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[illegible] are earnestly requested to hand in [illegible] early in the day as [illegible] will be stereotyped until ordered out.

[illegible] SOUTH AMERICAN.—[illegible] Philadelphia, received [illegible] C. W. Jones, No. 1 Harrison street, [illegible] city. Advertisements [illegible] will receive prompt [illegible]

[illegible] EAGLE FOR LOCAL MATTERS [illegible] TELEGRAPHIC NEWS, &c.

[illegible] Mississippi.—Telegraphic despatches [illegible] morning Tribune, yesterday, stated [illegible] Mclean, Esq., had resigned his [illegible] of Attorney of the Commonwealth, to accept the appointment at Washington, and that [illegible] had offered the appointment to Mr. [illegible] of the House, who, declining, Mr. Ruggles [illegible] received the appointment. A despatch [illegible] that the Democrats in the Senate have [illegible] to compel the rule to confirm the appointment of Judge McClure.

[illegible] Accounts.—The Allegheny County [illegible] have ordered the publication of the [illegible] accounts. When they appear we may have [illegible]

[illegible] of the Union—Southern [illegible] Convention.—The Washington correspondent's letters continue to be [illegible] interesting. "Junius" keeps a [illegible] and holds a keen pen. If ambitious northern men will hatch treason, he will tell their fortunes in plain terms.

A serious controversy exists at present in Virginia in relation to the Southern Convention. A [illegible] the Legislature, authorizing the appointment of nineteen delegates to the Convention [illegible] Virginia in that treasonable Assembly. The Whigs generally oppose the movement, but the Democrats are sufficiently strong to carry the [illegible]. The Richmond Whig says—

"We are opposed to entrusting to any nineteen men in the State, the power to *dissolve the Union*, or to plunge the State to any course of conduct they may choose, without having first ascertained the wish of the people. It will be seen that the resolutions propose no limitations whatever to the powers of the delegates. They are deputed with full discretion, and unrestricted power, to do whatever they may please, and bind the State to submit thereto."

The Washington *Union* is evidently greatly distressed by General Taylor's Message. It is utterly opposed to the calm and quiet way of settling the slavery question suggested by the Message. It is now as keen for bringing the Wilmot Proviso on the carpet, as the most furious abolitionist in the country, as the following extract will show:

"They [the administration] wish to preserve the Union by force; for now they insist that this dangerous question shall be left open; that it shall not be decided; but that New Mexico and Deseret shall remain a source of bitterness and strife, until they are ready to apply for admission into the Union as sovereign States. *Before that day comes, events will, on all human probability, happen which will shake this continent to its centre.* If, indeed, General Taylor is sincere in his communications to the people of California—if he really believes that they are entitled to the right of self government—why does he not recommend that the project of New Mexico and Deseret for a territorial government, on the principle of non intervention, should be granted? The answer is plain. He would then be forced to make known his sentiments touching the Wilmot Proviso, and to insist upon it, which section of the Union was elected in his election. We adhere to the doctrine of non-intervention; but we wish to see it established by PEACEABLE MEANS, and established by congressional action, or by the veto, if necessary. We do not wish to see Congress fail to act, and leave the storm to rankle in the flesh until civil war breaks out and fraternal blood is shed, in order to build up the fallen fortunes of a combined party, and change our happy confederacy into a consolidated empire, ruled by an autocrat."

Father Ritchie will find thousands with him at the north in their anxiety for a Congressional vote on the Wilmot Proviso, and tens of thousands too who have no fear but Gen. Taylor will be found steady and equal to the occasion; but is it not perfectly clear that the President has pursued a wise, patriotic and prudent course, on this troublesome question, such as becomes the President of the whole people, seeking the peace and good of the whole? There is no possibility of the Wilmot Proviso passing both Houses of Congress—it would probably pass the House and be rejected in the Senate—and we should be much farther from the settlement of the matter than by General Taylor's plan. But should the Wilmot Proviso pass, what would be the consequences, then, to the present united state of the southern public? Nearly every southern state has declared her resolution to secede from the Union in such an event, so that those who think the *Union* predicts are to shake the Union, caused by delay, would only be hastened, if its policy is pursued.

We have no objection, for our part, for the question to come up to-morrow, and every member of Congress be compelled to "toe the mark," neither have we much fear of these dire events to follow, which have so shaken Mr. Ritchie's nerves. A "crisis," "panic and confusion" would doubtless be made, but the "sober second thoughts" of the malcontents would come in time to save their necks from the halter which General Taylor would prepare for them.

We have no faith in the Editor of the "Union's" sincerity on this question. Judging from his professed faith in the threats of Southern fanatics, he cannot be a friend of the Union, desire to avoid placing the spark to the Powder Magazine, by passing the Wilmot Proviso through the House. His whole object is to find fault with, and embarrass the administration. For this he would go even to the verge of dissolution, even to the "bitter end" to such extent is his insane hatred carried.

