THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 9, 1850.

☞ ADVERTISERS are earnestly requested to hand in their favors before 8 P. M., and as early in the day as practicable. Advertisements not inserted for a specified time will invariably be charged until ordered out.

PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN.

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

CINCINNATI.—C. W. JAMES, No. 14 Harrison 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.

NOTICE.

We wish it distinctly understood that *our regular carriers* are not allowed to sell papers to persons not regular subscribers—nor to receipt for subscriptions. Our carriers are permitted to take the names of persons wishing to subscribe, but payment for the same will only be acknowledged by the receipt of the office clerk.

We and our friend "C." do not agree in regard to the best policy to be pursued to secure the same object, which we both have alike in view—the limitation of slavery to its present bounds, and the maintainance of the peace and union of these states. We have highest respect for his opinions, and know they are honestly entertained; but we still remain unconvinced that there is not more danger than he imagines of a rupture being attempted at the South, and that the President's line of policy is not a safe and proper one in the present emergency. We think there is a difference, and a very important one, too, in the situation of the new territories and Texas, in regard to their relations to this country and the laws of Mexico. Texas never held the relation to this country, now held by other territories, and of course does not form a correct precedent. However, we have neither time nor inclination to enter into a controversy on the subject, and cheerfully give "C" space to present his opinions to our readers.

The Whig Meeting at Columbus, Ohio, called to consider Mr. Clay's resolutions, contented itself with merely reiterating, in general terms, the view of the Whigs of Ohio on the slavery question. It was called under the impression that Mr. Clay was in favor of continuing the slave trade in the District of Columbia, as incorrectly reported by telegraph. The following resolution is the only one passed, which makes any reference to Mr. Clay:—

Resolved, That in the political wisdom, moral sagacity, sterling integrity, and undoubted patriotism of the Hon. Henry Clay, of Kentucky, we have the most unbounded confidence.

The Action of the Senate—Confirmations.

It could never have been the design of the framers of the Constitution, when they gave the Senate a judicious check upon the power of appointments vested in the President, that that body should use the provision as a means of embarrassing and unnecessarily interfering with the prompt and pleasant discharge of the duties of the Executive Department. The vexatious and unnecessary delay of the Senate to act upon appointments, is the source of much evil, both to the Government and to individuals whose cases may be pending. It keeps up a perpetual curiosity and excitement in the public mind—is the source of numberless rumors prejudicial to the persons whose names have been sent in—it encourages hopes in persons who may think their chances are favorable, and leads to intrigue and injustice. That the Senate should take sufficient time to examine the cases before it, and to make up an intelligent judgment, every one will admit. But when sufficient time has been given, when months have intervened, and cases apparently entirely clear remain undecided, the country has a right to complain. If the opposition think to break down the administration by such unjustifiable means, it is mistaken. It may embarrass and annoy the Executive, but the people will understand and render a correct judgment between their public servants.

Chartiers Coal Company.

We stated, some weeks since, that some gentlemen from New York, in connection with some of our Pittsburgh citizens, had purchased a large body of valuable coal lands in the vicinity of this city, and had organized under a charter granted by our Legislature, last winter. This coal bed is reached at a distance of three or four miles from the Ohio River, at the mouth of Chartier's Creek, about two miles below Pittsburgh. The company will immediately construct a rail road from the mines to that point, where they have a harbor which is said to be unrivalled by any on the Ohio River. The coal on these lands is represented as of the best quality, and is, perhaps, more accessible, and can be more advantageously laid down on the banks of the Ohio than from any other coal tracts in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. The character of the Pittsburgh Coal is now so well established, and its superiority so universally acknowledged, that we presume this company will have no difficulty in finding a ready sale for all they can get to market.

