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☞ Advertisers are earnestly requested to hand in their favors before 9 P. M., and as early in the day as practicable. Advertisements not inserted for a special time will invariably be charged until ord. red out

PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN.

Advertisements and subscriptions in the North American and United States Gazette, Philadelphia, received and forwarded from this office

CINCINNATI.—C. W. James, No. [illegible] street, Cincinnati, is our agent for the city. Advertisements and subscriptions handed to him will receive prompt attention.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LOCAL MATTERS TELEGRAPHIC NEWS &c.

PRESSMAN WANTED.

A pressman who is thoroughly acquainted with his business, and who understands the running of a Cylinder Power Press, and the management of the Steam Engine, can hear of an easy and permanent situation by applying to this office.

☞ Reader, please turn to our first page.

Allegheny City Affairs.

The Councils of Allegheny have passed a resolution directing the Mayor and Presidents of Councils to memorialize the Legislature for power to lay a *Water Tax*. By this we understand, a tax to assist in paying the interest on the debt created by the erection of the Water Works. The tax which the city is now authorized to levy, if we mistake not, is seven mills on the dollar, for city purposes, and two mills for the poor, making *nine* mills, a pretty high tax; and when to this is added State, County, and School Tax, one would suppose that the people were sufficiently taxed already. If the water rents will not pay the interest, on the cost of the works, and the current expenses, it either shows that this erection was premature, or that there has been some extravagance in constructing them. Of this we can judge better when the accounts are published. However, as the debt has been incurred, the interest should be honestly paid, and the mode adopted by the Councils to raise the means may be as good as any, with the *proviso* that the so called *Water Tax* shall be levied only on properties situated on streets where the water pipes have been laid. A considerable portion of the city has as yet derived no benefit whatever from the Water Works, and probably will not for years to come. It has neither pipes nor fire plugs, and is no more benefitted by the Water Works of Allegheny, than those of Pittsburgh. The inhabitants of that part of the city have to incur all the expense, and suffer all the inconveniences of keeping up pumps and cisterns, and employing water carts, and are exposed to all the danger from fires, which existed before the erection of the Works. To tax them for the benefit of those who derive a direct advantage from the expenditure incurred, would be manifest and great injustice, and we direct the especial attention of our Senators and Representatives to the matter, that if they recommend the prayer of the Councils to be granted, they will see that the law directs a just discrimination to be made.

How much Allegheny is actually indebted, we have no official means of ascertaining, until the accounts are published; but as the Councils have appropriated $24,000, to pay the interest for the present year, we may assume the debt to be at least $400,000—a most alarming increase within two or three years. With such an enormous debt, with not one street entirely paved in the city, and with heavy expenditures annually required to grade and pave streets, the prospect is rather gloomy, unless some plan can be devised except trusting altogether to taxation. Such a plan has for some time been talked of, and is the only one that can be devised. That plan is, *the appropriation and sale, or lease of the Commons for the uses of the city.*

Without entering into any argument at present on the legality of such a proceeding, one thing is pretty clear, that the Commoners have the power of relinquishing their rights for certain specified purposes, or else the Western Theological Seminary had no title in the property they have lately sold to the city. The Commons, as at present situated, are a public nuisance, and the cause of involving the city in great additional expense, in carrying out every improvement. Streets must be made over them water pipes laid, and various other expenses incurred, without any remuneration in return. If some judicious plan,—that of Henry Irwin, Esq., is a very good one—is adopted and carried out, the city will be greatly beautified and improved, her public debt paid off, or at least much diminished, and her revenue much increased. We hope the Councils of that city will take this matter into immediate consideration, and give to it the time and attention which its importance to the city demands.

OUR CITY ORDINANCES.—Some of the ordinances of our city are exceedingly original as well as amusing, and speak much for the wisdom of the Framers. The following, if carried out, will afford a large Revenue to the Mayor's fund. By this law, as we read it, any grocer or shopkeeper who, on Market Days, during market hours, shall sell any of the articles enumerated in the section below—or any person who shall purchase the same, shall be subject to a penalty of five dollars. Now, if Mayor Barker carry out the act to its strict construction, our shopkeepers and others will be bable to a large demand upon their extra Vs.

