THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED BY WHITE & CO.

PITTSBURGH:

MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 25, 1850.

☞ADVERTISERS are earnestly requested to hand in their favors before 5 P. M., and as early in the day as practicable. Advertisements not inserted for a specified time will invariably be charged until ordered out.

CINCINNATI—G. W. JAMES, No. 2[illegible] street, Cincinnati, is our agent for the city. Advertisements and subscriptions handed to him will receive prompt attention.

PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN.

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

☞SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LOCAL MATTERS TELEGRAPHIC NEWS, &c.

We are indebted to the Hon. JAMES COOPER, of this State, for valuable public documents.

Buffalo is now brought within twenty five hours of New York, by means of the New York and Erie Rail Road. The connection with that road is made at Geneva. Passengers leaving Buffalo at 7 o'clock, A. M., arrive in New York, at 8 A. M., the next morning. What a revolution rail roads are making!

PENNSYLVANIA RAIL ROAD—We understand that work will be commenced on the section of the Pennsylvania Rail Road between this city and Turtle Creek, on the 1st of March, and that the engineer expects to have a locomotive on it by fall.

The Western Rail Road.

We learn from one of the most eminent citizens of Indiana, who has just passed through Pittsburgh, on his way to Philadelphia, and who has access to the best of information, that 31 miles of the rail road running from Indianapolis eastward, towards Bellefontaine, to connect with the Ohio and Pennsylvania Rail Road, will be completed and brought into use *this year*. A brick building for a depot, 400 feet long, is to be immediately erected at Indianapolis. The line to Terre Haute is in rapid progress, and the whole line of the Central Rail Road across the State of Indiana will soon be completed.

A Rail Road Convention was held at Vandalia, Illinois, on the 7th inst., at which the preliminary steps were taken for the immediate commencement of the rail road from Terre Haute west across the State of Illinois, to Illinoistown, opposite St. Louis, a distance of 160 miles. The Convention resolved that no obstacle shall prevent them from "*forming the connecting and closing link link of our great chain of rail roads from the Atlantic ocean to the Mississippi.*" Three Commissioners were appointed to open the books in each county, for subscription to the "*Mississippi and Atlantic Rail Road Company*," to remain open until the first of April next. It was resolved that, when the rail roads from the east shall have reached Terre Haute, "Illinois will extend to them the hand of true sisterhood, and with a hearty welcome conduct them speedily and safely to the banks of the Mississippi."

This is the true spirit, and we hope that this cheering news from the west will have its proper effect upon our own citizens. Philadelphia should put her whole line under contract to Pittsburgh as soon as possible. Pittsburgh should press forward her Western Road, which she has undertaken, to Massillon, Wooster, and Mansfield.

At Enon Valley, 40 miles from Pittsburgh, the road leading to Erie will diverge from the main line; at "Alliance," near Mount Union, 80 miles from here, the road from Cleveland will be intersected; at Massillon our line crosses the Ohio Canal; at Loudonville, the "Columbus and Pittsburgh Rail Road" will come in, via Mount Vernon, which will be the shortest continuous rail road route from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati; at Mansfield we connect with the road running to Sandusky City; and at "Crestline," near Galion, 150 miles from Pittsburgh, our line terminates. At that point it intersects the Cleveland & Columbus rail road, and unites with the direct line leading to Bellefontaine, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, St. Louis, and also with the proposed rail roads to Toledo and Chicago.

What we have to do is to press forward our main trunk, and others will take care of the branches. It is well to have many rail roads, but let us have *one* first, and that the most important one. We want no bridges over the Ohio river. Pennsylvania protests against them. Our line is continuous and unbroken, and it interferes with no large navigable stream from Philadelphia to St. Louis. A rail road from St. Louis to Independence is about to be undertaken, with every prospect of success, and we have no doubt that the city as well as the citizens of St. Louis will press the work onward with vigor and energy.

Such are the brilliant prospects before the citizens of Pittsburgh, and those of all other places on our magnificent trunk line. Is any thing more needed to stimulate our citizens to the energetic discharge of their duty to this great work?

Western Theological Seminary.

We have received the Annual Catalogue of this institution, from which we learn that the following number of students are in the institution, to wit:

Resident Graduate	2
Senior Class	9
Middle Class	16
Junior Class	18
	45

Rev. David Elliott, D. D., is Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology. Rev. Alex. T. McGill is Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government. The Chair of Oriental and Biblical Literature is at present vacant, but the professorship is supplied by the other members of the faculty.

Three hundred students have been taught in this Seminary since its commencement, in 1827, nineteen of whom have consecrated themselves to the work of Foreign Missions. There is but one session in each year, commencing on the 4th Monday of August, and continuing to the second week of May. Three years embrace the full course.