We learn that at an election of the stockholders of this company, held in this city, on the 7th inst., the following gentlemen were elected Directors:—Thomas McElrath, Platt Adams, Levi W. Remington, Thompson Price, and Saml. Watson Carr. Subsequently, at a meeting of the Directors, Thos. McElrath was chosen President of the Company, John Thompson, Treasurer, and L. W. Remington, Manager.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STEAMBOAT ST. JOSEPH.—The following particulars of this terrible disaster we learn from our Western exchanges. On the 23d of January, the St. Joseph and the South America were running side by side, up the Mississippi river, below Memphis. They had been in this position for some hours, whether racing or not, does not appear. The explosion took place at about 6 o'clock, A. M., the head of the boiler being blown out from the top of her flues up. It reverberated and lodged on the starboard cylinder, carrying the gianeheons away, tearing the upper works, which were then let down, and immediately the boat was set on fire. Some of the officers and crew went down to arrest the flames, but they had made such progress as to compel them to flee for their lives. The South America then ran up to the shore, and assisted in saving the passengers. When this was done, she also assisted the crew of the St. Joseph in getting the hull ashore.

Mr. Scott, the first clerk of the St. Joseph, states, that eleven person were killed on the spot, thirty nine scalded, and otherwise injured, five of whom died on the South America; four others, badly scalded, were left in the Hospital at Memphis, viz: J. Chapin, second engineer, severely scalded; E. Bird, (colored) second steward, severly; cabin boy, name not recollected, severely; and one other person, name not known. Mr. S. does not recollect the names of any of the cabin passengers injured, but he is confident that none beloned to St. Louis, viz: Wm. M. Moore, with four comrades, were on the boat: they had started from near Glasgow, on the Missouri, to California, but after reaching New Orleans had concluded to return. Mr. Moore was killed, and two of the persons in his company severly scalded.

CITIZENS, INSURANCE COMPANY.—We predict the earliest success of this institution. The admitted need of an additional company, whose directors and officers are of our own citizens, and identified with our trade and business, would of itself give ample assurance of a judicious and profitable employment of the capital invested. But there is a larger assurance of this result in the character of the gentleman who have been elected to the directory. They are well and favorably known as amongst our most skilful and prudent business men, and their successful management of their own concerns, insures the devotion of the same intelligence and probity to any trusts committed to their keeping.

This is especially true of the worthy gentleman who has been selected President of the Company. Because of his intelligence and untiring energy, it has grown into a proverb, that no enterprise in his hands can fail.

It is the intention of the Directors, both with a view to the large anticipated business, and to be amply prepared for losses, to dispose of an additional amount of the stock. For this purpose the books will be open for a few days, at the Banking house of H. D. King, in Fourth Street.

☞ Like some of our neighbors, we do not like to be made responsible for all the grammatical blunders which occur in our paper. In an article on the Public Lands, the word sympathy was made sympathies by the compositor, which materially altered the English of it.

We are indebted to the Hon. James Cooper and Hon. M. Hampton for Public Documents, from Washington, also, to Messers. Darsie, Espy, McClintock Walker and Miller for like favors, from Harrisburgh.

DISTURNELL'S RAIL ROAD AND STEAM BOAT GUIDE FOR THE UNITED STATES.—We have received from the publisher a copy of this useful work for 1850. It will be found an agreeable and valuable guide to travellers.

The following amusing anecdote was related to us a few evenings since, by the gallant Major P. now stationed in our city. In our regiment, the 7th of U. S. Infantry, during the recent campaign in Mexico, was an old soldier by the name of Foster, who passed among his comrades by the cognomen of Garrick. He was a man of a good deal of talent, belonged at one time to a theatrical corps, and was celebrated for his acting of the Hump Backed Tyrant. Foster was unfortunately addicted to the bottle, which led him into a great many difficulties; being a favorite in the regiment, Captain K., in whose company he was, undertook to remonstrate with him upon the subject, and urged him to reform, telling him that he was a man of fine talents, that he was far superior to his fellow soldiers, in education, and that he might rise in the world, if he would amend his course. Foster listened attentively and respectfully to his Captain, straightened himself up, made a military salute, and said in a *serio* comic air—"what you say, Captain, is very true, but the fact is, you cannot expect all the virtues for seven dollars a month."