A more absurd law than this, appears to us, could scarcely be framed, and we hope our present worthy solons will amend it as soon as possible. We are in favor of sustaining the legitimate business of the market, as far as is proper, but we conceive that our citizens have a just right to purchase their flour, butter, eggs, meal and fruit, wherever, and whenever they see fit to do so, without being fined for it.

Here is the act, and we caution all in time to look out for the Mayor and his officers.

7th Sept. 1816, sec. 9, "That no person shall expose to sale, or *purchase*, on market days, during market hours, any kind of flour, meal, grain, meat, fish, poultry, butter, lard, eggs, cheese, fruit, nuts, or any kind of vegetables, except at the said market houses, under the penalty of five dollars. That no person shall, on market days, within market hours, purchase any of the before enumerated articles, to retail or sell again, under the penalty of twenty dollars."

NEW YORK AND ERIE RAILROAD.—Proposals are advertised in the New York papers, for the construction of this road from Hornelsville to Lake Erie; the work to be completed and ready for use by the 31st day of March, 1851. The extent to be put under contract is about one hundred and twenty five miles. The rapidity with which rail roads are built now is really surprising. *One year* is enough, it seems, to commence and finish a rail road.

As in one year New York is to be connected with Lake Erie, is it not of the utmost importance to Philadelphia that her great work should be finished to Pittsburgh in the same time. What is to hinder it, except the want of means? Is it wise to withhold the means necessary to its immediate completion, when so much money has been spent, on which interest has to be paid, and much of which is lying perfectly idle?

The same reasoning will apply to our Western Road. We have commenced to build it, and are spending money on it. If it can be built in one year, will it not be wretched economy to be two or three years in constructing it. While it is constructing, the money is idle, and the incidental expenses are going on. As soon as finished, it begins to earn money, and to dispense its benefits throughout the community. Let us, then, have it finished in *one year!* What say the President and Directors to this proposition?

The Columbus, Ohio, State Journal, of the 28th ult., announces that Solomon W. Roberts, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad, was to deliver a lecture in the Hall of the House of Representatives, upon the subject of the road, on that evening. The ability, zeal, and enthusiasm which Mr. Roberts displays in the concerns of our great Western Railroad, are worthy of all praise, and merit the warmest thanks of the people of this city. He is in labors most abundant, and in journeys oft, to promote its success and hasten its completion.

NEW MINISTER TO RUSSIA.—Neal S. Brown, late Governor of Tennessee, has been selected by the President for Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia, vice Arthur P. Bagby, of Alabama. Governor Brown ran out his namesake, Aaron V, in 1847, by one of the most forcible and efficient personal canvasses ever made. He triumphed by commending Whig principles and measures to the clear apprehension and dispassionate approval of the People of Tennessee, and his success in no small degree contributed to the National uprising of 1848.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1850.

Mr. Clingman and the proposed Fight—Pennsylvania Democracy and Mr. Buchanan—Maryland and Pennsylvania.

I do not know whether I directed your readers' attention, on the day of the delivery of Clingman's recent treasonable harrangue, to the very remarkable confirmation furnished by it of what I had from time to time apprised them, relative to the designs and purposes of the extreme and unprincipled faction to which he belongs. He boasted that he carried an open hand, and then went on to develope a plan of disunion, embracing first, a project for subverting the existing government by stopping all appropriations; next, a scheme for producing a physical conflict upon the floor of the House, to be attended by fatal results; and, lastly, a proposition for forcing each of the two great sections of the confederacy, to set up a provisional government for itself, with a view to permanent separation. Clingman said this might be called "high treason, the highest the world ever saw." On the contrary, I should call it the lowest and the basest treason to which a leaky and garrulous conspirator ever gave utterance. But I intended to request your readers to notice that every one of these points, developed in the voluntary confession of one of the plotters, has been exposed in the course of this correspondence. A very interesting part of the programme, is the provision for the fight on the floor. This was first proposed, it will be recollected, by Jefferson Davis, in the Senate, in the form of an invitation to Messrs. Seward, Hale, Chase, and Corwin, to have a grand set to with pistol and bowie knife, with him, and a suitable number of his compeers. The only fit answer to all such propositions is, that northern gentlemen are not sent to Congress to fight, but to argue, to work, or to vote. The people of the northern and the southern states have shown, on too many fields, their courage and prowess against a national foe, to need to prove it in such scenes as those above alluded to. All such threats and suggestions are in wretched taste, and should be promptly ruled out of order whenever indulged in.

