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



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


"The Victim to Federal Vengeance."

Since yesterday, we have been informed that the Postie "Victim to Federal Vengeance," Capt. Birmingham, was actually superseded by the late administration, Captain M'Kissick, of the Quarter Master's Department, of the regular army, having been sent here for that purpose, but he having died at the Monongahela House, Mr. Birmingham was suffered to retain his post until further arrangements could be made. The establishment of a Quartermaster in Pittsburgh was only a temporary arrangement, growing out of the necessities of the Mexican War; that having passed away, the necessity of a resident officer has ceased with it. Gen. Taylor's administration has not made Mr. Birmingham a "Victim to Federal Vengeance" because he would not bow the knee to Taylor Whiggery," but has simply transferred what duties remained to be performed to the commandant of the Arsenal, thus saving the salary which has been paid to the Post's "Victim." The office being a military appointment, belonged to the Quartermaster's department, and the appointment of Capt. Birmingham could only have been temporary in any event, even had it been necessary to continue a Quartermaster here, as the situation belonged appropriately to an officer of the regular army, and the only reason one such was not at first appointed, was, that none could be spared for the service.

Thus, looking at the matter in every light, it will be seen that the editor of the Post only needs a semblance of a reason for the most violent attack upon the administration. He has, however, been most unfortunate in this case, and has been hung up in the rope he intended for others.

The Senate of the United States adjourned last Friday. The Supreme Court of the U. States has also adjourned, and the President, and his Cabinet are left to the quiet performance of their arduous and responsible duties. We have the utmost faith that these duties will be performed in a manner and in a spirit which will meet the approbation of the wise and moderate of all parties, and which will promote the best good of the whole country. That there will be opposition—captious, fault-finding opposition—is to be expected. The Locofoco party, as recently ejected from the flesh-pots of office, which they have so long enjoyed, will make desperate efforts to regain their lost power, and will oppose the administration, let it do what it may.—With them it is a war for power, and scramble for office, and they are therefore prepared to find fault with every movement of the Government, right or wrong. We have faith, however, in the sound sense of the masses of the people. They will weigh the doings of the Government before they hastily judge, let these croakers complain ever so loudly.

MAKING IT THE ISSUE.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Post says, that when the Cabinet nominations were under discussion, in Executive Session of the Senate, Mr. Westcott, of Fla., objected to Mr. Collamer, because he was "tainted with Abolitionism." After the objection had been debated at some length, Mr. Seward of New York, rose, and remarked that he himself represented the most radical opinions upon Slavery that were held by any considerable body of the people at the North; and that he supposed Mr. Collamer would substantially agree with him. With respect to the objection made to this nomination, it was time there should be an understanding. He would therefore simply defy them to make this issue, to vote against this man upon this ground, and establish this principle. He had nothing more to say at this time, and he took his seat, *sub silentio*. There was a sensation, and after he had settled himself back in his leathern cushions, there was a general buzz. Mr. Collamer's nomination was confirmed.

Capt. George Tobin, the famous and humorous "knapsack" correspondent, is among the officers of the American Yucatan regiment, lately returned to New Orleans. In a letter to the Delta, giving an account of his regiment's operations, he says:

"I had thought, at first, this was a mere irruption of savage Indians; but I now discovered that it is in reality a sort of servile war, and the Spartacus is a half breed—a cross between an English subject and a native of the soil; he is called *Prunes Pet*, and is said to be a man of talent, education and wealth. Our road had been cut through a dense chapparel, and we were very tortuous. At almost every angle, Pat displayed his talent in the construction of barricades (here called tranchetes,) and their sites were chosen with a skill that would not be discreditable to the most accomplished Engineer fro m West Point.

"At half a league's distance, the firing began from behind the tranchetes; and the Yucatecos, led by their own officers, slipped into the chapparel, on either side of the road, and acted as flankers. They are excellent soldiers—far superior to the Mexicans of the north."

The following amusing specimen of cross-reading we extract from the *Washington Globe*. The writer says that a droll fellow being requested by an old lady to read the newspaper, took it up and began as follows:

"Last night, yesterday morning, about two o'clock in the afternoon, before breakfast, a hungry boy, about 40 years old, bought a fip custard for a key, and threw it through a brick well nine feet thick, and jumped over it and broke his ankle right off above the knee, and fell into a dry mill-pond and drowned. About 40 years after that, on the same day, an old cat had nine turkey-gobblers—the wind blew Yankee Doodle into a frying pan, and knocked the old Dutch Churn down and killed a sow and two dead pigs at Bosting, where a deaf and dumb man was talking French to his aunt Peter!

"The old lady raised up both hands and exclaimed, Du tell!"