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

MR. EDITOR—I have read your remarks upon my article in the Gazette of this morning, and I must say frankly that they have carried no conviction to my mind. It is easy to argue that slavery, being abolished by Mexico, it cannot be reistablished without positive enactments. The question is one of too much moment to be left to mere legal construction, when it can be forever settled by Congress. Southern men differ with us. Mr. Calhoun and many others regard property in man just as they do property in horses. Mr. Clingman, a Whig, declares that slavery would have been carried to California, if it had not been for the outcry about the Wilmot Proviso.

There is now in Missouri a region embracing six counties, which formerly belonged to that territory, in which, by the Missouri Compromise, slavery was forever prohibited. But some twelve or fifteen years ago this territory was annexed to Missouri, and now it is a slave ridden country.

You publish the Mexican decree of 1829, however, abolishing slavery. That was before the independence of Texas, and yet we find slavery immediately established there.

Ingenuity may labor to establish a difference between those two cases and the present case; but to be as ingenious as you may, it is manifest that the avarice of slaveholders suggests many cunning expedients.

Why then should we encounter any risks in the matter? Why not apply to New Mexico the same law which Jefferson framed for Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, &c?

I consider it a downright absurdity to suppose that the slave states would encounter civil war, merely to gratify the malignant spirit of three hundred thousand slaveholders. Examine the article from the Richmond Whig, which you publish this morning, and see how the noisy traitors who introced resolutions into the Virginia Legislature shrink appalled from the completion of their own task—Read the resolutions passed by the Whigs of Wayne county, Georgia, rebuking Mr. Toombs and his co-bellowers of treason. Ponder upon the declaration of Senator Rusk to a clergyman of this city, "that it was nonsense to talk about dividing the union." Consider the letter written by Senator Benton, in answer to the Governor of South Carolina. Reflect, too, that up to this time it is only the slave holders, or rather the politicians among them, who have been acting, but the moment the crisis approaches, (if mean not such a crisis as is gotten up every two or three years at the South,) but a *real* crisis, and that then the two millions of non-slaveholding white men will have a voice in the matter, and I think, you must be satisfied, that alarm just now is ridiculous. Let us do now, as Jefferson, and Madison, and Washington did sixty years ago, pass the proviso and I think we will have hereafter have no more of those artificial crises which form the southern substitute for argument.

C.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Defeat of Mr. Root's Resolution—Expenses of next Census.

WASHINGTON, February 4.

The important event of the day has been the defeat of Mr. Root's resolution, instructing the committee on territories to bring in bills for the organization of territorial governments for New Mexico and Deseret, with the anti slavery, or Wilmot Proviso attached. The resolution coming up in order to day, Venable of N. C., moved to lay it on the table, which motion prevailed, ayes 105, noes 79. Fifteen northern Democrats and thirteen northern Whigs voted for the motion to lay on the table, which, under the circumstances, was equivalent to a direct vote against the resolution. It will be recollected that the resolution was offered five weeks ago, and that since that time, the President's Message has been received, the developements in which go far to convince many members that at this time it is unnecessary and inexpedient to take any measures looking to the establishment of any government for these territories, in as much, as there is believed to be a good prospect for their speedy admission as States of the Union. This reflection was, no doubt, the controlling idea with most of those Whigs who voted against the resolution. I will avail myself of another occasion to explain why, in my judgment, the north should have presented a united front upon the question presented in Root's proposition, although I concur, as I heretofore said, with the policy recommended in the late message of the President upon the subject.

It was noticed, with great surprise, that though Mr. Wilmot was in his place, he did not vote, and that Mr. Winthrop likewise declined.