THE WHEELING ROBBERY.—The Gazette of that city says:—

DARING ROBBERY.—The Post Office in this city was entered on Wednesday night last, between 11 and 4 o'clock, and robbed of packages containing money to the amount of four or five thousand dollars, together with several drafts.

The building was entered from the front door, by wrenching away the shutter. The large iron safe, from which the money was abstracted, was opened by a key or otherwise.

CONGRESS.

Interesting Debate in the Senate—Remarks of Mr. Cass and Mr. Clay.

Our Correspondent "Junius" refers to an intensely interesting debate, which took place in the Senate, at Washington, on the 20th inst., in which several distinguished Senators took part. The Senate had under consideration a motion to refer the message of the President, with the accompanying copy of the constitution of California, to the Committee on Territories, with instructions to report a bill for the admission of California as a State into the Union.

Mr. Clemens, of Alabama, addressed the Senate in one of the usual fiery southern speeches, in which he attacked both Mr. Clay and Mr. Cass—the former for his late speech and resolutions, and for now wishing to admit California, without settling the other territorial questions; and the latter for his speech on the slavery question. He further said that he heard that it had been prophesied that the lion and the lamb would lie down together, but he had never expected to see it in his time. He never expected to see Thomas H. Benton and Henry Clay—the one the great "Expunger," the other the great "Embodiment"—acting side by side on any great question of public policy. But we live in strange times, and in the midst of strange events, and after seeing these two great men come together on any thing, no one could be surprised at any event, no matter how fanciful.

We give the conclusion of his remarks, and the replies, and comments of Mr. Cass, Mr. Clay, and others as reported in the Republic. Mr. Clemens, in conclusion, said:

There was a remedy for all this evil, perhaps, but it was sure, and we [illegible] only one in their power. The South asked no favors; they were not like Lazarus at the rich man's gate, asking for the crumbs which fell from the table. The South demanded her rights, and would maintain them.

The Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Michigan, (Mr. Cass,) the latter in a prepared speech, had favored them with pictures of the consequences of disunion.

Mr. Cass said that the remarks made by him the other day were the promptings of the moment, [illegible] there be no war between thee and me, nor between thy herdsmen and my herdsmen."

The question for consideration was, what are the rights of the South, and whatever those rights were, the South would maintain them without being deterred or frightened by bloody pictures.

It had become the custom now a days to speak continually of Washington's farewell address, of his good advice; the name of Washington should be a forbidden word in the mouths of those who propose any thing that is mean, base, and selfish. Washington would countenance no wrong, and if living, it was well known on which side he would be found.

He had now said all he intended to say on the motion, and would take another opportunity of addressing the Senate on Mr. Clay's resolutions.

Mr. Cass asked the attention of the Senate while he said a few words in defence of himself. In consequence of what had been said here and elsewhere, he considered it but just that he should vindicate his consistency.

Mr. Clemens said he had not attacked the Senator's consistency.

Mr. Cass said the Senator had said that in his speech on the Wilmot Proviso, he (Mr. Cass) had dealt only on general principles. When he made that speech he had two objects in view, and which he had carried out; one was to show that the Wilmot Proviso was unconstitutional, and that, if not unconstitutional, it was inexpedient. These grounds he certainly maintained to the utmost of his ability.

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Davis) had spoken of his being inconsistent. During the trial he had lately passed through, (and he wished his greatest enemy no severer one) a letter written by him, commonly called the Nicholson letter, had been published. In that letter he had taken the same grounds that he had taken in his speech. There had been no change in his sentiments.

If any one was mistaken in the Nicholson letter, then it was the reader's fault; if any one should be mistaken hereafter, it should be his fault. He believed the passage of the Wilmot Proviso to be unconstitutional. He did not think so at first; and when this subject was first introduced, he doubtless would have voted for it, as he believed several instances were on record of southern men introducing bills with the Proviso contained in them. But after examining into the subject, he came to the view that Congress had no power to pass it. When the Nicholson letter was about to be written, he entertained great doubts as to the powers of Congress to pass the Wilmot Proviso; and it occurred to him that it was strange that the power of Congress over the Territories had been so long undisputed. He then applied to an honorable Judge of the Supreme Court, (Judge McLean,) and communicated to him his doubts on the subject, and the Judge told him that his doubts were correct, and referred him to an article on the subject, which had appeared in the *National Intelligencer* a few days before, which had been prepared by the Judge himself. That article was read, and sustained his impressions, and then the Nicholson letter was written. That letter asserted four propositions; 1st. The Wilmot Proviso was unconstitutional; 2d. Slavery did not exist in the Territories; 3d. That it was not likely it would ever exist there; and 4th. That the question of slavery or not was a question for the people of the Territories themselves to decide. The same views were expressed by him in his speech. The people of the Territories have the right to settle this subject as all others for themselves, and they will do it, despite of all your powers. The world was full of Wilmot Provisos; once it came in the shape of a tax on tea, and the people decided it. Whenever the sovereign power sets itself to judge for the people, that attempt is set for them is a Proviso. Have the thirty or fifty thousand people who may be in your Territories no rights? Are they subject to your disposal, and to your enactments and regulations, as well as the land on which they reside? He thought not. They have the power of self government, and they derive it from a higher source than Congress.