EMIGRATION TO CALIFORNIA.—According to the lists made out in the New York Herald, the number of vessels which have, up to the present moment, cleared in the ports of the United States for California, is 270, carrying passengers and crew together, 17,311 souls. The following exhibits the number of vessels and emigrants, including crews, that have sailed by the different routes:

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|---|---|---|
| By Cape Horn, | 193 vessels, | 12,323 souls |
| Chagres, | 45, | 2,229 |
| Vera Cruz, | 3 | 594 |
| Brazos, | 11 | 765 |
| Corpus Christi, | 3 | 103 |
| San Juan, | 2 | 118 |
| Tampico, | 3 | 87 |
| Laveca, | 4 | 122 |
| | 273 | 17,311 |

CALIFORNIA GOLD.—*Largest Yet.*—We learn, says the Philadelphia Ledger, that about $5000 worth of California gold was deposited yesterday at the Mint, received from Baltimore, which was as good a lot as has yet been received, and contained one piece which weighed 8 87-00 ounces, which was no doubt one of those mentioned as having been found in the crevices of the rocks, and is by far the largest specimen that has been seen at the Mint, and is positive evidence that it is found in large pieces. Many other specimens were very good sized pieces, and would well pay the trouble of picking up or digging for a while.

The Washington Correspondent of the New York Express, says:

"I learn, from good authority, that the great Methodist Church Case (North and South) will come on in the April Term of the Circuit Court in New York. The counsel employed for the church North are Messrs. Choate, of Mass., and Wood, of New York. For the church South, Messrs. Webster, the Attorney General, (Johnson,) and Mr. Lord, of N. York. An early decision is hoped upon the case in New York, though it will ultimately find its way to the Supreme Court of the United States."

A suit which has been for years in contest in Boston, in which Mrs. Lucretia Boss claimed the title of a large portion of Pine street, under deeds from Governor Leverett, in 1675, down to the present claimants, was decided on Monday, in favor of the city of Boston, which was the other party to the suit.

POPULATION OF CANADA.—The official estimates make the present population of the two Canadas very nearly a million and a half of people—in actual figures, 1,491,421, of whom 768,334 reside in Lower, and 723,087 in Upper Canada. Each of these Colonies sends forty-two members to the provincial parliament.

VERMONT.—The vote upon the license question in all the counties of this State, stands, for no license, 27,022, for license, 8,809; majority against license, 11,213. "No license" has a strong majority in the State.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, March 23.

The Senate has adjourned *sine die*—*Lex Dei pro tanto!* The called Executive Session, which terminated to day, began March 5th and ended March 23d—a period of some nineteen days. At most the only important nominations that have been acted upon, have been those for the seven chief cabinet offices, the three for the Board of Commissioners on the claims against Mexico, the appointments for the government of the new Territory of Minesota, and the Collectorship of San Francisco. But one nomination has been rejected, that of Hon. Edward McGauchey to be Governor of Minesota. There has been but one diplomatic nomination made, of any character whatever—that of Gales Seaton to be Secretary of Legation near the Government of the German Confederation.—There have been only two or three removals, and those have been made for reasons too obvious and acknowledged by all men. Of officers whose commissions are about expiring, several have been reappointed. All new offices, just created, have been filled with moderate Whigs, friends and partizans of the existing administration. There have been about a dozen such. Not over forty appointments have been made out of forty thousand places, the disposal of which belongs to the General Government.

The Senate, acting in its executive capacity, have considered, though of course very cursorily, the important subject of a proposed change by international negotiation of our navigation laws.—The result of its proceedings on this head has been the ascertainment of the fact that no authorized movement has been made for such an alteration as had been suggested and feared. It has had a brief but not uninteresting discussion of the relations of the different quarters of this Union to each other, and the whole, in respect to that strife breeding institution, Slavery, and it has decided that no considerations connected with it, shall be allowed to have weight in measuring the fitness and qualifications of citizens proposed for public employment. I allude to the episode of the opposition to Mr. Collamer's confirmation, to the determined attitude of Mr. Seward and other Northern Senators, and to the unanimous acquiescence of the Senate in the correctness of their position.

It has finally considered, with somewhat greater particularity, the subject of the preservation of the faith of the nation, as pledged by solemn treaty stipulations, and lately, for the first time deliberately proposed by the head of the Government to be violated. I allude to Mr. Benton's motion for a thorough investigation of all the facts concerning the Protocol to the Mexican Treaty—I am not sufficiently informed of the proceedings in secret session, upon that subject, to speak of them in very precise terms. It is pretty clear however, that Colonel Benton has submitted one or more propositions, and has delivered one or more powerful speeches, impeaching the past administration of duplicity and bad faith, in concluding the arrangement called a protocol, with the purpose and intention of repudiating it. Those motions and speeches, whatever they are, will be made public by himself through the newspapers. I infer that the subject was yesterday indefinitely postponed—not because it was the sense of the Senate that the course of proceeding recommended by Mr. Benton was not necessary and proper, but because this is not now the proper time to go into the consideration of it.