The Senate was busy until, a late hour to day in discussing the important bill from the select committee providing for the taking of the seventh census. The expense of this great work is estimated at $1,000,000, and the printing will cost $211,000. The Democrats are solicitous to secure this nice little bit of patronage to their friends of the Union, but the bill proposes to put it all under the control of the Secretary of the Interior, within whose department comes the whole business connected with the census.

There was no executive session to day, and consequently nothing was done upon Col. Webb's case, nor is there much probability that it will be taken up to morrow.

There is an amusing rumor about town that Coleman, the man whom Benton hunted out of the place for exhibiting a wooly horse, pretended to have been captured by Col. Fremont, in New Mexico, has returned, and has given out that he will deliver a lecture upon "humbugs in high places;" and it is further said that Foote has engaged to write it for him. Foote's vanity and love of notoriety render the allegation not altogether improbable.

Mr. Benton's son in law, Wm. C. Jones, Esq., has just returned from California, to which territory he was dispatched last summer, as a special agent of the government, for examining into land titles, mineral locations, &c. He came overland from one of the Mexican ports on the Pacific to Vera Cruz, and thence home, by the British steamer across the gulf.

JUNIUS.

Mr. Clay's Speech—Rush of Ladies—Conduct of the House—Promise for a Treaty with Mr. Bulwer.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 1850.

You will have received by telegraph an abstract of Mr. Clay's great speech. He must indeed have a command of language who can convey an adequate idea of the scene, which the capitol presented from nine o'clock in the morning until Mr. Clay resumed his seat. At the former hour, the whole female population of the city which had the leisure, seemed pressing forward to the capitol, and before ten o'clock every avenue to the Senate Chamber was choked by the fairer portion of Eve's descendants, who, by a course of conduct worthy of gallantry among their ruder brethern, were admitted to be entitled to exclusive occupancy on this occasion. As there could be no mistaking the violent designs of the besieging army, the doors were summarily closed against them. But for the decisive course of the officers, at this crisis, no Senator would have been able to reach his place on this important day. Indeed, when at length, after a few Senators had been smuggled into the Chamber through private passages, unknown to the gay crowd without, the doors were opened, not a masculine specimen was seen in that stream of humanity, which instantly streamed through them, to take possession of every available spot with in or with out the bar. The Vice President entered only with the greatest difficulty, forcing his way with no little good natured and gentle violence through the closely wegged ranks of some of the rarest specimens of nature's finest pottery ware I have lately seen. However, not to dwell too long on the unusual and brilliant scene, as I have said, the doors were at length opened, and the ladies by an admirable movement in front and flank took the floor long before Mr. Clay did—I should not omit to mention that the interest of the scene was considerably hightened by several of the ladies fainting, just after all means of egress had been completely cut off by the settling down of the crowd inside and out of the doors. Of course they had to be taken out, and it was so done.

Mr. Clay spoke two hours, and appeared to have reached the middle of his speech, when he gave way to a motion to adjourn, as the point where he had finished his remarks upon the payment of the portion of the debt of Texas, he promised in consideration of her consenting to the settlement of her claims upon New Mexico, suggested by him.

It would not be just to the great actor to express any opinion upon the first half of his speech upon this occasion. The portion of it which will be delivered to morrow, will no doubt be varied with some of those passages of impressive and original eloquence, which have so greatly contributed to build up his reputation, as one of the first masters of the art of oratory in the world.

The House holds well to the policy of *laissez faire*, doing nothing with a persevering industry, which if exerted in the line of usefulness, would be highly advantageous to the country. To day the death of Mr. Newman, of Virginia, was announced, and the usual resolutions having been adopted, the members immediately went over to the Senate Chamber to listen to Mr. Clay. The utter contempt for business prevailing in the House, could not be better shown than in the course pursued in regard to the expenses of collecting the revenue, and the appropriation bills —though the evidence is pouring in upon the House from all quarters, that the revenue service is almost falling to the ground, for the want of authority to draw money from the treasury for its support, though the merchants are justly clamouring and protesting against the impositions they are compelled to submit to in the new mode of doing business at the Custom Houses, the members sit coolly and quietly in their cushioned chairs, thinking and caring as little about their public duties, as they were life pensioners upon the government, instead of servants hired for a specific period to do a certain allotted work. Let them but go on in this way much longer, and the people will direct by spontaneous movements the Executive to add some of the most important of legislative functions to his own peculiar duties.

