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

☞ See next page for Telegraphic News.

☞ For Local Matters see next page.

THE PORTAGE RAILROAD.

We adverted yesterday, in some remarks on the Pennsylvania Railroad, to the condition of the Portage Railroad, and to the imperative necessity which exists for an appropriation, by the present Legislature, of a sum sufficient to put it in complete order. We learn from undoubted authority, that unless an appropriation of $105,000 be granted during the present session—more than is now proposed—that work will be unfit to pass the trade of the canal alone, in the spring and summer of 1850, to say nothing of the trade which will then be thrown upon it by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which is expected to be completed to the mountains by that time. We are in favor of the most rigid economy in the management of our State finances, but we deem it the highest financial wisdom to keep the sources of revenue in a sound and effective state, and to be careful of preserving the confidence of those who use our public means of conveyance. This is essentially necessary at the present, when new and rival avenues of intercommunication are open to the public.

We, therefore, most earnestly suggest to the members of the Legislature, the propriety of making immediate inquiries, and taking prompt action on the subject.

Since the above was prepared, the following article has been handed to us, and we insert it with the expression of our gratification, that our citizens feel the importance of making a concentrated appeal to the Legislature:

PITTSBURGH, March 13, 1849.

Thomas Bakewell, Esq., President of the Board of Trade, of the City of Pittsburgh.

SIR—Knowing the deep interest which you feel in the welfare of our city, we desire to draw the attention of yourself and of the Board over which you have so long and worthily presided, to the condition of the Portage Railroad, as a part of the chain of improvements connecting our city with Tide water.

You are well aware that the Portage road is about 36 miles long, and passes over the Alleghenny mountain, overcoming an elevation of 1398 feet on the eastern slope, and 1172 feet on the western slope, by inclined planes worked by stationary steam engines. These planes were laid originally with wooden rails and light bars of iron, now in a dangerous condition from long service. The engines are supplied with water by ten miles of wooden pipes laid on the surface of the ground, exposed to the inclement winters of the mountain region. As the object of the Portage, however, was to connect two divisions of canal, which are closed in the winter by ice, this has not hitherto been the cause of much inconvenience.

There are various other matters in which important improvements could be made of more or less magnitude, which have been delayed and postponed from time to time, on account of the want of funds, to the great inconvenience of the public. But the time has now arrived when action appears imperatively necessary.

It is now fully understood, that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have determined to connect their road with the Portage, at Hollidaysburg and Johnstown, using it in the first instance, for the passage of the mountain. The Eastern division of their road is now in rapid progress, and the Board expect that it will be completed to Hollidaysburg in the spring of 1850. The Western division will be commenced this season, and the officers expect that at least 40 miles will be ready for the cars in the spring of 1851.

If the Portage Road be thoroughly repaired and improved, we believe that it will be able to pass the increased trade and travel thus thrown upon it, for some years, or at least until the Company shall be able to construct an independent road without inclined planes. But from inquiries of the proper authorities, and partly from personal observation, we are satisfied that unless much larger appropriations be made for this object than are at present suggested by the Canal Commissioners, its capacity will be found wholly inadequate, and a great amount of trade and travel will be diverted on account of the hazards, delays, and inconveniences attending the passage of the mountains, to other routes, to the great loss of the State and of our city.

The intelligent superintendent of the Portage, Mr. T. J. Power, estimates that an appropriation of $105,000 will be necessary, in addition to that asked for by the Commissioners, in order to put the road in such order as to be competent to pass the additional business anticipated from the Pennsylvania road, or *even to keep it in such repair as to carry the canal trade for eighteen months longer.*

This is a startling announcement, and we ask that the Board of Trade should take the matter into serious consideration, and if satisfied of the imperative necessity of immediate action, should bring the subject before the Legislature in such form as their wisdom shall suggest, at their earliest convenience. Very respectfully,

John H. Peebles,	P. Shoenberger,
Robert Dalzell & Co.	M. Allen & Co.
J. B. Guthrie,	Hardy, Jones & Co.
S. F. Von Bonnhorst & Co.	Jas. A. Hutchison & Co.
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Bagaley & Smith,	Tassey & Best,
Church, Carothers & Co.	John Bissell,
Lewis Hutchison,	John Graham,
John Snyder,	

OUR BOOK TABLE.

Messrs. Elliott & English, having fitted up a very beautiful store on Wood Street, (No 79.) are filling it with choice books, of the latest and best editions. We find on our table, the following works from their fine establishment:

"THE WORKS OF CORNELIUS TACITUS—with an Essay on his Life and Genius, Notes, Supplements, &c. By Arthur Murphy, Esq. A new edition, with the author's last corrections. New York: Carter & Brothers."