But this movement has brought to light two interesting and most important facts. The first is, that beside the ascertained debt of $65,000,000, which Polk has left us, there is almost a certainty of our having to pay an immense sum, to be hereafter determined, in the way of damages for the wilful violation of his secret, unconstitutional, and most mischievous contract with Santa Anna. The other is, that he has left the Government involved in no acrimonious, vexatious, and expensive diplomatic controversy.

You perceive I do not go into the minutiæ of the closing proceedings of the Senate. I will refer you for information upon that head to the special reports which you will find in many of the papers—I would have said to the telegraphic despatches from here, but after some recent specimens which I have seen in the New York Herald, I could not in conscience recommend you to trust in any of them. These inventions are like Falstaff's lies—"Open, monstrous, palpable." JUNIUS.

THINGS IN CANADA, ANNEXATION, &c.—The Canadian journals are busy discussing the question brought up by the agitation now going on on their side of the line. The Toronto Examiner, at the close of a long article on annexation, says:

"The public mind, as excited by this question, appears to be in that state of indecision when a very slight circumstance turns the scale and decides the most momentous questions. Many, looking at our position, geographical and political, assure themselves that destiny has in fact rendered inevitable a consummation which the speeches of orators, the arguments of writers, or even the volition of the public mind cannot prevent or long delay. For our part, we pretend not to the gift of prophecy, and can only await the fulfilment of our political destiny, without dogmatically predicting to what goal it will lead."

With regard to annexation, the Colonist, of the 6th inst., makes the following announcement:

"Now, as the North American Colonies are at present situated, they are on a eve of making new commercial connections, which must necessarily be followed by new political connections also.

* * We have no longer, it may be said, any interest in continuing a connection, which, in time of peace offers no perceptible advantage, and in event of war would expose us cruelly to the belligerent operations of our neighbors. * * Circumstances now betoken that it will not be long before commercial preference on the one hand, and colonial and imperial differences on the other, will carry into effect what has been so solemnly predicted.

* * We shall have no cause to regret that change, whenever it shall take place, be it sooner or later."

In the speech, made by J. G. Vansittart, Esq., at a public dinner given him in Hamilton, we find the following sentence, as reported by the Hamilton Gazette:

"Petitions should at once be sent, not only to the Governor General, but to our most gracious Queen, against the Representation bill, which would give us into the hands of the French, when there would be nothing left us but to conquer the French race again, or to seek a more friendly government."

The Montreal correspondent of the Toronto Patriot says:

"The only 'cui dit' of the day, worthy of credit—you must not give any to those mentioned in the newspapers—refers to the 'under current' leaning of the Anglo-Saxons here toward an annexation with their brethren of the United States, unjustly and unduly attributed to them by Lord Durham in his time, but true as the gospel now."

The Montreal Witness has an article in which the advantages and disadvantages of Annexation are stated.

GEN. TAYLOR ON LAKE IMPROVEMENTS.—The National Intelligencer gives an account of an interview with the President by a delegation from Buffalo, New York, to present him some specimens of beef, in boxes, a sample of the rich products of Erie county. Mr. Harrington made an address to Gen. Taylor on the occasion, setting forth that the vast regions of our country bordering upon our Western Lakes are the granaries of the nation, and their natural products are precisely what constitute a nation's wealth; already these inland seas are whitened by the sails of commerce; but they are destitute of harbors and smitten by the withering blast of the veto; and Mr. H. went on to say that the declarations written upon the platform of 1848 indicating a return to the freedom of legislation and promulgated to the General's admiring countrymen the guide and guardian of the Western emigrant.

Gen. Taylor replied in substance as follows:—"I am deeply impressed by the sentiments which the people of Buffalo entertain of me, and the flattering language in which they have been expressed. Forty years of my life have been spent in the camp, a portion of which was in the country of the Lakes. The aggregate value of their produce for exportation can only be compared with that of the great valley of the Mississippi. I am fully aware of the difficulties in navigating these Lakes, and shall at all times most cordially co-operate with Congress in any measures for the relief of their rapidly growing commerce."

Gentlemen, much of the commendation bestowed upon me is really due to others, and I have entered upon the duties of the high station to which I have been called with diffidence, trusting that the intricacies of government will yield to perseverance in faithfulness to the people. I am every where encouraged by the kind greetings of my fellow citizens, none of which afford me more pleasure than those of the city of Buffalo. I estimate their present and their motives far above all pecuniary considerations, and unite with them in the fervent hope that abundance, prosperity, and happiness may exist throughout this land. I beg that you will convey to them my most sincere thanks for their kindness, and say that I not only wish, as Henry IV. did for his countrymen, that they may have a fowl in the pot on Sundays, but a piece of beef like these on their tables every day in the week."