The absorbing character of the debate and proceedings upon Mr. Clay's compromise propositions, quite summarily disposes of all calculations upon rejections and confirmations for the present week.

As the authentic promulgation of almost every event of more than ordinary importance is preceded by rumors, having their foundations in truth, if not quite accurate in their details, I am inclined to credit in part the current statement that a treaty has been negotiated between Mr. Clayton and Mr. Bulwer, for the final and satisfactory settlement of the dispute concerning the Nicaragua Canal, Tigre Island, thick swelled and thin brained Chatfield, and other well known topics of controversy in and about Central America. The rumor that prevails this morning, bears the shape of an assertion, that Tigre Island is to be ceded to the United States, as a permanent possession, that Chatfield is to be censured, and that it has been diplomatically ascertained, and therefore authoritatively settled, that the interest of the United States and Great Britain, in respect to the proposed Canal do not conflict, of course it is not thought necessary to make any stipulations upon the subject, since it is no longer regarded as probable that either nation will interpose any obstacle to the construction of the work.

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A railroad to Dunkirk, on the 12th of May, 1851, is now a thing certain, and the people of Western Pennsylvania, and the West generally, may as well make up their minds to contemplate its bearings upon their interests. The road from Erie will be pushed forward with all the energy of the West, and the road will soon be opened to New York. Mr. C. M. Reed, the Napoleon of Roads and Steamboats, has been in treaty with the Erie people, and proposes that the gauge of the shore road shall correspond with that of the Erie, thus making transhipment from Erie to New York unnecessary. A similar adaptation of the Pittsburgh and Erie track, which will enable a Pittsburgh traveler to pass to New York without change of cars.

People are preparing themselves for great news from Washington, upon the slavery question, which is considered as nearly settled upon a basis satisfactory to all moderate men. No one expects that the ultra men of the South or North will be content, but it is confidently hoped that each section will yield enough to restore harmony in the national Legislature. The Steamer from Chagres is due to day, and will bring advices from the gold region down to the 1st of Jan., as she has orders to wait the arrival of the Steamer down the coast.

Business begins to show considerable life, and the Hotels to fill up. Southern merchants have bought a good many goods, and a few weeks will bring us into the heavy part of the season. Rents have risen enormously in the front streets. Some landlords demanding, and obtaining too—twenty five hundred dollars, where two thousand was satisfactory before. Fewer "to lets" are seen, and property holders make their own terms. There is a very large amount of money seeking permanent investment, and six per cent is the highest rate named on bond and mortgage. For paper, ten per cent, is the rate of poor names, while first class passes at five a six per cent, per annum.

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Orders has been received from Washington, to cut off more heads in the Custom House, and the business begins to look serious. Two hundred men could be spared, but a farther reduction is not warranted by economy, to say nothing of the efficiency of the revenue department. It is well understood here, that this retseling of the force is a political plot, and it will not work to the disadvantage of the administration. *Laws and laws*, if they do contract the operations of the government, and must be obeyed, but there is sense enough left in Congress to do justice to the servants officers.