The Nicholson letter was shown to several of his friends, and some of them disapproved of it; they all knew its meaning.

Mr. Cass then most eloquently deprecated the undue excitement manifested at the South and the North on this subject; and could not sympathize with it; he was sick of it. There were no wrongs to justify a revolution; and no wrongs which a revolution would redress. The Senator from Virginia, in his speech on the fugitive slave bill, while urging its passage, said, he had no hope of its being any good; that he despaired of its being carried out; and, although he did not use the exact words, implied that the North would vote for it, then turn round and violate it; in short, would act like a set of knaves.

Mr. Mason said he never used any language like this. What he said was, that no law which did not meet the loyal support of the people was d be productive of much benefit.

Mr. Cass said he was sick of the cries of the wrongs of the North and the wrongs of the South. He knew nothing of the North or of the South. He was an American. He was a citizen of the Union.

There were fanatics every where. The South were not alone in their sufferings. Every nation had its fanatics, and every section of the country had its share of them. The North suffered from them. They made war on all their social and religious institutions. So far had this feeling on the slavery question been carried, that at the South any man who did not declare that slavery was the best institution was a fanatic; and at the North, whoever was not prepared to run a bayonet through every slaveholder was a doughface.

He then proceeded to the subject of dissolving this Union without a war, and said it was out of the question; and the war which would follow it would be bloody, unnatural, and most violent.—But he had greater hopes for the country than such a result.

Mr. C. said that *he knew that he had been breakdown on account of his opinions, and that this was the last time he would appear there;* and he therefore felt that he could give the advice that this agitation should be quelled, and that all should endeavor to maintain the Union intact.

Mr. Clay thanked the Senator from Michigan for the sentiments just uttered by him. He did not doubt but the remarks of the Senator made the other day were the spontaneous effusions of his heart; and he did not remember ever to have listened to a speech with greater pleasure than he did to the remarks of the Senator on that occasion.

He did not purpose to make any elaborate reply to the eloquent Senator from Alabama, who he did not doubt, would add honors to the body into which he had brought his talents and ability. But the Senator had compared him and the Senator from Missouri to the lion and the lamb. Now he would ask the Senator which of the quadrupeds was he, Mr. Clay, compared with? [Laughter.] He was afraid he would not make a very good lamb, and surely had no ambition to be a lion.—[Laughter.]

Mr. Clemens said he meant the Senator to be the lion. What he meant was, that the co-operation of the Senators was remarkable.

Mr. Clay said that he would suggest to the Senator to observe Lord Bacon's advice, to ascertain the facts before he ventured on an assertion. What facts had the Senator to show that there had been any preconcerted co-operation between him and the Senator from Missouri? And if he had the facts, what right had the Senator to ask a midwit upon what took place between him and the Senator from Missouri? For years the Senator from Missouri and himself had not been on friendly terms; there was no intercourse, an embargo between them; but a few years ago, much to his satisfaction, friendly terms had been resumed. He had never seen the bill of the Senator from Missouri before its introduction, and had no conference with him since about it, nor had the Senator from Missouri ever seen his resolutions before their presentation to the Senate. Now, what facts had the Senator which to base his assertion of a co-operation between them?

Had he the right to speak the fact that the Senator from Missouri came round to his seat and had a private conversation with him, and from that has he the right to suppose that any bargain had taken place? The Senator from Mississippi had alluded to this incident.

Mr. Foote said the Senator alluded to it himself.

He had said in his resolution that, by admitting California, there was no concession by either section; and how did the Senator from Alabama answer this? The Senator says that by admitting her, Congress adopts the provisions in her constitution, excluding slavery. Now, suppose a census had been taken, and all other supposed prerequisites complied with, and then California was to exclude slavery, would not her admission then be as much the adoption by Congress of the prohibitory clause as it would be were she to be admitted now?

But with this Congress had now nothing to do. The only question for Congress to decide, was whether the constitution of California was republican or not? He admitted that there were irregularities in her proceedings; but, as statesmen, was it not their duty to overlook these for the purposes of harmony and peace?

California was entitled to greater consideration than Michigan. California was abandoned by Congress. She now comes here with a constitution—comes to that parent who had abandoned her, cut her aloof from the protection of all law and government. Does she come threatening secession and dissolution? No, she comes humbly to ask that you will admit her to the enjoyment of those sacred privileges to be found only in the Union. Yet she is called an usurper, and you wish to push her from you. The difference between her and Michigan is, that Michigan, though a long time denied admission, had a good government, and good laws. California had a bad government, or no government, but was in a state of anarchy.