"CALIFORNIA GOLD.

The New York Courier and Enquirer is of opinion, from a careful examination of all the late accounts from California, that the productiveness of the gold mines there, has been considerably overrated. In the first place, remarks that paper, veins of the precious metals are never found of extensive thickness, nor is the metal diffused throughout the entire lode, but is very irregular in its deposit, sometimes being found in large masses, and at others being entirely absent, and that for very considerable distances. There is no reason to believe that the veins of California will not be subject to the conditions that prevail elsewhere, although it is possible that they will be found richer than any now being worked elsewhere. There in Brazil are now producing comparatively little, although one bunch of gold was found weighing sixty lbs. The Russian mines in the Ural Mountains, producing during the first six months of the preceding year $1,400,000; the result to each miner being about one dollar a day for his labor. The mines of the auriferous formation on our Atlantic slope, extending from Stafford County, Virginia, to the State of Alabama, will probably yield this year $600,000. At these the operations are carried on systematically, and scientifically. The auriferous quartz veins are numerous, and are of the same character, and in the same associated rocks as the veins of California are represented to be. At one locality in Virginia the White Hall Works in Stafford County, twenty of these auriferous veins have been discovered, and some of them are being worked with highly profitable results. The White Hall Company has purchased $37,000 in ten months of the last year, all obtained by mining, and by crushing the quartz, and by washing and collecting the gold in the usual way. The operations thus far have been attended with a net profit of about fifty per cent, with the probability of still larger returns from future operations, as a large portion of this year's expenses has been of a prominent nature, for stamps, &c. A gang of twelve stamps crush twelve tons a day, and together with the mill-house, washing machinery, and motive power cost $5000. These stamps and machinery require to operate than a fifty horse motive power.

RAIL ROAD IRON.—The Portland Umpire states that contracts for 10,000 tons of rail road iron have been made for the Atlantic and St. Lawrence rail road, one half deliverable in Portland, and the other half at Montreal, the present year. The prices paid for iron is $74 per ton in Portland and $76 per ton in Montreal.

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.—The New York Express publishes a letter from Washington, which states that the movement in the United States Senate, in regard to the American mission and Kossuth, has its origin with foreigners abroad; Hungary, and its origin in this country. Their, who have their emissaries in difficulties with object is to entangle this country in difficulties with foreign powers, which may prove disastrous to our commerce, that the merchant princes of England may grow richer by our ruin."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.—The New York Commercial, always a reliable paper, speaking of the Message of the President, on the Territorial Question, says:—

"President Taylor, it will be seen, has not feared or hesitated to approach the sensitive subject of slavery in the territories; and, as we read his message, he has dealt with it exactly in the right way—dispassionately, moderately, patriotically, yet with with all the firmness and explicitness which are needful to its right adjustment.—We cannot mistake in assuming that he means to stand by the people of the territories in such disposition of this subject as they may consider due to their interests and their feelings."

The Baltimore American remarks, on the same subject:—

"It is not our habit to eulogize official personages, or official papers. Both are best left to speak for themselves. Nothing but a vain affectation indeed could prompt any one, it would seem, to presume upon proffering his terms of eulogium upon such a sturdy, downright document as this, which, in its whole impress, indicates a profound indifference to any body's praise or censure. It is an eminently characteristic production, and might have been written by that pen of iron which told a persecuting Administration that the man who wielded it as he wielded his sword, asked no favors and shrunk from no responsibilities. * * Gen. Taylor is evidently in earnest in this business. The Old Hero is on his way to Fort Brown, and *if the enemy should oppose his march, in whatever number, he will fight him.* We have only to add that if this indomitable soldier is not a man after the heart of the American People, then we greatly mistake both the man and the People.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

"The Iron Strike!" The "Ball Furnace."

The next branch of the iron business to which I would invite public attention, is "Heating and Scrapping." These ordinarily go together, and it is the custom in perhaps every mill to appropriate one furnace to these purposes. The facts in relation to this branch of labor, are

1st. The price for heating is $1 37½, and for scrapping $3 75 per ton.

2nd. The time required for a turn's work is about the same as that for Puddling, say 8 hours.

3rd. One helper at $1 25 to $1 50 per turn is requisite.

4th. At scrapping, a good workman will produce, according to the quality of the Scraps from 8 to 12 tons in a week of six turns.

5th. At Heating he will produce in the same time about 24 tons.

These are the facts. Now for the inferences. Say that he produces 10 tons of Scraps per

week, at $3 75, is a	$37 50
And that he pays his helper 6 turns work at $1 50	9 00
He has left for himself the sum of	$28 50

Twenty eight dollars and fifty cents for his week's work. It is proposed to reduce this description of work to $2 50 per ton, say 10 tons at

$2 50 per ton	$25 00
Helpers can be had in abundance for $1 25 per turn,	7 50
Which would leave, at the reduced rate	$18 50

for his week's work. Is this an unreasonable reduction? Is $17 50 per week too small a compensation for a week's work of 8 hours, or thereabout, per day? Who will say so? What says the "Queen's Own" to such wages?