This is a beautiful edition of Murphy's translation of Tacitus, a work which no well selected library can do without.

"*Life and Times of the Rev. Philip Henry, M. A.*, father of the Commentator. New York. Robert Carter and Brothers."

This is one of the most interesting biographies we have ever read. Mr. Henry lived in the stirring times of Charles I, and the Commonwealth; and both to the Theologist and the Historical inquirer, the work is replete with interest.

"The Natural History of Enthusiasm: By Isaac Taylor, From the Ninth London Edition. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers."

If there be any of our readers who have not an acquaintance with this admirable work, we can say to them that it is worthy of their attention, as a source of instruction and religious edification.—It is one of the few works that *live*, and it well deserves the distinction. This is a beautiful edition, in large, fair type.

Captain William M. Hunter, of the United States Navy, died on Monday evening, at his residence in Philadelphia, from a violent attack of inflammation of the lungs, which proved fatal after but a few days' illness. The deceased was in the fifty seventh year of his age, thirty eight of which had been passed in the naval service, having entered as a midshipman on the 16th of January, 1809. He stood number twenty one on the list of Post Captains, his commission bearing date Feb. 9, 1837.—He leaves a large family and a numerous circle of friends to lament his loss.

We regret to learn the death, by Pleurisy, of Mrs. Lydia Morrow, relict of the late Paul Morrow, Esq., and long identified with Pittsburgh and its society. She died on the 4th instant, at Rokely Iron Works' Chester County, at the house of her son in law Dr. Gardner, who, we are sorry to hear, is also extremely ill, of the same disease.

EARTHQUAKES IN THE WESTERN ISLANDS.—The Azores have been kept in a state of constant alarm for nearly two months past by a succession of earthquakes, which have thrown down houses and churches on these islands. The alarm was heightened to an intense consternation one night in December by the appearance of a brilliant aurora borealis in the west. Such a phenomenon is without a precedent in that quarter.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1849.

The scenes attendant upon the national grand ceremony of inauguration have passed, Gen. Taylor is settled in the august station to which the voice of the country has called him, and the seat of government has relapsed into something like its accustomed quiet, which pervaded during the intervals between the sessions of Congress, the most sombre and quiet capital in Christendom. I have not fully discharged the duties of a correspondent. I have not been at the White House since the exodus of Mr. Polk and his followers.—Therein I acknowledge remissness of duty. Your readers may have noticed that while in my hatred and aversions I am an enthusiast, in my affections I am exceedingly moderate. Upon the minor points of a man's character, common report and belief are apt to be correct. I suppose therefore that I must be a sort of a literary lahmael, who is at amity with persons and things generally, and attached to nobody, nor nothing in particular. I say this to account to your readers for the credulity of hostility with which I have pursued the Polk crew in my correspondence, and the absence of any ecstatic expressions of commendation or approval respecting the men and things which have come after them. But perhaps candor and moderation in political advocacy are qualities which wear as well as their opposites.

Gen. Taylor receives company daily from twelve to three. The crowd is usually considerably pressing, but not enough so to affect his habitual good humor, tact and self-command. On Wednesday last among others, there was at the White House a pretty numerous delegation from Pennsylvania. I am informed by one of the gentlemen, that while engaged in conversation with those who were gathered pretty thickly about him, Gen. Taylor observed a number of ladies near the outside of the room, who manifested their desire for a closer approach to him, with ready good humor and a soldier's gallantry, the general gently pushed aside the gentlemen immediately about him, and said "a little more room my friends, make a lane there for the ladies. Give them a little aid and comfort, gentlemen!" As may well be supposed the hint was immediately taken, and the ladies were presented to the General to their mutual satisfaction.

As I have before said, the multitude has thinned out, so that we no longer experience any inconvenience from the want of due accommodations.—The pressure is by no means unusual, and is perhaps less than that at the corresponding period four years ago, when the regular democrats came up in legions to claim from Mr. Polk relief from their privations and sufferings during the long lent of Tylerism.

We know little yet as to the policy to be pursued in the distribution of offices. The cabinet ministers are all in their places and at work. Gen Taylor has intimated that he will leave the patronage of the several departments to the respective heads of them. But that by no means covers the whole ground. There is a class of appointments, comprehending an immense number of cases, which can scarcely be and to come within the jurisdiction of the heads of departments, such as all the foreign diplomatic appointments, the consuls, the district attorneys, collectors, mail and Indian agents, and a host of others not necessary to be mentioned—in which the President's power and responsibility must be ever held answerable for the fitness and character of the occupants of the office.