What is your legislature going to do in respect to the pending slavery controversy. The Democrats of your delegation are trembling in their shoes, lest they shall be instructed in a more decisive manner than at the last session. There was great rejoicing, therefore, when, on Thursday evening, I think it was, there came a flying report, by lightning, that the old resolutions of instruction had been *rescinded*. Mr. Buchanan is on the ground to administer counsel and comfort to his friends, in case of emergency. Mr. B., you know, from being an "Old Federalist," has only changed to an "Old Hunker," no great journey after all. He is playing for the presidency, and is here, no doubt, at this great crisis, to assure the South that, come what may, he is a warmer and closer friend to them than Cass. And he has greatly the advantage of Cass, for, whereas that distinguished Democrat is obliged to put his servility into print, and thereby greatly reduce his chance of obtaining northern support, Mr. Buchanan can safely give each side "assurances of the most distinguished consideration," without the other being a bit the wiser for it. His game is the best. But both he and Gen. Cass will probably find that whoever may succeed in fobbing the first ace, the other three will turn up in somebody elses' boots.

In respect to State resolutions, it is, probably, of not much consequence whether any new ones be passed or not. The last ones are as binding as if passed at the present session, and if they are not strong enough to hold members to their duty, no others would do it, that is quite clear. The course of your Democrats, in voting for Cobb, is quite conclusive, to my mind, that the slave driver's thong is but to be laid on to be obeyed.

Still things will be apt to be kept right by the mere force of circumstances. California is the great question. Will she be admitted? She must be. There is no northern man, however craven and abject in spirit, who will vote to keep her out. Then, as to all the other questions, nothing will be lost to the cause of freedom if they go over for another session, possibly for another Congress. The southern members know and feel this, and, therefore, these threats of disunion, provisional governments, stopping appropriations, and fighting on the floor. The propagandists feel the ground slippling from under their feet, *at sine ulla demeratio*.

There is one little matter, however, upon which your Legislature might profitably bestow its attention. Maryland is getting rampant by way of egging up alongside of Virginia. She is about to pass an act making nigger testimony competent as evidence against a white man (rebs a free State, though of no force against a citizen of a slave State. And already Hon. Albert Constable has been appointed to go to Huntington County, Pennsylvania, to defend a man from Maryland, named Little, charged with kidnapping. Now of course I know nothing of Little's guilt or innocence, but the appointment of Mr. Constable is a singular proceeding, and promises some exceedingly ugly reminiscences. Let me promise that I know Mr. C., and, like every one else that knows him, admire him for his ability, his eloquence, his generous and jovial disposition, and his numberless other fine qualities. But it cannot be forgotten and should not, that some seven years ago citizens of Massachusetts complained to their government that men of color, also citizens of that State, were unjustly, and, without due legal authority, confined in Charleston jail, South Carolina. Accordingly, Hon. Samuel Hoar was sent to South Carolina to bring the case of these men before the courts of that State. This venerable and respectable agent of the State of Massachusetts had hardly set foot on South Carolina soil before he was *"expelled"* therefrom by a resolution of the Legislature, forcibly executed. There was not a man in South Carolina, that land of chivalry, who could be found to take up the case of one of these colored citizens of Massachusetts, whereas there are doubtless many competent gentlemen in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, ready *to defend* Little for nothing. There is, therefore, no necessity for the presence of the Hon. Albert Constable there, as an agent of Maryland, and it is for the State of Pennsylvania to determine whether, under the circumstances, it is consistent with her dignity that her own attorneys should be set aside in his favor.