Again, say that he heats 24 tons of iron, at

$1 37½ per ton	$33 00
And pays his helper as before	9 00
He has left for himself the sum of	$24 00

Twenty four dollars for his week's work.

It is proposed to reduce heating to $1—at which rate the account would stand thus,

Heating 24 tons of iron at $1 per ton,	$24 00
Deduct 6 days of helper at $1 25,	7 50
Wages for one week's work,	$16 50

Sixteen dollars and fifty cents. Is that too little? What superior art and mystery is there in working iron which justifies the claim for exorbitant wages so pertinaciously insisted upon by this class of our fellow citizens? There is none. The fact is, that it requires less time to make a good Puddler or Boiler, refiner or heater, than to make a good Blacksmith or Carpenter; yet these latter classes are glad to get work at half the wages, working too, more hours and harder than either boiler, refiner or heater.

But it is said that the business is unhealthy. If an answer is wanted to this objection, I would say look at the men employed in our Rolling Mills, where will you find a stouter and healthier class of men. See them in their *buff* on a hot day in summer. A painter could desire no better models. It is true, however, that many of them die in the prime of life, but the reason of this is not found in any thing connected with their work, but in the vile dogseries with which every rolling mill is so grievously infested.

Take these away, and a more healthy, vigorous, long lived set of men can no where be found, than the different classes of workmen in our Mills would be. More hereafter. FAIR PLAY.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

MR. EDITOR—Our worthy friend Civis, who notices in your Gazette of this morning, the peace and quiet of both Cities, does not pass down Robinson street below the Canal Bridge, there he might be gratified with a regular "boo down," and if he is in the habit of wearing *specs*, he can be accommodated with a pair gratis, (in the shape of a pair of black eyes) The performers are generally composed of young rowdies, of the age of from fourteen years upwards. I think his Honor the New Mayor has not heard from that quarter yet.

PEACE.

Allegheny City, January 24th, 1850.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, 1849.

Old Zack has spoken on California and Slavery, and, as all his friends expected, briefly, pointedly, and well. You will find in to morrow's Washington papers, and I have no doubt you will republish, the message of the old General in answer to Venable's resolution, asking him to name the authority under which General Riley acted as civil Governor of California, and to what extent the movements in that Territory for the formation of a Constitution and State Government were aided or controlled by the Administration.

It was read at a late hour in the House, and as you will have it entire by the mail that will take this, it would be hardly advisable in me to consume space in commenting upon it. But it is well enough to observe that the reading of the document was heard by Venable and his backers and abettors with blank astonishment, and unconcealed chagrin. They now found that it was Polk the *arrow chewaher* of Southern strict constructionists, the indomitable and unyielding champion of "niggerism"—for so I think may be most appropriately denominated that extreme Southern bigotry that sees a wooly head behind every political measure, however innocent its character—it was Mr. Polk, their chosen leader, who gave Riley his instructions, under which all the proceedings of which they now complain have taken place. Far be it from me to say that I believe the result of the great popular movement in California has been governed or produced by any instructions from the late administration. So far from it, that I have no doubt in the world that if Messrs. Polk and Buchanan had remained in office, as soon as it had become evident what sort of a Constitution was about to be formed, instructions would have gone forth for the dissolution of the Convention, rather than permit the introduction of the anti-slavery clause. Fortunately their power had then departed, and General Taylor and his constitutional advisers looked quietly on and did not presume to molest freedom in its course. We may now expect to hear a revocation of some of those unmeasured eulogies which in the Southern portion of our country have been so freely lavished upon the past administration since the accession of the present one.

I trust and believe that the House at length found its way out of that labyrinth in which for seven long weeks it has been floundering. I described in a subsequent paragraph by what shift the dilemma of an inability to elect a Door Keeper and Postmaster has been escaped from. Let us congratulate the assembled wisdom from its lucky dodge.

In Senate General Cass commenced the publication of a revised and enlarged, but not amended, edition of the Nicholson letter upon slavery in the new territories. It was dullness pressed out into its ultimate essence. I will speak more at large upon the General to-morrow.

The Committee of Ways and Means met again to day, and resolved to report to the House an amendment of the Senate resolution for regulating in a more reasonable manner than it is by the existing law, the subject of the expenses of the collection of the revenue. The amendment amounts to this, that the expenses of last half of this fiscal year may equal but not exceed those of the same period in 1848. The present law cuts them down to $750,000 for the six months, without making any provision whatever for the enormous expenses of the warehousing system, or the new district on the Pacific, in Oregon, and California, which would swell the amount to at least $300,000 more, for the six months, than in 1848. Thus the committee will allow $1,150,000, while $1,400,000 would no more than equalize the expenses of this half year with the corresponding one of 1848.