By the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, the charge' ship to Chili was raised to a full mission.—It is generally reported to-day, that Mr. Pendleton, of Va., late a member of the House, will be nominated to that station. Mr. P. was formerly charge to that republic. It is expected that all the prominent diplomatic appointments will be filled on Monday. The name of Col. Webb, of the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer is mentioned in connection with the Spanish mission, but I confess that I can not believe that this appointment will be conferred on Col. W., although doubtless he will receive some desirable place. It is considered necessary for the credit of the country, that the incumbents of the Russian and Swedish missions should be immediately relieved. Of one, it is said that he has never been presented, and that he is not expected to be in a condition to make a decent appearance at any court at any time. While in Paris, a diplomatic dinner was given, and the Hon. Mr. Bagby was specially invited. He had to be excused as suddenly indisposed. As to the Minister at Stockholm, it seems to have settled down that he is the gentleman who has been so foolish as to permit himself to be caught in the diplomatic weakness of smuggling. It is also common report that he is sadly given to the "critter." These are rumors which are current in common conversation and in the public papers. They may be without foundation, and I hope they are.

There are facts pertinent to the great question of the management of the patronage. The selection of the cabinet is pretty decided proof that they will satisfy the whig sentiment and expectation of the country on this head. There are some amusing stories afloat concerning the prominent office holders in this city, which I must omit now for want of room.

We can hardly tell what course the investigation as to Shield's right to a seat in the Senate will take. What is the design in the adoption of the resolution clothing the Committee having it in charge with power to send for persons and papers, is not apparent. If it have any practicable effect, it must be to send the case over to the next session, or to prolong their own for months. I think the present session will terminate about Wednesday next. JUNIUS.

FROM NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, March 9, 1849.

The city was thrown into a small panic yesterday, by the rumor that the Cholera had broken out at Quarantine, among the passengers of an emigrant ship. The panic spread, and stocks, the great barometer of sanitary confidence fell 11 per cent, or degrees rather. To-day all is changed and the cholera turns out to be aggravated ship fever. Four hundred ill-fed, and horribly filthy Irish emigrants, crammed into a space as fested as the Black Hole at Calcutta, after a month's passage, have become diseased, a fact at which people pretend to show great wonder, when the only wonder is that all do not suffer and die like slaves in the "middle passage." There is no cholera here, and no one bound east should pause a moment from such idle rumors.

A great business is going on among the French importers, who say they never saw such a year for trade, either in the amount of goods sold or the profits made. All styles of goods go off briskly and they predict for the autumn an amount of importations from France such as has never before been known. This increase of importations will help our revenue, and give the Treasury money which it will need very much. The Treasury note bill, allowing the issue of five millions, was killed between the two houses of Congress, and the government has no resource but the ordinary revenue, which will fall far short of the estimates.

Ex-members of Congress are very abundant here just now, but they attract little notice from the fact that their power to vote has expired. The general opinion is, that a less valuable session was never held. Bickerings and pugilism closed a session, of which idleness and useless debate was the leading feature, and the country must witness the expiration of Congress with congratulations. We shall have quiet at least for nine months, which is most desirable to all departments of business.

The contract of the Bremen line of steamers for mails to Havre, has been transferred to Messrs. Fox & Livingston, who fought their way so nobly out of the ruins of their business, caused by the French revolution. The steamship Franklin goes, with the contract, and another ship is to be built at once. This firm will run their ships to Havre, and manage it as efficiently as can be desired. They are among our most honorable merchants, and will be sure of success.

Mr. Barclay, H. B. M. Consul to New York, has petitioned the legislature for permission to hold real estate, as he and his children mean to make New York their permanent home. He cannot be naturalized because of his position as Consul. It is a singular fact that few Englishmen, after a short residence here, desire to return to the "fast anchored isle," and our English citizens, are among the most patriotic and public spirited men in this city.

The ice in the Hudson begins to yield, and attempts have been made to blast it with gunpowder so as to let the steamers pass.

Money has got to be more abundant, and the range of good paper is from 9 to 11 per cent, with few discounts by the banks.

In markets a moderate business. Ashes are up to $6,50 for Pots. Cotton is dull with sales of 2000 bales. Flour is active and about 5000 bbls taken for export in two days. State flour $5,44@5,75 for common to choice. In Corn and Wheat no sales. Rye 62½; in Pork there has been some movement, sales 2200 bbls mess, at $10,62@10,75 and prime $9,12½@9,25. The arrival of the New Orleans fleet will put prices down to $10 for mess. Lard has sold as high as 6½@7c for a prime article and is wanted. Cheese is dull and butter likewise. c.

THE MORMONITES.—These remarkable people are increasing in numbers both in this country and in England. The London Globe says there is a large body of them in the neighboring districts who are preparing to emigrate and to colonize in California. They have chartered four or five vessels for their accommodation, and intend to leave in the Spring.