He had heard with great surprise the remark that, in certain contingencies, the South would take a particular course, regardless of consequences. He could not conceive how any man could, with respect to himself, to his race, to his God, and to religion, take any step regardless of consequences. No man, be he on the broad prairie, or on the ocean, or in any situation of life, who had any regard for religion and morality, could, in any contingency, take any step, no matter how trifling, regardless of consequences.

After some remarks by Mr. Clemens, Mr. Foote, and Mr. Davis, Mr. Clay reviewed his letter to the Free Soilers of Ohio, and to its contents, which were nothing more than he would never vote to carry by law slavery to territories now free. He had been the best abused man in the country by the Abolitionists; and when they published in their papers a charge against him, they always sent him the paper.

Mr. Cass said that he had some of the papers too, and when the Senator said that he was the best abused man, he should have added, with one [illegible]

were now, and he hoped would be forever, all friends.

Mr. Dodge, of Iowa, defended the North. He and several other Northern Senators had voted for all the measures introduced to give California a government. Without their votes, those measures could never have passed the Senate. He was then in favor of giving California a government, and he would now do the same.

Mr. Hale said that if the private movements of Senators were to be watched and observed, he being of a friendly, cociable disposition, thought it very likely that he might make himself liable to be charged with fanticism.—(Laughter.)

Mr. Dickinson said he had a remark to make which would be satisfactory to all parties, and that was, that the Senate adjourn; and

Mr. Hamlin having the floor on this subject for Monday next,

The Senate adjourned.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

The Iron Strike—Distress.

"The editor of the Post says 'a public requests him to state, that there is no distress, and not likely to be any, whilst the citizens of Pittsburgh, and elsewhere, continue to act as liberally as they have heretofore.'"

Mr. Editor—Will the Peddler, who requests the "Post" to make the above statement, be kind enough to inform the public whether there is no distress among that class of men dependent on our rolling mills, who are obliged to support their families on from 75 cents to $1 25 per day—Laborers and Puddlers' helpers.—Now any man who knows any thing about the rolling mill business, is aware that the number of Puddlers and Boilers in any establishment bears no proportion to the number of hands hired at small wages per day. These are the sufferers, and their number, in the aggregate, is *legion*.

In Mills employing from twenty to twenty four Puddlers and Boilers there will probably be at least one hundred men whose daily pay ranges from 75 cents to $1 25. Many of these men have families—some of them large families.

Their wages will not enable them to provide any thing beforehand for a period like the present and as they do not stand prominently forward before the public, like the Puddlers and Boilers, claiming sympathy on the ground that they are resisting oppression and contending for their rights, they have no share in the collections which are weekly made, and on which the author of the *letter* at the head of this article informs us that he, together with his fellow Puddlers and Boilers, rely to enable them to hold out in their present resistance to the demands of the mill owners. The Puddler and Boiler earning from $2 75 to $4 per day, and being thoroughly organized and banded together, can contribute weekly to a common fund to be reserved for an occasion like the present one, and besides being able to pay into this common fund his weekly or monthly contribution he is also able to lay aside a considerable surplus, to be forthcoming for his maintenance whenever it is deemed advisable, as in 1845, to "strike" for higher wages, or at present, to resist an effort to reduce wages. There is no objection to all this.—These men certainly have the right to do so, if they please—But for such men to publish to the world that they rely on public charity is a shame. If they solicit charity, why not let it be for their less fortunate fellow workmen—there own helpers and the laborers about the mills.

This would be honorable. This would entitle them to respect.—But they are too selfish to pursue so noble a course. These poor men, who are *absolutely suffering*—as any man may see who will visit the dwellings around our rolling mills—are overlooked.

Who cares for them? Not your full fed Peddler, earning his $2 *per day and roast beef*, literally.—If the employer does not care for them, they must suffer.

Now, Mr. Editor, if this "strike" is to continue much longer, would it not be well for some benevolent citizens to raise a subscription to help the *laboring classes*, thrown idle by the Puddlers and Boilers!

TRUTH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.