DINNER TO MR. CLAY.—The Louisville Semi-Centennial states that the friends of the Sage of Ashland are making arrangements to give him a public dinner in Louisville on his return from New Orleans.

## Correspondence of the National Intelligencer.

NEW YORK, March 21, 1849.

*Brilliant permanent light, without combustion, without heat, and without cost!*—Startling and wonderful as the announcement of such a fact may seem it is now affirmed to be among the achievements of science of the present day. I have been looking into several of the latest London scientific journals to see the notice of State's Improved apparatus for furnishing permanent light by electricity. A brief paragraph concerning it appeared in the papers of this country a month or two ago, since which we have heard nothing of it on this side the water. But, according to the notices in the London journals, it is there attracting great attention, and seems likely to prove one of the most important scientific improvements of the age. The London "Artisan" says "this invention has excited more curiosity probably than any that has preceded it for many years." The London "Mechanics' Magazine" for January says: "Mr. State's long and arduous endeavors to subdue the lightning of the heavens—hitherto so fearful in its manifestations—to the dominion of man for his delectation and comfort are universally known, and we believe we may add, highly esteemed by all who are qualified to appreciate them. One of the most striking pieces of information supplied by this patent specification is the fact that the chemical products of the batteries he employs are of greater value as articles of commerce than the exerting elements employed, and that consequently the light developed costs literally nothing.

The London "Magazine of Science" for January says: "During the last fortnight there have been several exhibitions of the light produced by this apparatus, to which much interest has been attracted. The principle on which it is produced, the contact or proximity of the opposite poles of an electric or galvanic battery, has long been known. But the difficulty of producing a continuous and uniform light, and the supposed cost of its production, have been hitherto considered to render its practical application to ordinary purposes impossible, and to limit its employment to that of a costly experimental toy. Both of these difficulties Mr. State, by his improved apparatus, claims to have overcome. His apparatus consists of an ordinary voltaic battery, consisting of about one hundred cells, in a series of the usual sort employed in a galvanic apparatus.

To the end of each wire or pole of the battery is attached a piece of carbon or carbonaceous material, artifically prepared. When the battery is in action the light produced by first bringing the points of the carbon into contact, and then separating them a short distance apart, the distance varying with the intensity of the electric current.—The battery exhibited by Mr. State produced a light equal to eight or nine hundred wax candles, at an estimated cost of six pence an hour. And even this small cost seems from later accounts to be annihilated, as it is said the materials used for the production of light are not consumed, but undergo a chemical change which actually increases their value as articles of commerce. Parties who witnessed the exhibition of the light produced by Mr. State's battery were able to read small print at the distance of two or three hundred yards." And "the patentee expresses the most perfect confidence that for lights at sea, which will be one of its most important and useful applications, he will be able to light up fully an area of one hundred miles.

The Magazine of science for February adds, "The experiments already tried in the various parts of the metropolis have proved very satisfactory.—The light has been raised upon the Duke of York's column and other elevations, and reflected in various directions with the most brilliant effect."

The same magazine, however, takes care to inform its readers that the production of electric light by the galvanic battery is not a new discovery, for among the earliest experiments on the battery was the production of an intense light; and "that seven years ago an American patented an invention for this purpose."

If the London Magazine of Science will turn to the columns of the National Intelligencer it will find accounts of this electric light thirty years ago. In 1819, in the Intelligencer, among other accounts may be found a letter from Judge Meigs, of this city, to his father, who was then Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington, in which he says "Since I wrote to you, I have seen an account of a discovery of a singular and highly important character announced in Paris by a Prof. Moritz, a German probably, viz. an artificial gas confined in glass, assuming by an electric shock a permanent steady light, without heat or combustion. Here is a grand desideratum indeed; a candle which can be thrust into carded cotton, incontinent it will burn unextinguished, which can be placed under one's pillow while we sleep, and pulled out at pleasure. The whale may keep his blubber, and the shark his liver," &c.

According to the London journals the gas companies of that metropolis are already suffering quite a panic. The difficulties and intricacies of the battery may perhaps be too great for the use of small lights for ordinary purposes, but for marine lighthouses, and for lighting cities, towns, and public buildings, there seems to be good reason to expect very interesting and important results from the use of electrical light.

THE HON. TRUMAN SMITH, observing that his name was brought before the public as being one of those from whom Gen. TAYLOR would be likely to select his Cabinet, has deemed it due to himself and friends to publish with the President's permission, the correspondence between them on that subject.—The correspondence says the Baltimore American consists of a note from Gen. TAYLOR offering Mr. SMITH the Secretaryship of the Home Department, and the reply of the latter

Mr. SMITH refers to the part he took in the Philadelphia Convention, as a delegate to that body, and to the labors and responsibilities which were devolved upon him as the organ of the Whig Executive Committee of the two Houses of Congress during the subsequent canvass, and he adds that were he now to accept office at Gen. TAYLOR's hands he might lay himself open to the imputation of having been actuated by other than patriotic motives. He therefore declines the proffered appointment.