The Mormons, it is known, have already a settlement in California, where they are successfully engaged in agriculture. Considerable numbers of them are on their way to the same region. The first emigrating colony was so large that a battalion of five hundred strong was formed from it.

The religious views of these people are peculiar, but we have no accurate knowledge of them.—Their domestic polity is that of *communism* in some of its forms. Persecution has had its usual effect in multiplying the votaries of this strange faith.—They appear to be industrious, and it is very certain that they exhibit an unusual degree of perseverance and fortitude in the prosecution of their purposes.—*Balt. Amer.*

We think our generally well informed cotemporary is mistaken, in regard to *communism* among the Mormons. From an extensive acquaintance formed by residence of some months in their neighborhood, in Illinois, and from frequent visits to Nauvoo, we infer that there is nothing like a communism of property or interest among them. Each family lives separate, and each individual labors, and buys and sells, and gets gain, according to his own pleasure or necessities. In this respect, we believe, there is no difference between them and the citizens generally of civilized countries. Their bond of union is wholly that of implicit faith in Joe Smith as a Prophet, and in the divinity of the Golden Bible, or Book of Mormon, and the various vagaries and pretended revelations consequent upon their high wrought religious enthusiasm. This religious enthusiasm is indeed remarkable. It carried them triumphantly through the most appalling hardships—cold, hunger, nakedness, sickness, persecution loss of friends, and every earthly calamity—to their present quiet resting place in the Rocky Mountains, which, like the Canaan of old, is to them, with their simple and industrious habits, a "land flowing with milk and honey." Their exodus from the Mississippi to the Colorado, should its history ever be written, will be looked upon as one of the most remarkable in any age, and it is not at all improbable, from the rapidity of their increase, both in this country and in England, that they will, in a few years, overrun the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, between the Columbia river and the Colorado, where we hope the Government will protect them in their rights—for, however absurd may be their religious belief, they have the same right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as the rest of the inhabitants of our wide-spread country.

THE HOME OFFICE.—The duties of the Secretary of the Home Department, over which Mr. Ewing, as the first Secretary, presides, are of great importance to the country—as much so as those of any of the others, and more important than some of them. He takes, we believe one or more bureaus from each of the other departments, except the Postmaster and Attorney General.

We have not seen the law in full, but learn by a synopsis in a letter to the New York Express, that the official title of the new Secretary is "the Secretary of the Interior," and that his duties are substantially as follows:

"The law declares first, that the secretary shall exercise and perform all the acts of supervision and superintendence in regard to the Commissioner of Patents, now exercised by the Secretary of State, and shall sign all requisitions for advance or payment of money out of the treasury or estimates or accounts subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised on similar estimates or accounts by the First or Fifth Auditor and First Comptroller of the Treasury. He shall also perform all duties in relation to the General Land Office, of supervision and appeal, now discharged by the Secretary of the Treasury, and shall sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the Treasury, on estimates or accounts, approved or certified by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, subject to the same control now exercised by the First Comptroller of the Treasury. The supervisory power now exercised by the Secretary of the Treasury over the accounts of the marshals, clerks and other officers of all the courts of the United States shall be exercised by the Secretary, who signs all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the treasury, on estimates or accounts, subject to the same control now exercised on like estimates or accounts by the First Auditor and First Comptroller of the Treasury.

The Secretary of the Interior shall exercise the supervisory and appellate powers now exercised by the Secretary of the War Department in relation to all the acts of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the treasury, on estimates or accounts, subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised on similar estimates or accounts by the Second Auditor and Second Comptroller of the Treasury.

The Secretary shall also exercise the supervisory and appellate powers now exercised by the Secretaries of the War and Navy Department in relation to all the acts of the Commissioner of Pensions; and sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the treasury, on estimates or accounts subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised on similar estimates or accounts by the Third or Fourth Auditors and Second Comptroller of the Treasury.

He shall also exercise all the supervisory and appellate powers now exercised by the Secretary of State, in relation to all acts of marshals and clerks in taking and returning the census of the United States, and sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the treasury, on estimates or accounts, subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised over similar estimates and accounts by the Fifth Auditor and First Comptroller of the Treasury.

The supervisory and appellate powers now exercised by the Secretary of the Treasury over the lead and other mines of the U. S., and over the accounts of the agents thereof, shall be exercised by the Secretary of the Interior, who shall sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the treasury, on estimates or accounts, subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised on similar estimates or accounts by the Second Auditor and Second Comptroller of the Treasury.