Mr. Calhoun, who has been very sick, is reported better to day. Mr. Hackett, Democratic member from Georgia, is reported to be dying of pleurisy.

In the House of Representatives, a motion was made for a call of the House, in anticipation of the important vote on the motion to reconsider the vote of last Saturday, by which the House had indefinitely postponed the election of Door Keeper and Postmaster, till the 1st March, 1851. It failed by a large majority, and then the motion to reconsider was lost—ayes 104, noes 106.

Mr. Burt next presented a resolution, to the effect that the order to elect having been postponed until the end of the present Congress, the persons at present acting as Door Keeper and Postmaster be continued in the exercise of their functions until the date above given. Mr. Burt said that the office of Door Keeper was one of great importance, and that it had been established by an act of the first session of the first Congress. He contended that the House was now without these officers, and he made this motion to get over a serious difficulty. It was a question of privilege and constitutional obligation.

Mr. Ashmun objected to the reception of the resolution; it was not in order. The Speaker said it was in order. Mr. Ashmun called upon him for his reasons. They were substantially that the House had the right to designate the persons who exercise the functions of an office during the interim pending the election, which in this case was for the whole Congress.

Mr. Preston King rose to move to lay the whole subject on the table. The House had spent many weeks in the endeavor to organize itself, and that the attempt had failed as to these remaining officers, because the friends of slavery on both sides of the House, were determined to vote for no man who cannot agree with them in sentiment on that question.

There were many calls to order—Mr. McLane, of Maryland, insisted that Mr. King should take his seat. The Speaker decided Mr. King out of order, and by the Speaker's direction he took his seat.

Mr. Wilmot moved that Mr. King have leave to proceed in order.

Mr. Speaker said Mr. King would have the right, if he wished to explain.

Mr. King said he was not responsible for the misunderstanding of the Speaker, and had said nothing to warrant him in deciding that he did not want to explain. He did want to explain his reasons for the motion to terminate the contest.

The Speaker said he should not entertain Mr. King's motion, it being out of order.

The debate proceeded considerably farther on Mr. Ashmun's appeal from Cobb's decision, that Burt's resolution was in order, until at length a vote was taken on laying that resolution upon the table. Mr. Cobb was defeated. The result was, ayes 101, noes 104. The Democrats became alarmed, and William J. Brown, who seemed to have arisen from his tomb for the purpose, moved to adjourn. It was defeated, ayes 96, noes 172. Then Mr. Ashmun's appeal was decided in the affirmative, ayes 101, noes 102. Thus the first important decision by Mr. Speaker Cobb, has been overruled, after a well contested struggle of a whole day.

I notice that you sometimes get three or four of my letters on the same day. They are regularly mailed every day. JUNIUS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1850.

Dissolution projects—Old Zack at the Helm.

The message of the President, relative to California affairs, has produced a great deal of unpleasant agitation among our friends, the southern Democrats. They seem half ready to admit themselves the victims of misplaced confidence. They say that Walker, their special agent and advocate in Mr. Polk's Cabinet, should have looked out for their interests, and have held the rod of their displeasure over Marcy and Buchanan, under whose particular directions, they allege, appear now to have been laid those plans which have resulted in the establishment of an anti slavery constitution for California, and her application for admission as a free state. They feel badly, poor fellows, at the prospect before them. Upon one side the new state with her hundred thousand freemen presses down for recognition, and on the other stands old Zack with his counsellors, affirming that the Union must and shall be preserved.

However, the faction of disunionists are going forward in their mad and desperate designs. Clingman's speech in the House, to day, afforded as conclusive an indication of that as could well be furnished by any thing short of open and armed insurrection against the authority of the federal government and the constitution. Mr. Clingman, of North Carolina, was some years ago looked upon by his own colleagues and other southern men as almost an abolitionist. I once heard him bitterly denounced on the floor for the expression of sentiments counter to the general tone of violence and bigotry in which the question of slavery was even then habitually discussed; and I believe that his duel with Yancy, some four or five years ago, grew out of comments by the latter upon that speech. But whatever he may once have been, his course here this winter has been extreme enough to satisfy the most violent on that side.

The speech of to day fully confirmed all I have heretofore told you, of schemes forming and ripening here, for overthrowing this government and breaking up this mighty confederacy. For himself, and in behalf of others, Clingman announced that not one dollar of appropriations should be permitted to pass the House, until the demands of the South were complied with. He said one fifth of all the members were sufficient to interpose an effectual bar to the transaction of any business whatever, by the calling of the yeas and nays, and that if he could get a sufficient number of his friends to stand by him, that would be done. If any attempt were made to coerce them into submission to the will of the majority, he announced his belief that it would lead to a personal conflict on the floor, from which, not a quorum of members would escape to carry out any purpose, good or bad. This will sound among quiet country people as miserable bragadocio, and mere wanton unbridled insolence, signifying nothing more than the bitter feelings of the persons who indulge in it. Unfortunately, it is not all talk. As I have before stated, a large number of members from the slave states are banded together, as Clingman asserts, to defeat all legislation, to withhold all appropriations, and present a barrier to all the operations of government. This is revolution. The factionists admit that the course recommended by them will virtually subvert the government, but Clingman's answer to that was, that provisional governments could and would be formed at the north and south, which would become permanent. He seemed to go the length of laying down a programme of disunion, undertaking to tell how it could be effected, and what would be its consequences.