The failure of Prosper M. Wetmore to settle his accounts, causes a good deal of conversation, and a general expression is made that the final point of the Sub Treasury had better be tried in this case. The Loco Focos, if they ever prided themselves upon a single point, did so in the efficiency of gallantry among their ruder brethern, were admitted to be entitled to exclusive occupancy on this occasion. As there could be no mistaking the violent designs of the besieging army, the doors were summarily closed against them. But for the decisive course of the officers, at this crisis, no Senator would have been able to reach his place on this important day. Indeed, when at length, after a few Senators had been smuggled into the Chamber through private passages, unknown to the gay crowd without, the doors were opened, not a masculine specimen was seen in that stream of humanity, which instantly streamed through them, to take possession of every available spot with in or with out the bar. The Vice President entered only with the greatest difficulty, forcing his way with no little good natured and gentle violence through the closely wegged ranks of some of the rarest specimens of nature's finest pottery ware I have lately seen. However, not to dwell too long on the unusual and brilliant scene, as I have said, the doors were at length opened, and the ladies by an admirable movement in front and flank took the floor long before Mr. Clay did—I should not omit to mention that the interest of the scene was considerably hightened by several of the ladies fainting, just after all means of egress had been completely cut off by the settling down of the crowd inside and out of the doors. Of course they had to be taken out, and it was so done.

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Mr. Clay spoke two hours, and appeared to have reached the middle of his speech, when he gave way to a motion to adjourn, as the point where he had finished his remarks upon the payment of the portion of the debt of Texas, he promised in consideration of her consenting to the settlement of her claims upon New Mexico, suggested by him.

It would not be just to the great actor to express any opinion upon the first half of his speech upon this occasion. The portion of it which will be delivered to morrow, will no doubt be varied with some of those passages of impressive and original eloquence, which have so greatly contributed to build up his reputation, as one of the first masters of the art of oratory in the world.

The House holds well to the policy of *laissez faire*, doing nothing with a persevering industry, which if exerted in the line of usefulness, would be highly advantageous to the country. To day the death of Mr. Newman, of Virginia, was announced, and the usual resolutions having been adopted, the members immediately went over to the Senate Chamber to listen to Mr. Clay. The utter contempt for business prevailing in the House, could not be better shown than in the course pursued in regard to the expenses of collecting the revenue, and the appropriation bills —though the evidence is pouring in upon the House from all quarters, that the revenue service is almost falling to the ground, for the want of authority to draw money from the treasury for its support, though the merchants are justly clamouring and protesting against the impositions they are compelled to submit to in the new mode of doing business at the Custom Houses, the members sit coolly and quietly in their cushioned chairs, thinking and caring as little about their public duties, as they were life pensioners upon the government, instead of servants hired for a specific period to do a certain allotted work. Let them but go on in this way much longer, and the people will direct by spontaneous movements the Executive to add some of the most important of legislative functions to his own peculiar duties.

The absorbing character of the debate and proceedings upon Mr. Clay's compromise propositions, quite summarily disposes of all calculations upon rejections and confirmations for the present week.

As the authentic promulgation of almost every event of more than ordinary importance is preceded by rumors, having their foundations in truth, if not quite accurate in their details, I am inclined to credit in part the current statement that a treaty has been negotiated between Mr. Clayton and Mr. Bulwer, for the final and satisfactory settlement of the dispute concerning the Nicaragua Canal, Tigre Island, thick swelled and thin brained Chatfield, and other well known topics of controversy in and about Central America. The rumor that prevails this morning, bears the shape of an assertion, that Tigre Island is to be ceded to the United States, as a permanent possession, that Chatfield is to be censured, and that it has been diplomatically ascertained, and therefore authoritatively settled, that the interest of the United States and Great Britain, in respect to the proposed Canal do not conflict, of course it is not thought necessary to make any stipulations upon the subject, since it is no longer regarded as probable that either nation will interpose any obstacle to the construction of the work.

JUNIUS.

FROM HARRISBURGH.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURGH, Jan. 5, 1850.