The supervisory and appellate powers now exercised by the President of the United States over the Commissioner of Public Buildings, shall be exercised by the Secretary, who shall sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money out of the treasury on estimates or accounts subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised on similar estimates or accounts by the First Auditor and First Comptroller of the Treasury provided that nothing in this section contained shall be construed to take from the presiding officers of the two houses of Congress the power now possessed by them to make and enforce rules and regulations for the care, preservation, orderly keeping and police of the capitol, and its appurtenances.

The Secretary of the Interior shall exercise a supervisory power and control over the Board of Inspectors and Warden of the Penitentiary of the District of Columbia, and shall sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of money

FROM WASHINGTON.—The following items from the National Intelligencer, of last Saturday will be read with interest.

We understand that it has been found necessary by the President of the United States to require that all applications for office shall be made to the Chiefs of the several Departments, by whom they will be submitted at the proper time. No direct application can be entertained by the President for any office whatever.

It must be obvious to every one, who will think of the matter for a moment, that it has been impossible, since the appointment of the new Cabinet for the President to hold such consultation as is necessary to the preparation of any business to lay before the Senate, as yet, especially whilst the doors, not of the Presidential Mansion only, but those of the Heads of Departments, are thronged by congratulating friends, and gentlemen who are candidates for office, if not for themselves, for their friends. In consequence of this state of things, the Senate having, on meeting yesterday, no business requiring its consideration, adjourned over to Monday next.

At a meeting of the Board of Regents on Wednesday last, Vice President Fillmore (*ex officio* a Regent) was unanimously elected Chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution, in the place of Vice President Dallas, whose term had expired.

A large number of the Officers of the Navy yesterday called to pay their respects to the Hon. Mr. Preston, Secretary of the Navy, by whom they were cordially received. To the President at the Executive Mansion. The interview was highly gratifying to all parties, and, as the company consisted of upwards of fifty individuals, who were dressed in uniform, the ceremony of presentation was quite interesting.

On Thursday afternoon Hon. Mr. Ewing, Secretary of the Home Department, the Hon. Mr. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Hon. Mr. Preston, Secretary of the Navy, all accompanied by a party of citizens of their several States called upon the President and tendered their congratulations.

WILLIAM BALLARD PRESTON.—The Richmond Republican thus alludes to the appointment of William Ballard Preston as one of Gen. Taylor's cabinet.

"The appointment of this gentleman as attorney general was one of the most agreeable surprises, we ever experienced. In a splendid speech made by Mr. Preston at the last session of Congress, he sprang at a single bound to the front rank of the great orators of America. Another effort of this session has elicited still warmer and more general praise—an effort which showed the statesman and the logician, and which has only been equalled in point of eloquence by the great speech of Mr. Dowell, another of those remarkable orators whose veins are warmed by the blood of Patrick Henry."

"Mr. Preston is in the meridian of life and the full vigor of his extraordinary ability. Of a high toned and chivalrous spirit, full of noble impulses, and imbued with genuine American patriotism, we confidently expect him to add lustre to the new administration, and pour a fresh blaze of renown upon the illustrious name of Virginia."

THE FORMATION OF HAIL.

THE LOUISVILLE JOURNAL AGAIN,

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

GENTLEMEN—In the Pittsburgh Daily Gazette, of 16th November, 1848, you were so kind as to publish some strictures which I furnished, on an article that appeared in the Louisville Weekly Journal, of the first November previous, on the subject of "the influence of the clearing of the lands of their primitive forests on the floods of our rivers," by Professors Dickerson and Brown of Mississippi.—Presuming on your goodness, I would be thankful if you would insert in your useful paper the following theory on the formation of Hail, in opposition to one advanced by Professor Steverly, before the British Association—a statement of which I find in the Louisville Weekly Journal, of 24th January, 1849. In this I hope that I may not incur the charge of hypercriticism, either in regard to those theories, or the selections of the Journal. The acquisition of truth, on all subjects, is my principal object and desire.

From the Journal last mentioned I quote—"After the fall of some rain, a sudden and extensive vacuum being caused, the quantity of caloric abstracted is so large as to cause the rest of the drops to freeze into ice balls as they are formed." This principle, he said, had been strangely overlooked although, since the days of Sir John Leslie, every person was familiar with experiments on a small scale, illustrative of it." He also said that "the interesting issue of Chimnetz, in Hungary, afforded an experimental exhibition of the formation of hail on a magnificent scale. In that mine, the drainage of water is raised by an engine, in which common air is violently compressed in a large cast iron vessel. While the air is in a state of high compression, a workman desires a visitor to hold his hat before a cock which he turns, the compressed air, as it rushes out over the surface of the water with it, brings out some with it, which is frozen into ice balls by the cold generated by the air as it expands, and these shoot through the hat to the no small annoyance of one party, but to the infinite amusement of the other."