The House to day passed several hours in committee of the whole, where Clingman made his speech. The pending motion was the reference of the President's message to the various committees, a part of the business of the session usually commenced in the second week of December, instead of the fourth week in January.

From all the indications around me, I am satisfied that we shall pass weeks and months yet without effecting any thing of the least importance. If the game of stopping the appropriations is commenced, we shall have warm and dangerous work.

Unless a very different spirit than any evinced so far, be exhibited by Congress, nothing can be hoped from it. The Executive will be obliged to govern the country without the assistance of Congress, getting along as well with the old laws as possible.

It is reported, that the President fully appreciates the high responsibilities of his position, and that he will be prompt to suppress and to punish any overt act in execution of the wicked threats of the disorganizers.

Mr. Cass concluded his second speech on slavery and the Wilmot Proviso to day. He said he should never vote for the Proviso, but if the worst came to the worst, he should resign. A northern Senator, friendly to the Proviso, told me on Saturday last, that if the question ever came up directly on the Proviso, it would be lost by ten majority.

Mr. Calhoun is getting better, but the general decline of his physical powers is so marked that it is not believed he will be able henceforth to do much good or ill in politics. JUNIUS.

FROM HARRISBURGH.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURGH, Jan. 22, 1850.

Quite an excitement prevailed to day in regard to the allotment of the Public Printing. This being the day fixed by law for the allotment of this work for three years, to the lowest bidder, quite a crowd of printers appeared upon the ground to contest the prize with one another. The two Houses met in Convention at 12 o'clock, and proceeded to open and read the bids. The general impression was that Messrs. McKinley & Lescure would underbid all others. There were five or six bids, however, below the lowest of those submitted by these gentlemen. Messrs. Fenn & Co., of the Harrisburgh Telegraph, were the successful competitors, and were accordingly allotted the printing, for three years, from the first day of July next. The successful bid was for the sum of eighty one per cent. below the average rates prescribed by the act of 23rd March, 1844. It is thought that the job will be profitable, even at this apparently low price, but upon this point there is great diversity of opinion. The Locofocos submitted in this case, as they do in all others of the kind, with a very bad grace. Mr. Parker attempted to defeat the allotment to Messrs. Fenn & Co., by moving an adjournment of the Convention to this day week, notwithstanding they were prepared with two of the very best men in the County for sureties. I must do the Speaker of the House, the justice to say, however, that he acted with strict impartiality throughout the whole proceedings, and that his promptness in ruling the motion of Mr. Parker out of order, was highly appreciated by all who witnessed the attempt, of that gentleman to introduce party feeling into contest, already sufficiently heated by the conflict of personal interests.

In Senate, the Speaker laid before the Senate a communication from the State Librarian; also, the annual report of the Erie Canal Company; also, a memorial for a modification of the Sabbath laws.

Mr. Fernon, one for the repeal of the $300 exemption law.

Mr. Lawrence, one for a reduction of tolls on the Monongahela navigation.

Mr. Darsie, one to authorize Robert Willinger, to sell certain real estate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Streeter, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill, a supplement to the act to abolish imprisonment for debt, and to punish fraudulent debtors.

Mr. Walker, (Judiciary Committee) the bill relating to the usury laws.

Mr. Packer, (Select Committee) the bill annexing part of Bradford to Sullivan county.

BILLS ACTED UPON.

The bill to incorporate the Philadelphia Steam Tug and Navigation Company, was again taken up and passed finally; also, the bill, a supplement to the act relating to bridges and turnpikes in Lucerne county; also, the bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church in the borough of Newton Hamilton; also, the bill to lay out a State road from the Insane Asylum to the Susquehanna river; also, the bill to authorize the Councils of the borough of Monongahela city to open a certain street; also, the bill to incorporate the Allentown Water Company.

Mr. Lawrence, (Select Committee) the bill for the erection of a new county, to be called Monongahela.

Mr. McCaslin, (Select Committee) the bill to erect a new county, to be called Redstone.

Nothing of interest was done in the House to day. The morning hour was principally occupied with the presentation of petitions; after which the private calander was taken up, and occupied the remainder of the day. COBDEN.

Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools.

The 16th annual report of the Superintendent of Common Schools of Pennsylvania, has been made to the Legislature. It discusses at length the imperfections of the present system, and suggests various important modifications and amendments, with a view of remedying the defects and imparting to the system greater usefulness. The evils complained of are—

1st. The imperfect state of the reports to the school department, which prevents a fair statement being made to the Legislature.