It seems that I was in error in stating, a few days ago, that Dr. McClintock had violated his pledges on the tariff question, by voting against taking up the resolution of Mr. Church on the subject. The resolutions which the Doctor really did vote against, on the occasion referred to, were resolutions in favor of the Wilmot Proviso. It seems that the resolutions of Mr. Church were introduced, merely, about the same time that those resolutions on the subject of slavery and the Wilmot Proviso were called up, and hence the mistake of my informant, who supposed it was the resolutions of Mr. Church which had been voted down. In justice to Doctor McClintock, I desire to make this explanation. And I do it the more cheerfully, as I am informed the Doctor is really sincere in his professions of devotion to a Protective Tariff, and will certainly vote for the resolutions of Mr. Church when they come up for consideration.

The Speaker laid before the Senate, this morning, a communication from the Auditor General, relating to the expenses incurred in investigating the conduct of Alexander Power on the lower Western Division of the Pennsylvania canal.

Mr. Darsie moved that the communication be referred to the Committee on Finance, and stated that the investigation had brought to light most enormous frauds committed under said Supervisor, that should go at once before the committee on Finance that they might take some method of guarding against the system of robbing the Treasury now practised. It had been disclosed that great frauds had been committed through the system of checkrolls now pursued. In many instances receipts were given for a nominal sum, only a small portion of which was paid to the laborer. Similar frauds had been practised in regard to lumber. Upwards of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS had been received by that Supervisor for lumber sold by him belonging to the State, of which no account had been given and no return made until after proceedings had been instituted against him, and then only a part of it had been paid over.

The motion to refer was agreed to.

In the House, joint resolutions, offered by Mr. Cornyn, authorizing the State Treasurer to pay Captain S. D. Karns, the sum of $318 21, and the Administrator of Henry Petriken, deceased, $500 for expense incurred by them in 1846 in tranporting the volunteers, were taken up, and passed final reading. Being private bill day, nothing further of general interest was transacted.

Communication from the State Treasurer.

The Speaker laid before the Senate a communication from the State Treasurer:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Harrisburgh, Feb. 5, 1850.

SENATORS: The resolution of your honorable body of the 29th ultimo, is before me. My absence in Philadelphia on public duty has prevented an earlier reply.

As regards the allegation of the Canal Commissioners, and the complaint of Messrs. Norris, Bros., enquoted of by your resolution, I have to reply as follows:

Messrs. Norris, Brothers, never personally presented at the Treasury for payment, nor did any person for them, an order from the Canal Commissioners for the amount they claim; nor have I yet official notice that the State owes them. In default of such notice, duty required that I should refrain from paying away the public money.

Had these gentlemen presented such an order, I would have been justified in withholding payment, the evidence being that Messrs. Norris, Brothers, charged seven hundred dollars more for each locomotive furnished the State, than they charged the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company—or, in other words, they furnished that Company with a more expensive article for seven hundred dollars less, and received one thousand five hundred dollars in trade—so large a profit would seem to justify a liberal credit.

The engines referred to, were purchased, it seems, under the authority given in the sixteenth section of the last appropriation bill. This being true, it scarcely justifies the sale, by the Canal Commissioners of five Locomotives, worth at least twenty five thousand dollars, for the paltry sum of thirty three hundred and ninety dollars, thereby sacrificing upwards of twenty one thousand dollars, which proves gross ignorance of the value of property, or a criminal neglect of duty. Perhaps these facts would not have justified me in hesitating to pay Messrs. Norris, Brothers, had I been drawn on for the money.

I never refused to settle the accounts of the Superintendent of Motive Power on the Columbia road. The rule of the office is to take up in its order every item of business, and with this regulation I require a strict compliance.

I have never refused, or having improperly refused at any time money appropriated to the management and repairs of any of the other lines of the public works.

Since I have been responsible for the management of the State finances, I have not received from the Canal Commissioners, at any time, a moment's notice of their intention to draw on the Treasury; other than was furnished by the actual presentation of drafts. While it is both my duty and my pleasure to provide the ways and means to answer every call, nevertheless, the interests and credit of the State, as every business man will understand, cannot be sustained, if other branches of the government refuse to harmonize with this department. To such a degree have the Canal Board carried their antagonism, that upon the appointment of officers, whose duties bring them in contact with the Treasury, they have not furnished notice of the change, in the proper form of money, care is required. For that purpose the names of officers must be known; their persons and their signatures identified; as also a known ledge that they have given the required bond before money can be advanced them. The first notice I have received of the change of officers, was the presentation, by the new incumbent, of drafts for large sums of money.