As a member of the Senate, the position of Mr. SMITH will enable him, he hopes, to contribute something to the success of an Administration which will have his earnest support. In this connection he expresses a sentiment and a purpose worthy of a true statesman. Referring to the spirit of alienation which seems to be springing up between different sections of the country, he declares that while he will represent faithfully the predominating feeling of his own section, he does not intend to be put upon extreme courses, but hopes by concurrence in wise and moderate counsels, to aid in allaying the irritation now existing, to some extent, in the public mind, and in adjusting pending questions in such manner as to satisfy good men in all parts of the Union."

The conclusion of Mr. SMITH's letter is in an excellent tone and spirit. He says:

I cannot conclude this response without proffering my sympathies on account of the unexampled difficulties and embarrassment which have attended the discharge, by you, of one of the most delicate duties which can devolve on one about to become the Chief Magistrate of the Republic. Having spent a large portion of your life on the frontiers, far removed from the abodes of civilized men, and much of the residue in the tented field, amidst the din of arms and the clangor of war, you have not enjoyed the usual opportunities to obtain, by personal observation and intercourse, a thorough knowledge of your public men, and having postponed your arrival at the seat of Government until a late day, you have been plunged into the midst of the raging political elements of this metropolis, and are obliged to present your way through all sorts of representations, vehemently urged, to a safe and proper organization of your Cabinet. I think, sir, you must be something more than human if you do not make, under such trying circumstances, some mistakes, and, in consideration of those circumstances, your citizens arrangements should, in my judgement, be received with great indulgence by your friends throughout the country.—I can bear testimony to the profound anxiety which you have manifested to do justice in the selection of your confidential advisers to the great interests of the country, and all sections of the Republic, and, being assured of the purity of your motives, and of the generous patriotism by which the under current of your heart is actuated, you have my unreserved confidence in advance, with a determination, on my part, to stand by you "through evil report and through good report," and to consecrate all my faculties to render your Administration as successful (so far as a proper discharge of my legislative duties can contribute to that end) as your career in life has contributed to that end, as your career in another department of the public service has been illustrious. I have, therefore, to request you to make other arrangements for the Home Department, should the bill pass the Senate, and, in the meantime, to accept assurances of the respect with which I am, truly and faithfully, your friend.

RULES FOR RAILROAD TRAVELLING.—A party of three took seats in a car facing each other—a lady and two gentlemen. While one of gentlemen was absent for a few minutes, another gentleman, stranger to the party took the vacant seat opposite the lady.

The other gentleman returned and requested the stranger to give up his seat, which he refused.—The conductor was called, and decided that the seat must be given up, and the stranger was removed, with slight violence, to a vacant seat.

The ejected man sued the person whose seat he had taken for an assault and battery, and the case was lately tried at the Circuit Court at Balston Springs, New York. Under the charge of the court, a verdict was very properly rendered for the defendant.

PERPETUATION OF NAME.—A corporal in one of the regiments in Mexico when the roll was being called, refused to answer to the name of "Ebenezer Mead." The officer repeated the call. No answer. "Is Ebenezer Mead on the ground?" said the indignant official. "Eben Mead is here," quoth the corporal. "Why don't you answer, you rascal. Ebenezer Mead?" "My name is simply Eben Mead." The "Ebenezer" was repeated again in a voice like a small northwester. "Captain," quoth the rampant corporal, "you call me Ebenezer. Your name is Peter Read; would you respond if you were called Peternezer Read?" He was taken to the guard house, tried for contempt, and deprived of his warrant.—*Lowell Courier.*

## Interesting letter from Panama.

The Patriot publishes an interesting letter from Panama, dated the 20th of February, written by a passengers who went out in the steamer Crescent City, to his brother in this city, which it says is entitled to the fullest confidence. After describing his journey from Chagres across the Isthmus, interspersed with various characteristics of the country and people, he says:

There are several good hotels and restaurants, and good board can be had at from $1 to $2 per day. There are in all nearly one thousand passengers on the Isthmus, the great bulk of whom are still at Chagres and Gorgona, awaiting means of transit to San Francisco. There are no vessels except two or three small schooners in this port, but they ask such exorbitant prices, that no one will buy them, and the owners will not send them on their own account to San Francisco. There is a barque here with coal for the steamers, but she is not to be had for a passage to the El Dorado. Some persons have been here from three to six weeks waiting for means of transportation.

It is expected that the Oregon will take off nearly 300, leaving 700 waiting for chance vessels.—Many of the passengers talk of leaving in the British steamer, (which is due in a day or two) for Callao, and taking passage thence. It is said to be nearly as quick a route as going direct from here, on account of the prevailing winds. It takes a vessel after her arrival here from two to three weeks to be ready for sea. Many here are very desponding.