JUNIUS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, 1850.

I learn that the Secretary of the Treasury has ordered the dismissal of all the weighers, gaugers, and measurers, now in the service of the customs' department. It is a most important movement, and will create a great deal of dissatisfaction among mercantile men. But the measure is rendered inevitable by the wretched blunder of the law of 3d March, 1849, requiring the entire expense of collecting the revenue to be kept within $1,560,000 a year. In no other country in the world does the government impose upon its merchants labors indispensable to the assessment of its own charges, and not necessary for the purposes of commerce itself, and any enactment which shall operate to the oppression of that great interest, cannot be popular nor permanent. But Congress has decreed that a work shall be executed for $1,560,000, which the experience of democratic administrations, and the exhibit of Mr. Meredith plainly show, cannot be performed for much under three millions of dollars. And this law, since he cannot get it repealed, Mr. Meredith proves himself determined to execute. The party which originated and passed it, are already ashamed of it. The financial organ in the Senate, say that party, Dickinson, "the Roman," as the "sole incendiary, organ at the seat of government" calls him, has been obliged to come forward and advocate the suspension of the restrictive feature of the act. But the democratic majority in the House will do nothing. Eight weeks in all have been fooled away, and five since the election of Speaker, and yet nothing has been done upon any subject, and there is no certain prospect that any action whatever will be had upon this matter.

The orders issued by the Secretary on Thursday last, require the summary dismissal of between two and three hundred officers in the different collection districts, of which over a hundred will be discharged in New York. The saving thereby effected may be estimated at $250,000 a year. The revenue cutter service will have to be dispensed with altogether. The amount allowed to be expended during the current half year, for the whole service is only $780,000, whereas before the creation of the new districts in Texas, California, and Oregon, and before the establishment of the expensive warehousing system, it was for a similar period 1,100,000. These vast additions to the service require an expenditure of at least $3,000 per year, so that had the little financier of Mississippi remained at his former post, there can hardly be a doubt that he would be demanding, for the half year, as much as his political friends wish to allow his successor for the whole year.

To morrow we expect the Cass resolution, for expelling Austria beyond the diplomatic pale of christendom, to come up again, for discussion. Foote the Thunderer, has the floor upon it, and he is expected to give us a taste of the "Erolés vein." I have only to repeat what I have said before upon this proposition, it will be rejected; and that by a decided vote. If necessary, no doubt, Mr. Benton will rise to put an extinguisher upon it.

JUNIUS.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 28, 1850.

I neglected to state in my letter of some days ago, that on the motion to take up the resolutions of instruction in favor of a protective tariff, that Mr. McClintock, of Allegheny, (who is well known to have been elected solely upon his pledges to support that measure,) voted in the negative. This will no doubt astonish many of the Doctor's constituents of both parties. It is well known that no Locofoco could ever have been elected from Allegheny County, if he was not thought, at least, to be sound upon this vital subject. Every person knew perfectly well that Doctor M'Clintock had held himself out to the people of Allegheny, as an ultra tariffite. He might therefore, have kept his pledges without exciting the least surprise, the only surprising thing about it is, that he has not kept them, especially after they were so publically made. But the Doctor has an evil genius here, who is perhaps justly chargeable with this dereliction—one Benton Kerr, who sticks to him like a Dutch Uncle, and who has no doubt succeeded in persuading him that promises made to the people are always made in a Pickwickian sense. These resolutions will come up again in a few days, when, it is whispared the Doctor will reverse his former vote, and thus put him *rectus in curia* again in the popular forum. You will have observed, perhaps, that the mover of these resolutions, Mr. Church, has been formally read out of the Locofoco party, by the whipper in of the *Keystone*. Perhaps this is the fate that has deterred Doctor McClintock. But we shall see.