The contest over the point of instructing the committee on territories to report in favor of the immediate admission of California, continued last night until twelve o'clock, and was only terminated at last by a decision of the Speaker, that it was no longer in order. It is not to be supposed that the general reader will take any interest in dry details of legislative proceedings, and therefore I shall not go into the explanation that would render the course of Mr. Cobb intelligible, but if his interpretation of the rules be correct, then it seems to me that Congress might as well immediately adjourn, for there is clearly no use whatever of its remaining in session under an organization which gives the entire control of the body to thirty or forty miserable factionists. The process of hindering business, and bringing on that state of anarchy foretold in the treasonable harangues to which from time to time I have called your readers' attention, is simply this. A bill is introduced to admit California, for example. The slavery propagandists immediately commence an uproar. A friend of the bill moves the previous question, it is seconded, but a Southern Speaker in the Chair at once steps forward, and rules that the next motion to be voted on, is not on the adoption of this previous question, but rather on any other motion which his friends choose to interpose. One of them moves to adjourn, and calls the yeas and nays, the motion is voted down. Some invidious *pro forma* motion is submitted, and upon that a southern member begs to be excused from voting, and the question on excusing him is taken by yeas and nays. He is not excused; but the same motion is made by every one of his confederates, and the yeas and nays are called upon each of them; thus weeks might be taken up in this chilish yet nefarious trifling. There is no doubt at all what a Speaker determined to do his duty and to maintain the order and dignity of the House would do. He would decide that when the previous question is called for and seconded upon any measure, no other question whatever shall be put to the House until the previous question shall have been decided. In this way only can a direct vote ever be obtained upon any proposition which the disorganizers are opposed to, and with a presiding officer ready to aid them in their schemes, the House may be kept here till the 4th of March 1851, calling the yeas and nays on nothing at all. As matters stand at present, it certainly seems that Clingman was not mistaken in the efficacy of the plan suggested by him, at the instigation, no doubt, of wiser and older heads than his own, for the legal extension of slavery, or the breaking up of the Union instead.

There was a very interesting debate in the House to day. Venable, of North Carolina, one of the noisiest and most violent of the disunionists, let loose upon the House such a hurricane of mighty and sounding words, as will even astonish Buncombe, the identical county from which he happened to come. He was going to do something for Buncombe, and truly he has done it by flinging up a proposition for burying in one common grave the whole unfortunate mass of his constituents as an alternative to submitting to the Wilmot Proviso. How this desperate, though brave and magnanimous declaration will be responded to in Buncombe, remains to be seen. We shall soon hear whether the constituents of Mr. Venable are as ready to be buried, as he is to turn them over to the dismal disposal of the sexton.

Mr. James X. McLanahan, of your State, said to be a sort of *alter ego*, to Mr. Buchanan, came forward, as it appeared, to lecture his Southern democratic allies, for having voted for, and elected a "Southern Federalist" Clerk of the House, and also to take the Speaker to task for unfairness in making the committees, so as to give to the South a monopoly of honor and influence. James X. appeared to be going on at a very brisk and successful rate for some fifteen minutes, but just as he was about weathering point no point, and getting his craft upon her due course, his powers seemed to suffer a collapse, and to the great relief of the Federalists, North and South, he took his seat.

I notice the arrival here of Mr. Darragh, your able and popular Attorney General, with other eminent counsel in the Wheeling Bridge case. The argument in that most important case will commence in the Supreme Court, on Monday next. I shall furnish you with notes of its progress, and a synopsis of the arguments.

JUNIUS.

WASHINGTON, February 20, 1850.

I consider that the event of the day has been the pathetic farewell of public life by Gen. Cass, late Democratic candidate for the presidency. He has yielded to the "devilish art" of that arch federalist Mr. Buchanan, who has overhid and out intrigued him for the southern vote. Mr. B. has torn away the preps of the Nicholson platform, opposition to California, which his former supporters have set up for him. He, therefore, retires from the field, overwhelmed, as he professes, by a storm which no mortal power can control. So much for General Cass. His political end is unfortunate, and the farewell to all his greatness, pronounced by him in the Senate, to day, was really pathetic. In the North, he had fallen before the blast of anti slavery sentiment, because he believed the restriction of the Wilmot Proviso unconstitutional; in the South, he now found himself repudiated because his principle of non intervention required him to support the decision which the people of California had made, of the slavery question, for themselves.

But the long and short of General Cass' story is, that, in setting up as the northern advocate of slavery, he has failed, as I hope that every man will fail, who undertakes to assume his position, and the defenders of freedom can extend to him no more liberal wish than that upon his political monument shall be inscribed this epitaph—"Here lies the last northern man with southern principles."

As to Gen. C., and his successor in the affections of the southern Democracy, it may be said, of the first, in comparison with Mr. Buchanan, that

"..... his genius stood rebuked,"

as, 'tis said, Anthony's was by Cæsar's, and, for the next two years, the country will be interested in observing how this new aspirant for the favor of the South will demean himself. The puffs preparatory which Mr. B. has received from Jeff Davis and others, is a favorable augury of the devotion with which his pretensions will be maintained, by a certain class of politicians. But what magician's art shall teach him how to preserve the favor of his southern friends of the North, while he thus desperately plays for the suffrages of the South?