In view of the facts in regard to the operations of the atmosphere, and a comparison of the Professor's hypothesis with the actual phenomena and circumstances attendant on the production of hail, I cannot admit the soundness of his theory.

In the first place—there are no extensive vacuums formed in the atmosphere by the fall of rain. The only natural condition of any part of the atmosphere which might be called a vacuum is that that temporarily only—as where that part is more heated than the surrounding air, and consequently becomes proportionally rarified, expanded and lighter, thus forming a partial vacuum, into which the colder air around—which in the same altitude is always the most dense—will naturally flow, and produce an equality of temperature and an equilibrium of density. We see then, that this vacuum is lighter than the denser air, and therefore could not be the cause of the formation of hail.

But, by the by, the "caloric," which the Professor speaks of as being "abstracted," and which he, with the generality of scientific men, no doubt considers and estimates as an element and entity, is the most convenient thing imaginable to and Drs. and Professors, and gull common people, in any philosophical puzzle. They tell us it is an existence that is every where, and latent in every thing; that its great fundamental characteristic is heat, that it is in the coldest as well as the warmest bodies and places, sometimes operative, and at other times latent, and that when we hammer an intensely cold bar of iron until it is red hot, there is no more heat produced, exhibited and evolved, than was latent in the bar when we commenced. Now, I am called on to believe, as it may suit the purposes of the theorist, no matter whether it be tangible and manifest to our senses or not. This use, in some measure, the Professor makes of it in the theory he advances. He abstracts the calorie from his vacuum until he gets his hail formed, but if he was producing the vacuum, he would require the assistance of the caloric to form it. But caloric or heat is not an element or entity. It is merely an adventitious state or condition of elements and bodies, produced alike and universally by action and friction. Cold was the primary condition of all bodies, and to it they would inevitably revert, if the causes producing the opposite condition of heat were withdrawn or suspended. Caloric, as an entity would be, is not the subject of abstraction, which would appear to imply the possibility and practicability of its locale exposure and separation from any other body with which it was combined, or to which it was annexed, and the holding of it in an abstract, unsulfuted state without connection of any kind with, or dependence on, any other body, which has attributes of every element and body. This cannot be done, in nature, as it is a *condition* of bodies only, and all conditions of elements or bodies being produced by causes to alter or change the condition, you have but merely to remove the cause and the condition becomes extinct. Thus we find to be the case in the influence of rain on the heat of the atmosphere. It not only removes it, but annihilates it, for in addition to cooling the atmosphere and earth where it falls, it also cools them to a considerable distance from where the full takes place.

Taking this theory of heat as an axiom, which, I think, is not claiming too much for it, let us apply it to the facts connected with the falling of rain. Rain is uniformly produced by the evaporation of aqueous or watery particles from the surface of the globe, which, being heated by the sun, and lighter than the lower strata of the atmosphere, ascend in it until they reach an elevation where it is sufficiently cold to condense them into particles or small drops of water, which, being heavier than the density of the atmosphere at that point is sufficient to support, they commence descending in it, and continually uniting as they fall, accumulate to the size the drops have attained when they reach the surface of the earth, and retaining to a considerable degree the low temperature acquired at the place of condensation. This fall of rain, as we said before, lowers the temperature of the atmosphere, but does it produce a vacuum? No, quite the reverse; it has made it denser than it was before, for we now see smoke and other light substances ascending in, and being carried by it, which before, it was not sufficient to sustain. Neither do we find in the whole process of the formation and fall of rain, that any greater degree of cold has been produced than that existing at and merely adequate to, the condensation of the vapor, which is far from being sufficient to produce ice, or even congelation of the vapor. And furthermore, how can the professor account for bodies of water sufficient to form balls of ice, as large as we sometimes see hailstones, being elevated in the atmosphere to a region of cold adequate to their congelation?

Having thus investigated, tested and rejected the hypothesis of Professor Steverly, respecting the formation of hail, it now devolves upon me to present a better, and the correct theory in regard to it.

In doing this, I shall in the first place, draw your attention to some of the phenomena attendant on the formation and fall of hail. They are these—It always denominate a hail storm, always occurs in warm weather, and generally in the hottest part of the day—rarely occurring in the after part of the night, or early in morning. The warmer the weather and the hotter the day, when the hail falls, the larger will be the hailstones. The hail stones are most generally of an imperfectly round or globular form, and not a completely transparent body of ice, but opaque, and of a whitish snow color in the centre—and hail showers are uniformly accompanied by rain and strong winds. These are facts which must have attracted the attention, not only of every particular, but every casual observer of passing events, and are, no doubt, familiar to you all. And if I philosophically and rationally account for these phenomena, and apply them to the formation and fall of hail, I flatter myself that you will do me the justice of admitting that I will have then performed the task which I undertook.