In the House, to day, the Speaker announced the special committee on the dispute between the State Treasurer and the Canal Commissioners. It consists of Messrs. Beaumont, W. A. Smith, Smyser, Rhey, and Reid. This has been very properly termed a "committee to censure Mr. Ball for paying the interest on the public debt, without resorting to a temporary loan." Mr. Ball is now in Philadelphia, where he has gone to attend to the payment of the February interest. His answer to the Senate resolutions may be expected immediately after his return. And that it will be an able defense of his conduct, and a most scathing rebuke of the conduct of the Canal Commissioners, all who know, do not entertain a single doubt. Mr. Ball is one of those systematic, prudent, cautious, conscientious men, who always looks to ulterior consequences, and who is therefore always prepared for any emergency. When he takes a position, all who know him are fully satisfied that it can be sustained.

Mr. Walker presented a petition for a new county, to be called Redstone, to be taken from out of parts of Washington, Allegheny, &c.

In the Senate, Mr. Drum presented the proceedings of a meeting of citizens of Allegheny, Armstrong, and Butler counties, in relation to the proposed new county, to be formed out of parts said counties.

The order of the day in the Senate was the resolutions in regard to an appropriation for the benefit of Keeler, Clark, and others, arising out of a clerical error. Mr. Streeter spoke at length in favor of the appropriation. It was opposed by Messrs. Darsie, King, and others; and still lies over for further consideration.

COBDEN.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

"Young Men's Mercantile Library and Mechanics Institute."

A brief statement of the condition of this institution has been published, and shows that already a Library numbering some 1200 volumes, has been collected. And from examination I can testify that the selections are generally very good. The Reading Room is well supplied with newspapers from various parts of the country, and on the tables are to be found the principal Reviews and Scientific publications. The room is large, convenient, and pleasant to be in. The members can have no reason to complain as far as comfort is concerned.

Yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, it appears that the institution does not meet with that "sympathy" and encouragement which it deserves. And may I not say that the active members do not manifest that kind of interest which is really necessary, to make both Reading Room and Library attractive and beneficial. In this progressive age every body reads the newspaper; books are cheap, and most persons have as many as they care about. Those especially who are busily engaged in mercantile and mechanical pursuits, are not generally disposed to employ their leisure time in reading books. There is no attraction then for any who are thus situated—no benefit is experienced, no interest is manifested, and they become indifferent.

Would it not be advisable then to adopt some plan that would awaken an increased interest—that would cause each member to be personally interested—that would draw individuals out, to use a common expression. And is there any thing better adapted for doing this, than discussion?

Were the members (especially the younger members) to organize a Society, meet once every week, have a particular subject for discussion, at every meeting, have committees appointed to consider various matters, and report thereon in writing. The result would be (in my opinion) the creating of a new interest on the part of every member, in the welfare and progress of the institution. The books of the Library would be sought after, and read for information—and this information would be brought out in discussion. Newspapers and Periodicals would also become valuable, and be appreciated according to their worth. The annual contributions would be paid cheerfully, and applications for membership greatly increased.

In the course of time, the Hall of the Association might become the place where mechanics could exhibit their ingenuity—where they could show their models, plans, etc., and explain their utility. Almost every evening in the week might be profitably employed, and the Young Men's Library and Mechanics Institute might, in some degree become to Pittsburgh what the Franklin Institute now is to Philadelphia, and the country at large a great public good.

A MEMBER.

YANKEE NOTIONS.—No one reading the following, will hereafter question the *pie-ax* (pious) reputation of old Connecticut; it is now "established beyond a peradventure—Thelpie, trade of Connecticut as carried on in New York is extensive. The article is manufactured at New Haven and sent on to New York every day, fresh for sale. There is a general depot there for the dainties, and the amount of business there transacted may be inferred from the following yearly sales:

To April 30, 1845	$35,431
" " 1846	109,574
" " 1847	144,510
" " 1848	203,325
To August 1, 1849	15,297
Total,	$508,436

SWEEP IN THE NEW YORK CUSTOM HOUSE.—There was great excitement in the New York custom house, on Saturday, in consequence of a telegraph to dispatch from Washington authorising collector Maxwell to discharge a large number of his employers. We stated yesterday that fifty had received notice to quit on Saturday; but the New York letter of last evening, in the Philadelphia American, says:

"About one hundred and twenty officers of various grades have been discharged from the custom house to day, in order to meet the reduced expenses for collecting the revenue."