The passage across the Isthmus cost most all at least $10, and I have seen several who have paid from $80 to $100. The mules are not very strong and but few can carry over 200 lbs. It is cheaper and safer to hire negroes to carry the baggage across, as a negro will carry nearly as much as one of the mules, and they take it for $3,50 per hundred weight, while we have to pay $5 per hundred weight for the mules.

Five and ten cent pieces pass for six and twelve and a half cents, and 5 franc pieces pass for $1 25, quarters and halves only pass for what they are worth.

The Isthmus is now perfectly healthy. I slept on the ground one night, and in the woods the next, without even a blanket, and I have felt no ill effects from it. Before getting across, I wished much for an India rubber suit, with which several friends were provided. If you come, don't come without one.

The writer admits the roads to be bad even now in the dry season, and says:

We saw two cougars or panthers, on the road, and our party report having seen an anaconda.—Altogether the journey has been more pleasant than I expected.

As to the river trip in the steamer Orus, he says:

We only saw two live alligators, but others say there were more seen by them. We have not seen a snake as yet, which they tell us is a wonder.

LATEST FROM THE PACIFIC.—We have mention. ed the arrival of the steamship California at San Blas, on the 14th of February, and the steamship Oregon, at Panama, on the 28th, the second steamer of Howland & Aspinwall's Pacific line. The Oregon was to leave Panama for San Francisco in a few days, with a very large number of passengers.

The following is an extract of a letter to Wm. H. Aspinwall, Esq., from Capt. Cleveland Forbes, who left New York in command of the California. He has been obliged, it will be recollected, to surrender his command from ill health but still remains on board, to give such assistance as he may be able.

SAN. BLAS MEXICO, Feb. 14, 1849.

It gives me pleasure to inform you of our safe arrival at this place, all well.

Capt. Marshall wrote you from Acapulco. Our ship is well coppered, and some find fault. Things are much more comfortable than I expected, under the circumstances, as it is impossible to please all, crowded as they are

The engine continues to work well; but as we are near the gold regions, I can plainly see dissatisfaction in the fire and stokers' department. I do not fear however, but that we can manage very well, provided our engineers remain, of which I have no doubt. My health is very poor, but I think if I proceed north, I feel better, and I hope the voyage may restore me.

There are at least many people here and at Mazatlan, waiting for an opportunity to get to California; but our ship cannot accomodate one more, and they are sadly disappointed. We will sail in a few hours for Mazatlan.

It appears by the intelligence from Mazatlan, that tranquility had been completely re-established. Some dissatisfaction had been excited among the inhabitants, by an attempt to introduce copper money.

The New York Tribune says:

The California, at San Blas, had made about four-sevenths of the run from Panama to San Francisco in eleven days. She would probably reach San Francisco by the 25th of February, and leave that port about the 5th or 10th of March. She will probably bring a considerable amount of gold to Panama, as she took up over half a million of dollars for the purchase of dust. At San Blas, where she was at last accounts, she was to take on board a conducts, with about a million dollars, which left Tepic some time ago to meet her, and which money is also destined for the purchase of gold. A letter from a gentleman residing at Panama to his brother in this city, which was received by the steamer Trent, states that a gentleman had arrived at Panama for the purpose of taking passage in the Trent, who had one hundred thousand dollars' worth of gold dust with him.

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.—The "Flag," published at the town of Brownsville, on the Rio Grande states that for the week ending on the 3d instant, the number of deaths from cholera, in a population numbering seven or eight hundred, was about seventy-five persons, among whom were some of the most enterprising and useful citizens. This exhibits a fearful mortality. At the latest date, however, (the 11th inst.) the disease had almost entirely disappeared, and the town had resumed its wonted business appearance.

The same paper says that the introduction of all kinds of provisions into Mexico on that frontier is again absolutely prohibited—the Mexican Senate having set aside the initiative of the Ministry, who upon the representations of the citizens and authorities on the frontier, proposed a limited intercourse in allaying the irritation now existing, to some extent, in the public mind, and in adjusting pending questions in such manner as to satisfy good men in all parts of the Union."