2d. Frauds on the department, by which the State appropriation is drawn without the necessary tax being collected.

3d. Incompetency of teachers.

4th. An improper selection of books.

5th. The want of a direct and intelligible communication between the directors and superintendents.

6th. Want of funds.

To remedy these defects, which have led to interminable complaints, the power of the Legislature is invoked; and, among other things recommended, is the vesting in some person or body the power of appointing county superintendents, who should be active and zealous friends of liberal education, having a knowledge of the qualifications proper for a teacher, the best mode of instruction, and of the books suitable for schools. It is proposed that these shall exercise a general supervision over the schools of their respective counties, with power to examine teachers, select books best suited for the schools, &c., and also to make out clear and explicit statements of the number of school, scholars, teachers, and the amount of moneys expended for the use of the department. These reports are now so imperfect as to be almost useless, and it is alleged, furnish no true view of the operations of the system; while in many districts the grossest frauds are practiced on the treasury, by the directors levying a tax sufficient to entitle them to their share of the State appropriation, after receiving which they recall their warrants from the collectors, and support, for a short period, the schools of the district on the bounty of the State. The returns of the time the schools are open, and the expenditures, are equally fraudulent; for the money of the State having been pocketed, the fraud is continued for its own concealment. But, aside from this, many of the reports are made in such a manner as to be utterly unintelligible, and the fact of the incompetency of directors is strikingly apparent.

The subject of establishing Normal Schools is the next in importance, and it is proposed to establish in connection with and emanating from them a central High School, receiving its pupils entirely from the Normal Schools, who should be selected for their talents, learning, and virtues. The only objection to this is deemed a want of funds, but even this, in the opinion of the superintendent, should not be suffered to outweigh it. The school tax collected during the last year amounted to $436,135 51, and the state appropriation to $152,883 55, making the total amount expended for school purposes $619,019 36, with which amount the schools were kept open an average period of four months. With the auxiliaries of county superintendents, Normal Schools and a Central High School, the expenditures would be increased at least two fold, which, added to the cost of maintaining the schools for the entire year, the disbursements would reach $1,250,000, which it is proposed to raise by a tax on lineal inheritances, instead of the present mode, and for these reasons:

1st. It would not be oppressive on the citizens.

2d. The per centage imposed on collateral inheritances is partial, and hence unjust.

3d. The present school tax is at variance with the system, is partial in its operations, and oppressive on large portions of the community.

These positions are argued at considerable length, in contrast with the present operation of the school law. The report proposes, in fact, a radical change in the system, which will more evenly distribute the burdens of the support of the schools, and adapt them to the requirements of the people. In many counties, it is suggested, the schools might be kept open throughout the entire year, but as such could not be the case in others, the ratio for each taxable inhabitant, while it should be equal in every part of the state, should be graduated according to the time the schools are kept open.

The appropriation now made by the state is regarded by the superintendant as literally squandered, and in this view, should the foregoing recommendations be approved by the legislature, might be transferred to the sinking fund, to aid in the extinguishment of the public debt.—*Philadelphia News.*

THE MAYOR OF PITTSBURGH.—Some months ago a Mr. Barker, and two or three others, were complained of, and tried, for the offence of street preaching in the town of Pittsburgh—the specific gravamen of their alleged offence being that they disturbed the public peace. We remember reading a report of their trial—which gave us the impression that there was some motive or inducement for the prosecution, other than that which appeared on the surface. The report did not profess to cite any expressions of the street preachers, justly amenable to law or censure; nor was there any proof adduced that the public peace had been seriously interrupted. Nevertheless, Mr. Barker was found guilty and sentenced to a fine and imprisonment.

But a change has taken place in his condition. He has been put forward as a candidate for the Mayoralty; nay more, he has been elected; and, having been pardoned by the Governor of Pennsylvania, he has gone out of prison and into the Mayor's chair. We perceive, by the way, that some of his first official acts have been laudable, both for vigor and propriety; he has given evidence of a determination to make war upon the horrid traffic in liquor and upon those who keep tippling shops; and in other respects there seems reason to expect from him a good and beneficial administration.

Under these circumstances a certain curiosity is awakened to know more of the history of his prosecution, and of its result. Clearly there is something at the bottom of the story which has not yet appeared. And it is not impossible that a clue to the mystery is supplied by a letter from Pittsburgh, in the Freeman's Journal of this morning. The writer, avowedly a Catholic, abuses Mr. Barker without stint, speaks of his street preaching as a foul, intolerable nuisance, teeming with filthy slanders against the Bishop and clergy; and lavishes upon him personally such epithets as ruffian, drunkard, and (*"some say,"*) swindler, &c. &c. He laments, with burning indignation, that the 16,000 Catholics in Pittsburgh, by their criminal negligence, have allowed Barker to be elected, and prophecies the most fearful results from a calamity so monstrous.