Another letter says:

"There was a good deal of grumbling before, at the prospect of 'short' salaries on the first of February, but it is outright rebellion now. Sundry clerks, I understand, have sent in their resignations, and more are preparing to follow suit. A great many of the 'night watch' have had notice to quit."

THE PRESENT WINTER IN EUROPE.—Mr. Walsh, under date of January 10th, writes from Paris as follows:—

"Throughout France, the fall of snow has been heavier than any the present century has furnished; the case appears to be the same in the middle and northern parts of the continent. The cold has been intense in Italy and Spain. An American relative who set out for Lyons on the 1st instant, has written to me that he suffered more freezing in the diligence than he had done in the open American stages, in the days of yore, in the depth of winter."

The Presbyterian Church, at San Francisco, have agreed to pay their ministers a salary of $10,000 per year.

FOREIGN ITEMS, RECEIVED PER STEAMER NIAGARA.

There are 50 battalions of Austrian troops in Bohemia. The Austrian Emperor, in a recent ordinance, says of the army, and a peace establishment:

"We have secured peace at home and abroad; by the help of God, and by the virtue of our own rights, we will maintain it; but if (which may Heaven forbid, the country should be again endangered, by enemies from within or without, should imposing military forces be again necessary to insure its safety and prosperity. I am firmly convinced that those soldiers who now return to their homes, will, at my call, again rally around their standards, and accustomed to victory, and led on by experienced chiefs, will again maintain the ancient glory of my house—the ancient glory of the Austrian eagle."

The atrocities committed by Filanzieria in Palermo are equal to those committed by Haynau in Hungary, and King Bomba seems envious of the fame of the Red Emperor; he recently practised a scheme for obtaining money which surpassed in ingenuity the cleverest devices of the swindling community. During the years 1848—49 the provisional government of Sicily raised certain sums of money by a voluntary contribution for the purchase of arms, ammunition, and, among other munitions of war, of two steam frigates. A considerable portion of this money, which remained unexpended, was given up to Bomba on the surrender of the island, as were the arms and ammunition, and steam frigates, which had been purchased by the remainder. Having thus plundered the whole of the proceeds of these voluntary contributions, he now calls upon each person who held the office of finance minister, to refund from his private property the whole of the sums thus collected, the which sums, or the produce of them, he had himself seized.

An American Potestant minister had twelve of his countrymen joining him in worship at his own house last Sunday, in the Via S. Rosalindo. The police were acquainted with the circumstance before night, and the American Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Cass, was apprised that if the offence were repeated, the minister would be sent away from Rome immediately.

General Kmetz, lately a General in the Hungarian service, who entered the service of Turkey, has been appointed Governor of Shumla.

The Pope's Nuncio in Spain is exerting himself to raise a legion of volunteers for service in the Papal States, but the arrangements are not yet matured.

January 16th, the King of Prussia was to take the oath to the new constitution.

The right of a Sub Marine Telegraph between England and France guarantees that this telegraph shall, by the aid of a single wire, and of two persons only (the one stationed in France, and the other England,) be capable of printing, in clear Roman type on paper, 100 messages of fifteen words each, including addresses and signatures, all ready for delivery, in 100 consecutive minutes.

Among the items in the Napoleon, is one comparing the first Consul and his namesake with Washington.

Parliament has been summoned to meet on the 31st inst.

Mr. Sidney Herbert's proposal for a subscription to aid the ill paid seamstresses of the metropolis and neighborhood in emigrating to British colonies, where the prospect of such females will raise their standards, and accustomed to victory, and led on by experienced chiefs, will again maintain the ancient glory of my house—the ancient glory of the Austrian eagle."

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