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.)

THE CHOLERA AGAIN AT NEW YORK.—The New York Courier and Enquirer of Thursday says:

"That we are to have another and speedy visitation of this dreaded scourge, there is now great room to fear. Our ship news collect or reported on Tuesday night the arrival of the ship Liverpool, Capt. Eldridge, from Liverpool, having lost some forty passengers at sea by sickness, supposed to be cholera, and having many on board still sick. The ship was officially visited by Dr. Whiting, the health officer, and there is now no doubt that the cholera was and is on board that vessel. We saw the letter of the surgeon of the ship, Dr. O'Lowd, describing briefly the symptoms of such case, and in nearly all there were the cramps, purging, and vomiting, terminating in speedy death. The first sickness broke out on the 13th of February, and out of fifty persons who sickened, forty died and were buried at sea. There are on board some eighteen or twenty of the passengers sick, and among them eight or nine cases of cholera. The captain, crew, and all the passengers are ordered to remain on board the vessel, for Dr. Whiting has not accommodations even for the sick at the hospital. Their condition then may be better imagined than described. There are about four hundred on board, all of course, sick and well, confined below, and if the disease does not spread, it will not be for want of opportunity. Hardness may appear the necessity of keeping the passengers on board there is no possible help for it. There are now *eleven hundred* patients in the Quarentine Hospital, and so cramped are they for room, that in some cases the patients are lying two in a bed.

THE RETIRING CABINET.—The Washington Union says:

"They will all leave us, perhaps, early in April.

"Mr. Buchanan returns to Lancaster after having paid a visit to Harrisburgh, where he has been cordially invited by every democrat in the Legislature of Pennsylvania, with one exception.

"Governor Marcy returns to Albany; and Judge Mason proposes, as we understand, to locate himself in Richmond.

"Col. Cave Johnson, the late Postmaster General remains in Washington for a few weeks longer, when he returns with his estimable family to Tennessee.

MR. CLAY.—The New Orleans Delta publishes the rumor that has recently gone the rounds of the press, that Mr. Clay desired to receive the appointment of minister to France, and adds:

"Mr. Clay's attention having been called to the above statement, a few days ago, he replied in his usually blunt style, that the office of minister of France was offered to him by Mr. Madison thirty years ago, and he declined it then, and it was hardly possible that he would accept the post at his present advanced age, and in his present circumstances."

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURGH, March. 8, 1849.

SENATE.

The Senate, on motion of Mr. Johnson, went into Executive Session, and unanimously confirmed the nomination of Samuel Shaffer as Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester county.

Bills read in place—By Mr. Overfield, to incorporate the Delaware and Cobb Gap Railroad Company.

Also, a bill relative to publishing the accounts of Supervisors and Superintendents on the Canals and Railroads of this Commonwealth.

The Senate resumed the second reading and consideration of the bill relative to the Usury Laws.

Mr. King moved an amendment restricting the maximum rate of interest to ten per cent. as the highest rate.

Mr. Johnson moved to amend by striking out that portion of the first section which restricts its provisions to promissory notes, "growing out of commercial and business transactions," which was not agreed to—yeas 13 nays 18.

The bill was discussed at length by Messrs. Matthias, King, Johnson, Dunn, Hugus, Stine, Smyser, Kenigmacher and Small.

HOUSE.—The Senate substitute to the House bill to recharter the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, was presented by the Clerk of the Senate and read. After a lengthy discussion the House refused to postpone the subject till to-morrow, and also refused to postpone for the present—yeas 28, nays 61.

Mr. Roberts offered an amendment in lieu of the 12th section, when Mr. R. Rundle Smith raised a question of order as to whether an amendment could be entertained at this stage of the bill, it having originated in the Senate, amended by substitute in the House, and again amended by substitute in the Senate. To test the principle the appeal was submitted in writing, and a vote had, when the Speaker was sustained (i. e. that the amendment was in order)—yeas 90, nays 00, Messrs. R. R. Smith and G. T. Thorn presented their reasons (as above given) for raising the point of order, and it was ordered to be placed on the journals.

After further debate, a vote was had on Mr. Roberts' amendment, and it was negatived—yeas 34, nays 49.

Some verbal amendments were made to the bill, after which Mr. Roberts submitted Mr. Laird's (the House model) Proposition in regard to individual liability (the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, and 24th sections). This was debated and negatived—yeas 40, nays 46.

Mr. Myers offered a general liability clause, reaching all persons who enter into banks or other corporations,—which is taken from the act of 1907.