From all which we infer that Mr. Barker's street preaching was objectionable, chiefly, by reason of indiscreet and uncalled for attacks upon the Roman faith and worship; that something like religious persecution mingled in his prosecution; and that his personal character and conduct are tolerably free, to say the least—which conclusion we arrive at, as well from the unmeasured, intemperate abuse of the writer from Pittsburgh who discourses through the Freeman's Journal, as from the fact that a large number of citizens have thought him worthy of being voted for, and that the Governor of Pennsylvania has thought him worthy of being pardoned.—[New York Com.

REPUDIATION IN ENGLAND.

We suppose that no more startling, or at least surprising words than these, could be adopted as the sign board to a leading article, for an American newspaper. Considering the extremity of aversion, not to say detestation, not to say horror, with which the American sin of repudiation has been stigmatized, denounced, execrated, for a considerable number of years, by public writers and speakers of all sorts, from grave members of Parliament, to witty Prebends of St. Paul's, from magnilouquent editors of "leading journals," to comical writers for Punch, John Bull, and the Satirist—considering, we say, how the very name of repudiation has been used by all these, and many more, as a standing theme for illustration of "Yankee dishonesty," it may well be accepted as surprising, startling, almost incredible, that even the English mind—always slow to enter upon the consideration of novelties, and habitually given to believe that a new thing must of necessity be a bad, or at least a useless thing—is at length beginning seriously to consider whether "repudiation," that *monstrous phenomenon* of the present age, may not after all be just in its nature and necessary in its application. Yet such is the fact.

Let us be understood, however, in order that we may not seem to do injustice. When we speak of "repudiation," in this reference, we do not mean the base, mercenary, dishonest denial of a debt, prompted merely by unwillingness to discharge it, because of inconvenience, or even by extreme difficulty; we do not mean the repudiation of a solemn undertaking to repay money that has been fairly advanced, under pretext of usury, or of any other merely conventional and technical claim to be discharged from its obligation; we mean the grave and rational calling up of the great, vital, and most important question, whether one generation, by itself, or by the Government which it entrusts with power, has a right to impose burdens upon succeeding generations, for a series of years, or in perpetuity—itself consuming and enjoying, or wasting, as the case may be, all the equivalents of these burdens, and leaving to the succeeding generations, only the losses and inconveniences, without any portion of the benefits. Forsteapie, whether the English people of the last century had any right, and could confer any right on their then King, Lords, and Commons, to saddle upon the English people of this century, and the centuries yet to come, a valid debt of some hundreds of millions, to pay the annually accruing interest of which, to say nothing of the monstrous principal, imposes on the industry of those subsequent centuries, a load of effort under which it can stagger onward, only at the cost of infinite privation, misery, and almost despair.

This great question—next to that of society's whole duty to the helpless and depraved portions of its members, the greatest that can be mooted in the whole range of political economy—is fairly placed before the British people, for consideration and determination; not only in the speeches of politicians, but in the deliberate, inevitable form of at least one volume, which already engages the profound attention of the periodical press.—Mr. Milner Gibson, a member of Parliament for Manchester, and not long since a member of the Cabinet, has distinctly broached it in a recent speech—of which the spirit is clearly indicated by the following brief extract. Speaking of the annual drain upon the revenue of Great Britain, for the payment of interest on the national debt, Mr. Gibson said—

"He did not think that any contracts, although they might be settled by act of Parliament, were permanent, if they were not rightly settled. He believed that the Government should only have as much money given to it as would pay for the services to be rendered. If they adopted such a principle as that, it would make a tremendous sweep."

If any doubt could exist with regard to Mr. Gibson's meaning, it would be soon cleared away by reference to the volume to which we have referred—a volume elaborately noticed in the London Spectator of December 15, with the amplest acknowledgments of its "precise logic and lofty tone," and of its author's "unquestionable integrity, high aspirations and great acquirements." The title is, "On the constitutional and moral Right or Wrong of our National Debt." The author is announced as "Francis W. Newman, formerly Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford."

Mr. Newman takes the broadest ground in denial of the right of an existing Parliament to create obligations binding upon future Parliaments and constituencies. We shall take an early opportunity to copy the Spectator's notice of his work; confining ourselves, at present, to the mere recognition of the fact that a first blow is struck at the national debt of England, and that a blow of such force as must compel discussion, leading, perhaps, to most momentous action.

GLEANINGS.