The conclusion of Mr. SMITH's letter is in an excellent tone and spirit. He says:

I cannot conclude this response without proffering my sympathies on account of the unexampled difficulties and embarrassment which have attended the discharge, by you, of one of the most delicate duties which can devolve on one about to become the Chief Magistrate of the Republic. Having spent a large portion of your life on the frontiers, far removed from the abodes of civilized men, and much of the residue in the tented field, amidst the din of arms and the clangor of war, you have not enjoyed the usual opportunities to obtain, by personal observation and intercourse, a thorough knowledge of your public men, and having postponed your arrival at the seat of Government until a late day, you have been plunged into the midst of the raging political elements of this metropolis, and are obliged to present your way through all sorts of representations, vehemently urged, to a safe and proper organization of your Cabinet. I think, sir, you must be something more than human if you do not make, under such trying circumstances, some mistakes, and, in consideration of those circumstances, your citizens arrangements should, in my judgement, be received with great indulgence by your friends throughout the country.—I can bear testimony to the profound anxiety which you have manifested to do justice in the selection of your confidential advisers to the great interests of the country, and all sections of the Republic, and, being assured of the purity of your motives, and of the generous patriotism by which the under current of your heart is actuated, you have my unreserved confidence in advance, with a determination, on my part, to stand by you "through evil report and through good report," and to consecrate all my faculties to render your Administration as successful (so far as a proper discharge of my legislative duties can contribute to that end) as your career in life has contributed to that end, as your career in another department of the public service has been illustrious. I have, therefore, to request you to make other arrangements for the Home Department, should the bill pass the Senate, and, in the meantime, to accept assurances of the respect with which I am, truly and faithfully, your friend.

RULES FOR RAILROAD TRAVELLING.—A party of three took seats in a car facing each other—a lady and two gentlemen. While one of gentlemen was absent for a few minutes, another gentleman, stranger to the party took the vacant seat opposite the lady.

The other gentleman returned and requested the stranger to give up his seat, which he refused.—The conductor was called, and decided that the seat must be given up, and the stranger was removed, with slight violence, to a vacant seat.

The ejected man sued the person whose seat he had taken for an assault and battery, and the case was lately tried at the Circuit Court at Balston Springs, New York. Under the charge of the court, a verdict was very properly rendered for the defendant.

PERPETUATION OF NAME.—A corporal in one of the regiments in Mexico when the roll was being called, refused to answer to the name of "Ebenezer Mead." The officer repeated the call. No answer. "Is Ebenezer Mead on the ground?" said the indignant official. "Eben Mead is here," quoth the corporal. "Why don't you answer, you rascal. Ebenezer Mead?" "My name is simply Eben Mead." The "Ebenezer" was repeated again in a voice like a small northwester. "Captain," quoth the rampant corporal, "you call me Ebenezer. Your name is Peter Read; would you respond if you were called Peternezer Read?" He was taken to the guard house, tried for contempt, and deprived of his warrant.—*Lowell Courier.*

## PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, March 23, 1849.

SENATE.

*Reports of Committees.*—Mr. Mason, (Finance,) reported the further supplement to the act in relation to the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, with amendments.

Mr. King, (Judiciary,) reported the bill relating to the chancery jurisdiction of the several Courts of the Commonwealth, with amendment.

Mr. Brawley, (same Committee,) reported the bill supplementary to the act relating to lunatics and habitual drunkards, with an amendment.

Mr. Crabb, (same Committee,) reported the bill relative to Mechanics' Liens, with a recommendation that it be negatived.

Mr. Small, (Militia,) reported the bill in relation to militia trainings, and for the more effectual encouragement of volunteers, with an amendment.

*Bills Passed.*—The bill to extend the charter of the Farmers' and Drovers' Bank of Waynesburg.

Joint resolutions, authorizing the Governor to appoint a Commissioner on the part of Pennsylvania, to act in conjunction with Commissioners already appointed by the States of Delaware and Maryland, to settle the boundary line between said States.

The bill to extend the charter of Bank of the Northern Liberties—yeas 14, nays 5.

The bill to reduce the capital of the Girard Bank passed without discussion.

The Governor sent in a message nominating John Rhue as an Associate Judge of Lehigh county.

The bill to erect a new county out of parts of Columbia, to be called Montour, passed through Committee of the Whole.

The Bill authorizing the Directors of the Erie Canal Company to increase their capital stock, past through Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Streeter, on leave, reported the bill the more effectually to prevent fires in the cities of this Commonwealth, with amendments.

The bill supplementary to the act to incorporate the borough of West Philadelphia, was passed through Committee of the Whole.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Herring, the orders of the day were dispensed with, and the House took up the bill to reduce the capital stock of the Girard Bank; and it was read three times and passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Senate amendments to the act incorporating the Harrisburg Manufacturing Company, and to the supplement to the act abolishing the District Court of Lancaster.

Senate amendments to House bill to extend the charter of the Commercial Bank, (same as the Farmer's and Mechanics' Bank,) were concurred in—yeas 44, nays 42.

Mr. Swartzwelder moved to postpone the orders of the day, for the purpose of taking up the Ten Hour Bill. Negatived—yeas 31, nays 49.

The House bill to extend the charter of the Farmers' Bank, of Montgomery county, was called up by Mr. Evans. [Reprint of Senate bill, with individual liability.] After several ineffectual attempts to amend, (by Mr. Laird) the bill passed second reading—50 to 33.