Senators are aware, that the Treasury has a vast number of payments to provide for besides the canal appropriations. It seems proper, therefore, in a business view, that the Treasurer, whoever he may be, should have the co-operation of coordinate branches of the government, rather than to have so powerful an arm as the Canal Board, exercising their authority to draw money without reference to the general interests, or the credit of the State.

GIDEON J BALL,
State Treasurer.

PROSPER M. WETMORE.—This extensive Defaulter is thus handled by the Correspondent of the New York Tribune.—

Prosper M. Wetmore.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 2.

I intended to have headed this letter, "*The Degeneracy of Progress*," but time would fail me to night were I to attempt a discription of General Wetmore's *personal and political career*. He is of the Hoyte and Butler school—more *Butler*, perhaps, than Hoyte. I never saw him, never had any correspondence with him; but the record of his career, the fraudulent institutions in which he was a master spirit—the U. S. Lombard, of which he was a Director, with Hyatt, who went to the State Prison—the Hudson Insurance Company, of which he was President, and a Vice-President, Hyatt being President—his indictment and ready elusion of District Attorney (now Collector) Maxwell's official grip, by adroitly turning State's evidence upon his quondam accomplice in question, of which society was cheated in a few months by a combination of knaves and rogues—his being compelled to resign in the twenty seventh regiment of New York artillery, for his stock jobbing ingenuity—these gentlemanly, and the pieces with which he skipped from side to side, facts too numerous to mention, voting for 30 bank charters, half of them rascally ones, in a session, to the denunciation of their "anti republican and fraudulent" paper money ever last session; from lord chamberlain in 1837 that the Sub-Treasury would headanger the Republic" to resolving in 1839 that the Sub-Treasury was the "patriotic and inestimably useful proposition," and from Van Buren to Tyler, under whose administration he was "shocked and grieved," and expressed his "deep mortification," owing to "the *respect he bore to the incumbent*," because his toast was dishonored at the Ashburton dinner. Had the Senate not begun the practice of laying mileage by the hundred and thousand dollars, to which its members had not a shadow of claim, it seems to me that it never would have blindly conceded to endorse Prosper, but it did endorse him, knowing his true character—and now for the result.

General Wetmore's pecuniary or official relations with the Government here, have contributed of late to restore to him his ancient and very unenviable notoriety. They may be described as follows:

Gen. Wetmore was appointed to the office of Navy Agent at New York, and upheld in that situation chiefly through the influence of his friends, William L. Marcy, Cornelius W. Lawrence, Edwin Croswell, and others of their clique. If honest, his position would have enabled him to save many thousands to his country in the way of contracts, &c.—if profligate and unprincipled, those who selected him, well knowing his character, richly deserve the public reprobation.

TUNNEL UNDER THE PYRENEES.—A recent Paris paper states that the Minister of Public Works has employed an engineer of Upper Garonne to make examinations, the object of which is to be the creation of a grand new route between Toulouse and Saragossa, by means of a tunnel carried under the Pyrenees, between the vallies of Luchon, in France, and Vesaupte, in Spain. The execution of this direct road between the two cities presents no difficulties. Experience in tunnelling in France has been had in piercing the Nerbe in the construction of the Railroad from Marseilles to Avignon. The expense only may retard this undertaking. In any case, the Spanish Government will contribute its part to making a useful way of communication to the south of the peninsula.

GREAT COTTON SPECULATION.—It is stated that a great speculation is at this time raging in cotton that has been known since the great speculating year of 1825. The New Yorkers in particular,