SINGULAR DISAPPEARANCE—Jonhathan Hunt Esq., whose mysterious disappearance about two years since is probably in the recollection of many of our readers, has at length been in England. The idea was generally entertained that he had been drowned. He possessed a large fortune, which, after all hope of his recovery had been given up, was regularly administered upon. Within a month past he was seen at Liverpool, by a gentleman of this city, who had formerly known him well, and who had lodged at the same house with him, in this neighborhood. The gentleman recognized him immediately and had a long conversation with him. Mr. Hunt said that he had passed two years in travelling through different countries in Europe.—*N. Y. Post.*

INSURE YOUR LIVES.—An officer of the United States, named Fonileroy, engaged in the Coast Survey, about two months since, took a policy of insurance on his life in the Trust Co. of this city, to the amount of $3,000 for the benefit of his wife. He proceeded to San Diego, where he died. He paid $100 premium on the policy, and has thus secured to his widow, who, we believe, is a daughter of Robert Dale Owen, the above sum of $3,500. This is, in case of death, an excellent method of providing for a wife or child, which no one of small means ought to neglect.—*Cin. Gaz.*

THE VIRGINIA AND TENNESSEE RAILROAD was formally commenced on Wednesday last, Governor Floyd, of Va., throwing up the first spade full of earth, at Lynchburg, where there was a brilliant supper. In the second annual report of the President and Directors, just made, it is urged as sound policy on the stockholders to authorize the board of directors to build a rolling mill, to manufacture the railroad iron required in the construction. Their calculations show that they will gain the large sum of $282,217, by manufacturing their own iron.

SAILOR'S WAGES FROM CALIFORNIA.—A letter of the early part of November, from California, states that the Captain of the ship "Architect" had some time before been offering sailors at San Francisco the sum of $1500 for the passage to New York.

SHIP LAUNCH AT CINCINNATI.—The ship Louisa was launched at Cincinnati on the 15th inst., amid great rejoicings.

A fire proof calico is now made for children by immersion in phosphate of magnesia. It will ignite by contact with flames, but the fire will not spread. It goes out immediately.

Hon. Abbott Lawrence is very ill, and likely to die in London.

ASTONISHING TERMINOGRIFICATION.—We saw a man swallow half a dozen *glasses*, and in less than ten minutes after he became a *tumbler!*

A Cure and Certificate at Home.

☞ READ WHAT IS SAID OF THE PETROLEUM.—I hereby certify that about two weeks ago I was seized with a violent attack of *vomiting* and *purging* Cholera Morbus, with very distressing pains in the stomach and bowels, which was completely relieved by two teaspoonful doses of Petroleum, taken in a little water. After having taken the first dose, I slept soundly and comfortably for three hours. [Signed]

HENRY WISE, Jr.,

On board the steam boat Ariadne.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 11th, 1849.

I am Captain of the Ariadne, and was a witness to the astonishing effects of the Petroleum, in the case of Henry Wise, who is one of the hands on the boat.

[Signed] NIMROD GRABELL.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 11th, 1849.

☞ See general advertisement in another column. 6t13

PREMIUM LEMON SUGAR.—Prepared by J. W. Kelly William street, N. Y., and for sale by A. Jaynes, No. 70 Fourth street. This will be found a delightful article of beverage in families, and particularly for sick rooms.

BAKER'S BROMA.—An improved Chocolate preparation, being a combination of Cocoa nut; innocent, invigorating and palatable, highly recommended particularly for invalids. Prepared by W. Baker, Dorchester, Mass., and for sale by A. JAYNES, at the Patent Store, No. 70 Fourth st. mh14

☞ DYSPEPSIA CURED BY THE USE OF DR. M'LANE'S LIVER PILLS.—No disease (with, perhaps, the single exception of consumption) is so much dreaded in the United States as Dyspepsia. Originating in a diseased state of the liver, it is often confounded with consumption itself by the unhappy sufferer, who pines away until death releases him from pain; yet a remedy is within the reach of all, which will relieve all cases of the kind, and work a speedy and effectual cure.

Dr. Oliver Morgan, a distinguished physician of Virginia, with a very extensive practice, has used these Pills in all cases of Dyspepsia, and with complete success. Certificates in abundance are in the hands of the proprietors of this invaluable medicine, (J. Kidd & Co, Wood street, corner of Fourth, Pittsburgh.) The following, however, from Ohio, will speak volumes to those suffering from any of the diseases which arise from a diseased liver.

RICHMOND, Jefferson co., O.

Messrs. J. Kidd & Co.—This is to certify that my wife has been afflicted, for several years, with the following pains, at periods, more or less: Pain in the right side, about the edge of the ribs, extending to the right shoulder; pain in the back part of the head, and above the eye, accompanied by weakness, loss of appetite; and almost constantly confined to her bed. Since August, she has used three boxes of Dr. M'Lane's Liver Pills; and I have now to state, that by the use of these Pills, she has been benefited in no ordinary degree. Under the providence of God she now enjoys good health, and is able to attend to the domestic concerns of my family.

JAMES STEWART.

For sale by J. KIDD & CO., No. 89, corner of Fourth and Wood st., Pittsburgh. [Jan22-d&wlw8

Improvements in Dentistry.

DR. G. O. STEARNS, late of Boston, is prepared to manuf