Mr. Courtney called up Senate bill to extend the charter of the Bank of Chambersburg, and it passed second and final readings. The final vote was 5 to 29.

Mr. Diehl moved to take up the bill to extend the charter of the Chester County Bank, which was agreed to—yeas 45, nays 30, and it passed Committee of the Whole.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Bill to recharter the Bank of Chester County was again taken up and passed.

THE ANGLO-SAXONS TWO CENTURIES AGO.—Macaulay, in his History of England, with a few masterly strokes of his pen, draws a comparison between the characters of Englishmen in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. He says:

"Still more important is the benefit which all orders of society, and especially the lower orders, have derived from the modifying influence of civilization on the natural character. The groundwork of that character has indeed been the same through many generations, in the sense in which the groundwork of the character of an individual may be said to be the same when he is a rude, a thoughtless school boy, and when he is a refined and accomplished man. It is pleasing to reflect that the public mind of England has advanced while it has ripened, and that we have, in the course of ages, become not only a wiser but also a kinder people. There is scarcely a page of the history of the lighter literature of the seventeenth century which does not contain some proof that our ancestors were less humane than their descendants. The diversions of workhops, of schools, of private families, though not more efficient than at present, was infinitely harsher. Masters, well born and bred, were in the habit of beating their servants. Pedagogues knew no way of imparting knowledge but by beating their pupils. Husbands of decent station were ashamed to be seen to beat their wives. The implacability of hostile factions was such as we can hardly conceive. Whigs were disposed to murmur because Stafford was suffered to die without seeing his bowels burnt before his face. As little mercy was shown by the populace to sufferers of an humbler rank. If an offender was put into the pillory it was well if he escaped with life from the shower of brickbats and paving stones. If he was tied to the cart's tail, the crowd pressed round him imploring the hangman to give it to the fellow well and make him howl. Gentlemen arranged parties of pleasure to Bridewell on court days for the purpose of seeing the women who beat hemp there whipped. A man proved to death for refusing to plead, a woman burnt for coining, excited less sympathy than is now felt for a gallant horse or an over driven ox. Fights, compared with which a boxing match is a refined and humane spectacle, were among the favorite diversions of a large part of the town. Multitudes assembled to see gladiators hack each other to pieces with deadly weapons, and shouted when one of the combatants lost a finger or an eye. The prisons were hells on earth, seminaries of every crime and of every disease. At the assizes the lean and yellow culprits brought with them from their cells to the dock an atmosphere of stench and pestilence which sometimes avenged them signally on bench, bar, and jury. But on all this misery society looked with profound indifference. No where could be found that sensitive and restless compassion which has in our time extended a powerful protection to the factory child, to the Hindoo widow, to the negro slave, which pries into the stores and water casks of every emigrant ship, which winces at every lash laid on the back of a drunken soldier, which will not suffer the thief in the hollow tree to die of cold and hunger, and which has repeatedly endeavored to save the life even of the murderer. It is true that compassion, like all other feelings, ought to be under the government of reason, and has, for want of such government, produced some ridiculous and some deplorable effects. But the more we study the annals of the past the more shall we rejoice that we live in a merciful age, in an age in which cruelty is abhorred, and in which pain, even when deserved, is inflicted reluctantly and from a sense of duty. Every class has gained largely by the great moral change, but the class which has gained most is the poorest, the dependant, and the most defenceless."

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

COLONEL TODD,

We hear that the gallant Colonel C. S. Todd, of Kentucky, is spoken of as Minister to Russia. Nothing would be more just and gratifying to the people, nor more consistent with the rule laid down as a guide in the appointment of public officers.

Col. Todd is both capable, honest and faithful, and having been recalled before he was scarcely warm in his place, it seems to us peculiarly appropriate that he should be, we may say, continued in a post from which he has for a time been without reason thrust.

And further, it would be a handsome mode of testifying the respect of the present administration for that of General Harrison, by carrying out his will, in thus honoring his warmest friend and fellow soldier. O. P.

THE CANADA REBELLION BILL.—We have already announced the passage by the Parliament of Canada, of a bill to pay the losses during the rebellion. The claims embodied in the measure, embrace not only losses by property destroyed by the rebels, but losses experienced by the rebels themselves. The money, if paid at all, is to be paid by the United Provinces. Most of the damage accrued in the Lower Province, and the people of the Upper Province, where the rebellion was less rife, are naturally indignant that they should be required to bear part of the burden, and meetings in every district have uttered their indignation in unmeasured terms. The attempt to enforce it, will, beyond doubt, create great dissaffection, and may lead to more serious results.—*Phil. Inq.*


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"ECONOMY IS WEALTH," and if Mr. Shields had but been governed by the above motto, he might have saved money and himself much physical suffering, but read the following letter, dated April 16th, 1849:

MR WM Shields, a respectable farmer of this vicinity,