Mr. Clemens, the new Senator from Alabama, had the credit of drawing out Gen. Cass into this protestation, and, but for this circumstance, the speech of this source half fledged orator would not have afforded a theme for a paragraph. Mr. Clemens is one of those fortunates who, by a lucky stroke, whether of genius or accident, achieve celebrity. In his first speech, Col. Clemens succeeded in lighting up a dark sky, by one stroke of sunshine, that redeemed innumerous faults, but his effort of to day was a failure.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Thadeus Stevens, of your State, made a radical but very able and effective speech on California. None who know Mr. Stevens will need to be informed that his speech was, from beginning to end, a protest against the diffusion of slavery in any form, or upon any pretence whatever. The southern men were, of course, incugnant at hearing such a demonstration, but many of them were forced to acknowledge that after the displays made upon their own side, in advocacy of the "peculiar institution," they had no right to complain at the promulgation of this counter manifesto.

The Republic comes out this morning with a commendation of the proceedings by which, on Monday last, the minority resisted the movement of the majority in favor of the unconditional admission of California. This is to be regretted.—That resistance was altogether factious, and is just the same that will be brought into requisition to defeat all the appropriation bills, and every other measure, in which every supporter of the administration must necessarily take an interest.

Mr. Speaker Cobb, last night, had a very numerous and brilliant party. Contrary to expectation the Whig and northern members generally attended. I must say that, in my judgement, a man who deports himself so incorrectly and unfairly as a politician, ought not to be countenanced in personal intercourse, and ought to be personally cut.

Several recent interviews between Mr. Webster and the President, have given rise to the rumor that Mr. Webster would succeed Mr. Clayton, in the State Department, should the latter prefer to retire upon a foreign mission, or to the Senate. I presume it is a mere speculation, indeed, I have good reason for believing that Mr. Clayton has not the remotest notion of resigning, and that the present Cabinet will be as permanent as the administration.

JUNIUS.

FROM HARRISBURGH.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURGH, Feb. 20th, 1850.

In the Senate this morning, Mr. Darrow, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill to limit the indebtedness, and provide for the payment of the debt of the city of Pittsburgh, and in relation to the streets, &c., of said city.

On motion of Mr. Mathias, the Senate then took up the resolutions offered by him some days ago, in relation to the preservation of the Union.

Mr Mathias made an eloquent appeal in favor of the passage of these resolutions. And after some remarks from Messrs. Stanley and Brooke, the further consideration of the subject was postponed until Friday next, the 22d of February, for which day the resolutions were made the special order.

The bill to repeal the act of the last session, which authorises the occupation of the Permanent Bridge for a rail road track, again came up, and the debate upon the subject was continued by Messrs. Brooke, Crabb, and Mathias; when the question was taken on the first section, and negatived—yeas 11, nays 18.

The following bills passed final reading: to annul the marriage contract between Dr. William Wetherell and Isabella his wife. A further supplement to the act to incorporate the Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank of the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia county. To authorize the Farmers' Bank of Schuylkill county to remove to Pottsville.

In the House, after the reports of Committees, and the reading of bills in place had been gone through with, the consideration of the question upon the proposed amendment to the Constitution was again resumed, and concluded the very able, eloquent, and fervid remarks which he commenced several days ago, and which were cut off by the hour of adjournment. This is the first speech of any moment that the Dr. has yet made; and it is generally conceded that he acquitted himself in a manner highly creditable to himself, no less than the intelligent and worthy Whig constituency he fortuitously represents upon the floor of the House. Upon this subject the Dr., whatever may be his course in regard to other matters of a party character, spoke good Whig sentiments, and enumerates sound Whig doctrines; and I was glad to see that he had manliness and independence enough to repudiate the leadership of such men as Porter, of Northampton, and come out boldly in defence of the right, in defiance of every consideration of a party character.

CORDEN.

MR. MCDUFFIE and MR. PRESTON, of South Carolina, excepting John C. Calhoun, the most brilliant and commanding politicians of South Carolina, since the days of Pinkney, we regret to learn are now in utter and hopeless imbecility and idiocy, from softening of the brain—the disease which terminated the intellectual life of Southey so long before his physical decease. So we read in the New York Tribune, but we cannot but hope there is some mistake in this.

We are pleased to learn, by later information that the statement concerning Mr. Preston is entirely incorrect—he is at present in the enjoyment of excellent health, and discharging his duties as President of the College at Columbia, South Carolina.

It has been beautifully said of Washington, that "God caused him to be childless in order that the Nation might call him Father."

CHEAP GAS.— We learn that several private gas companies are about being formed in Baltimore, to furnish gas at something less than one half the price now charged by the Baltimore gas company.

NEW DRESS—The Philadelphia Ledger comes to us in a new dress, and looks remarkably neat and pretty.

The nomination of Francis Schroeder, Esq. to be Charge d'Affaires from the United States to Sweden is understood to have been unanimously confirmed by the Senate yesterday.—*National Intelligencer.*

Mr. Schroeder is the son in Law of Mr. Seaton, one of the Editors of the Intelligencer.