The amendment was lost—yeas 30, nays 45. Adjourned.

Afternoon Session—When the House reassembled, the consideration of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank was resumed.

Mr Roberts submitted another amendment, embracing the individual liability clause, which was lost by a vote of yeas 41, nays 45.

After some slight amendments the bill was passed, yeas 56, nays 37. The Whig members voted in a body for the bill together with the following named Democrats: Carl, Elliott, Frick, Gordon, Grove, Little and Schoonover.

The bill requires the payment of a bonus of 2 per cent upon the capital stock.

HARRISBURG, Mar. 7.

SENATE.

The bill to authorize the Western Telegraph Company to construct lines of telegraph wires through Pennsylvania, in a direction from Baltimore to the Ohio river was passed.

Mr. Crabb, from the Committee on Banks, reported the bill to reinstate the capital and extend the charter of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia with amendments.

On motion of Mr. C the bill was taken up, and the House amendments as amended by the Committee on Banks and Corporations were read.

Mr. Johnson, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petitions asking for the repeal of the act incorporating the York and Harrisburgh Railroad Companies, made an adverse report thereon.

Mr Crabb made a few remarks in opposition to the report.

Mr Matthias moved an amendment that the Committee be instructed to report a bill in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners.

Mr Small moved to postpone the further consideration of the report and that it, together with the amendment, be printed.

After a few words from Messrs. Johnson Crabb and Brawley, the motion to postpone and print was agreed to.

The consideration of Mr. King, the Senate resumed the second reading and consideration of the bill supplementary to the act to reduce the State debt, and to incorporate the Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company.

Mr Johnston moved to amend, by adding to the end of the bill these words "Provided, that this act shall not apply to assessments already made." Which was agreed to.

Messrs King, Darsie, Brawley, Small and Mason advocated the bill, and Messrs. Hugus, Forsyth and Sadler spoke against it.

The question having been taken on the first section, it was negatived by the following vote consequently the bill was rejected.

Yeas—Messrs. King, Levis, Mason, Matthias, McCaslin, Small, Streeter Darsie, Speaker—8.

Nays—Messrs. Best, Boas, Brooke, Dunn, Forsyth, Frick, Hugus, Johnson, Lawrence, Overfield, Potteiger, Rich, Richards, Sadler, Savery, Sherrett, Stine—17.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Several bills, not disposed of on the private calendar of yesterday, were considered and passed.

The Judiciary Committee reported against the proposed changes in the Constitution, providing for the meeting of the Legislature in November, and for the election of Judges.

The bill to erect the new county of Lawrence out of parts of Mercer and Beaver, passed final read ng. Adjourned.

We see it stated that a new species of cotton has been grown in Warren county, Mississippi, by Gen. Mitchell. It is said that the tops and side branches are all thickly studded with bolls.—The stalk does not usually grow higher than four or five feet, but every portion of the plant is literally covered with bolls, which are sustained in an upright position by the strength and vigor of the stem and branches. The chief peculiarity of this plant is, that the stem and branches have no *pints* as in other kinds, and, although the bolls are so numerous, there can be no inconvenience in picking. The staple is beautiful, and far more silky than the best Petit Gulf. From one third of an acre, Gen. Mitchell gathered and weighed the past season 2,142 pounds of cotton. One hundred pounds of the seed yielded thirty two and a half pounds of lint, and by an accurate test he found that sixty five bolls made one pound of lint.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY.—In the great Pyramid of Egypt in a small opening at the top the depth of which has never been sounded. Another aperture of the same size exists at the foot of the Pyramid. It was long conjectured that these two openings communicated with each other, but no means could be devised to establish the fact, till the problem was solved recently by the ingenuity of an Arab. He took a cat and her kittens, placed the old cat in one aperture and the kittens in the other, and stopped up both with stones. The next day he opened them, and found cat and kittens all together at the foot of the long passage.

"GOING THE WHOLE HOG."—The Newspapers have recently been contending about the size of pigs" in the different States of the Union but we have now in this city a specimen (and not a *small one*) from Fairfax county, Virginia, whose owner challenges the world. It is said to have weighed four months ago 1,450 lbs, but he appears to have fallen off a little, in consequence of fatigue, and its proprietor (John Dulaney) says, upon the estimate of a butcher that if he were in good condition, he might now weight near 1,800 pounds. He is 34 feet high, and of an immense length, breadth, and depth. It is a cross upon the Berkshire breed. The incredulous may judge of this swinish monster for themselves, by calling on Pennsylvania avenue, opposite to the National (Blackwell's) Hotel. Probably no wild Tuscan boar ever exceeded this specimen in size, though it might have been far surpassed in ferocity.