being that he had seen Mr. Belknap give to Miller several papers which he believed to be notes. He was probably better known as a land speculator throughout New York and New England than any other man engaged in such business. He would have been fifty years of age next month. *Boston Post.*

Telegraphic Reports.

The suppressed dissatisfaction of western publishers, with the operations of the system of telegraphing news to them, seems to be breaking out in spite of their good inclinations towards the telegraphic lines, and their strong disposition to spread important intelligence before their readers in the shortest possible time from the point at which it starts. Complaints have reached us within a few days, almost simultaneously, from St. Louis Nashville, and Louisville, with which we are more than half inclined to chime in.

There is no such thing as denying or covering up the defects of the telegraphic reports that come to the west. They are glaring, and pervade alike commercial advices, foreign news, congressional proceedings, and the general intelligence pertaining to the eastern cities. The remedy for this evil, however, is a thing not so easily determined. The western publishers now employ their own local agents, who receive the news from the telegraphic offices, partly in cypher, and write out and furnish it to them at their printing offices. These local agents make their own arrangements with reporters at Pittsburgh, and through these with reporters in the eastern cities, for the transmission of news to them. Though the local agents themselves, of the western publishers, are amenable to their employers, the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia reporters are not, and cannot be reached. For all deficiencies in the news transmitted, therefore they are the common and easy scape-goats of the local agents, and there is no apparent remedy, under the system as it now exists. Errors may abound, —as they do—and the western papers innocently spread them before their readers, and receive—as they do, again—'more cuffs than coppers' for their increased labor and expenditures, in conducting their business, and if the local agents be found fault with, they point to the telegraphic notes of the news transmitted to them, showing that the errors came with the rest from the eastern reporters, and there the matter rests.

The St. Louis Republican traces the whole difficulty in this city, and with more spite than good manners, charges it to the parsimony of the Cincinnati publishers. The Republican gets over the matter, so far as its own troubles are concerned, with entirely too much ease. It is certainly under no obligations to take the reports that come to this city, if it does not like them, and in endeavoring to apologize or account in this way for the errors and defects of its telegraphic news, it deceives its readers, and altogether unnecessarily makes a martyr of itself. It can employ its own special agents in Philadelphia, New York, &c., to transmit news and commercial reports for its columns, and would probably do so, to use the language which it applies to the Cincinnati publishers, did not 'the *cost* outweigh all other considerations.'

The Louisville Journal suggests the holding of a convention of western editors, for the purpose of arranging lines of telegraphic correspondence, selecting their own reporters East as well as agents West, and apportioning the expenses to each of the several cities—say Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville and St. Louis. In this way, I think, if they pursue the right course, they can make these western cities, with New Orleans, what the eastern cities already are great centres of telegraphic correspondence—and in addition render the telegraph of great interest to their readers, and incalculable pecuniary advantage to themselves.

We are, ourselves, in favor of any proper movement that will result in more beneficially serving our subscribers, and reimbursing ourselves in the expenditures to which we have been subjected by the establishment of the telegraphic lines in the West. So far, the enterprise has been one of continual *outgo*, without producing any perceptible income. We should be pleased to know what the Journal's plan is, and if its details promise any thing like the advantages to our readers and ourselves, that the editors of that paper seem to think they do, we shall go heartily into the movement proposed.

We have observed the operation of the telegraphic system closely, since the establishment of a register in this city, and have much faith in this method of rapid communication. With the Republican and the Journal, we believe that it may be made an instrument of great service to the community, and much advantage to the press. But this far, it cannot be denied, it has been a heavy bill of expense to the latter, and to the former has continually held the word of promise to the ear only to break it to the hope.

OLD ZACK A DOCTOR.—A proposal was seriously made at the late annual meeting of the State Medical Society, to confer on General Zachary Taylor the honorary degree of M. D. It is reported to have been a saying of Queen Elizabeth, that a doctor was not fit to practice until he had filled a grave yard, and the State Society may have gone a step farther, and concluded that every man who had filled a grave-yard was fit to practice medicine. The society declined conferring the degree, for which Gen. Taylor will no doubt, think these—*N. Y. Globe.*

Cases of grossly dishonest mismanagement on the part of two of the officers of the corporation of the city of New York have been presented to the notice of the Councils. According to the Courier, they constitute most barefaced violations of official duty by officeholders, for their personal benefit. One of the officers was removed, instanter, by the votes of both branches.

THE AMERICAN EDITOR.

BY WILLIAM WALLACE

I'm of the Press! I'm of the Press!
My throne a simple chair
I ask no other majesty
Than strikes the gazer there.
The horse of fire obeys my rod.
My carriers walk the sea.
The lightnings lift their flaming mands,
At Art's command for me.

I'm of the Press! I'm of the Press
By monarchs worshipped the crown!
I wield my pen across my page,
And crowns have tumbled down.
The clouds float on—the nations strive
Without the thunder rolls.
Within, I brood the quiet thought
That changes all their souls.

I'm of the Press! I'm of the Press
The dead around me throng.
Their awful voices whisper *Truth!*
Their eyes forbid the *Wrong*.
From them I gather my power and strength,
Nor heed pale Error's curse,
My faith in God large as the arch
He gave the Universe.

I'm of the Press! I'm of the Press
My host embattled types,
With them I quell the tyrant's horde
And rear the stars and stripes.
I give my hand to all my race,
My altar Freedom's sod
I say my say and bend my knee
Alone, alone to God.

"ECONOMY IS WEALTH," and if Mr Shields had but been governed by the above motto, he might have saved money and himself much bodily and mental suffering, but read the following letter, dated April 10th 1848—

My Wm Shields, a respectable farmer of this vicinity, was taken ill, called in a Doctor, who doctored him for Dyspepsia for one year