We understand the President of the United States will leave this city to morrow for Richmond, Virginia, in order to be present at the ceremonies in that city on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Washington Monument on the 22d instant.—*Washington Republic.*

In Paris a new style of pocket has been introduced—"ours is without change," says a candid contemporary.

From the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

"THAT KNOCKING."

There can be no reasonable doubt that both *infidelity* and *superstition* are constitutional sins—that some minds are naturally slow in receiving new truths, let the evidence be what it may, while others are as naturally inclined to "jump in judgment" on the merest shadow of proof. Education may greatly correct these tendencies in all, and perhaps create them in some. But whether they are natural or acquired, much evil is to be apprehended from their unchecked control. Those who are "slow of heart to believe" are constantly liable to such practical blunders as inevitably result from a rejection of the lights of truth. The apostle Thomas was probably a specimen of this class. Reasonable evidence was not sufficient for him; he must have ocular and tangible proofs that the Lord was risen, or he would not believe the fact, though so important and well attested. Though a man may be justly blamed for withholding his confidence when there is good reason to yield it, the criminality is not less in believing without evidence. He is the friend of his fellow voyager on life's rough sea, who guards him on the one hand against the rocks of infidelity, and on the other against the whirlpool of superstitions; and who assists him to steer safely between this dangerous *Scylla* and not less ruinous *Charybdis*.

I have been led into this train of thought by reading various articles which have appeared in the newspapers, on the subject of certain strange noises that have been heard in western New York. That a noise resembling a "knocking at a door" has been heard as reported, there is no reason to doubt.—That the great Author of nature could cause such sounds to take place and be heard, is equally clear. But that there was any supernatural agency at work to produce the "knocking" in question, is not so certain. In the first place, there does not seem to have been an object worthy of the Most High in the matter. In the next place, much that has been reported bears the impress of folly and fear. And finally, though the cause of the phenomena has not probably been detected, their strangeness does not render a supernatural agent indispensable to their production. Jugglers produce effects quite as unaccountable, which they assure us, and no one doubts, are the results of their art. Nor is the practised hand of a *Signor Blitz* absolutely necessary to the developement of strange sights and sounds. When once the mind gets a wrong impression it is not difficult to find support. Once believe that a mile-stone is a ghost, and you can soon crown it with a head, invest it with a white sheet, give it protruding arms, and even locomotion! Even the prudent and cautious will be tempted to associate events that have really no connexion, and to make out of the most common incidents, a tale of the marvellous.

A few facts that occurred some years since in my own family, will illustrate the views here expressed. There lived with us, as an hireling, an Irish girl, whose native land has been infested for centuries with *fairies, sprites* and *hobgoblins*. This daughter of Erin had contracted some habits that a little favored the eyes in seeing wonders, as it was really sometimes a point, if not of *solver*, at least of serious inquiry, whether the world was turning over, and was throwing her off, or she was involuntarily inclined to turn a somersaet! There was a bed in one room of our house which, in the course of human or super-human events, became an object of special attention. As our Irish girl would get into it a strange sound was invariably heard like the falling of a heavy body on the floor. Soon, of course, it was distinctly perceived that it bore an exact resemblance to the sound that would be produced if a *corpse* should fall!—a sound which by the way, noone in the house ever heard! This remarkable bed was in our family lodging room, and was only occupied by our girl when I chanced to be from home. After having endeavored to persuade all who had heard the noise that it was not worth heeding, but in vain, in a pleasant way I told them we must find out this troublesome old "Jeffries," alluding to a marvellous story in the "Memoirs of the Wesley Family." So, after examining the bed, and taking notice of everything around and under it, my wife sitting up awaiting the result of the investigation, I laid me down, carefully listening for the usual noise. Sure enough, there it was! Believing it was nothing but the falling of the top of a trunk which was under the bed, and was usually left open on getting out the children's night apparel, I exclaimed, "I have caught old Jeff." But, to my surprize, on looking at the trunk I found it still open, and my principle of interpretation utterly at fault. Nothing daunted, I threw myself into bed again and was saluted as usual, and might have imagined the sprite a little insulted at my temerity in prying into such secrets. But whether the sound was louder, or more peevishly made, the simple truth was then perceived. The trunk when opened, extended to the under part of the bed, and on getting in, as trunk tops project back when open, by the sudden pressure the front would tilt, and in resuming its place on the floor produced the *unearthly sound!!* The trunk being closed subsequently, shut up the meddlesome mouth of our ghost, and we rested quietly for sometime if an unhaunted house. Thus ends the first chapter.

VERITAS.

Thoughtful Cottage, Feb. 9, 1850.

It is estimated that upward of thirty thousand children have, within the past fifty years, been christened George Washington.

That old Grecian spoke the truth when he said that physicians who only one disease are like old clothes mender—they should prevent it.

The Public Domain of the United States embraces nearly fifteen hundred millions of acres—exclusive of Canada, Mexico, the Isthmus and Cuba.

According to a Chinese notion, and it is not a very bad one, the soul of a poet passes into a grasshopper, because the latter sings till it starves.

Bad books and bad company were, in the opinion of Sir Peter Lely, like bad pictures. He said he could never look at these without the risk of vitiating his style.

A young gentleman and a young lady, respectively fifteen and fourteen years of age, were married in the bonds of wedlock, at Harrodsburg, Va., on the 30th ult.

At a recent wine sale of the stock of the late Dr. Philip G. Prodenu, of Charleston, eleven dollars a bottle was paid for certain choice lots. Half a gallon of old rum sold for twelve dollars.

Leverrier, the discoverer of the planet which should bear his name, but which the English call Neptune, has ascertained that the sun is subject to perturbation.

Another Witness on the Stand.

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

MR. S. M. KIRK—Allow me to express to you my heartfelt thanks for the great benefit I have received from an article called PETROLEUM, or Rock Oil, of which you are the sole proprietor. I had occasion to use it about the 1st of January, in a violent attack of Rheumatism, which was very painful, flying about from place to place, accompanied with much swelling, so as to keep me in constant torture. I used the Petroleum externally, a few applications of which removed all pain, and every symptom of the disease. I am now entirely well, and would take this occasion to recommend the Petroleum to all who may be suffering under the agonising pains of Rheumatism or kindred diseases. [Signed] GIBEON WIDMAR,

near Perry House, Pittsburgh.

☞See general advertisement in another column. feb19

DR. D. HUNT,

Improvements in Dentistry.

DR. G. O. STEARNS, late of Boston, is prepared to manufacture and set BLOCK TEETH in whole and parts of sets, upon Suction or Atmospheric Suction Plates.—TOOTHACHE CURED IN FIVE MINUTES, where the nerve is exposed. Office and residence next door to the Post-office, Fourth street, Pittsburgh. 1a19

HAYES TO—J. H. M'FADDEN, F. H. Eaton.

PREMIUM LEMON SYRUP—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 Pekin Tea Store, No. 70 Fourth st. mch14

☞MORE ABOUT MCLANE'S VERMIFUGE—Read the following testimonial as to the value of this great medicine for worms:

This is to certify that I purchased one vial of McLane's Worm Specific, some two months since. I administered two teaspoonsful to a son of mine, about 7 years old, and I have no doubt but that there were upwards of 1000 worms passed from him, measuring from one-quarter of an inch to two inches in length.

G. W. HOLLODAY.

December 27th, 1847.

Information Wanted of

HENRY SWEET, about 50 years of age; a teacher by profession, and sometimes engaged in selling books. Any information respecting him will be thankfully received by J. GISH,

feb20-3t Lancaster, Pa.

Pittsburgh and Braddock's Field Plank Road Company.

NOTICE is hereby given that, in conformity with the provisions of an Act of Assembly, authorizing the incorporation of the above Company, passed the 2d day of January, 1850, Books will be opened for the purpose of receiving subscriptions to the capital stock of the said Company, at the office of Bennett, Robb & McDonald, on the south east corner of Fourth street and Cherry alley, in the City of Pittsburgh, on Wednesday, the 27th day of February instant, at the hour of 10 o'clock, A. M., to continue for the space of five days, or until the whole number of shares required by the said act, shall have been subscribed.

COMMISSIONERS.

Thomas M Howe,	James W Buchanan,
James Ross,	Robert Robb,
Wm Eichbaum,	Thomas Williams,
Jesse Carothers,	Andrew Watson,
Alexander Miller,	John A Wilson,
Robert Palmer,	Henry Woods,
Edward D'Garam,	John Adams,
Wm M Lyon,	Wm M Simpson,
John Lyttle,	David Beeler,
Daniel Kuntz,	George Irwin.

feb21-d2t

Received this Day.

2 PIECES super three French Cloth;
6 do do Black do;
3 do do Fancy Cassimeres;
3 do Fancy Silk Vesting, entirely new styles;

all of which I will make to order in the latest style, at low prices. WM. DIGBY, 136 Liberty st.

The Spring Fashions just received. feb23

BALSAM COPAIVA—150 lbs for sale by R E SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

CAPSULES PLANTINGS—50 doz for sale by R E SELLERS.

BALSAM PERU—Warranted genuine, for sale by R E SELLERS.

M'CALISTER'S OINTMENT—60 doz for sale low by R E SELLERS.

BLUE MASS—75 lbs for sale by R E SELLERS.

PILL BOXES—200 papers chip;
400 do papers;
45 do English willow; for sale R E SELLERS.

SUGAR CURED HAM—1000 pcs. just rec'd from smoke, bright and dry, for sale by SELLERS & NICOLS

LINSEED OIL—7 bbls just on hand, for sale by J K